

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

May 2014

Volume 14 – Issue 5

*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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This Third Grade project is an example of historical societies working with local schools to promote and preserve the valley's rich history.

(Photo by Rebecca Farnbach)

## Historical Groups Coming of Age in Temecula Valley

By Darell & Rebecca Farnbach

It's been 16 years since the ink dried on the agreement to save five historical buildings on four acres at the old Vail Ranch Headquarters. While the ranch site has languished up until recent months, the historical community has not. In this article we give an overview of several of the institutions in the Temecula Valley that are dedicated to preserving artifacts, documents and stories that keep the past from fading into obscurity.

The Vail Ranch activists formed the nonprofit Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRA) in 1998 because there was no historical society at the time to champion the preservation of the site. There had been an historical society for a brief time in the 1980s but it had folded due to lack of interest. Likewise, the Temecula Valley Museum was in a fluctuating stage of development during that time.

In 2000 the Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS) was formed with a broader focus for preservation. The group produces a monthly newsletter, has a monthly meeting with informative presentations, and is at work in the community on many projects to oversee the protection of several local legacy sites. Members in the society hold posts on the Old Town Review Board, the Riverside County Historic Commission,

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# Calendar Of Events

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Temecula Valley Historical Society will meet a week earlier this month (on Monday, May 19th) because Memorial Day falls on our usual meeting date, the 4th Monday of the month.

### **Monday, May 19 – 6 p.m.**

The four high school seniors selected to receive TVHS college scholarships will tell his/her future plans. Two students are from Murrieta High and two students are from Temecula High School.

### **Monday, June 23 – 6 p.m.**

President Dick Fox presents: *Restoration and Resurrection*  
He will share his experiences Restoring an 1898 printing press.

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### **Welcome New Member:**

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Barbara Mina

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### **Thank you for renewing your Membership:**

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Dale Garcia  
Vernette Mackley  
Gary & Sally Myers  
Bonnie Reed  
Dan Stephenson

## Historical Groups (Continued from Page 1)

And one works for the Pechanga Cultural Resources Department. Some of the projects championed by TVHS are the restoration and maintenance of the hilltop tomb of Temecula pioneer Louis Wolf, identification of significant historic sites in the area, and placement of plaques on buildings to interpret their significance to the community. Members advocate for saving historic buildings, which have included the Escallier House and Barn, the Machado Store, and the Temecula Hotel.

An exciting new program initiated by TVHS this year is the scholarship program offered to four high school students who plan to work in a field related to history. Funding for the four \$650 scholarships came from an anonymous donor. The society hopes to perpetuate this program with fundraising.

The Temecula Valley Museum (TVM) in Old Town Temecula has come of age with the construction of a building, the careful collection and display of artifacts, and well-versed docents. TVM, now under management by the City of Temecula, has permanent displays on the various stages of the valley's history, significant characters and events, a large exhibit featuring the local author Erle Stanley Gardner of "Perry Mason" fame, and changing exhibits on topics of local interest. TVM also offers guided tours of Old Town Temecula and a summer history camp for student.

TVM also encourages young historians by offering a history contest to third grade students each year. Currently the 2014 history projects are on display at the museum, ranging from reports to dioramas depicting scenes from Temecula's past.

The Pechanga Cultural Resources Department has built a modern cultural center and archiving facility. With expert curators on staff, the tribal group does ongoing research into various aspects of local history that are also shared with other historians in the community.

Each of the organizations provides volunteer hours for students and interns. Each institution has significant research and preservation projects that benefit the community now and in years to come.

The Murrieta Library has a heritage room filled with information and artifacts from its history. The Temecula Library on Pauba Road has a special cabinet with historic publications. Historical groups have provided photographs for display in The Bank of Mexican Food, the Public House, two Denny's Restaurants, and three Bank of America branch offices.

While some communities may have concentrated on growth, people in this valley have also remembered those people who were here before the newcomers and have honored their memory.

Looking back to when the Vail Ranch settlement was signed in 1998 much has changed in this growing community. While many buildings and landscapes have changed and some have been obliterated, the history community has done well to save and document truly significant places and to remember the people who provided the drama of the developing community.

## Murrieta News 100 years ago

May 9, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

The annual May Day picnic of Murrieta Sunday school for all the people of the valley was quite well attended this year and a happy day spent in the mountains, barring the accident to little Alma who is said to be doing fine.

Hog cholera is something new for this part of California, but it has made its appearance among the hogs of some of the large ranchers. The state veterinary has been here and hogs have been vaccinated, but some were too far gone to get well.

A California Dry Federation was organized here on Sunday night, April 26, by Mr. Shepherd.

May 14, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

Dick Wilks (Wildomar) has moved his bailing crew to Murrieta and the valley below. Everyone seems anxious to get their hay baled as soon as possible. The price of new hay is starting in so low that the ranchers seem inclined to store the bulk of the crop.

