

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Research Room: Vertical File

Folder Title: Reagan, Ronald W.: Burial Site

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 12/19/2023

Los Angeles Daily News

Visitors pay homage since Reagan burial

By Eric Leach
Staff Writer

Sunday, April 03, 2005 - SIMI VALLEY -- Attendance at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library shot up following his death in June and nine months later, admirers of the former president are still pouring into the hilltop library.

More than 62,000 people visited the museum at the Presidential Library in the first three months of the year, up from 39,500 in the same period last year, officials said.

That does not include people who visited President Reagan's grave and the library's free outdoor attractions but did not go through the museum, where guests are counted.

"He's now buried here, so people are coming to pay respects," said Melissa Giller, the library's spokeswoman.

Attendance is expected to jump again later this year when the Air Force One Pavilion opens, giving visitors a close-up look at the Boeing 707 used by Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton and the two Bushes before it was retired in 2004.

The plane, known as the Spirit of '76, will be housed in an 87,000-square-foot structure that will cost \$13 million to build.

"It's expected to be one of the library's biggest attractions. We have tour groups booked through the middle of next year with people from all over the country -- Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota -- wanting to come see the plane."

She said that many of the people who came to the library for the first time after President Reagan's death have returned again and again.

"When people get familiar with the library, they come back with members of their family and their friends. There is so much to see here from the exhibits to the outdoor vistas."

One returning guest last week was Margie McLaughlin of Pleasanton in Northern California, who had been to the library a month after Reagan's burial, and was back to show her husband Gary.

"I was really moved emotionally," she said. "It leaves me so proud to be an American. This is a great tribute. It embodies a lot of the ideals and beliefs of grass-roots America."

Reagan died June 5 at his home in Los Angeles, and more than 100,000 people came to pay their respects June 7 and June 8 while his casket was in the lobby of the Presidential Library before the funeral in Washington.

After the burial in California, the Presidential Library reopened June 14 with hundreds of visitors waiting in line to see the grave.

For the following six weeks, the library was averaging 2,500 visitors a day to the museum, plus an additional 1,200 who came just to offer their respects at the grave and walk around the grounds.

The Simi Valley City Council voted last year to make the city's official slogan "Home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library."

"The vote was unanimous," said Simi Valley City Councilwoman Barbra Williamson, who introduced the idea. "When people ask me where I'm from, I say Simi Valley, home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. That library has put Simi Valley on the map of the world.

"I can't get up there enough," she said. "It brings so much to our community and our nation. You think of all the other cities the library could have been in, and he chose ours. I feel honored. I love it."

Williamson said she was not surprised attendance has remained high, and she said the more people visit, the more they come back, bringing others with them.

"The library has something for everybody. It's great for children. Just the view alone, just being up on that mountaintop, is worth the visit," she said. "Walking into that museum puts you in a whole different world and a whole different time area."

Giller said a new visitor tracking system was set up this year to find out where people are coming from.

There are people from across the nation and from foreign countries, but half of the guests who participated in the tracking program came from California. Many out-of-state guests come from Arizona and Washington state.

The library rents space for special events and these rentals have gone up along with the day-to-day visits, Giller said.

The special community events generally bring in a minimum of 2,500 people, who do not go through the museum and are not counted in the attendance figures. Some community events bring in as many as 5,000, Giller said.

She said the library keeps records of the visitors to the museum, who include paid visitors and children who are admitted free with their parents or with school tour groups.

But many more come every day to freely visit the library's outdoor attractions.

"We encourage people to come up to our Simi Valley hilltop and enjoy everything we have to offer, whether it's going through the museum or enjoying something outdoors and unpaid.

"We have a lot of things outdoors for people to visit free, the replica of the White House Lawn, the section of the Berlin Wall, the restaurant and the president's final resting place."

A replica of the White House rose garden is one of the new outdoor attractions scheduled to open this year.

On almost any day, visitors wander along the outdoor walkways, and on a clear day, they can see the Pacific Ocean beyond Oxnard. People from other parts of California and other states sometimes think the Channel Islands in the distance are part of the mainland.

Claudette and Marvin Eatman of Bunker Hill, Ill., were there looking at the grave and the surrounding countryside last week.

They noted that Reagan was born in their home state, and said they could see why the library was popular. "He was a respected president and will go down as one of the great presidents," Claudette said.

Sharon Grant of Pittsburg in Northern California said the Reagan museum focused on many things she lived through herself.

"I really wanted to see where he was buried," she said. "He was our governor, too. It's history we lived through."

Eric Leach, (805) 583-7602 eric.leach@dailynews.com

IF YOU GO

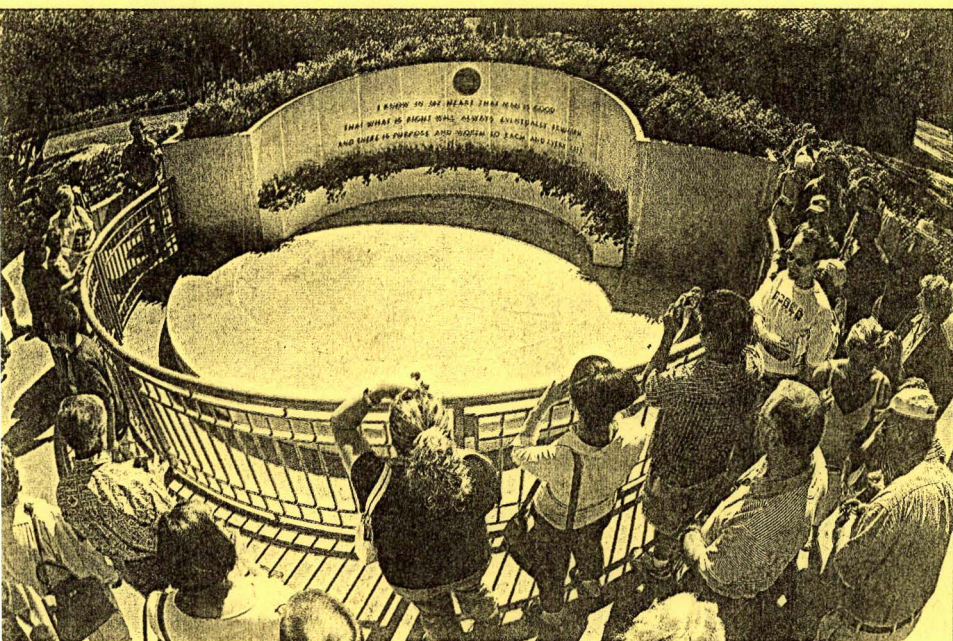
The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum at 40 Presidential Drive is open 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. every day of the week, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens over 62, \$2 for children between 11 and 17, and free for children under 11. For information, call (800) 998-7641.

