

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

August 2011

Volume 11 – Issue 8

*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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### PCL Spring Training 1921

## Los Angeles Angels Play Riverside County Champion Temecula Indians at Hot Springs

By Jeffery G. Harmon

*"Mr. and Mrs. William Wrigley, of Chicago, with Joe Patrick, of Avalon, were weekend guests at the Lakeview Inn. Mr. Wrigley is owner of the "Angels," who are training here again this spring, and Mr. Patrick is president. The distinguished party went to Murrieta Sunday, and watched the Angel rookies defeat the Temecula Indians, who are the champions of Riverside County." (Lake Elsinore Valley Press, March 10, 1922)*

William Wrigley, Jr., founder of the famous Wrigley's Gum Company, loved baseball. In 1921, Wrigley purchased a Pacific Coast League team called the Los Angeles Angels. In 1925, he would take financial control of the Chicago Cubs, a National League team.

The Angels played at Washington Park in Los Angeles, and in the early twenties, held their spring training in Elsinore. The Angels continued to practice on the Elsinore diamond and hold exhibition games with local ball teams. *"Elsinore is the greatest training ground in the country."* Angels' manager Wade "Red" Killefer expressed. *"I have been playing baseball for 20 years and I have traveled to all parts of the country to get in shape, but Elsinore is the best of all."* (LEVP, March 11, 1921)

The Temecula Indians were the 1921 Riverside County League Champions. The Los Angeles Angels were the 1921 Pacific Coast League Champions. On March 5, 1922 the two teams crossed bats at the Murrieta Hot Springs diamond. Over 1500 people attended the game. Mr. and Mrs. Wrigley watched from the sidelines as the Angels and the Indians went toe to toe.

Wade "Red" Killefer used three pitchers during the game, each performing very well. The Indians made several hits, but they never scored. The Angels averaged two runs per inning. Sadly, the Temecula Indians lost the game, the final score 10 to 0. *"The Indians gave the Angels a pretty tough tussle, despite the one-sidedness of the score."* (Los Angeles Times, March 6, 1922)

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Angels and the Indians crossed bats again on the Elsinore diamond. This game, possibly a practice

(Continued on Page 2)

# Calendar Of Events

## **Monday, August 22 –**

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Jennifer Albin, Archivist at The National Archives in Riverside will give presentation about the facility and what is available for viewing.

## **Monday, September 26 –**

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Bonnie Martland will give an overview of the Civil War.

## **Monday, October 24 –**

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Steve Clugston will present "Temecula's Civil War: The Showalter Affair".

## **Saturday, November 12 –**

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. TVHS Annual Meeting and Dinner currently planned to be held at Pechanga. Cost \$25. More info to come.

## **Weekend, Nov. 19 & 20 –**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Anniversary Event at the Historic Vail Ranch. Re-enactment of the discovery and arrest of the Showalter Secessionist Party in November 1861. Displays, costumed soldiers, camps, & demonstrations

## **Membership Activity Renewals**

Don & Julie Gilbert  
Anthony & Myra Zamora  
Vernette Knott Mackley

## **1921 L.A. Angels Play Temecula** (Continued from Page 1)

game, produced little interest in the newspapers. The star player of the game was an unnamed Temecula right fielder. According to the two Angel pitchers, Ponder and Hall, the Temecula right fielder made eight hits during the game. The final score was 5 to 4, in Temecula's favor.

By the end of March, spring training was complete, and the Angels returned to Los Angeles. They finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league's 1922 season. The Angels returned to Elsinore for spring training for the last time in 1923. They did not cross bats with the Indians that year. Afterwards, the Angel's spring training was held on Catalina Island, which was owned by Wrigley since 1919.

Wrigley built a new ball park for the Angels in 1925 named Wrigley Field in Los Angeles. (As owner of the Chicago Cubs, Wrigley renamed Cubs Park, Wrigley Field in November 1926)

When William Wrigley died in 1932, his son, P.K. Wrigley, inherited the Angels. In 1957, P.K. sold the Angels to Walter O'Malley, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. The next year, the Dodgers came to Los Angeles and the Angels were sold to Spokane.

From 1957 to the present, the Los Angeles Angels have been sold several times. They were the Spokane Indians (1958-1971), the Albuquerque Dukes (1972-2000), the Portland Beavers (2000-2010), and the Tucson Padres (2010-present). The Tucson Padres are scheduled to move to Escondido in 2013, when a new baseball field is completed. This will bring the "Los Angeles Angels" back to Southern California where they began their journey 110 years ago.

