For Immediate Release
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2006 Summer Exhibits at the Olivas Adobe open
with artist reception July 8 at 3 PM for Beatrice Benzien

An exciting 2006 series of summer-long exhibits at the Olivas Adobe begins
with an artist reception for Beatrice Benzien on Saturday, July 8, 3-5 PM, in
the Exhibit Hall at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park located at 4200 Olivas
Park Drive in Ventura. The center is regularly open to the public weekends
from 11 am to 4 pm. Viewing the exhibit hall is free; adobe tours are
$5/adult, $10/family of 4 or $3/child or senior.

Meet the last remaining resident, now in her eighties, to call the Olivas
Adobe home through her acrylic paintings and drawings, as well as stories
captured on an oral history CD. Beatrice Benzien was the caretaker’s
daughter when the property was Max Fleishmann’s Duck Club, where he
and friends hunted migrating birds from the nearby ponds of the Santa
Clara River. The Duck Club was originally the main house of the Olivas
family and the Rancho San Miguel, an 1841 Mexican land grant.

During the informal reception media, historians and the public will have
an opportunity to view the artist’s extraordinary work and to ask questions
of Mrs. Benzien herself relating to her life at the Olivas Adobe and her
interaction as a little girl with Max and Sara Fleischmann.

Max C. Fleischmann was the Ventura and Santa Barbara area’s leading
social pillar since the 1930s and his legacy will be featured during the
“Photo Fleischmann” exhibit of vintage images from local museums and
gallery archives at the Olivas Adobe Exhibit Hall September 9-17. The
Fleischmann Foundation gifted the parcel to the City of Ventura that is
now the Olivas Golf Course and the Olivas Adobe Historical Park.
Fleischmann was also the founder of the Santa Barbara Foundation, that
county’s seminal philanthropic entity, distributing millions for worthy
causes.

In between these two art exhibits is the “Master Gardeners Celebration”
August 5-20. Recent graduates of the Master Gardeners of Ventura
County will celebrate the adobe’s season of “green thoughts in the green
shade” each weekend with tours, speakers and a display of community
projects promoting home gardening today and Ranch flora from the past. Visit
www.olivasadobe.org for more information.
Media or historical groups can contact Ross Goodman, event coordinator and Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreter, at 805.382.1752 or e-mail fredgood@verizon.net for additional information regarding the Benzien reception and other events.

This release is available at www.cityofventura.net under the “Press Room” link. ###