CALIFORNIA

VENTURA COUNTY EDITION

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

latimes.com/california



SAID GOODBYE: Some mourners take photographs while paying their respects Monday, the first day the former president's casket was available for public viewing.

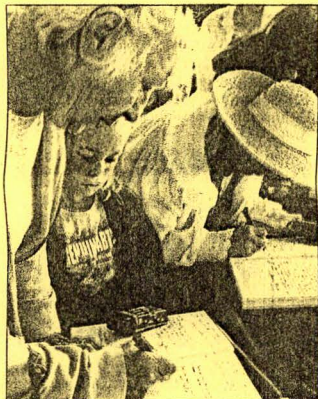
Public Viewing of Reagan's Hilltop Grave Draws a Crowd

Thousands of people flock to the presidential library near Simi Valley to mourn, bring flowers and pay final tribute. The facility has extended its hours through July 4.

By MANDA COVARRUBIAS
Times Staff Writer

They came quietly Monday to gaze upon the curved, limestone memorial that marks the gravesite of former President Reagan. After a week of mourning, visitors crowded to pay homage to the nation's 40th president and his widow, Nancy, on the first day the grave at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library near Simi Valley was available for public viewing. Reagan died on Aug. 5.

All the tributes and speeches were over. Instead, visitors laid flowers and American flags on a table, signed condolence books and admired the hilltop view of a lush farm valley ringed by golden mountains. A coastal fog to the west prevented a view of the Pacific Ocean beyond but afforded a cool breeze under the warm sun.



MESSAGES: Visitors sign condolence books after viewing the burial site.

By 11 a.m., an hour after the library opened, nearly a thousand people had filed past the gravesite that is shaded by oak trees. Standing behind a railing, they gazed

upon a curved wall etched with words Reagan once spoke: "I know in my heart that man is good/ That what is right will always eventually triumph/ And there is purpose and worth to each and every life."

Throughout the grounds stood reminders of Reagan and his presidency — a piece of concrete from the toppled Berlin Wall, lush grounds replicating the East Lawn of the White House, a marble marker engraved with the presidential oath.

His headstone is expected to be completed this week by Ventura stone carver Nathan Blackwell, 82. It will serve as the centerpiece of the 20-foot-wide memorial site where a crypt holds Reagan's remains. The Georgian gray granite tombstone will be inscribed with Reagan's name and the dates of his birth and death.

Although 106,000 people visited the library last week to pay their respects as Reagan's casket lay in repose for two days, some could not make the trip and others came back. Ann Bateman of Calabasas, who is in her 60s, had viewed the casket and witnessed the procession Friday as Reagan's body was returned to Simi Valley from Washington, D.C., for burial.

By 5:30 a.m. Monday, she was first in line to see his gravesite.

[See Reagan, Page B9]

Transient Is Arrested in Slayings of 2

Man, 27, is suspected of beheading a 91-year-old screenwriter and then stabbing his Hollywood neighbor. Photo tipped off a security guard.

By REGINE LABOSSIERE, ANDREW BLANKSTEIN AND NIKKI USHER
Times Staff Writers

Los Angeles police on Monday arrested a transient suspected of cutting off the head of a 91-year-old screenwriter and fatally stabbing his Hollywood neighbor over the weekend.

A security guard recognized Kevin Lee Graff, 27, outside Paramount Studios after his photograph was shown at a televised news conference. Graff was apprehended as he sat on a wall under a row of ficus trees near Melrose Avenue. He had a Bible and a small can of Mace, officers said.

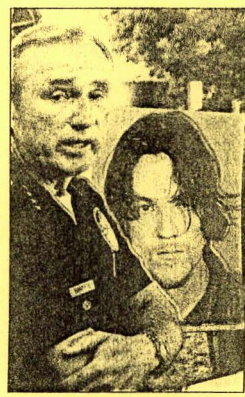
Graff was booked on suspicion of murder in the stabbing deaths of Robert Lees, one of the first screenwriters to be blacklisted in Hollywood during the McCarthy era, and Dr. Morley Engelson, 69, an internist.

Eldon Bagstad, a landlord at a Huntington Beach apartment where Graff sometimes stayed with a girlfriend, said Graff would talk about surfing. "He seemed like a perfectly normal guy," Bagstad said, "but he was always in a rush."

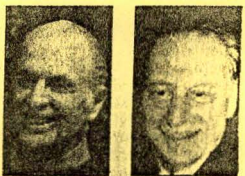
Graff was arrested last year in Orange County for failing to pay a fine for a carpool violation and has a half-dozen minor criminal violations, according to police and court records. Investigators said Graff appeared to be a methamphetamine user.

LAPD investigators believe Graff beheaded Lees, the co-writer of such comedy classics as "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" as well as the TV show "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."

