

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

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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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www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



The Life of Darell Farnbach

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach



Darell Farnbach was a fourth-generation Californian who lived in the mountains, in the desert, and in the city in this state. He experienced life in California from as far south as Temecula and to near the northern border in Alturas.

The story of Darell Joe Farnbach begins when the two men who would become his grandfathers began working on the Red Line in Los Angeles in the early 1900s. Albert Cash, who was a New Englander from Nantucket Island and worked as a motorman on the Red Line, began to homestead some land in the San Gabriel Mountains near Wrightwood, California in 1916 but found it was too much work for him. He offered to split the land with his coworker Joe Farnbach, a first-generation German born in America who was a conductor on the Red Line if he would help him with the mandatory improvements on the homestead.

The teamwork made the two families grow close. After their children Alberta Cash and Gerald Farnbach met as children, their friendship grew into love. Gerald and Alberta attended Life Bible College in Los Angeles, founded by the famous female evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. They were joined in marriage in 1929 in a double wedding ceremony performed by McPherson.

Three children were born to Gerald and Alberta, with Darell coming last at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles on April 14, 1942. For a while, the family lived in Los Angeles and then they moved to the family homestead, the rustic Wrightwood Lazy B-J-F Ranch.

After a while, the Farnbachs' marriage dissolved and Darell went to live with his father, stepmother, and stepsiblings Sheila and David Brooks in Ukiah, California where they soon welcomed Darell's baby brother Bob. Later, Darell lived with his grandmother and grandfather Farnbach in Auburn, California

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Darell wanted to live with his mother, and after some persuasion, he got his way. He lived with her on the Lockhart Ranch near Barstow, where she was a cook. His mother eventually married a cowboy named Cliff Johnson who gave Darell an extended family with aunts and uncles and cousins.

Darell moved with Cliff and Alberta to Kelsey, in the Placerville area, where Cliff worked for the Forest Service. Some of their adventures in Kelsey included building a cabin and an outhouse, interacting with odd neighbors, and attending a two-room school where Darell was valedictorian of a class of three students.

After a few years, the family moved to Alturas on Highway 395 at the Oregon border and then before Darell's senior year of high school they moved to Monrovia where Darell graduated in 1960.

Having an income was always important to Darell. Trying to earn some spending money, Darell bought 100 baby chicks when he was twelve years old. He raised them and sold them dressed and afterward did not ever want to raise chickens again.

Darell always loved cars. He started driving when he was about six years old. He drove a Model A to the end of their long country lane where he and his brother and sister caught the school bus. Darell would stand on the seat to steer while his brother worked the pedals. Also, as a child, he would drive across the desert while his stepdad and uncle lay on the running boards shooting rabbits.

Darell's first job was washing cars for an auto sales agency. He remembers the thrill of driving the cars that he washed. In Monrovia, he worked in a convalescent hospital, a pharmacy, and a gas station. He considered going into mortuary science but decided instead to attend beauty college.

He excelled as a hairstylist and earned credentials to teach at the beauty school. It was there that he met his first wife, Ramona Rubio. They married in 1965. Darell was drafted into the Army in 1966 and was a battery clerk stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, where their daughter Darya was born. After returning to California, Darell purchased a salon in Arcadia and his son Todd was born in 1971.

In 1981 the family moved to Temecula where Darell and Ramona formed the Farnbach Altstadt Design Company with another couple from the Arcadia area. They did commercial and residential interior design in the fast-growing area, while Darell continued traveling to Arcadia every other week to work in his salon.

Darell also collected and restored antiques and had an antique store inside the Temecula Mercantile building.

When Darell's and Ramona's marriage ended, an Arcadia hair client introduced Darell to Rebecca. They married seven months later and Darell persuaded Rebecca to move to Temecula. Darell helped her to raise her teenage children Andrew and Abigail Marshall.

Anyone who knew Darell knows he loved cars. Until recently he had a Model A pickup, a Model T roadster, a 1938 Cadillac LaSalle, and 1970 and 1972 Ford Mustang convertibles. Before he moved to Temecula, he owned two of his favorite cars, a Packard convertible and a Mercedes convertible. His salon in Temecula "The Pink Caddy" featured the front clip of a 1969 Fleetwood Cadillac as the reception desk. He owned about 70 cars during his lifetime.

