

However, Angelo Grgich and the members of the club did not wait for this legal recognition, but went ahead with the plans on a gentleman's agreement. On the 3rd of February 1947, the club purchased a former mess hall at the Santa Maria Air Base. On Saturday the 8th of February, a crew of volunteer club members and their trucks descended on the Air Base and started to disassemble and move the building. By the afternoon of the next day, the mess hall, a building 110x20 feet with a 30x20 foot wing including a walk-in ice box, a water heater, and sink, was moved away and nothing but wheel trucks and a few "dead soldiers" remained to indicate its former location. In spite of the half-inch rain which fell on the crew Sunday, the spirits of the volunteer movers were not dampened, and as the last truck pulled away, there were several members lamenting the fact that they had not also dug up and moved a 500-gallon cement oil storage tank that they thought should go with the building. On their return, the tired and wet moving crews were treated to a Pfitzner turkey dinner cooked by fellow members who were unable to help in the heavy work of moving.

Actual construction of the present clubhouse was started about the 10th of February under the supervision of Oscar Pfitzner. Local builders assisted in redesigning the building to better suit the club's needs. They, and other members, gave most generously of their time and skill; others not only gave their time but furnished trucks and necessary materials and equipment.

As the building took shape, plans were made for its dedication, and on the 17th of August, 1947, it was formally opened with a barbeque attended by about 1,000 people, including members and their friends. This barbeque proved so popular, and so many of the club's friend requested its repetition, that again today, in spite of the labor and planning involved, we are happy to have you as guests of the club at our annual "BBQ" that has evolved into the "Old Days Celebration".

73 years after its "official" inception, membership in Los Alamos Valley Men's Club currently stands at over 100 members, from local residents here in town, Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Valley, to as far away as Pennsylvania and Texas.