After attempting to clean himself of blood at Lees' house, investigators allege, Graff car-



ANNE CUSACK Los Angeles Times
ARREST: Police Chief William J. Bratton with a photo of suspect Kevin Lee Graff.



VICTIMS: Robert Lees, left, and Dr. Morley Engelson.

ried the head over a back fence to Engelson's home on Stanley Avenue, between Hollywood and Sunset boulevards.

"The suspect then fatally stabbed the doctor, likely using kitchen knives from the victims' kitchen," police said.

[See Slayings, Page B9]

Church Abuse Talks to Resume

Orange diocese and

BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

HOME IMPROVEMENT

UNIQUE GLAZE
RE-GLAZE IT;
DON'T REPLACE IT!

FOR ONLY \$239*

Bathtubs Counters
Tile Walls Tile Floors
Shower Stall Pedestal Sinks
Tile Showers Fiberglass Panel

Includes 2 coats primer & "3 coats white glaze"
5 year warranty

Call toll free
888-537-6459
7am-8pm

GARAGE CABINET SPECIAL

FREE ESTIMATES

12' Wide X 8' Tall
24" Deep \$995

- NO HIDDEN COST
- FINEST MATERIAL

CREATIVE STORAGE SOLUTIONS
(800) 676-1621

UGLY BATHTUB?

We Can Make Your Old Tub "Sparkle"

DIAMOND GLAZE PORCELAIN ENAMEL

NOW ONLY
\$249.00

PAINTING

Custom PAINTING

QUALITY WORK ALL YOU NEED!
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP & MATERIAL

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
Custom Homes/ Commercial/ Residential

T.S.A. (310) 219-0007 (818) 763-9126

PLUMBING

STOP LEAKING SHOWERS & BALCONIES

without removing shower pans tiles or marble!

- No mess, dust or noise
- Shower useable next day
- Leak detection inspection
- Secure 12-year Guarantee

TOLL FREE 1-877-775-8800

MEGASEALED BATHROOMS & BALCONIES USA, Inc.
www.megasealed.com
email: stopleaks@megasealed.com

COPPER RE-PIPES

and all your Plumbing needs.
Re-Pipe with Copper Pipes "L"
Complete House w/2 Bath,
Kitchen, Washer, Water Heater
Includes Dry Wall Repair

\$2900.00
Lifetime Warranty

ASHER PLUMBING
(818) 888-3930

ONE DAY SERVICE

COPPER REPIPE 4 LESS

John Nelson Pipe Co. Inc.
Contractors license and phone numbers the same since being established in "1986"

800-439-6750
Lic.# 518842

POOLS

Quality Pools Since 1975

Malibu Pool & Spa

Featured in - LA Times - Sunset - HGTV

818.228.0535

WINDOW COVERINGS

Come Buy Factory Direct and Save

50% OFF SALE!

Home Depot & Dept Store Prices
Reg. \$29 sq.ft.

MoreView Shutters*
10-Day Delivery!
EZ Do-It-Yourself Install
No Hinging Needed..... \$9.95 sq.ft.

Ultra Shutters*
Best Privacy/Light Control
Tilt Controller Included. \$12.99 sq.ft.
10-Day Delivery-\$2 s/f.....

Authorized DuraShutter Manufacturer & Dealer

THE SHUTTER & BLIND FACTORY

LA/OC (800) 275-1748
1967 N. Glassell, Orange
Riverside (800) 527-4176
10066 Magnolia Ave.
San Diego (800) 533-6894
6690 Mission Gorge Rd.
Online catalog & pricing at Durowood.com
*50% off comparison survey available upon request

Day Shutters, Inc.

\$12.95 per sq.ft. plus install

Guaranteed Lowest Prices!!!

Factory Direct 100% Hardwood Shutters

Call Toll Free
1-866-SEVEN DAY
738-3632

WINDOWS

Lowest Price

Replacement Windows or They're FREE!

*Conditions apply.
• No Damage to



Photographs by SPENCER WEINER Los Angeles Times
YOUNG VISITORS: Volunteer Emma Heyneman, with portion of the Berlin Wall in background, conducts tour of the Reagan library for pupils from Adams Elementary School in Santa Barbara.

Reagan Grave Draws Crowd

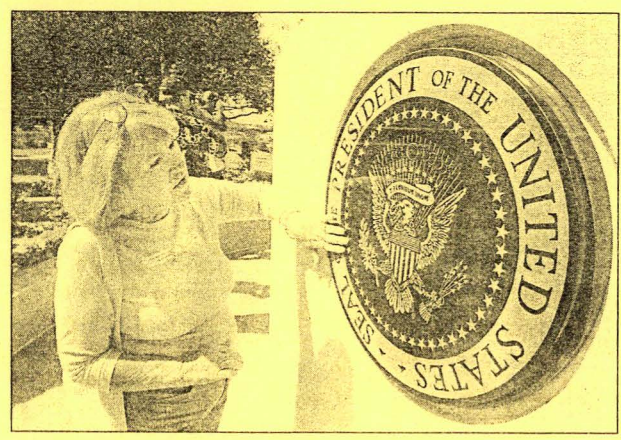
[Reagan, from Page B1]
"I had to be a part of all of it because I have so much love and respect for President Reagan," said Bateman, who wore red, white and blue attire.

Eugene F. Schultz, 75, of Williamsville, N.Y., was visiting family in the area when Reagan died, and his wife, Augusta, 73, asked him to drive her to the library. Schultz said he was surprised at the intensity of emotions for a president whose achievements were leavened by deficits and indicted Cabinet members.

"I'm mystified," Schultz said. "It's a Hollywood kind of thing, a spectacle. All this for a president who was in office 15 or 16 years ago. We don't even do this for a president who dies in office. I think it shows people are starving for something to hold onto."

