

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

March 2015

Volume 12 – Issue 3

*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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## **An Update on the Vail Ranch Headquarters Site Renovation**

*By Darell Farnbach*

The Vail Ranch Headquarters Site on the property east of Kohls in south Temecula is presently under renovation. This site, recognized as a California historic site, also eligible for National Historic Registry status, is undergoing restoration according to the US Department of Interior Standards for Historic Renovation. Paperwork has been drafted to name it as a nationally recognized historic district upon completion.

After many years of handwringing, meetings, a 1998 lawsuit, negotiations, planning, discussions, more meetings, and then, finally, agreements, architectural plans were submitted for county approval and then to the City of Temecula Planning Department about 6 years ago.

This was followed by a series of unfortunate events, including change of ownership three times. Each owner was responsible to complete restoration of the historical property and to keep the terms of the legal settlement with historic preservationists, the founders of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRRA).

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By the time Arteco, an historic architectural firm, took title to the property the economy tanked and loans were not available to complete the project, so the waiting game continued.

Finally about two years ago Arteco began renovation on the Wolf Store. Now they are working on the rest of the property. Deep trenching has been going on for the last few months. Most of the underground work is completed for sewer, fire hydrants, waterline, gas lines, electricity, cable, water drainage, collection of water runoff, and grease traps for future restaurants on the property.

Meanwhile the red Machine Barn and Office has new footings as well as all new interior structural stabilization, rafters and siding. Next will be the replacement of the original tin roof. The Bunkhouse is undergoing the same process.

The Foreman's House has been moved for a second time, to a foundation south of the cookhouse to make room for a new building designed to look like an old mule barn at the north side of the property. Much of the interior of the Foreman's House is being removed, including carpet, paneling, linoleum, flooring, and the old furnace. New bathrooms and an A.D.A compliant ramp will be added.

The cookhouse next to the Wolf Store is getting new cement footings and is undergoing removal of materials damaged by termites.

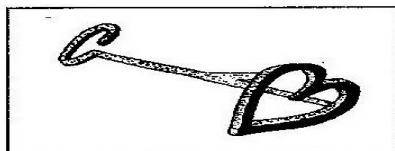
VaRRA is in the planning and staging phase for historic displays that will be positioned in different areas of the property to depict past occupants and usage of the areas. Maybe you have seen the vintage 1875 hotel room already completed in a south room of the Wolf Store.

VaRRA is preparing to build an outdoor blacksmith pavilion where live blacksmith demonstrations can be done. VaRRA is also planning a display of typical cowboy bunkrooms in the old bunkhouse.

This historical district has already received some interest from potential business owners. Augie's gourmet coffee roasters will share the Wolf Store with A la Minute ice cream vendors. A deli may be going into the bunkhouse. Maybe a saddle shop will go into the replica of the Mule Barn. Perhaps there will be a garden behind the Machine Barn to supply produce for the restaurant that will go into the Cookhouse. There are a lot of interesting possibilities for this community area that centers around the old Butterfield Trail that transverses the property.

Everyone is invited to come to the property on a Sunday afternoon and to look over the yellow caution tape to see the buildings while they are still undergoing reconstruction. You can see the project up close and personal. VaRRA is holding antique sales in the Wolf Store every Sunday afternoon from 12 – 5 pm as a fundraising project.

Things keep changing and the community is watching and waiting for this heritage site to be open for business, which may be as soon as October of this year. When people band together to work for a common good, projects like this come together. VaRRA thanks the Historical Society for its support in the process.



### April TVHS Newsletter

Anyone having items to be included in the April newsletter should submit them to me by March 28th.

Judy Preimsberger, editor  
email: pberger30@verizon.net

## TVHS UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 9th** - The Notable Women of Temecula performance at the Temecula Library, 1:30 P.M.

**March 23 - 6:00 p.m.** TVHS Monthly Meeting Program, Karl Weiler shares his view of "What Really Happened at Ellis Island".

**April 20 & 27th,** Rancho Elementary Third Grade Students will visit the Little Temecula History Center from 9:30am - 12:30pm; volunteers are welcome. Please contact Rebecca Farnbach, 951- 699- 5148 if you can help.

**April 27th, 6:00Pm,** Dale Garcia will speak at the monthly society meeting on "The Violent Side of Temecula History."

**Monthly Meetings are held at 6:00 P.M. at The Little Temecula History Center - The Red Barn (next to Kohl's Department Store) on Temecula Pkwy/Redhawk Pkwy.**

*Quote of the day...*

*Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.*

*Mark Twain*

## President's Message

We had a house full at the February TVHS meeting. Standing room only, and a head count of 112 !!! Robert Larson had a wonderful presentation on 3 separate sites in Southern California that all had fascinating histories – and unfortunate circumstances which led to their demise. Over the years he has personally visited each of them and taken many pictures which he shared as he related each story. For those who were not able to attend, you missed a nice program.

The Notable Women of Temecula (NWOT) will perform twice on Monday, March 9, first at the Temecula Library 1:30 pm, and then again that evening at the Temecula Valley Genealogy Society. This spring will continue to be busy with scholarship committee and plaque project activities. And don't miss our March meeting program where Karl Weiler will share his view of "What Really Happened at Ellis Island".

*Dick Fox*

## Old Town Walking Tour

On Friday, February 20th, we spent a lovely day together walking through Old Town Temecula. Bonnie Martland regaled us with interesting stories from the past. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch at the famous Swing Inn on Front Street.



From left to right: Charlene Fink, Marv Clifton, Kent Johnson, Vicki Clifton, Penelope Johnson, Bonnie Martland, Phil & Char Washum, Barbara Mina, Bob Kent (above) , John Martland.

## Thank You Letter From a 2014 TVHS Scholarship Recipient: Claire Gatzke

"College has been great so far. I joined Alpha Gamma Delta, a sorority on campus. This sorority has given me the opportunity to volunteer and do some charity work while here at Chapman, and I have met many of my closest friends through this organization.

I have enjoyed many of my classes thus far, although some of them have not been my favorite.

My GPA from the fall semester landed me on the Chancellor's List, and I hope to be just as successful in the Spring.

This upcoming semester, I am enrolled in a course about California Politics, for which I am particularly excited.

Thank you all so much for everything, and I hope all is well in Temecula."

## Notable Women of Temecula



Sponsored by the Temecula Valley Historical Society, the Notable Women of Temecula will be performing at the Temecula Public Library on Pauba Road, as part of Women's History Month, on Monday, March 9th, at 1:30 PM. Catch a glimpse of what life was like for these women: Ramona Wolf, Helen Hunt Jackson, Mary Jane Welty and Jean Bethell. The program is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Temecula Public Library at (951) 693-8940 or visit them at [www.temeculalibrary.org](http://www.temeculalibrary.org).

## Meet and Greet

**Please join us for a Meet and Greet time at 5:30 pm on Monday, March 23rd, prior to the meeting at 6:00 pm at the Little Temecula History Center.**

**REFRESHMENTS will be served.**

**We'd like to get to know you.**

## Membership News

Welcome New members:

Myrna Bagge, Aguanga  
Lynn Marie Hornecker, Murrieta  
Rick & Vickie Reiss, Temecula  
Klaus & Norma Schoedl, Temecula  
Nick Shestople, Temecula

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Tracy Frick  
Naomi Woods