

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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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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A young Ole Larson standing in his Temecula barber shop.

Meet Ole Larson

By Helene Seay

(Helene Seay was one of Erle Stanley Gardner's secretaries in the late 50's and early 60's. Her family shared a number of items from her files, and this article was among them. Helene wrote for a Temecula Talks column that appeared in local papers. -- Editor)

Ole Larson, our constable, is far from being the oldest "old-timer" in Temecula but he is one of the most interesting and far and away the most approachable; you see, he has this thing about saying "no." He just doesn't know how. Long before I met Ole and his charming wife, Naomi, at a wedding in town several years ago, I kept running into a stock answer whenever I asked questions about an old building or an incident sketchily referred to in conversation. It would either be, "Ask Ole Larson. He'll know." Or, "Ask Ole. He was there." So I followed this advice and he did know and he was there

Ole was born in Rainbow Valley on February 22, 1886. At about the age of twenty he went to work for Hugh McConville at the livery stable in Temecula. The picture of him on his mare, Babe, in front of the hotel on Main Street run by the Warrens, was taken about that time or the year following. That gun on his hip looks rather forbidding but don't let it fool you. Ole is the gentlest of men. He worked for Hugh McConville until 1909 when the livery stable was sold to Frank Hall. Besides his other duties, Ole ran the switchboard at the stable, sleeping in a little room in the front of the building so he could answer calls twenty-four hours a day. He connected calls to the Vail Ranch, to Murrieta, to the three rock quarries just outside town, and to all the phones in town. Ole declares there were more phones in town then than there are now, but maybe it just seems that way when you have to answer a switchboard twenty-

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Meet Ole Larson

More than a local barber . . .

four hours a day. He confesses that he used to turn off the board sometimes so he'd have time to curry the horses. First he'd turn off the buzzer, take care of his horses and let the lights flash while he worked undisturbed.

When Ole left the livery stable in Temecula in 1909 he worked off and on for many years for the U.S. Government in inspecting the surveying and sectioning of various Indian Reservations, among them Pechanga, Pala, Rincon and Cahuilla. He also did the same work in other states, being in Arizona during the summer of 1910, and when each job with the Government was completed he would return to this area and do "something else" until he was called again. Just about everything else. He did ranch work at Red Mountain Ranch about 1912, and both he and his dad worked for Frank Fernald who, besides being the town's photographer, had a rock quarry, a bicycle shop, and later a garage.

About 1914 Ole started a barber shop in the small frame building next to the bank on Main Street, which still stands and is now used for storage by the Swanguens.

From 1927 to 1930 Ole's barber shop was in Fallbrook in the same place where the barber shop is now, across the street from Whitey's. In that year, on January 13th, he married Naomi Lee of Fallbrook and the newlyweds moved to Temecula where Ole opened his shop in the space now occupied by the post office. Their living quarters were in the back of the shop. Ole is now barbering at Murrieta Hot Springs and has been there since 1944. The Larsons live on Main Street in a modern, gracious little house. But history pursues Ole even here. In their backyard is a small frame building that once was part of the original Santa Fe Depot, and if all goes well there will be a picture here of Ole, snapped while he was sitting on a wood bench beside the door of the old depot, discussing the location of the railroad tracks which once ran through what is now his backyard, across the street alongside of the Temecula Hotel of Dr. Horace Parker, and across the creek a few yards beyond.

Ole and Naomi are pictured as they select a snapshot or two for this article; and though Ole is not shown in the group watching the Mexican game, "Pull the Rooster," some other Temecula folks may recognize themselves among the spectators. This was a rugged pastime, to say the least. The poor rooster would be buried in the ground with just his head sticking out. Then the contestants would ride by on horseback at full gallop, reach down and attempt to pull off his head. The prize for the winner (it was Lynie Helm, in this case) was the rooster! You'd think this would be bit rough for ladies to watch, but just to the right of center in the picture a parasol and what looks like some flowery hats peek out from behind the boys stooped down in rapt attention. How about that? (*Editor Note: See photo below.*)

(Editors Note: From 1961 on, Ole was Constable for the Murrieta Judicial District and also a director of the Temecula Cemetery District. He passed away January 27, 1966, and is buried in Temecula.)