Visitors are expected to continue to flock to the library through the week, with admission reaching a peak over the weekend, said library Director R. Duke Blackwood.

The library and museum will



NEW SEAL: Yvonne Agapiou of Tarzana looks at a black granite presidential seal recently carved and installed at the library.

be open daily from 10 a.m. 6 p.m. through July 4. After that it closes at 5 p.m.

"If you had asked me a week ago if we would have more than 100,000 people here, I would have said no," Blackwood said. "This

past week clearly exceeded our expectations. What will happen this week is anyone's guess."

For details about the library and its exhibits, call (800) 410-8354 or see the website at www.reaganlibrary.com.

Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

Casket entombed at library

By Ryan Pearson
Associated Press

Ronald Reagan's body was sealed inside a tomb Saturday at his hilltop presidential library following a week of mourning and remembrance by world leaders and regular Americans.

Workers closed the underground crypt shortly before 3 a.m. while a handful of Secret Service agents, library personnel and mortuary representatives watched, said Duke Blackwood, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

Reagan's widow, Nancy, and his three surviving children had left hours earlier following a Friday night sunset ceremony.

In his second tribute in two days, President George W. Bush on Saturday called Reagan a "modest son of America."

"Ronald Reagan always told us that, for America, our best was yet to come," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "We know that is true for him, too. His work is done."

A headstone of Georgian gray granite was to be set up at the memorial site above the crypt, where an inscription from Reagan himself is set into a curved wall adorned with shrubbery and ivy.

"I know in my heart that man is good. That what is right will always eventually triumph. And there's purpose and worth to each and every life," the inscription reads.

Reagan first used the words while opening the library in 1991.

The solid mahogany casket was sealed within a bronzed-lined vault inside the crypt, which includes space for Nancy Reagan.

The vault and casket weigh a total of about 4,000 pounds, and workers needed heavy machinery to move them into place, Blackwood said.

On Saturday, workers covered the crypt with earth and a concrete pathway.

The memorial site will open to visitors at 10 a.m. Monday along with the rest of the 100-acre presidential library and museum, and Blackwood said big crowds are expected.

More than 200,000 people on both coasts paid their respects



PRESIDENT
REAGAN
1911-2004

to the nation's 40th president last week, filing silently past his coffin, first at the library and then in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

Thousands more lined streets in Washington and Southern California to watch the hearse and motorcade pass.

Reagan died June 5 at the age of 93 from pneumonia complicated by the Alzheimer's disease that had progressively clouded his mind. In 1994, five years after concluding his two-term presidency, he told the world he had Alzheimer's.

At a Friday evening service at the library, Reagan's children — Michael Reagan, Patti Davis and Ron Reagan — shared memories of their father along with a host of foreign dignitaries, politicians and movie stars. Reagan's daughter Maureen, from his first marriage, died from cancer in 2001.

"He is home now; he is free," Ron Reagan said.

Nancy Reagan, 82, clutched a folded American flag and cried as she placed her head on the lid of the casket holding her husband of 52 years. "I love you," she said quietly.

Uncounted Californians paid homage in their own ways to the charismatic former Hollywood actor who became governor of the state then president of the country.

Dozens of people gathered on a road beneath the hilltop library in Ventura County, about 20 miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

They turned up car radios to listen to the eulogies and stood at attention, looking up the hill toward a ceremony they couldn't see.

"We're just trying to participate as close as we could get," said Dallan Gould, 40, of Pasadena.



McLain said.

GDA, which was founded in 1948, is one of only 10 guide-dog training facilities in the country. The not-for-profit organization breeds, trains and provides about 50 guide dogs a year to people with vision impairment, Sands said.

It costs about \$38,000 to train a guide dog, which are all raised by volunteers.

Private donations cover the costs so that the dogs can be provided to the visually impaired for free. Only five out of 10 puppies-in-training are deemed suitable after the 18-month training period to become a full-fledged guide dog.

Guide dogs have traditionally been German shepherds, golden retrievers or Labrador retrievers, but GDA has recently started raising standard poodles because they are hypo-allergenic, an option for the visually impaired with allergies to other dog breeds.

For more information, call (818) 362-5834 or visit the Web site at www.guidedogsofamerica.org.

Friday, Feb. 14, 1997

~~X~~ Moorpark Star

Reagan Library director faces odd requirement

By Nancy Needham
Correspondent

On Valentine's Day, Mark Hunt, director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, will be seeing red — as in red tape — when he takes a test to become a state-licensed cemetery manager.

The memorial area at the library designated to someday be the final resting place of for-

mer President Reagan and his wife, Nancy, is considered by California to be a private cemetery.

"Anytime someone wants to bury Aunt Hattie in the back yard they have to be licensed and go through this," said Nancy Hardaker, California Department of Consumer Affairs spokeswoman.

And so it is for former pres-

Please see **MUSEUM** on A6

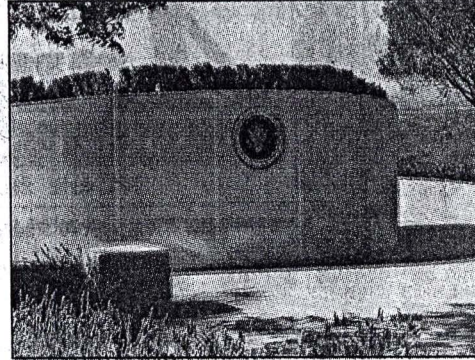


Photo by S.L. Salamone

TEST TIME: The director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library must get a state cemetery manager license because the Reagans will be buried there.

MUSEUM: Cemetery manager test

Continued from A1

idents and first ladies.

California has 193 state-regulated cemeteries. Public, religious and historic resting places are exempt from the regulations, creating some perplexing discrepancies.

