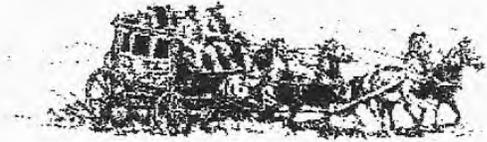


TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

July 2012

Volume 12 – 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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The Bootlegging Raid of 1919

By Jeffery G. Harmon

By 1910, the Prohibition movement had reached the California State Assembly. Arguments arose whether to allow California to remain “wet” or to go “dry”. Assemblyman George W. Wyllie, a vineyard owner, suggested a compromise. Known as the Wyllie local option law, towns, counties or territories could vote locally whether to support prohibition or not.

Joseph Winkels, proprietor of the Ramona Inn, pushed for a district election in 1912 in order to continue selling liquor legally. A large majority of Temecula voters supported the “wet” vote, but the majority of the 5th District voted “dry”. Winkels lost. (TVHS Newsletter April 2012)

Winkels continued operating his blind pig saloon. Only loyal friends and selected customers were allowed entrance into his establishment. Then in July 1919, his business was raided.

Elected in 1918, Riverside County District Attorney Loyal C. Kelley saw an opportunity to stop Temecula’s bootlegged illegal liquor sales. Armed with Wyllie’s law and the county supervisors’ permission, Kelley worked with the county sheriff’s department in identifying the “criminals”.

With paid informants and undercover officers, the trap was set for the Temecula Bootlegging Raid of 1919. On July 15th, four Mexicans, Jose Morales, Eugenio Avelos, Macario Gonzales, and Francisco Flores were apprehended. Upon entering Morales’ home, officers could not find any whiskey.

“A search of the house, which appeared to be the domicile of several families, revealed nothing of interest to the officers. But being possessed of the information that two cases of whiskey had been brought in on Friday last, they persisted in their investigations. District Attorney Kelley upon inspection of the walls discovered that the house had double walls, and with a vigorous yank or two, the windowsill was torn away and the hidden place of the whiskey was found.” (July 18, 1919, Hemet News)

(Continued on Page 2)

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, July 7 – 2:00 p.m.
Historic Fashion Show at the
Temecula Valley Museum

Saturday, July 14 – 10 a.m.
Temecula Valley Museum
A Walking Tour of Old Town
Temecula

Saturday, July 21
Temecula Valley Museum's
Living History Event:
Kevin Noble as James Butler
"Wild Bill" Hickock
Show times: 10 a.m. 12 p.m.
And 2 p.m.

Monday, July 30 – 6 p.m.
TVHS monthly meeting at Little
Temecula History Center
Steve Williamson presents:
"Erle Stanley Garner"

Thursday, August 9 – 7 p.m.
Temecula Valley Museum
Gallery Talk: Kevin Noble
Presents "The Old West"

Tuesday, August 14 – 5:30p.m.
Author James Thomas
Presents, Lewis & Clark and
The Corp of Discovery
For more information contact:
James Thomas
Email:
Jimthomas41@gmail.com
Phone: 760-742-1464

Monday, August 27 – 6 p.m.
TVHS monthly meeting at Little
Temecula History Center
Gordon Johnson presents:
"Old Songs from Pala"

Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition

June 30 ~ September 16, 2012
"The Old West"

Take a look back at daily wear in
The Old West during the late
1800's.

Membership Activity New Member

Teresa & Dennis Chiniaeff
Karl & Jan Weiler

Bootlegging (Continued from Page 1)

Then on July 16th Joseph Winkels and Louis Castro were also arrested.

Entrance to the Winkels place was gained only by trusted friends, via the ring of a hidden bell, which admitted the thirsty ones . . . the raiding party dispensed with the formal ceremony – they walked right in and caught the purveyor of joy drinks. (July 16, 1919, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

On August 19th, the first court case was the People versus Jose Morales. The jury was unable to reach a verdict and a retrial was scheduled. On September 2nd, during his second court appearance, Morales' crimes were further explained.