The Dump at Guenther's

(Editor's Note: This article appeared October 1965, in Guenther's Gazette, a monthly publication at Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs. The editor was Arnold French.

The sun that Monday afternoon, was hot, and as I walked along the road leading by the old hog pens, I could not help but feel that any day in winter would be better suited to my particular research. But I was half way down the road and had in fact passed the point of no return, so I kept going.

When you visit the dump at Guenther's, you don't arrive abruptly on the scene, you begin to pass small out posts, and you are not quite sure that what you see isn't something put away temporarily to be shortly used again.

Perfectly serviceable items, a little worn, and really too good to be discarded, but as you penetrate this sun drenched waste land you know you're really in the dumps.

Large wooden refrigerators, I'm not sure they weren't ice boxes circa 1915. Cement mixers probably operated at one time by "make and break" gas engines. Old wooden sidewalks that might have graced the "Main" street of any early western town, cross trees from old telephone poles still adorned with fragments of glass insulators. Chairs of an al fresco nature lamed and beaten by years of heavy sitting. A true wilderness of yesterday's cast offs.

A few days prior to this Fred Guenther had jokingly remarked, "We never throw anything away". And, surrounded by these relics of the past, relegated to a limbo of desuetude, I realized how right he was.

Actually I sympathize with this sort of thinking, recalling any number of seemingly useless items I have saved. Saved them for years, harboring always the thought that, 'someday I'll need this', or 'it might come in handy'. And so finally after years of shifting odd items here and there to make room for other useless items, I'd finally throw something away.

I know you've guessed the outcome to this: -- The day following the Trash Man's visit I've always had a desperate need for the old corn sheller I was finally induced to part with.

Mindful of this, I realize the latent need for all the junk? in our dump. Junk to you and to almost everyone else, but we have a prescient attitude. We know that someday, we might use a section of wooden sidewalk, and who can tell when we might have an urgent need for two wagon wheels with axle attached. And if electricity went out of style we could use the wooden ice boxes, couldn't we?

The thought does come to mind that we should protect some of these articles from the summer suns and winter frosts. A roof over the whole mess, oops! and we could have a museum of sorts, and while we're waiting to use it all once more, you could look at it, perhaps even figure out what some of the stuff really was used for.



TVHS & VaARRA Share Information Table at Genealogy Soc. Event

On Monday, October 9, the Temecula Valley Genealogy Society hosted their annual Open House. Cheryl Cady, Rebecca Farnbach, and Dick Fox shared staffing of a table with displays and literature for both VaARRA and TVHS. As in the past the Open House was well attended. Many area organizations had displays, information tables, and representatives to support the event.

Additionally, an area high school from Bonsall had a number of their students attend to display and share the results of their efforts from a special class "The Geography of Myself", which TVGS supported with members and research guidance.

Rebecca Farnbach and Dick Fox staff booth at recent Genealogy Open House.

Notable Women of Temecula

Annie Bergman

(Presented by Mindy Johnson)

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., please join us at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn) to hear the story of Annie Mendenhall Bergman.

Mindy Johnson of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, will present the life of Annie, who was born on Palomar Mountain and lived much of her life in the Aguanga area. During her 102 years of life, Annie was a wife, mother, store owner, post-mistress, ranch owner, community supporter, traveler, and good friend to many.

As part of the Notable Women of Temecula LIVING HISTORY series, Mindy will tell you about Annie and what life was like in this area from the early to the latter part of the 20th century. You don't want to miss this program. Open to the public at no cost.

