

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Volume 10 – Issue 1

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.

2010 Officers

President	Jimmy Moore
Vice President	Diane LaTulippe
Secretary	Barbara Tobin
Treasurer	Bill Harker

Directors

Elaine Eshom	Paul J. Price
Lisa Woodward	Darell Farnbach
Dick Fox	Eugene Knott
Pat Lallou	Bonnie Martland
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A Southern California Original

Lines to Mark Road Lanes Started in Desert Area

By Duane Preimsberger

Along the road between the towns of Temecula and Hemet are miles of white lines painted down the middle of the highway separating traffic traveling east and west. These lines are replicated throughout California and across the continent. The lines draw little attention as drivers negotiating the routes look at them as dividers between lanes and opposing traffic. No one stops and asks, "How did these lines get here, who had the idea to do this?" Therein lies the story and it is an interesting and unusual tale of a dedicated woman who thought she could do something to improve the safety of motorists on our highways, and she did!

The California Federation of Women's Clubs published a book in 1991 called, "A Bouquet of Memories," and within its covers is the story of the white line down the middle of the road and how it came into existence. In the fall of 1917, Dr. June A. W. McCarroll, a physician in the Coachella Valley, was driving her Model-T Ford along one of the 15 foot wide paved roads near Indio when she met a truck traveling in the opposite direction, the truck was loaded with cargo that made it about 10 feet wide. Although necessary, the soft sand shoulder was not an inviting place for Dr. McCarroll to drive on in order to avoid a collision with the truck. After the episode the good doctor decided to try and do something about eliminating what was a nerve wracking, white knuckle experience.

She began expressing an idea about painting central road lines to anyone who would listen; speaking to chambers of commerce, civic groups, local politicians and governmental agencies. Unfortunately, she didn't get a lot of support for her idea; some thought that there weren't enough cars or trucks on the roads to bother about it and still others thought the expense of painting a white line down the middle of all of the state roadways was too costly. Dr. McCarroll was so sure of her idea that she got down on her hands and knees and painted a mile

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Calendar Of Events

Monday, January 11 –

Monthly meeting Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m. "*Martha and Julia*" - Martha Culbertson and husband John owned Culbertson Winery. Martha will tell about their relationship with cook and celebrity Julia Child and her husband Paul who visited & stayed with the Culbertsons' in their home. Martha will bring a Julia Child Dessert to share, and have copies of some of Julia's recipes in booklet form for a suggested \$10 donation to TVHS.

Monday, February 8 –

Monthly meeting Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m. "*The Golshes and the Hapsburgs*" – Inge Haeupler an Austrian researcher who became interested in the possible connection between the Golshes of Pala, and the Royal Hapsburgs of Austria. She has spent years re-searching the topic, and this will be the premiere expose' of the results of her work.

Monday, March 8 –

Monthly Meeting Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m. "*The Temecula Turntable and Local Mining*" Paul Price will share information he has uncovered regarding the Temecula train turntable, as well as some rich mining history of the Inland Empire.

long, 4-inch- wide, white stripe down the middle of what was then Highway 99 near the town of Brawley. Even after doing that, Dr. McCarroll was frustrated by the lack of concern that emanated from the all male audience to which she had been speaking so she opted to go in another direction. After five years of getting nowhere she decided to pursue her idea with women's groups.

Her first attempt was with the Women's Club of Indio, of which she was a member. She made a presentation to them based upon a recent doubling the width of a local highway. Area truckers had explained to her that the edge of the older surface showed up plainly and aided them significantly in their efforts to determine where the center of the road was. As a result, her group agreed to support the white line idea and unanimously endorsed her proposal.

Soon, Dr. McCarroll carried the resolution to the various levels of women's clubs within the state and garnered complete agreement. The State Federation of Women's Clubs offered their support to Dr. McCarroll, developing their own resolution and endorsement for the white line proposal.

Finally, in 1924 after working tenaciously for seven years, Dr. McCarroll saw her great idea come to fruition with the California Highway Commission agreeing to paint white lines down the center of state highways. The concept had become well accepted and before long other entities; cities and counties, states and nations were painting white lines down the middle of their roadways. Acclaim for a wonderful idea was slow in coming and it wasn't until 1999 that the vision of Dr. June A. W. McCarroll and the efforts of the State Federation of Women's Clubs were recognized by CalTrans as the first state-wide road safety program in California's highway history. Today, a small portion of Interstate 10 in the Coachella Valley is designated as the Doctor June McCarroll Memorial Freeway in honor of her distinguished efforts.