*(Researcher's Side Bar Notes: In March 1922, Jim Thorpe reported to Pasadena for spring training for the Portland Beavers, a Pacific Coast League team. He was paid \$1000 a month, plus \$5000 in purchase money. He played thirty-fives games, but was let go for economic reasons. He left Portland and returned to the east coast. By September 1922, he would be coaching the Oorang Indians.) See Page 1 article in May 2011 TVHS Newsletter.*

## **Out of the Archives**

### **Chinese Smugglers Caught Near Oak Grove Cause Excitement With Temecula Residents**

*(Appeared in Lake Elsinore Valley Press on July 8, 1921,  
Miss Elizabeth Nienke reporting)*

Early Sunday morning word came to the U.S. officers stationed in Temecula that Chinese smugglers were on the road near Warner's Springs. Officers Hackett, Riley, Rodriguez and Burnham left immediately for that region. Sunday night Officers Riley and Rodriguez, who were together, surprised the smugglers at Oak Grove, disarmed them, and brought them to Temecula Monday morning, later taking them to San Diego to headquarters, with the aid of Officers Hackett and Burnham. There were ten Chinese in the group which the two smugglers were bringing through in two large cars. Excitement reigned supreme in Temecula when the news was spread and many people driving through stopped to take a peep at the group.

## Meadowview Area Originally Part of Temecula Rancho

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Southern California was first inhabited by Natives and it wasn't until 1797 that the first Spaniards entered the Temecula Valley and the area was claimed by the San Luis Rey Mission. Grain was cultivated here to supply the mission. Then Mexico drove out Spain.

Meadowview was originally part of the Temecula land grant, a Mexican landgrant given to Felix Valdez, a Mexican soldier, in 1844. The Temecula land grant was one of four grants combined to form the 87,500-acre Vail Ranch from 1905 - 1964. Cattle grazed there during that time and there were no houses. The Vail Co. put in the windmill and water-tank near the clubhouse in the 1950s.

When the Vails sold the ranch to Kaiser-Aetna in 1964 for \$23 million, the new owners designed the planned community of Rancho California, designating certain areas 20-acre parcels (DeLuz), 5-acre parcels (Glen Oak Hills), some for 3-acres (Los Ranchitos), and Meadowview was designated for 3/4-acre parcels. The developer put in the club-house and stables.

**(During an interview with Gene Knott, March 6, 2002 he related:)**

"A fellow leased the garage from Grandpa back in the late 50s. He ran an ambulance service, along with two tow trucks. I took a couple of first aid classes and was one of his ambulance assistants. I had a phone extension put in my bedroom and got woke up at all hours. Temecula was famous for its fog and traffic accidents. We covered all the way down towards Escondido, Anza, north of Elsinore and halfway to Hemet. People complain now if they don't get help within 15 minutes. Then it was an hour or more. Things have changed."

Star Advance Program

Saturday, May 7

**BUSTER KEATON**

In  
His Latest and Best Comedy  
**"Hard Luck"**

And  
**EDITH STOREY**

In  
**"The Golden Hope"**

  
Buster Keaton

A wonderful story of desert gold and the great west, starring Edith Storey in her latest picture.

*This is a copy of advertisement that appeared in the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, May 6, 1921. See short item below about locals attending.*

### Out of the Archives

## Temecula is Popular Spot for Western Movie Making 1921

*(Elizabeth Nienke reporting for the Lake Elsinore Valley Press)*

*January 14, 1921*

Miss Grace Greenfield and Dan Cantarini motored to Elsinore last Tuesday evening to see "In His Own Law." Parts of the picture were taken in Temecula.

*May 21, 1921*

Many Temecula people attended the Elsinore Theater Saturday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup>, where the picture, "The Golden Hope" was shown. As the picture was taken in Temecula several months ago it was of great interest to people of this vicinity. Many Temecula men took part in the riding scenes.

*October 21, 1921*

It will be of interest to people of this section to know that the picture being shown at Grauman's Theatre in Los Angeles, "The Three Word Brand," is the one taken in Temecula this last February, when a special train brought in Bill Hart, Jane Novak and their many players. Mrs. Houseman and son have secured the old pool hall of Mrs. Louie Escallier in which to show their motion pictures every Tuesday evening. "In Old Kentucky," featuring Anita Stewart was shown to a full house Tuesday. "The Thunderbolt" will be shown next week.

*November 25, 1921*

A group of movie people of the Praire Producing Company of Los Angeles, have been booked at the Temecula Hotel the past week and have been very busy taking pictures in town and adjacent places. The company is making scenes for a decidedly western drama, "The Black Ranch," the story of which was written by the director, Leonard Wheeler, and Dick Hatton, who plays one of the parts. S. E. (Al) Jennings takes the leading man's part and Miss Lucille DuBois the leading feminine role. Several Temeculans have taken various minor parts, especially in the riding scenes.

