

# HEAVY MECHANIC ON DUTY

Santos Loves His Work, It Seems It's What He Was Born To Do

**H**ave you driven by Santos Truck & Auto Repair on Galaxy Place in Oxnard and wondered just what they do there? If you walk in their doors, you would know the wonderful Melgoza family and what the patriarch, Santos, has been able to achieve in the farm industry.





Santos Herrera Melgoza is a young 51 year old, but his experience in farming equipment would lead you to believe he must be decades older. Not so. It's simply a matter of a man who has a passion for all things mechanical and a constant desire to learn and improve himself.

As a young teen, while living in his hometown of Ranch La Cal Grande in Guanajuato, Mexico, Santos went to an agricultural camp called Campo Experimental Agrícola. While most learned how to better grow crops, Santos focused on learning about the mechanical aspects of fixing tractors and other large farming machines.

In 1973, at the age of 17, Santos moved to the United States and promptly entered the National Schools Technical Institute where he learned more about diesel engines and large equipment. After five and a half years of studying Santos was skilled enough for a job at Power Machinery. Starting in 1977, as a mechanic, he was encouraged to get his commercial driver's license because there was more need for deliveries than mechanical work at Power at the time. He did that, but always rushed back to the shop to learn more from his mentor Paul Rigney. "This man knew everything about engines, parts and more. Every one that knew him liked him." Eventually, Santos was able to become a full-time mechanic at Power.

"Power Machinery sent me to learn about John Deere tractors (and more), and gave me the opportunities to learn," Santos said. They even sent him to learn about elec-



tric forklifts and that part of the business grew to become a major part of Power's expertise. After 16 1/2 years at Power Machinery, Santos was offered a job at Boskovich Farms as a mechanic shop supervisor. It was what he wanted to do and he left Power under good terms.

After 15 years working for Boskovich, Santos knew that it was time to start his own company. Boskovich not only let him go with instructions "Don't Fail" but also helped get him going. Santos originally expected to have a lot of auto business, but the farming clients were so dedicated that autos eventually faded away from the picture. The first version of Santos Truck & Auto Repair opened in 1996 on Wooley Road in Oxnard. Quickly, by 1998, they realized the need for more space and moved to Statham blvd. They







only sad tale in this story was that the shop was then burglarized. The burglars took everything. But a move to Arcturas Ave saw the shop quickly recover thanks to the loyalty of customers. By 2003 more room was needed again and Santos moved to a 7,000 square-foot facility on Galaxy Place and opened a second shop in Camarillo with 14,000 square-feet of room.

With maintenance and services with the biggest names in the valley (Boskovich, Laubacher, Dole, Driscoll, Reiter Bros., and many more), Santos has built an incredibly successful business with his family and a total of 13 loyal employees (sons Juan, Jose and daughters Nancy and Lorena work with him).

Santos started selling used tractors in 2003 as an additional service. People trust him and know that he won't sell them something they don't need. "The keys are quality, customer service, honesty, and dependability," Santos told us. Of course, it doesn't hurt that they are on call 24/7.

Just over a year ago Santos decided to go to the International Agriculture Expo in Tulare, California to look at expanding his business. He brought a brochure and a story to tell and found that some of the bigger names in the business were impressed. He was able to convince representatives of Same/Farmtrac to come down to Oxnard and visit his facility. In the end,

Santos set up deals to sell new tractors for Same/ Farmtrac and Deutz Fahr. Santos assures that this equipment is up to the task and sells for sometimes \$10,000 less. If people have any doubts about the tractor Santos says "Take it. Use it. See if you like it."

There's a bond of trust that farmers certainly appreciate. "I don't want to sell something that's not right for them," Santos told us. The tractors are equipped with the latest technology, for the operator.

Tractor sales are never brisk but Santos was happy with the results in '06 and expects more in '07. Still, the maintenance and service aspects of the business continue to dominate the







company. That is, unless you're talking about giving back the community. Santos Truck & Auto Repair sponsors Oxnard Youth Soccer, Royal Puma FC, and they are very active with the development of the professional soccer team the Ventura County Fusion Soccer Club. **TRM**



**Santos Truck & Auto Repair**

3431 Galaxy Pl. Oxnard, CA. 93030  
805/983-8446  
[www.santostrackortruck.com](http://www.santostrackortruck.com).

## De Noce's Catering & Cafe

Bring your gourmet appetite!



- Fine Foods
- Creative Cuisine
- Gourmet Sandwiches
- Soups
- Fresh Salads

Bring Your Gourmet Appetite!

- Chicken Caprese Sandwich
- Chicken Panini Sandwich
- Old World Meatball Sandwich
- Vegetarian with an Italian Flare

Call or Fax your order ahead of time!  
(805) 654-1101 Fax (805) 654-1141

We Make The Freshest Salads With  
The Finest Ingredients & Our  
Soups Are Made From Scratch!

Hours: Monday-Friday  
11:00a.m.-2:30p.m.



5777 Olivas Park Dr. Ste. T. Ventura • [www.denocescatering.com](http://www.denocescatering.com)



v i a n t 1-661-254-7877  
**M o r t g a g e**

**S e l l e r s**

**We're on your side.**

**B u y e r s**

buy it | sell it | own it



**WITH CONFIDENCE**



v i a n t  
**Properties**  
1-661-254-7877