

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

July 2009

Volume 9 – Issue 7

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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On the Road Again

Aimee's Castle One Highlight Of Lake Elsinore Area Bus Tour

By Duane Preimsberger

Judy and I hadn't given the Lake Elsinore area a great deal of thought as a historical treasure trove and we were surprised to receive an announcement detailing a tour of that area for Monday, June 15, 2009, that was sponsored jointly by the Temecula and Lake Elsinore Historical Societies.

We made reservations with Paul Price, our noted historian and the tour guide for the event. When we arrived at the City Park on Rancho Vista, we joined about 35 other folks who were waiting for our bus to arrive for an 8 A.M. departure. Unfortunately, the bus driver got the locations confused and although he was on time, he was at another spot and it took us almost an hour to get him to us. Undaunted by a slow start, Paul and his lovely wife Kathi got us all loaded up and from that point forward things went smoothly and we were beginning what became a very interesting and informative day.

We are always amazed at the encyclopedic knowledge that Paul has about the area and as the day went on he filled us in about Indian sites, mine locations of all kinds; including gold, silver, copper, clay, talc, granite and even slate. Tour participants got a look at Salt Creek and the San Jacinto River, the two sources of water for Canyon Lake. We were treated to an overview of some of the Butterfield Stage route as well as a glimpse of the Lake Elsinore train station site in its railroading days where trains stopped to load mining products and cattle. We got a look at another Machado building in Lake Elsinore that was used as a stage stop, and this one, constructed of adobe, hadn't burned down twice as had Mac's wooden stores in Temecula.

Stopping at one of Lake Elsinore's premier old buildings, the Chimes, we got a tour of an 1880's historical bath house, fed by a hot springs, and those who were curious could stick their hands in 115 degree water that still flows into one of the baths. In addition to the restoration work that the building has undergone, the current owners operate the site as an antique shop and have filled it with treasures from bygone days.

We linked up with a group of volunteers from the Lake Elsinore Historical Society and got a look at their small museum on Main

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Calendar Of Events

Monday, July 13 –

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse -- 6 to 8 p.m.
"The Historic Highway 395"
Tom Casey and Cameron Kaiser.

Friday & Saturday, July

24 – 25 – The Third Annual

"Cowboy Jubilee Music

Festival". As a major fund raiser for the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation this fun event will include a visit to the old adobe bunk house used by the Vail Cowboys on Friday, and a wonderful Western music and Cowboy Poetry event on Saturday evening. For more info see www.srpf.org

Monday, August 10 –

Monthly meeting Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m.
Annie Borel & Mimi Milholland, more on the French Valley area.

Monday, October 12 –

Monthly meeting Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m.
"Reflections on the 20th Anniversary of Temecula's Cityhood" by Jimmy & Peg Moore.

Sunday, November 1 – "Barbecue at Vail Ranch"

This will be the final event of year-long celebration 150th Anniversary of the 1st Post Office in Temecula. With the Wolf Store at the center, will have music, gunfighters, stagecoach. Western attire is best. Ticket & cost info to come.

Street and its collection of local historical memorabilia. We enjoyed a catered lunch in another Historical Society site, the restored Methodist Church, also on Main Street. Their full kitchen and dining area in the basement, ringed with exhibits, turned out delicious edibles and the volunteers made certain that no one left hungry after lunch was finished. Judy was particularly impressed with the oatmeal cookies.

Paul and Lake Elsinore Historical Society President, Ruth Atkins, provided some insight into Bella Lugosi Park, on Lake Elsinore's shore. Lugosi, who played villainous roles including Count Dracula and Frankenstein was known as a cinemonster in Hollywood and frequented the Lake. We saw Johnny Weissmuller's home atop a hill east of the 15 freeway. Weissmuller was an Olympic Swimming medalist and the sixth to play the role of Tarzan on the silver screen. His famous Tarzan yell has become a legendary legacy for others, including Carole Burnett. All of us on the tour had the opportunity to ring the bell on Lake Elsinore Fire Engine #1, a 1925 La France pumper.

A group of Elsinore volunteers using their own cars shuttled us from the lunch site to the Aimee Semple McPherson Castle atop a hill with a magnificent view of the Lake. Sister Aimee, a noted Evangelist and Radio Personality, who founded the Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, built and utilized the Castle as a retreat from her life in L.A. We were treated to a first class tour of this Middle Eastern inspired building conducted by the husband and wife team of caretakers who are members of the Four Square Church, the current owners of the site. The Castle has been meticulously restored to much of its previous glory and is indeed an impressive building. Some of the walls and ceilings were covered with beautiful art work that had deteriorated over the years and has been painstakingly restored by local artist, Robin Golden. Photographs from days gone by were used as a basis for furnishing the Castle and the bedrooms, and main rooms retain a flavor of "how it used to be."