## Temecula to Celebrate Its Civil War Event

In November of this year there will be another 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of a piece of Temecula's history. This time it will coincide with the anniversary of Temecula's Civil War event known as "The Showalter Affair". The Vail Ranch Restoration Association will be the sponsor and host for this two-day celebration, to be held at the Historic Vail Ranch Headquarters property and the Little Temecula History Center. Mark your calendars for November 19 & 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to historic Civil War camps complete with costumed soldiers, there will be costumed civilians, displays, demonstrations, a sutler and a re-enactment of the discovery and arrest of the Showalter Secessionist Party as it happened in 1861. The event coordinator is Steve Clugston who can be reached at 951-235-3608 or [steveclugston@yahoo.com](mailto:steveclugston@yahoo.com).

*(Editors Note: A story written by Duane Preimsberger about this Civil War event was featured in the June 2010 TVHS Newsletter).*

## Two Accused Found Not Guilty of Murders

*(From the Daily Alta California, July 25, 1886)*

SAN DIEGO, July 24, 1886 — In the Superior Court of San Diego county Fred Foster, the cowboy, under trial for the murder of the station telegraph operator at Temecula last April, has been acquitted by a jury, on the grounds of accidental shooting. Yesterday evening the Jury in the trial of Benito Pejinem, for the murder of Thomas Trujillo at Temecula, June 6th, brought in a verdict of acquittal in five minutes, on the grounds of self defense.

## President's Message

Last Saturday was a very beautiful California day, just prior to the hot week to follow. The temperature was pleasant and a slight breeze rustled ancient olive trees and lightened the air. Maroon bougainvillea draped the Spanish-style walls lining the curved and cobbled walkway that ushered us the short distance from present to past. Textured stone, the green canopy and hacienda flora obscured the modern and made it easy to step back in time to Spanish California. At 10 a.m. a group of TVHS members and friends, met our docent and began our first of two tours through the historic San Diego County adobes of Rancho Buena Vista and Rancho Guajome.

I am a romantic, but even for those more grounded in reality, the past became quite tangible as we walked through the walled gate into the adobe's courtyard. The first owner of the rancho was a Luiseno named Felipe Subria who acquired the property from the Mexican government in 1836. In 1851 he deeded the property to his son-in-law, a private in General Kearny's dragoons, who quickly sold it to Lorenzo Soto. It was Soto who began building the first of the extant rooms. Financial obligations forced Soto to sell to Jesus Machado who, in turn, sold it to Cave Johnson Coutts in 1857. A family name not unfamiliar in Temecula Valley history; Coutts' daughter Elena would marry Parker Dear and become mistress of Rancho Santa Rosa. Various Coutts family descendants owned Rancho Buena Vista into the early 1900s and the adobe remained a private residence until 1989. Each successive ownership brought additions and renovations, and to step from one room to the next is to truly step through time.

Rancho Guajome was also owned by Cave Coutts and served as his primary residence. Coutts arrived in northern California in 1849 as a brevet lieutenant of dragoons. Sent to San Louis Rey and then to San Diego, to act as military escort to the American-Mexican Boundary Commission, he met the prominent Don Juan Bandini whose daughter, Ysidora, he married in 1851. In 1853 he moved with her and their two children to Rancho Guajome, where he had just had built an expansive adobe. Seven more children would follow. Ysidora, who had received the 2219 acre rancho grant as a wedding present from her brother-in-law, Abel Sterns, inherited the adobe at her husband's death. Ownership of the home -- and at least part of the property -- would be maintained by descendant family members, though at times tenuously, until becoming state property in the 1970s.

The Guajome Ranch House, as noted in county literature, "remains today as one of California's best examples of Anglo-Hispanic domestic architecture still intact." Wooden floors creak and tiles show their wear, but an aged elegance is apparent. This was a family home, a work place, a school and a place of family and civic business. It was here, in the family chapel, that Parker Dear married Elena Coutts. An influential personage in early California history, Coutts' long-kept diary and papers are housed in the Huntington Library. In the carriage barn at Guajome is Ysidora's "box carriage," a frail buggy with a body the shape of an enlarged cigar box. Name acquired, however, because it was shipped in pieces inside a box around The Horn to San Diego at a time when it was the only way to get such luxuries. In that little carriage I saw the history of a continent, a nation, a state, a lady, a family, and, ultimately all of us. That little buggy took me by surprise and carried me further along the path of time than I ever expected I'd journey that day. A journey may be short but, you may return with an unexpectedly beautiful treasure.

*Bonnie Martland*