(Continued from page 2)

Darell passed away at home on March 14 in Temecula, California after a long illness. His brother Garry Farnbach preceded him in death. Darell is survived by his wife Rebecca, sister Donna Reese of Bishop, California, brother Robert Farnbach of Ukiah, California, and David Brooks of Sacramento, California. He leaves children Todd of Medford, Oregon, Darya of Fairhaven, Vermont, and their spouses, stepson Andrew Marshall of Temecula, California, stepdaughter Abigail Juarez and her husband of Wildomar, California, grandchildren Terran and Taj Farnbach, and many nephews and nieces.

Darell loved Temecula and was proud to have been part of the restoration of Vail Headquarters, but he said his best legacy was his children, which included his stepchildren and grandchildren. He was loved by many in the community and will long be remembered, especially by the third-grade students who took bumpy rides in Darell's Model A.

Welcome New Members:

- Charlie Cobb
- Steve & Denise Haerr
- Felicia Horton
- Ladislao & Abigail Marshall Juarez
- Andrew & Terri Marshall

Thanks to Renewing Members:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Toni Benson | Cheryl Cady |
| Max Cantu | Suzanne Dechert |
| Martin Dinsenbacher | Ralph & Betsy Domanski |
| Tom & Michelle Elling | Rod & Charlene Fink |
| Dave & Tracy Frick | Sandy Helzer |
| Pat & Annette Jennings | John & Bonnie Martland |
| Nancy Mize | William & Claudia Perozzi |
| Barbara Tobin | Liz White |

AN OLD FRIEND RETURNS

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Temecula Valley Museum

The High Country was originally published from Summer 1967 to 1984. It was restarted by the Museum in Fall 2002 with issue 63 and published through Spring 2015, issue 87. The article in the next column is from issue 63, and gives a brief history of the original *The High Country*. *The High Country*'s are filled with wonderful short stories about our area and are well worth reading.

Copies of *The High Country* can be purchased in the Temecula Valley Museum's gift shop, and there is an article index, and a cover index, to all 87 issues in the TVHS website under "Publications".

The High Country was born in Temecula in the summer of 1967, "published, just for the hell of it, when the spirit moves its publishers who are a group of associated writers making their homes in the Luiseño Country..." The founders were Elsinore newspaperman Tom Hudson, Sam Hicks, the manager of Erle Stanley Gardner's Rancho Piasano, Al Newhart, an insurance salesman turned author (and uncle of comedian Bob Newhart), freelance writer Bill Cox, Kimball Parker, and Temecula historian Horace Parker, with Ralph Love, who opened a studio in Temecula in 1958 as "staff artist".

The two Parkers, Horace and Kimball, soon bowed out of the "High Country Associates" (as the group came to be known). Al Newhart followed a few years later. By the second issue, Tom Hudson had emerged as editor, a title he held until 1980. The little magazine was published four times a year, "with the seasons", and by the sixth issue had more than 1,500 paid subscribers.

Frank Woolley of Hemet joined the magazine as "staff writer" with issue #21, and had at least one article in every issue right up to the end. Sam Hicks and Bill Cox stayed with *The High Country* until 1979 when Hicks died, and Cox moved to Santa Barbara. Ralph Love retired at the end of the same year, and Roy Morrissey, another Temecula artist took over the duties.

But the great change came in 1980, when Tom Hudson became editor emeritus and Sam Hicks daughter, Nancy Carmichael, took over the editor chair with Bill Harker, the editor of the *Rancho News* as her assistant. That order was reversed a year later, when Bill Harker became editor and publisher with Carmichael as his associate,

Over the years, *The High Country* attracted a string of regular contributors, including Cloyd Sorensen Jr, of Vista, who specialized in the history of northern San Diego County, Bennie Hudson (Tom's wife), Robert de Roos, a columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Arthur Sill, a retired California State Park ranger, George Winkels, the nephew of legendary Temecula saloonkeeper Joe Winkles, Hamp Sanford, Marcus Lytle, and (for the last few issues) August Fredy. Other articles were written by noted California historians including Aurora Hunt, George P. Hammond, Charles D. Swanner, John Brumgardt, Evelyn Banning, Paul Wilhelm, Esther Boulton Black; and there were even occasional contributions from Temecula's most famous author Erle Stanley Gardner.

At one time, *The High Country* had several thousand subscribers, and also did a steady business in back issues. The first issue (published in a run of just 600 copies) was reprinted at least four times over the years, to keep up with the demand.