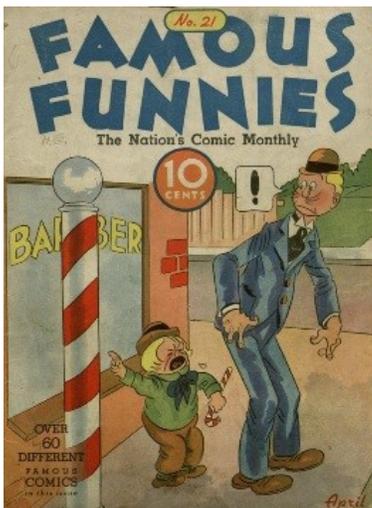
Beyond Words:

Visual Narratives from the Block Book to the Graphic Novel

TEMECULA, CA – *Beyond Words; Visual Narratives from the Block Book to the Graphic Novel* will be on display in the second floor gallery at the Temecula Valley Museum from Friday, November 10, 2017 through Sunday, January 14, 2018.

We often think of the comic strip as a rather recent invention, but the history of sequential narrative begins with the history of art itself. *Beyond Words* picks up this thread toward the end of the Middle Ages, when early book printers in the West used carved wooden blocks to stamp words and images onto the page.

In conjunction with the exhibit, on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6pm**, the Temecula Valley Museum will offer a lecture from lifelong printer Dick Fox. Mr. Fox will explore the history and evolution of printing, review important milestones and discuss the methods of transferring words or images to print for enjoyment and education.



Mindy Johnson presents Annie Bergman



Mark Your Calendars

TVHS Host Anniversary Of “Invaders” Pilot TV Series

On Friday, November 10th, at 5:00 p.m. the TVHS will host the 50th Anniversary celebration of the “Invaders” television series which was filmed in Temecula during 1966, and the first episode aired in July 1967. This event will be an outdoor event held at the Vail Headquarters, and show an unedited version of the pilot episode. TVHS member Rick Reiss will host and narrate the program.

Tickets for a chance to win a raffle basket full of *Invaders* memorabilia will be available for purchase at the event. We believe this is the only event to commemorate this anniversary. The film has many scenes of Old Town Temecula with recognizable buildings and streetscapes that are enjoyable to view.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Loretta Barnett
 Louise Roripaugh Beesley
 Michael Reagan & Sandra Bourassa
 Chris & Shari Crall
 Rob & Elaine Eshom
 Darell & Rebecca Farnbach
 Rhine & Sandy Helzer
 Roger & Carole Honberger
 Bob & Suzie Kent
 Richard & Mahlon Lawton
 Duane and Judy Preimsberger
 Phil & Char Washum
 Steve Williamson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Sunday — Sunday Funday at Vail Headquarters 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rides, activities, & demonstrations. Consider volunteering. Also don't forget the Tuesday's Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Now through November 5 — Gallery exhibit Temecula Valley Museum, *Eternally Yours* showcasing the art of Lisa Cabrera and her colorful presentation of the traditions of *Dia de la Muertos*.

Sunday, November 5 — 2:30 p.m. at the Red Barn, meet Jean Bethell, secretary to Erle Stanley Gardner who Wrote the Perry Mason series and who also lived in Temecula. Free admission to the 30 minute program.

Friday November 10 thru January 10 — New Gallery exhibit opens at Temecula Valley Museum entitled “Beyond Words . . . “ which examines visual narratives from the block book to graphic novels. See story on Page 4 about the exhibit.

Friday, November 10 — 5:00 p.m. at Vail Headquarters 50th Anniversary celebration of the pilot episode of the “Invaders” TV series which began in 1967. See story on this page.

Saturday, November 11 — VETERAN'S DAY —
Give your favorite Veteran a BIG HUG!

Thursday, November 16 — 2:00 p.m. at the Harveston Chateau, Pam Grender will portray the author, Helen Hunt Jackson.