Assumption Cemetery in Simi Valley, for example, holds the remains of 1,827 people. Simi Valley Public Cemetery has about 2,000. But the managers there are not required to take the 90-minute multiple choice test that Hunt must pass, as have the three other library directors before him.

"Frankly, I wish I didn't have to take it," he said. "But we fall into a funny category, and we have to follow the law."

Under a recent state budget reorganization, the Cemetery Board falls under the Department of Consumer Affairs, which also monitors things like smog testing, tax preparer programs and hearing-aid production. The department requires a written examination to make sure designated cemetery managers understand elementary arithmetic and have

knowledge of the English language, including reading, writing and spelling. They must also have a fair understanding of cemetery care, maintenance, managing, operating, improving, funding and ethics.

To help him prepare for the examination in Alhambra, the state gave Hunt a 47-page booklet filled with fine type.

"The print is so small I need a magnifying glass to read it," said Hunt, who left work early Thursday to put in some last-minute studying.

But that might not be enough, said Steve Rich, who manages the Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Memorial Park in Westlake Village, the nearest cemetery also regulated by the state. Rich said he has heard that the new exams are difficult to prepare for.

"There's a lot of confusion right now since the Consumer Affairs took over," he said. "At the time I took the test six years ago, it was very reasonable. Now, I understand the test is a lot of legal mumbo jumbo that has nothing to do with someone's ability to make cemetery arrangements."

Board Decides Reagans Can Be Buried at Site

By KENNETH R. WEISS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday that former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, can be buried at his presidential library near Simi Valley.

The supervisors unanimously approved the Reagans' burial request despite claims by an environmental group that the two-plot cemetery will result in more visitors to the library and more pollution in the county's air.

Neil A. Moyer, president of the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County, complained that the supervisors approved the burial site without ordering an environmental impact report as required by law. Moyer said his group is considering appealing the supervisors' action in Superior Court.

Meanwhile, Reagan aides expressed delight that the supervisors ratified the county Planning Commission's approval of the burial site and, along with it, nighttime functions on library grounds. The cemetery's construction was stopped earlier this

Please see **LIBRARY, B4**

LIBRARY: Supervisors OK Burial Request from Reagans

Continued from B1

month when environmentalists asked the Board of Supervisors to review the Planning Commission's approval.

"It was a costly delay, but we are confident that we will be able to have the burial site completed by opening day," said Charles H. Jelolian, director of operations for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation.

The foundation is putting finishing touches on the \$60-million library complex in the hills above Simi Valley that includes a museum highlighting aspects of Reagan's life and a 55-million-page collection of presidential documents generated during Reagan's years in the White House.

The library is scheduled to open Nov. 4. At that time, the public will be able to tour the museum and possibly review some of the documents. Reagan has asked the Na-

tional Archives, which will assume control of the library on opening day, to make about 1.5 million pages of documents available to the public in November.

Reagan and the federal government will keep most of the records secret for a decade or more because they include confidential advice to the President or could jeopardize national security.

Earlier this year, the Reagans requested permission to be buried next to the library, following the lead of other former Presidents who have been interred on the grounds of their libraries. The request came three years after the county had approved the library's construction without requiring an environmental impact report.

Before the county issued a construction permit for the library, members of the Environmental Coalition met with Reagan aides to

express concern about an endangered species of plant on the site, increases in traffic-related pollution, the encroachment on open space and other environmental issues.

Moyer said the foundation informally agreed to environmentalists' wishes and now has reneged on that. For instance, the foundation asked to extend the library's hours so it could hold social events and lectures, he said. The county has agreed to allow up to 60 nighttime functions a year.

Moyer argued that an environmental impact study on how more traffic might increase air pollution is required since the library plans to extend its operating hours into the evening. "I don't object to the Reagans entertaining at the library, I just think they should not get special treatment," he said.

Mike O'Donnell, construction di-

rector at the library, said the Reagan foundation has hired a traffic-management consultant to devise a plan for reducing the number of vehicles coming to the library.

"The foundation is extremely concerned about the environment, and we will continue to meet all of the requirements," O'Donnell said.

The Reagan foundation expects about 350,000 visitors a year at the library off Madera Road between Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. Foundation officials and county planners say they do not believe that the burial site or nighttime functions will significantly increase the number of visitors or air pollution in the area.

The supervisors approved the burial site without debate. "I have no problem supporting this," said Supervisor Vicky Howard of Simi Valley, who made the motion to honor the Reagans' request.

on
county

least 2,000 county residents are HIV-positive. He also said most of those people "are afraid to come forward and stand up for their rights."

But some people with AIDS did speak up, including a woman clad head to toe in black and identified only as "client No. 133, Jane Doe." Her statement was read by AIDS Care President Richard Peterson. Thomas Pistulka, a 38-year-old Ojai man, also said he had firsthand experience with discrimination.

"When my doctor realized that I might have AIDS, he handed me my X-rays and told me to get the hell out of his office," Pistulka said.

After the board's decision, Al Karlsbarch, a 35-year-old Moorpark man who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion, said he didn't expect the ordinance to stop AIDS discrimination.

"I feel better, but I don't know if I feel safer," Karlsbarch said. "In the real world, people are basically discriminatory and scared to death."

who opposed the
ained that the
Advisory Commit-
vide enough evi-
al discrimination

director of AIDS
non-profit group
port services for
testified that at

cket

er mall

ue that Camarillo,

County OKs Reagan burial site But environmentalists vow fight to the death

By Gary E. Goldhammer
S-FP staff writer

Despite the persistence of local environmentalists, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday laid to rest the issue of whether former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, should be buried near his presidential library in Simi Valley.

"This is an interesting vote, but in the end it's a cakewalk," said Supervisor John Flynn shortly before the board voted 5-0 to let the project proceed.

