

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

May 2009

Volume 9 – Issue 5

It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.

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Auto Pioneers – Part Two

ACROSS AMERICA BY CAR

BY Duane Preimsberger

(Part 2 of 2)

The noise of the car and the sounds of the jarring muffled the noise of items falling off. It was in this way that the pair managed to lose their cooking gear, Horatio's spare spectacles and the jacket that held most of the cash he'd had brought along. In order to continue he had to telegraph Bertha to send more money. As they got further and further away from cities finding gasoline for the "Vermont" became a challenge and they shopped at farms and country stores for the supplies they needed, paying as much as \$1.05 a gallon for gas.

When they pulled into Caldwell, Idaho Horatio added another passenger. He acquired an American Bulldog who he named, Bud. As the journey continued, Bud came down with an eye infection from blowing dust and debris so the human duo equipped him with a pair of driving goggles and soon Bud was cured of his affliction and sat next to his master staring comfortably ahead through glass lenses. His appearance and the appearance of a motor car in the remote towns and villages of the mid-west was a signature event and as news of their impending arrival spread, local residents turned out in droves to view the occasion.

Often, if Horatio and Sewall were going to spend the night in the town or village, they'd take a few of the locals for a short ride. This experience and the opportunity to talk about traveling at over 20 miles an hour made those selected almost the equivalent of today's astronauts in the eyes of their fellows. Newspaper reports of the trio's journey soon started a ground swell of interest and support for the trip and the two men and their dog were now American celebrities.

The obstacles along the way did not diminish because of their celebrity status and there was a steady but slow stream of replacement parts sent from the Winton Factory to repair almost all of the Vermont's moving parts. They'd replaced the car's inadequate kerosene lamps with acetylene so that they could drive more safely after dark. At one point when they found themselves bogged down in quicksand, a local farmer pulled them

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Calendar Of Events

Continuing thru May 31 -
"Lincoln & the Civil War" at
Temecula Valley Museum.
Special Exhibit items from
the collection of Charles
Bechtloff.

Saturday, May 2 - "Bringing
History to Life, Abe Lincoln"
with Wm. Peck visiting as
President Lincoln. 10 am at
Temecula Valley Museum.

Saturday, May 9 - "Old
West Chili, Grub & Brew
Roundup" 11 am to 5 pm
Town Square in Murrieta.
Chili Cookoff, Local History
Booths, food and more.

Monday, May 11 -
Monthly meeting at Pujol
Schoolhouse - 6 to 8 p.m.
Bill Irwin who lived at
Murrieta Hot Springs when
Alive Polarity owned the
Property, will talk about
that era of "springs" history.

Sat. & Sun. May 16 & 17 -
Western Days in Old Town
Temecula 11 am to 5 pm,
with High Noon Shoot Out.
Music, Roping Lessons, Art
Show, plus Chili Cook Off on
Sunday 9 am to 5 pm.

Monday, June 8 -
Monthly Meeting at Pujol
Schoolhouse - 6 to 8 p.m.
Annie Borel on "Growing
Up in the Area."

Saturday, June 13 -
Flea Market in the Park, at
Sam Hicks Park to benefit
Temecula Valley Museum.
From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

free with a team of horses. They continued to lose their way on a regular basis, traveling almost one thousand extra miles as the trip continued.

Before long, Horatio, Sewall and Bud learned that they had competition. Packard and Oldsmobile Auto Manufacturers had both put together factory sponsored and well equipped teams that were attempting to overtake and pass the trio and gain stature for being the first automobile to cross the United States. As an unintended result, the Winton Factory became much more responsive to requests for parts; they wanted their car to win the contest so they did what they could to assure its success.

On July 27, 1903, The Winton and its trio of passengers reached the end of their journey to New York City and received a hero's welcome from a tumultuous, cheering crowd. They had accomplished something unique in American history and their journey set in motion a realization that the automobile could indeed be the wave of future long distance travel. Horatio, Sewall and Bud had made the first successful automobile crossing of the United States in 63 days, 12 hours and 30 minutes, defeating the efforts of Packard and Oldsmobile!

After spending a few days in the public spotlight, Horatio Nelson Jackson, his wife Bertha and Bud the Bulldog journeyed homeward to Vermont. As Horatio drove the Winton into his carriage house, the drive chain, one of the few parts to survive the entire trip, failed and broke as he came to a stop. He kept the car as a souvenir and as a reminder of his unique, personal accomplishment until 1944 when it was donated to the Smithsonian Institution. Surprisingly, Horatio never collected on his \$50.00 bet.

Ten years after Horatio reached New York, the very first coast to coast highway was completed. It covered 3400 miles and crossed twelve states; it was named to commemorate Abraham Lincoln. Soon, the Lincoln Highway became a reality for regular automobile travel. Back in Vermont, Horatio Nelson Jackson felt a little bit like the pathfinders of a century earlier, Lewis and Clark, for he too had been a pioneer and an agent of change.

(Editors Note: Part 1 of this story appeared in last month's issue of the Temecula Valley Historical Society Newsletter).