Friday, November 17 — 5 :30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Join us for the **TVHS Annual Program** and catered Dinner at the Assistance League in Temecula. The program by Chuck Gunderson is a riveting 45-minute multimedia presentation focusing on the Beatles 1964 North American Tour. **Paid reservations required by Nov. 6th**
Please call Roger or Lynn at (951) 695-0517 for reservations.

*** **NO Meeting during the month of December.** ***

Monday, January 22, 2018 — Monthly TVHS program 6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet with refreshments, at 5:30. Craig Owens has done extensive research of historical hotels including Temecula's own Palomar. Mr. Owens will present historical photos and scenes filmed. His book “*Haunted by History*”, featuring eight historic hotels in Southern California will be available for purchase.

Sunday, February 4, 2018 — 2:30 p.m. at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn), Mindy Johnson will present Annie Mendenhall Bergman, and influential woman who was born on Palomar Mountain and lived the remainder of her life in Aguanga. Annie and her husband owned a ranch consisting of thousands of acres of land in the valley.

Spotlight on Members – Featuring – Rebecca Farnbach

Rebecca was the third and youngest red-haired child born to red-haired parents in Marshalltown, Iowa. Rebecca grew to be a contemplative and quiet teen who carried a notebook to scribble thoughts into that were later published locally. Rebecca's first notable publication was an article in Seventeen magazine when she was seventeen years old. It was celebrated by the bebop radio station from Des Moines that called and did a live broadcast interview that her fellow students heard on their way to school that morning. After arriving in California Rebecca drafted a recipe pamphlet for the federal WIC program that was distributed nationwide in English and Spanish.



Rebecca

When Darell and Rebecca met he introduced her to Temecula and to the Vail Ranch Headquarters, a lost-in-time area that later defined the rest of their lives. In 1998 when Darell became a plaintiff in the case to save the headquarters, Rebecca was one of the main collaborators. Rebecca has been a founding member of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association and the Temecula Valley Historical Society. Beginning in 2018 Rebecca will serve a third term as President of the Temecula Valley Historical Society and she is part of the management team of the Vail Headquarters. She has four grandchildren in the area.

She loves to tour art museums with her two older grandchildren and teaches music to her two younger grandchildren. Rebecca has coauthored six books in the Arcadia local history series and has published two small release history books. Nineteen years ago Rebecca started a writers group that has so far produced over 100 books in various genres. Rebecca is a member of the San Diego Christian Writers Guild who named her Writer of the year in 2006. She has also been recognized by several writing organizations with numerous poetry awards. Rebecca retired last year from a career in the eye care field, serving as a medical/surgical tech and later as a licensed optician.

Here is one of her award-winning poems that incorporates her love of history and her experience with optics:

At Dusk To my ancestors

Peering through a telescope
Spanning miles and time and sea,
Only your outline is visible,
Your name, some dates, locality.

I look not to space,
Nor deep within,
But strain my eyes to see
You who lived before auto, plane, machine.

Did you smile at opening bud,
The trill of lark,
The squeal of a child?
Did God press Himself on your heart,
Before type and ink struck page?
Did you entwine with youthful love
Adding lives to our chain?

Did you a spyglass fix on me
And find the gleam of love
My heart sends now to thee?

100 Years Ago . . .

(Selected from the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column, November, 1917)

November 2, 1917

The Funeral of Mrs. Eli E. Barnett took place from her late residence, near Temecula, Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. F. L. Carrier, principal of the Elsinore high school, officiated, and a quartet composed of Mrs. Carrier, Miss Ruth Frothingham, Robert Kirkpatrick and Prof. Carrier, furnished appropriate music. The floral offerings were many and beautiful, consisting of wreaths, bouquets and other floral designs, the most noted of which was the large five-pointed star, made of variegated flowers in five colors, green, red, purple and white, emblematic of the five colors of the order of the Eastern Star.

The services were very impressive and the attendance very large. All of the nine children of the deceased were present and many of the twenty-nine grandchildren were also present. It was one of the largest funerals ever held in the Temecula Valley and showed the very high esteem in which the deceased was held by her family, neighbors, friends and the whole surrounding country.