But publication grew spotty in the last few years, and the original *The High Country* finally breathed its last with issue #62 near the end of 1984. Now—nearly two decades later—it is born again, and strikes the same claim that *The High Country* did more than 30 years ago.

"Let others fuss and fume with what's happening in this frustrating age of computers. The present is too complicated; the future is too vague. Only the past is reasonably clear, and that... is the field into which *The High Country* naturally fell"

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — April 1923

April 6, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, April 4 – L.C. Cunningham, traveling freight and passenger agent for the Santa Fe, was a business visitor here Monday.

Mrs. Mahlon Vail is visiting in Los Angeles this week.

A.F. Nienke spent the weekend with his family in Riverside.

Miss Welty returned last Wednesday from San Bernardino where she had been visiting her sister, Mrs. Bemis and Mrs. Birge.

Beula Hendrickson, a reader and impersonator of note, gave a very delightful entertainment at the school auditorium last Wednesday evening.

Clarence Roberts, of Moreno, is clerking in G.A. Burnham & Son's store here.

G.A. Burnham is installing a new windmill on the Greenfield place.

Mrs. Helwig of Escondido spent several days last week here with her mother, Mrs. John Welty.

Mrs. Eva Heintz spent the weekend in Los Angeles.

Mesdames Lynn Smith, W.M. Friedemann and A.B. Barnett attended the Eastern Star chapter at Elsinore Monday evening.

There will be a big dance here Saturday evening. Good music.

April 13, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

A.F. Nienke spent the weekend with his family at Riverside.

W.M. Newton, of Glendale, is here installing electricity in the Santa Fe depot and agent's dwelling.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bell and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett.

Miss Gilbert, county rural supervisor, was visiting the school last week.

Tuesday afternoon, the O.E.S. Social Club, of Elsinore, met at the home of Mrs. W.M. Friedemann. A very large number of the members attended regardless of the rainy weather. Delicious refreshments of sherbet and cake were served by the hostesses, Mesdames W.M. Friedemann and V.B. Sands.

April 20, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Vail's shipped two cars of cattle to Los Angeles Tuesday.

M. Machado was a business visitor in Los Angeles several days last week.

Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Mrs. V.B. Sands attended the county track meet at Riverside Saturday.

A.B. Barnett and Vetsie Cantarini attended the second annual county track meet for the grammar school pupils at Riverside Saturday.

There were only nine of the contestants who were able to attend the second annual county track meet at Riverside Saturday.

April 27, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith, Mrs. A.B. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and S.E. Veazey attended the Eastern Star social club card party at Murrieta Monday evening.

O.E. Larsen was a Los Angeles visitor a few days the first of the week.

A.F. Nienke spent the weekend with his family in Riverside.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes have returned from Los Angeles where Mr. Haynes has been in the hospital for the past month.

Mrs. Charles Otto and son, Earl Otto, Paul Eich, and George Buss of Los Angeles were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Otto.

Mrs. W.T. Barton left Sunday for Los Angeles where she expects to visit relatives for a few weeks.

One of the largest crowds ever attending a baseball game at Murrieta Springs witnessed the defeat of the fast Carlsbad team by the Temecula Indians last Sunday. Many good things could be said for the boys on both sides as it was a clean, hotly contested game, the only two runs made were in the first inning by Ramos and Richard Escallier for the Indians.

Thompson pitching and Smith catching for Carlsbad received excellent support from the other members of the team. Thompson holding the Indians scoreless for eight innings, fanning three of the Temecula boys. Tano pitching for the Indians fanned six of the opposing team and lived up to his reputation of being always on deck with just what is needed at the critical time and was in very little danger at any stage of the game.

Temecula made five hits during the game, Richard Escallier two sharp 1 (a 3-bagger) Hoggie 1 and Banks 1. Ramos on 1st Richard Escallier 2nd Sharp 3rd and Cheto on short tried to outdo each other in playing the game and honors were about even. Caboose in left field, Banks in Center, and Tom in right were on the job at all times and last but not least Hoggie, catching proved that he could "eat 'em" coming down as well as over the plate. Making a fine catch of a foul after the ball had almost decided not to come down.

The next game will be played at Escondido Sunday, and it promises to be another real contest, as the boys in that section are far from scrubs when it comes to baseball and other sports.

And on Sunday, May 6th, the Indians will tangle with the "Riverside Colored Giants" at Murrieta Springs and a good game is anticipated.