The burial site actually was approved June 30 by the Ventura County Planning Commission, but it was appealed by the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County on the grounds that the grave sites would attract more visitors than the library alone, thus increasing air pollution.

Though the board denied the

appeal Tuesday, the coalition still has 30 days to pursue the matter in court.

If the coalition members can afford it and can retain adequate counsel, that's exactly what they plan to do.

"We may have to seek judicial relief," said coalition President Neil Moyer, adding that a previous state Supreme Court decision regarding the amendment of conditional-use permits should make the coalition's case a "slam-dunk."

"This has nothing to do with Ronald Reagan," Moyer said. "The county simply has not taken the environment into consideration. The county has just let this project slide through."

Moyer said expected emissions from library traffic already exceed county regulations, and the additional attraction of the graves would worsen the situation.

The \$40 million library, the larg-

est of the nine presidential libraries administered by the National Archives system, is due to open Nov. 4.

Officials from the Reagan Foundation, which is building the library, testified that the grave sites won't markedly increase tourist traffic. About 350,000 people are expected to visit the site each year.

"Frankly, I'm surprised by all the commotion," said John Fawcett, a National Archives official in charge of presidential libraries. "I've worked with all the presidential libraries, and I can't recall any concern about any grave site in the past."

Four presidents have been buried at or near their respective libraries. They are Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

REED GENERAL MACHINE & WELDING COMPANY
(Since 1935)
Still in business by treating our customers fairly and we will continue this policy.
OUR MACHINISTS & WELDERS ARE EXPERTS. ALL WORK GUARANTEED.
1680 N. Ventura Ave., Vta.
648-3143 • 656-1246

WE DO WINDOW TINTING
Car's, Trucks
Van's, R.V.'s
Quality Work, Best Prices
Advanced
WINDOW TINTING
CALL TODAY!
658-0330
A Div. of Sheepskin Trading Post

FREE SATELLITE TV *Buyers Guide*
Dish Owners Upgrade-Trade-In Program • Great Values on Previously Owned Equipment.
Save **30 to 60%**
FREE 2 Day Trial!! Limited Offer Call for details.
1-800-350-0256
(805) 652-0255 FAX: (805) 652-2190
Service & Installation
2316 Channel Dr.
Ventura CA 93003

KRAGEN AUTO PARTS

UNITY

Reagan Library burial site OK'd

By JEFF SEGOL
News Chronicle

VENTURA — Approval of a private gravesite for Ronald Reagan near Simi Valley came despite opposition Thursday from those who came to praise the former president, but not to bury him there.

The Ventura County Planning Commission, by a 3-2 vote, approved addition of burial sites for the president and former first lady Nancy Reagan to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, scheduled to open Nov. 4 on a 100-acre site located north of Thousand Oaks, south of the Tierra Rejada Valley and west of Simi Valley.

Commissioners Sue Boecker of Oak Park and Betty Taylor of Thousand Oaks said in voting against the approval that they didn't have enough information to make a decision, and listed several issues that have not yet been addressed.

Pat Baggerly, an environmental activist and a resident near Jjai, said the foundation has not set up a citizen committee on library-related environmental issues, as it promised to do when the original project was approved.

She said a traffic management plan also has not been prepared.

"I had reservations on the first project and encroachment on the open space and the

greenbelt," Commissioner Taylor said. "I'm concerned about the resultant trash from the snack bar . . . I'm concerned about the incremental increases in scope (of the library project) and I'm concerned there's the lack of a citizens committee and the transportation management plan."

Boecker asked for more information on the number of people and cars visiting other presidential libraries and gravesites.

She said the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, Texas, and his gravesite nearby in Johnson City, receive a combined 700,000 visitors a year.

"President Reagan is, after all, the most popular president elected and re-elected in this country, and I'm concerned about the number of people that would want to come and view his gravesite," she said.

Rich Guske, a county traffic engineer, said even if numerous people do visit the site, each driving a separate car, streets near the library could handle the extra traffic.

Charles Jelloian, the foundation's executive director, said members of the environmental panel have been named, but have not met, pending county approval of the selections. They include county Air Pollution Control Officer Richard H. Baldwin and former Interior

Reagan

From Page B-1

Secretary William Clark.

In response to a comment by Baggerly, Jelloian also said rare plants near the library site have been fenced off and are being monitored.

"I hope the foundation would have an appreciation for the concerns we have expressed and those representative of the Environmental Coalition," Commissioner Mary Alice Henderson said. "I think that's all we can ask for."

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, which is building the 153,000-square-foot library complex and will turn it

"I had reservations on the first project and encroachment on the open space and the greenbelt.