As we left the Castle's main room Eve Craig settled herself in at a grand piano that had been played by Sister Aimee and Eve began playing a beautiful and moving rendition of, "Climb Every Mountain." As our tour ended and we were strolling down the hill, high above the City and the Lake; listening to that touching melody was indeed a fitting conclusion to a visit to a place that is representative of a higher power. Not surprisingly, there were a few tear dampened eyes as Eve's music touched our souls.

The day ended for us back at the Park on Rancho Vista and all of us were pleased with having had the opportunity to learn a lot about the history, geography, legend and lore of Lake Elsinore from Paul Price, our kind, considerate and knowledgeable tour guide who was kept on track by an equally impressive lady, Kathi Price. Thanks to you both for a very memorable, enjoyable and special experience!

Badmen

The early colonists brought such words as bandit, robber, highway robber, cutthroat, and outlaw with them from England. Mounted men who robbed travelers, and later banks and trains, soon appeared on American roads – especially on western roads from 1850 to 1900. "Gang" first used in American to mean a herd of animals in 1657, then used by 1823 to mean a pack of dishonest politicians, and finally around 1870 to mean a group of criminals.

Presidents Message

I am sorry to announce that our Society Vice President, Bill McBurney, passed away on June 18th, several days after he underwent open heart surgery. Our sincere condolences go to his wife and family.

Those of you who accompanied us on the bus tour of Lake Elsinore on June 15th surely appreciate the hard work of Paul and Kathi Price. The trip was very interesting, well planned and executed. We hope to have future trips this year so please look for the announcements in the Newsletter and join us.

I have been teaching a course on the *History of Temecula Valley* at the Temecula campus of Cal State University, San Marcos. In researching for the course I have found one piece of history that has two well documented descriptions that conflict. That is the murder of Preston Swanguen and Louis Escallier on Christmas Eve of 1907 by Horace Magee. Some say the slaying took place at the Ramona Inn, operated by Joe Winkels, while others claim it was in the pool hall operated by Louis Escallier which is across the street from the Ramona Inn. If you have some definite proof of the real location of the shooting, please e-mail me at jandp.moore@roadrunner.com or call me at (951) 302-9536.

Jimmy Moore

Early History of The Machado Adobe

By Anne J. Miller, Ph.D.

During our research on the location of the Southern Emigrant Trail, we found some information about the Machado Adobe. Some of what we found contradicts the well-known and often-quoted things that Tom Hudson wrote in his *Lake Elsinore Valley: Its Story: 1776-1977*.

Hudson mentions the adobe being built by Agustin Machado in 1858 as the Butterfield Overland Mail was about to arrive in the area. There is considerable evidence of that building being there in 1849 because some of the 49ers described it in their journals and diaries. There is some indication that the house was there as early as 1847, if not before, but it was clearly there in 1849. It was described as an old rancho, a house, and as a place where supplies could be purchased. The owner was described as being a Mexican. Julian Manriquez received the Laguna grant in 1844 and most likely built the adobe. In January 1850 as he was traveling the Southern Emigrant Trail from the east, Benjamin Hayes wrote that there was a "substantial adobe" at Laguna.

The 1850 U.S. census was taken on 6 March 1851 in Los Angeles County. Julian Manriquez' two sons Manuel and Juan are listed in the Laguna area. Manuel had a wife and children. On the previous page of the census are listed Leandro Serrano and his family who lived in the Temescal area, about 10-12 miles north of Laguna. After Julian Manriquez died, his family sold the rancho to Abel Stearns who later sold the rancho to Machado in 1858.

The idea that the Machado Adobe was built in preparation for the arrival of the Butterfield Overland Mail does not make sense, but some people may not know why. The original Butterfield Overland Mail plan was to go west of what is now the Salton Sea, through the present Palm Springs area, to San Bernardino and then through the Cajon Pass and on to San Francisco. San Bernardino was listed on the original schedules. Men from the San Bernardino area tried to find enough water in the Palm Springs area to support the Butterfield's need, but there was not enough water and what was there was salty. Therefore about a week or two before the Butterfield started in September 1858, it was decided to use the Warner's Rancho, Temecula, Chino route.

Question: If the opposite of "pro" is "con", then does it logically follow that the opposite of "progress, is Congress"?



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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.

Ben Franklin said . . .

"Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

-- In Memoriam --

Bill McBurney 1928 – 2009

We lost a dear friend Thursday, June 18. Bill McBurney a long-time member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, passed away following open-heart surgery at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla.

Bill was born in Hemet in 1928, and raised in the Auld Valley, Winchester and Fallbrook areas. He retired from the U.S. Navy as a Commander.

In recent years Bill had been active on the Board of Directors of TVHS, and this year was serving as Vice President. Having spent years in the area, as well as attending the one-room Hyatt Schoolhouse, Bill had a wealth of knowledge, healthy respect and reverence for the rich history of the area.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to his wife Alice, and their 3 children Mary, Elaine and Mark. Thanks for sharing him with us. His calm manner and easy smile will be deeply missed.