May 22, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

The Santa Fe bridge gang has been here for a couple of weeks. Wish the company would build Temecula canyon road again.

## Temecula is Treated to a Musicale

June 9, 1903, Riverside Independent Enterprise  
(Reprint)

June 5- On the evening of Wednesday last a most enjoyable musical was given by Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Cobb at the Pauba Ranch near Temecula. The guests gathered from all the surrounding country, arrived early and did not take their departure until sometime after midnight. For the time being the cares of life were forgotten under the soothing influence of soulful music. Women forgot to talk of those things always dear to female hearts and men cared nothing for crops or markets, while all were raised to higher planes of hope, ambition and desire by the melody that makes men better and women more beloved. In a carefully prepared program, in which each number was perfectly rendered comparisons are impossible. Each selection was perfect in its class and the blending of the whole left nothing to be desired. Miss Gonzalez and Miss Tuffield played several piano solos, while the piano duet, "The Storm King," played by these young ladies, called forth deserved applause. Miss Baker, of Rainbow, performed most acceptably two difficult violin solos, with Miss Culver and Miss Gonzalez, respectively, as accompanists. Miss Sturgess, who has a musical future before her, with great success as a reward for well directed endeavor, rendered perfectly on the piano "In Dreamland" and the "Butterfly's Wooing." The Buck orchestra, of five members, played a number of selections in their well known thorough and acceptable manner.

Mrs. Cobb has decorated her rooms with a wreath of wild flowers that demonstrated the floral prodigality of the beautiful canons of Southern California, while cultivated roses and fragrant vines added the charm of form, color and odor. To complete the perfectly enjoyable evening came those refreshments which the careful housewife never forgets and over which the assembled guests lingered long as they discussed the enjoyments of the evening.

Among those present were: Miss Geech of Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Bevington and Miss Bertha Reekie of Escondido, Mr. and Mrs. William Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hutchinson, Mrs. J. A. Sturgess and Miss Mary Sturgess, Miss Katie Tuffield, Miss Lucy Cheney, Mr. Robbie Brown, of Murrieta, Miss Baker of Rainbow, Mr. and Mrs. S.O. Buck, Mr. Arthur Buck, Dr. Roripaugh, Mr. Jack Roripaugh of Auld, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. and Mrs. Brubaker, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. George Black, Mr. and Mrs. John Bell, Miss Gonzalez, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Culver, Mr. Harry Gentry, Mr. Theodore Black, Mr. Mark Barnett, Mr. Logan Barnett, Mr. Arnot Marsh, Mr. David White, Master Buck of Temecula, C. B. Burrill, of San Francisco and the regular correspondent of the Enterprise.

Please join us for a SPECIAL "Meet & Greet" time at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 19th, prior to the meeting at 6:00 PM.

This will be an opportunity for you to personally meet and speak with each of our scholarship recipients and their parents.

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!**

Meetings are held in The Little Temecula History Center, the red barn next to Kohl's near the intersection of Temecula and Redhawk Parkways.

### **Upcoming Historic Event: The Bank's Centennial Celebration**

In June the Bank of Mexican Food will hold a several day celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the bank in Temecula. If you are a former patron from when it was a banking institution, please let us know at: [sunbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:sunbrook@hotmail.com) or by calling Rebecca Farnbach at 951-699-5148. We would like to honor you during this celebration.

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## **President's Message**

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Monday, April 28, 2014 was indeed "History Day" in Temecula. We started the day at the History Center as co-hosts with VaARRA to the CINCH (a North San Diego County historical group). The format for their informal gatherings each quarter – is to have all in attendance give a verbal report of their current activities, and raise questions that others in the "history community" might be able to provide welcome answers or ideas. With an unexpected total attendance of 26 it took awhile to get all around the room.

Then all were provided the opportunity to tour the recently restored Wolf Store – as well as witness some of the on-going restoration activities at the old Vail Ranch Headquarters complex, as well as casually walk around the History Center and enjoy the artifacts and displays.

A number of our guests expressed an interest in visiting the museum, so special arrangements were made to provide them access for a private tour guided by Tracy Frick and myself. From about 9 am through to 3:30 I was able to squeeze in 45 minutes for lunch. After picking up my granddaughter at school and a quick dinner snack found my way back to the History Center for our monthly program and meeting. It is very rewarding to see that a number of our members are faithfully coming early for the "meet & greet" time. The program started promptly at 6 pm with a nice sized attendance to enjoy Ron Quirk (Guajome docent) tell us about the "Cast of Characters" that are part of the Guajome Adobe's colorful history.

Talk about a busy, yet wonderful "History Day" – YES, it was this past Monday.

Dick Fox



For TVHS members and guests who missed the January presentation of "Notable Women of Temecula", the ladies will be performing a 30-minute skit in the Rotunda of the Temecula Valley Museum on Saturday, May 17th, at 1:00 PM.

The performance is FREE and open to the public.