"According to evidence introduced by the state, Morales sold whiskey at six dollars a pint to county detectives. The defense contended that the large stock of whiskey said to have been found under the defendant's bed by the officers, was to have been used in christening his infant child." (September 5, 1919, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

After his second court trial on October 4th, Jose Morales was convicted of illegally selling liquor. His sentence was either to pay a \$600 fine or spend 300 days in the Riverside County Jail. Furthermore, Morales was charged by the Department of Immigration with illegally entering the United States from Mexico and would be deported after his sentence was completed.

On September 3, the Preliminary trial was held for Joseph Winkels and Louis Castro. During the trial, Castro's crime was revealed.

"In the hearing of Castro, a bottle of wine was exhibited, which was alleged to have been sold to one of the detectives in the case on or about June 15th" (September 4, 1919, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

It is not known whether Castro paid a fine, or had his charges dropped. No further evidence could be found regarding his case.

On October 3rd, the second court case was the People versus Eugenio Avelos.

"On June 1st last by Avelos in selling a quart of dago red (a wine) to Edwards and Cruz, two detectives employed by the county to get evidence against certain blind pigs said to exist in and around Temecula." (October 4, 1919, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

The case fell apart when Edwards admitted that he had spoken English to the defendant during the illegal liquor purchase.

127 Years Ago

Press and Horticulturist
December 8, 1885

San Jacinto Saloon Riot

The San Jacinto *Register* of December 3d gives the following account of the recent saloon riot at that place:

On last Monday night a party of masked men, armed with clubs and axes, broke open the saloon occupied by H. Escallier and demolished everything contained therein, consisting of lamps, bar fixtures, windows and a number of wine and whiskey barrels, turning the liquors out upon the floor. Following is a notice found tacked to the inside wall of the saloon:

To the saloon keepers and others in Hewett town: We had never intended to molest you so long as you stayed in your part of the valley, but your interference in trying to get a saloon in our town makes it necessary that we should take more interest in you, and you are notified that you will be held responsible for any effort to arrest or injure any temperance man or the property of any temperance man and punishment will be visited upon you and your saloons and on drunken officials as well. For any such interference, and while we do not like to take life, we will not hesitate to shoot and hang rather than be run over by you. By order of the Vigilance Committee

Bootlegging (Continued from Page 2)

“Three witnesses were called, M. Machado, McVickers and Escallier, the first two being merchants and the last saying as to his occupation that he “ran a soda water joint and ice-cream foundry” who severally testified that in 20 years’ acquaintance with Avelos they had never heard him speak English.” (October 4, 1919, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

Some jurors felt the arrest was entrapment because Avelos did not speak English. Eugenio Avelos was tried three times. The first two trials, the juries failed to reach a majority decision. On November 15th during the third trial, District Attorney Kelley asked that all charges be dropped, and Avelos was released.

On October 4th, the third court case was the People versus Joseph Winkels. He pleaded guilty to the charge eliminating the need for a jury trial. He was fined \$500, which he quickly paid to avoid serving time in the county jail. He then returned to Temecula.

Macario Gonzales and Francisco Flores were also tried in October. Their charges were dropped possibly due to lack of evidence.

On January 28, 1920 Jose Morales was finally released from the county jail.

The second district appellate court reversed Morales’ conviction *“on the grounds that the (lower) court had permitted District Attorney Loyal Kelley to introduce evidence before the jury which under the rules of law, was alleged to be inadmissible.”* (January 28, 1920 Riverside Daily Press)

Jose Morales was transferred to Los Angeles and deported to Mazatlan, Mexico on February 2, 1920. It is not known whether or not he ever returned to Temecula.