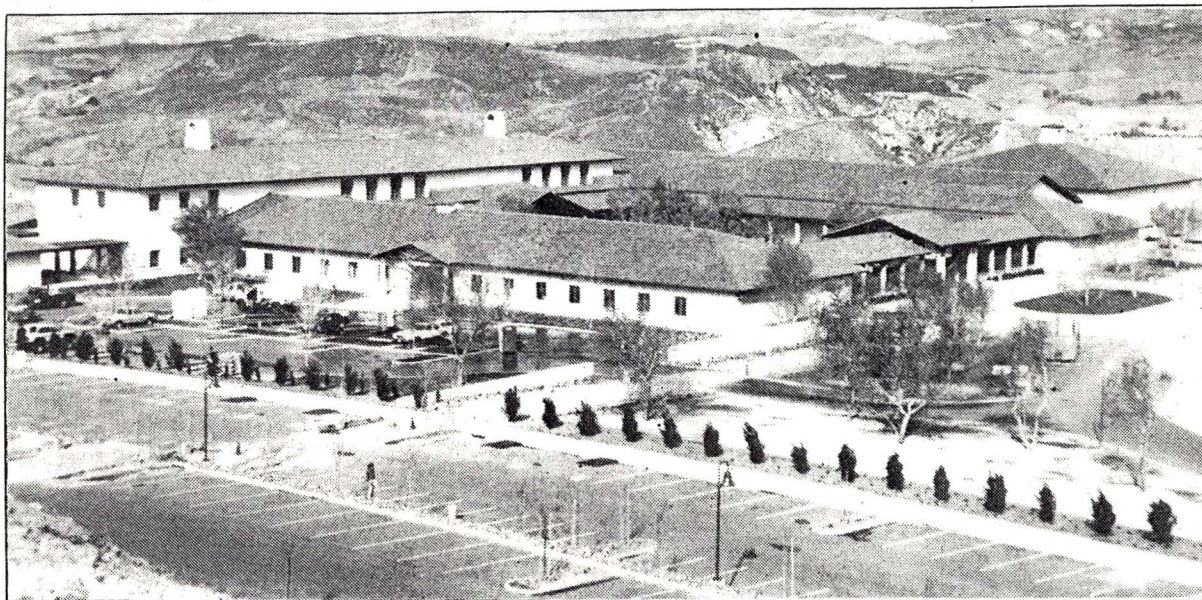
— Betty Taylor

over to the National Archives and Records Administration for operation, also can include a snack bar in the facility.

The archives will be allowed to keep the library's auditorium open as late as midnight for library-related events and community meetings, the planners decided.

Normal operating hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. The county authorized library construction in 1988.

See REAGAN, Page B-4



Gus Ruelas / Daily News

The Ventura County Planning Commission approved a burial plot for Ronald and Nancy Reagan on the grounds of the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

Reagan library burial plot allowed

Ventura County planners OK plan for graves of ex-president, wife

By Carol Bidwell
Daily News Staff Writer

VENTURA — Former President Reagan narrowly won approval from the Ventura County Planning Commission on Thursday for a burial plot at his presidential library in Simi Valley.

Reagan was not present as the commission voted 3-2 to allow the former president and Nancy Reagan to be interred at the library, which is scheduled to open Nov. 4.

"We're very happy with the decision," said Charles H. Jelloian, the library's director of operations.

The commission's decision is final unless appealed within 10

days to the county Board of Supervisors.

The Reagan presidential library, the nation's largest, will be the repository for an expected 62 million papers, exceeding Richard Nixon's record 44 million.

Commissioners Sue Boecker of Oak Park and Betty Taylor of Ventura argued against approval, saying the memorial might draw more visitors to the library than surrounding roads can accommodate.

County planners and Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation officials estimate about 430 carloads of tourists will visit the library every day. The roads already carry 20,000 or more vehicles daily and are designed to

accommodate up to 36,000 a day.

Boecker said the library is likely to draw twice the number of expected visitors.

"We have a great love for our presidents in this country," she said. "They are the highest elected public officials, and this man is adored by many, many people in this country."

Boecker said she learned from officials at the Lyndon Johnson library in Austin, Texas that 450,000 tourists visit the library each year in addition to 2,500 scholars, and that an additional 300,000 visit Johnson's grave site in Johnson City, Texas. Based on those figures, more than 750,000 visitors could come to the Reagan library annually, she said.

Planners OK Burial Site at Library for Reagans

L.A. TIMES
6/21/91

■ **Presidency:** Critics contend that the graves will increase traffic on roads surrounding the facility near Simi Valley.

By HUGO MARTIN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Despite criticism over traffic and environmental effects, the Ventura County Planning Commission narrowly approved a request Thursday by former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, to be buried at his presidential library near Simi Valley.

The commission, which voted 3 to 2 in favor of the request, also gave approval for food to be served at the library and for civic meetings to be held in the evening.

Most debate during the two-hour hearing centered on whether the burial site would attract more visitors and increase traffic on surrounding roads.

"My own feeling is that I wouldn't drive up to see Reagan's burial plot," said Commissioner Robert Muraoka, who voted for the request.

Commissioner Susan Boeker, who voted against the plan, disagreed. "Maybe you wouldn't go visit the Reagan burial plot, but I would and I think a lot of people would too," she said. "This man was adored by many, many people in this country."

Boeker and Commissioner Betty Taylor voted against the plan, while Muraoka and Commissioners Mary Alice Henderson and the Rev. Johnnie Carlisle Jr. supported the request.

Members of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation also were questioned about the appointment of former Secretary of the Interior William P. Clark Jr. to a proposed committee to study the library's environmental impact.

Commissioners said members of the environmental committee must be county residents. Clark lives in San Luis Obispo County, according to his spokesman.

Charles H. Jelloian, director of operations for the foundation, told the commission that he did not know about the residency issue before the meeting.

Nine of the 40 former U.S. Presidents are commemorated with presidential libraries. Of those, four are buried either at or near the library sites, county officials said. Reagan's library grave site would be the first in California.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is scheduled to open Nov. 4, exactly 11 years after Reagan was first elected President. The 153,000-square-foot complex is expected eventually to hold all the presidential papers Reagan collected during his

Please see **GRAVES, B4**

GRAVES: Plan for Burial Site OKd at Library

Continued from B1

eight years in the White House.

When completed, the Spanish-style library complex off Madera Road just outside Simi Valley will also have a museum that traces Reagan's life and highlights of his presidency. Armed security guards will patrol the grounds around the clock.

Mike O'Donnell, project manager for the foundation, said the Reagans chose the Simi Valley site over 17 other locations.

"When Mrs. Reagan saw this site, she said, 'This is what I want,'" he told the commission.

The burial plots will be a few yards from a rose garden patio and will overlook the city of Moorpark and the wooded hills beyond.