A very long procession of mourners followed the remains to the grave in the Temecula cemetery where the last sad rites were conducted by the Elsinore chapter Order of Eastern Star of which the deceased was a charter member.

Her husband is a devoted member of the Masonic Fraternity while her son Adrian B. Barnett is Past Master of the Elsinore lodge of Masons. At the grave the officers of Elsinore chapter O. E. S. rendered the ritual of the order. Mrs. Frances Frothingham being Worthy Matron and C. S. Merrifield Worthy Patron. The five points of the star were represented by Sisters Mrs. James Stewart, Ruth Frothingham, Mrs. James Gyger, Mrs. A. S. Burnham and Mrs. Howe Woodford.

The deceased was 60 years, 3 months and 15 days old when she died and leaves a family of nine children, a husband and many relatives and friends to mourn her loss. Her husband, Eli E. Barnett, has been one of the foremost highly esteemed and prominent citizens and landowners of the Temecula Valley for many years. He has been a devoted Mason for many years and one of his sons, Adrian B. Barnett, is past master of the Elsinore lodge. The deceased being a charter member of the Elsinore chapter O. E. S. the attendance from the chapter was large. Every member attended that could go.

The deceased was a native of Iowa and came to the valley about 25 years ago.

More November 2, 1917

Adolph Chaqua, for many years Indian policeman at the Pechanga Indian reservation, died Sunday, October 27, 1917, at Aguanga. The remains were brought to Pechanga for interment in the Pechanga cemetery. Chaqua has been sick for the past eight months. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his death.

In the second Liberty Loan, Temecula made a fine showing when she subscribed \$77,200. This is better showing than most the towns in the county can boast of, and it also shows how patriotic our people are in backing up the boys at the front. A dance will be given at the Bank hall tomorrow night to which everybody is invited.

Adrian B. Barnett has done fine in the sugar beet culture. He has shipped to the factory about 200 tons and has more to ship yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith left Sunday for Hemet and a two weeks' vacation. Mr. Smith is employed at the Friedemann Meat Market.

George T. Hall and Joe Cazas, two of Temecula's Liberty soldiers who went to Camp Lewis, American Lake, Washington, were transferred to Camp Kearney, San Diego county, last week. The boys are happy and are enjoying themselves.

Rev. Father George Doyle of the Pala Mission was in town one day last week. (Mail your communication earlier so we will have time to set it in full).

November 9, 1917

Mrs. Robertson of Cottonwood, mother of Mark M. Robertson, was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Nienke the latter part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Freeman spent Sunday at the camp of Salazar, father of Mrs. Freeman.

Mrs. Uribes and children drove last week to Prado to spend a few days at the home of Mrs. Uribes' parents.

Albert Banks shipped the last of the week two carloads of grain to the Globe mills at Colton. He has more to sell yet. Mac Machado, proprietor of the Mission Store, made a business trip to San Diego last week.

James O. Freeman and crew started to bale alfalfa hay for Eli E. Barnett.

On November 10, there will be a dance given at the new schoolhouse at Wolf Valley, which will be completed some time this week. The new building is much larger than the old one and will be more comfortable for the children. Everybody is invited to attend the dance and eat tamales manufactured by Mrs. Frank Camacho.

Autumn is the evening of the year when every forest is a sunset and every tree a burning bush.

Lawrence Miller of Murrieta was in town the last of the week.

Mr. Pierce of Auld was in town Saturday after a load of lumber. The dance at the bank hall Saturday night, given by Mrs. Lizzie M. Hall and Miss Mabel Helm was a great success. Supper was served in the lunchrooms.

The family of Albert F. Nienke spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robertson at Cottonwood.

James Rawson, teacher at the little Temecula schoolhouse, spent Saturday and Sunday at Hemet looking after his potato crop.