Murrieta Library to Host

California Voices Oral History

The Murrieta Library will host a public viewing of the California Voices Oral History recordings that have been done thus far. This event will be on both Saturday, May 30, and Saturday, June 6 from 1 pm to 3 pm.

TVHS has partnered with this enterprise and encourages members of the Society to attend the presentations, and to schedule appointments to record their own memories of the Temecula Valley.

Presidents Message

At the 150th Anniversary of the Temecula Post Office celebration at Sam Hicks Monument Park on Wednesday, April 22nd I was asked to give a brief history of the Temecula Post Office by our new Postmaster.

Following the event a reporter from one of the local newspapers interviewed me – asking why I moved to Temecula in 1986. The first thing that came to my mind was that Temecula had roots in history. It was not a modern suburb just planted on vacant land. While we have grown by leaps and bounds and most of our homes are relatively new, we still have much of the past visible today – Old Town, Vail Ranch, Yoder Camp, Murrieta Hot Springs Resort, and other sites that excite those interested in history.

It is a shame that many of our new residents are unaware of our history. One of the missions of the Temecula Valley Historical Society is to inform the public of our rich history. If each member of the Society would tell their next door neighbors about Temecula's long history and invite them to tour some of our historical sites, we will further one of our goals. Give it a try.

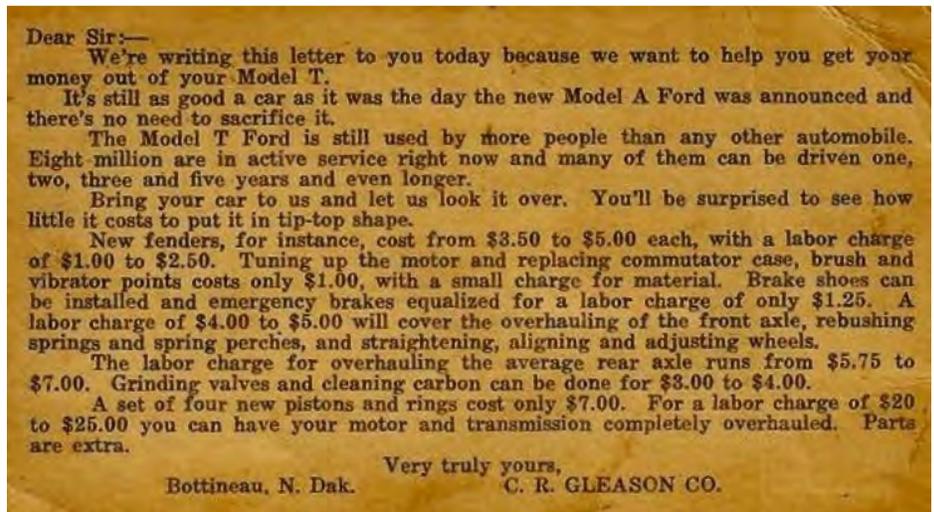
Hope to see you at the next meeting at the Pujol School House, Monday May 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Jimmy Moore



Agnes Freeman, June 7, 1928 at the Pauba Ranch – Agnes was 18 years old when this photo was taken in a Model T Ford. Two years after this photo was shot, Agnes and a girl friend drove all alone to New York City from the ranch. Since paved roads were a premium and not the norm, you can well imagine the adventures the young ladies had – certainly daring and courageous for the times. Then of course they had to drive all the way back. As most of you will recall, Agnes was the clerk at the 1st National Bank of Temecula when Miguel Diaz decided to try his hand at robbery.

-- Photo Courtesy Roger Honberger & Family



The Message Side of a Promotional Postcard – This postcard was postmarked at Bottineau, No. Dakota, June 29, 1928. It was addressed to a Chester Bjorngaard in Maxbass, N.D. What is fun is to note the prices for various maintenance items. Clearly this is from a Ford Dealer to the current owner of a Model T Ford promoting services available for the Model T, to -- "help you get your money out of your Model T. It's still as good a car as it was the day the new Model A Ford was announced and there's not need to sacrifice it." To think you could get a new fender for \$3.50, with a \$1.00 labor/installation charge; or get the rear axle overhauled for \$5.75 -- is fun to imagine with what we experience today with car expenses.



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Membership Activity

New Memberships

Robert & Elaine Culverhouse, Jr.
Cmdr., USNR (Retired)
Carrie Penny

Renewals

Martin Disenbacher
Jim & Dorothy Meyler
Dr. Mark & Judith Handwerker
Bill Harker
Shari Crall
Rosemary Smith
Hedwig Roripaugh

Visit the Great Oak?

People often ask how to see the Great Oak Tree. The Pechanga Cultural Department hosts tours on the third Friday of each month. Reservations for tours can be made by calling 951-308-9295.

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Banner Grade, southeast of Julian. Initially built as a toll road in 1871 from the desert floor to Julian, it went through Banner City which was a boom gold mining area in the late 1800's. At its peak Banner City grew to more than 40 buildings and a tent city of about 300 shacks & tents. If you have ever driven Banner Grade, you can appreciate what it took to build -- all manual labor with hand tools, dynamite and probably a few animals to help.
-- Milholland Collection Photo