The six Temecula bootleggers were not the last “criminals” to be arrested during Prohibition, nor was it Winkels’ last arrest. Winkels continued operating his blind pig, but he was cautious who he poured a drink for. Then, in 1931, the law once again came knocking on Winkels’ front door, but that is another story waiting to be told.

25 Years Ago This Month

July 15, 1987, Rancho News

Foot long hot dogs broiling at ‘Barbie’s’

Barbie Thompson never thought she’d end up as the “hot dog queen” of the Temecula Valley but after turning a dream into a reality, the title seems to be sticking.

Thompson runs two hot dog stands, one at the Arco Station on the corner of Ynez and Rancho California and the other at the entrance of the Rancho California Industrial Park, located at the corner of Diaz and Rancho California Road.

The two hot dog stands are currently selling about 60-80 dogs a day. The corporate goal is 500 hot dogs a day.

75 Years Ago

June 3, 1937,
Riverside Daily Press

July 9, 1937

John D. McNeill, 58, Temecula blacksmith, was hanged at San Quentin this morning for the murder of his wife, report from the state prison revealed today. The one-time deputy constable mounted the trap at 10:03 o'clock and was pronounced dead by prison physicians at 10:16.

McNeill mounted the gallows nervously, but did not falter. Guards said he was calm during the night, but stayed awake until dawn, talking to them. He left no notes to his children, nor instructions for burial.

McNeill was convicted Oct. 31, 1936, by a superior court jury on a charge of beating to death his wife, Mrs. Melvey McNeill, with a washing machine roller.

Letter from the Editor:

Dear Readers:
We need your help with our upcoming story.

September: The Winchester
Square Shopping Center

If you have any memories of this center from 1980 to present we would love to hear from you! Please call or email us and together we can tell the history of this shopping center before it fades from memory.

President's Message By Bonnie Martland

How fortunate we are to live in the Temecula Valley is a comment I often hear. The speaker notes the vineyards, the scenery, Old Town's historic ambiance, the afternoon breezes, etc. and includes a remark about what nice folks live in our area.

Therein lies the key, no matter how beautiful and pleasant the place, it is the citizens that make it welcoming. Last weekend at the Arts Festival, I heard the usual "How lucky we are to live in Temecula," from a fellow volunteer. A visiting artist asked about property prices, as he likes the area and is thinking of moving to the valley.

Local cities have many volunteering opportunities; and with tight budgets, voluntary efforts are much appreciated. Go on your local city website to check requirements and contact your City Services Department for guidance. The Temecula Valley Museum is actively seeking docents...perfect for us historically minded citizens. My husband, an avid reader, enjoys volunteering at the library. Non-profit community service organizations provide wonderful opportunities, as well, for giving back to the community. The benefits you can provide, will come back to you many fold.

Bonnie Martland

P.S. We can use a volunteer to serve as chairperson of our Membership Committee

50 Years Ago This Month

July 19, 1962, Lake Elsinore Valley Sun
Jet Crashes on Vail Ranch

Monday morning at 9:30 just south of the Vail Ranch in Temecula, a F9F-8T Marine jet fighter-trainer from El Toro, piloted by Capt. John C. Coffin of 2814 W. Castor in Santa Ana crashed. The plane was from the Marine Training Squadron Two at El Toro.

The crash resulted in three separate brush fires and wreckage was strewn over a wide area. Seventeen units of the State Division of Forestry were called to the scene and with the aid of three Hemet based borate bombers, the fires were quickly extinguished.

The main section of the plane made a crater in the ground approximately 10 ft. deep. The largest part of the plane, a section of wing about 3 ft. long and 1 ft in width was found.

The pilot radioed to his base that he was bailing out. He landed in Vail Lake. According to an Elsinore Sheriff's deputy, Mrs. Anna Dagle, who is an employee at the ranch, heard the jet pass over and saw the pilot bail out. She then took a rowboat and rowed out to the pilot who was apparently unharmed except for a wrenched back. By the time they reached shore a military helicopter was on hand to return the pilot to his base.