A dedicated and determined lady with a good idea wouldn't give-up and as a result of her pursuit of a concept, countless lives have been spared. Today, highways in California and across the Nation are safer because of her personal commitment to doing what needed to be done.

Now if we could only assure that all drivers would recognize and comply with those white lines along the highways, Dr. McCarroll's dream would come true!

Patterson House Reopened in October

The Patterson House & Museum reopened after extensive work to upgrade the grounds, as well as restoration of the upstairs area of the house. Approximately 60 people attended the event.

The Patterson House is located at 28030 Patterson Ave., Winchester, CA 92596. Museum hours are Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am to 2:30 pm, Saturdays 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Stop in and visit this nicely restored old Pioneer home in our area.

Presidents Message

Hope all of you had a great holiday season and that 2010 will be a year of health and prosperity.

We are saddened by the death of "Sis" Herron. Sis was a past Board Member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society and a part of the history of Temecula. A memorial service is scheduled in January.

2009 was an exciting and eventful year for the history of Temecula. We celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Temecula Post Office and the 20th Anniversary of Temecula's cityhood. We also had interesting speakers at each of our meetings. We appreciate the great turnout for the end of year BBQ held at the site of the Vail Ranch Headquarters.

I would like to thank retiring members Carol Strode and Norm Taylor for their contribution by serving on our Board of Directors. We welcome our new Board Members: Richard Bouchard, Diane LaTulippe and Bonnie Martland. I would also like to thank all of the 2009 Board members for making my job as President so enjoyable. As you can see from the list of Officers and Directors that Diane LaTulippe was elected to the Vice President position and the Barbara Tobin replaced Elaine Eshom as Secretary.

Please mark your calendars for the second Monday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m. for our meetings. The first hour will be our guest speaker with the meeting to follow. Hope to see you then.

Jimmy Moore

TVHS Officers & Directors For 2010 Announced

As part of the last meeting of 2009, vacant seats on the Board of Directors were filled, and the Board elected the Executive Committee Officers for 2010. The following is the TVHS lineup for this year.

Jimmy Moore	President
Diane LaTulippe	Vice President
Barbara Tobin	Secretary
Bill Harker	Treasurer
Richard Bouchard	Director
Elaine Eshom	Director
Darell Farnbach	Director
Richard Fox	Director
Eugene Knott	Director
Pat Lallou	Director
Bonnie Martland	Director
Paul Price	Director
Lisa Woodward	Director

Heritage Day at Vail Headquarters Successful Event



On Sunday, November 1, 2009 the Vail Ranch Headquarters property was the site of a huge BBQ and western Heritage Days event to kickoff the final week of the year-long Heritage celebration, honoring the 150th anniversary of the establishment of a Post Office in Temecula.

Participants included Old Town Temecula Gunfighters, TVHS, VaARRA, Temecula Post Office, Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation, Blacksmith Frank Matthias, Eugene Knott, Bob Grieb & William Powell showing vintage cars, and Musician Joel Reese. Anne Miller, David Elliott and Dave Armstrong shared a media presentation on the mapping of the Butterfield Trail.

Phil and Chris Baily of Baily's Winery & Restaurant donated wine, Andy Marshall of Black Market Brewing donated beer, and the Kiwanis Club provided volunteers to staff the Beer & Wine area.

Many able volunteers included Duane Preimsberger, John Harrison, Toni Benson, members of VaARRA and TVHS all helping for a successful joint community event, with over 120 BBQ meals being served.



*Temecula Valley Historical Society
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Membership Activity

New

Dale Garcia

Renewals

Jack & Leslie Roripaugh
David & Karen Strauss
Steven Allen

“She Passed This Way”

It is with sadness that we note in November we lost a former member of the TVHS Board.

Laura Mae “Sis” Herron passed away at age 96, after living a life full of joy and service up until her last few months. We are thankful for Sis’ service to our Society, to the community, the Old Town Merchant’s Association, and to the Temecula Tractor Races. We will miss her cheerful attitude and manner of living.

TVHS Moving Ahead With Historic 395 Sign Project



One of the many interesting programs that TVHS had during 2009 was a presentation regarding the creation and designation of the Historic Highway 395 by the California State Legislature.

As a result the original highway segments that are still in existence are eligible to be marked accordingly. Tom Casey from the Fallbrook / Rainbow area was one of the leaders of the movement and continues to champion the cause. All of the original areas in San Diego County have been honored with signs.

Murrieta & Lake Elsinore have also installed signs. Gene Knott and Dick Fox volunteered to look into getting the same done in Temecula. Initial efforts have been to estimate the number of signs and associated costs. Work continues to get funding in place to cover sign costs, before looking into installation.