The decision of the commission can be appealed to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors within 10 days by a member of the public.

The establishment of a private cemetery also requires the approval of the California Cemetery Board.

John Gill, executive officer of the cemetery board, said the Reagan foundation has not requested approval for the site. In addition to other requirements, the board calls for a \$35,000 bond to ensure that the grave sites are maintained, he said.

Criticism over traffic also came from Pat Baggerly, a member of the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County.

"We work hard to keep the air clean in our county, and this will be another addition to the air's degradation," she said.

Baggerly said that when the



BOB CAREY / Los Angeles Times

The 153,000-square-foot Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is scheduled to open Nov. 4.

library was approved, the foundation promised to form a committee of residents to give advice on environmental issues, such as the protection of rare plants at the site. The foundation also said it would draft a traffic management plan, she said.

Neither promise has been met, she said. Baggerly suggested that approval of the request be delayed until the foundation meets its obligations.

Jelloian said the committee is made up of Clark; Patrick McIlhenney, an assistant vice president of Told Corp., one of the county's largest development companies, and Richard Baldwin, head of the county's Air Pollution Control District.

He said, however, that the committee has never met.

Keith Turner, county planning director, said he sent the foundation a letter asking for more information about Clark and McIlhenney, including proof that they are county residents.

McIlhenney lives in Camarillo, according to a Told spokesman.

Jelloian said he did not know about the letter. "We have not tried to skirt the issues here at all," he said.

Concerned that the burial plots would generate traffic, Boeker said she called the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Tex., and was told that the library attracts about 450,000 visitors annually. Johnson's burial plot,

which is located in a nearby town, attracts 300,000 visitors, she said.

Rich Guske, an engineer for the county's Public Works Agency, said the roads near the library could accommodate as much traffic as is generated by the Johnson burial plot and library.

Taylor said she is also concerned about providing food at the library because the foundation had originally said no food would be served. "I'm concerned about the incremental increases in scope here," she said.

But O'Donnell said food would entice visitors to stay at the library longer.

"It's a big library," he said. "A lot of money has been spent on it, and it's a shame not to use it."

Los Angeles Times
March 22, 1991

Reagans Seek Burial Permit for Library

By CARLOS V. LOZANO
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SIMI VALLEY—Former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, have formally applied to Ventura County for permission to be buried on the grounds of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library near Simi Valley, officials said Thursday.

The Reagans would be buried next to each other at the west end of the \$60-million library if the application is approved, said Bob Laughlin, a supervisor in the county planning department.

Laughlin said planning officials met with Fred Hummel, project manager for the library, on Tuesday to discuss details for the burial site.

Reagan spokesman Bill Garber said the Reagans, who will lead Polish President Lech Walesa and his wife, Danuta, on a tour of the library Saturday, would not comment on their request. He also declined to discuss the proposal.

"That's a private situation," he said.

He said the next step will require the county planning department to evaluate the design for the burial site and to conduct an environmental review of the project, a process that could take up to two months. A public hearing would be held before the county Planning Commission, which would decide whether to approve the project.

Finally, a cemetery license would have to be secured from the state Cemetery Board, said John Gill, executive director of the six-member board. Gill said that in order for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation to get a license it must establish a corporation to oversee the cemetery and file a financial statement that outlines how the burial site and its upkeep will be paid for.

Reagan's supporters had hoped to open the library on Reagan's 80th birthday last month. But as the massive project continued, the scheduled opening was changed to November.

Reagan Asks to Be Buried on Grounds of His Library

By CARLOS V. LOZANO
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SIMI VALLEY—Former President Ronald Reagan has asked that he and his wife, Nancy, be buried on the grounds of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library near Simi Valley, officials said Wednesday.

Reagan's staff will submit a formal application for a burial site at the library to the Ventura County Planning Department within two weeks, said Bill Garber, a spokesman for the retired President.

Reagan, who turned 80 this month, was in Santa Barbara and could not be reached for comment.

Carl Morehouse, a Ventura County planner on the Reagan library project, said officials with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation contacted the county about two weeks ago regarding the Reagans' proposal.

"They happen to like the location," he said.

The \$60-million presidential library, perched atop a hill high above Simi Valley, is scheduled to open in November. On clear days, it features panoramic views of the Santa Susana Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

When the library opens, visitors will be able to tour a museum that traces Reagan's life from his early days as a radio announcer and actor to his eight years in the White

Please see REAGAN, A24

REAGAN

Continued from A3

House. But it will be years before any of the 54 million pages of Reagan's White House records will be available to the public.

Morehouse said the foundation's preliminary proposal calls for an outdoor burial site on the west side of the library.

"The foundation came to us basically with a sketch on a napkin kind of thing," he said. "And we told them that they had to come back and tell us exactly what they were going to do."

Once the foundation submits its application, the county planning department will have 30 days to evaluate the design of the site and any environmental concerns it poses. A public hearing would be held before the county Planning Commission, which would decide whether to approve the project.

"It's not a done deal," Morehouse said. "Nobody has blessed anything. It has to go through the process."

Moreover, officials said it is too early to tell whether such a burial site would require additional security, thereby adding to the at least \$1.5 million it is estimated to cost taxpayers annually to maintain the facility.

"No decisions have been made on any of this," Garber said. "Ronald Reagan is not planning on being buried anywhere for a long time."

Garber noted that it is not unusual for a President to be buried at the site of his presidential library. Harry S. Truman, Herbert Hoover, Rutherford B. Hayes and Dwight D. Eisenhower are buried on the grounds of libraries built in their honor.

Former President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, have made no plans to be buried at the Richard M. Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, library director John Taylor said.

Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, plan to be buried in Carter's hometown of Plains, Ga., said Carter spokeswoman Margaret Denson.

Los Angeles Times
Feb. 21, 1991