

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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A sunrise liftoff in Temecula — Courtesy John Randall III

Morning Ballooning Over Temecula's Wine Country

By Duane Preimsberger

The skies over the Wine Country are often filled with beautiful, brightly colored, hot air balloons that seem to ride the early morning breezes with a sedate and stately calm. Being a part of that picture was something I'd wanted to do for years and recently, accompanied by my wife Judy and our 16 year old grand daughter Natalie, I managed to make a longtime wish come true.

It started out with a very early get up as the alarm clock beside our bed chirped a wake up call at 4:30 AM and brought us yawning into a day with still darkened skies. We dressed hurriedly and drove to our 5:30 AM meeting place in the parking lot of Maurice Carrie Winery on Rancho California Road. There, we met our hostess from Southern California Hot Air Balloon Tours, Rachael Nicholas, who plied us with hot coffee and introduced us to Brandon and Andy, our ground crew and, Don Horst, a gentleman with 28 years experience as a hot air balloon pilot.

We loaded up into a big white van towing a trailer containing a 4 foot x 6 foot x 4 foot wicker gondola basket and a collection of other, as yet unidentified pieces of equipment. Don drove us a short distance to a flat barren rise near Camino Del Vino that overlooked the vineyards below and it was there that we watched our balloon take shape. The balloon envelope was carefully spread on

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Morning Ballooning Over Temecula's Wine Country

its side onto a large tarpaulin that protected it from the rocks and brambles. Two large gasoline powered fans began to breathe life into it and before long the 105 foot balloon began to tremble and rise. Next, Don carefully hooked wire cables and carabineers from the balloon's lower end to the gondola containing 3 twenty gallon propane tanks that provide the fuel to the two large burners that directed heated air into the semi-inflated envelope.

The fans were shut off and carefully, Don activated the burners and began to heat the air within the balloon canopy with blasts of hot air that began to lift the balloon into the sky. Soon, the 175,000 cubic foot "Hot Pursuit" stood ready to fly and the three of us climbed aboard the gondola to join Don. As we got aboard, one of the crew joking commented that Natalie should avoid standing on the trap door. The heat from the burners radiated into the gondola as our pilot lifted us slowly and quietly into the skies and only the noise from the burners broke the quiet. The ground slipped away from the wooden basket's floor beneath our feet and we were treated to the sights of a sun rise, squadrons of birds flying in formation and the ability to enjoy the view of the wineries and the geometric planting of the vineyards below us, it was in a word, "Spectacular!"

We climbed to nearly 3000 feet as our canopy of colors; orange, red, yellow, green, black, purple, pink changed shades as the sun continued its ascent along with us. Four additional balloons joined us as we moved slowly above the ground watching coyotes streak across the landscape below. Our Pilot Don pointed out a few of the landmarks that we could see from our lofty perch; Lake Skinner, Vail and Diamond Valley Lakes, the equestrian center at Galloway Downs and Palomar Mountain off in



Going up? Or coming down? — Courtesy Rebecca Farnbach



View from wineries — Courtesy Rebecca Farnbach

the distance, were just a few of the amazing views and vistas.

We gained some insight into Balloon piloting, man's oldest method of flying, and we were taken a little bit aback when Don produced an aerosol can of shaving cream and shot a spray of lather over the side and watched it descend as it helped him to judge wind speed and drift. Our flight was over too soon as we settled back to earth assisted by Andy and Brandon and we were sorry to leave the confines of our gondola basket and the company of our pilot, Don. All of us had big smiles on our faces and as we left the balloon I asked Natalie what she'd thought of the experience and she replied, "Grandpa; that was Awesome!" Judy, my lovely wife of more than thirty years can be a little troubled by heights so I asked her a related question; "Would you do it again?" "Yes, I really enjoyed it, and after awhile I could look straight down at the ground and it didn't bother me."

We made our way back to Maurice Carrie Winery where we enjoyed a Continental Breakfast with champagne for Judy and me and Sparkling Cider for Natalie. The three of us received our First Flight Certificate, embossed upon it were the words from the "Balloonist Prayer" that summed up our experience."

"The winds have welcomed you with softness.
The Sun has blessed you with its warm hands.
You have flown so high and so well,
That God has joined you in laughter,
And sent you gently back
Into the loving arms of Mother Earth."

*** President's Message ***
To Members and Friends of the
Temecula Valley Historical Society

Facebook kept me posted as my second cousin packed her car in Santa Cruz, ready to evacuate from destructive fires. She noted she had the teapot brought by her grandmother, my great grandmother, from Scotland when she emigrated to America. She said the teapot reminded our grandma of her cool, ocean homeland as she settled first in dry Southern Idaho and then Northern Utah.

Her post prompted my aunt to say she had a platter and another cousin said she had a plate. All posted pictures of these heirlooms and suddenly I had an unexpected written and illustrated history of my great grandmother. Thankfully no evacuation was needed.

Social media has its drawbacks for sure, but this kind of connection is such a perk. We had a similar experience as our monthly presentation was shown in both zoom and Facebook live formats in August. Just a few days after the presentation we already had several hundred views of Rod Fink's presentation on his experience in Viet Nam.

We hope to continue to connect with one another through this time of separation. Our Vail Ranch Antique Store and train are open. The work of the Historical Society continues with efforts on the Mills Act, some new ideas, and continued attention to our varied projects.

Please stay safe until we can all meet again.



Membership News

Welcome New Members

Terry Craig

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Robert & Elaine Culverhouse

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 1 — Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer's Market at Vail HQ. Come get fresh veggies. Also Antique Store Open, come see late additions.

Sunday, September 6 — Most Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Antique Store operated by TVHS at Vail HQ

Saturday, September 19 — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle & Sage Vegan vendors at Vail HQ.

Friday, September 25 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Starlight Bazaar at Vail HQ.

Sunday, September 27 — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday Funday vendors at Vail HQ.

Monday, September 28 — 6 p.m. Monthly program by Zoom, Darell Farnbach relates "Temecula in 1981". and 7 p.m. TVHS Board Meeting by Zoom.

Mama's Mama

Mama's Mama, on a winter's day,
 Milked the cows and fed them hay.
 Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule,
 And got the children off to school.
 Did the washing, mopped the floors,
 Washed the windows, and did some chores.
 Cooked a dish of home-dried fruit,
 Pressed her husband's Sunday suit.
 Swept the parlor, made the bed,
 Baked a dozen loaves of bread.
 Split some wood and lugged it in,
 Enough to fill the kitchen bin.
 Cleaned the lamps and put in oil,
 Stewed some apples she thought might spoil.
 Churned the butter, baked a cake,
 Then exclaimed "For mercy's sake."
 The calves have got out of the pen,
 Went and chased them in again.
 Gathered the eggs and locked the stable,
 Returned to the house and set the table.
 Cooked a supper that was delicious,
 And afterwards washed all the dishes.
 Fed the cat, sprinkled the clothes,
 Mended a basket full of hose.
 Then opened the organ and began to play,
 "When You Come to the End of a Perfect Day."
 — Author Unknown

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — September 1920

Issue of September 3, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

The school board met Monday and arranged to have the schoolhouse and grounds in readiness for the opening of school September 13.

Mr. John Farquhar of the Pauba Ranch went to Los Angeles Monday for medical attention. He has been suffering with his throat lately.

J. B. Alkire, wife & S. E. Alkire, and wife of Los Angeles spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Vance B. Sands. James Crew and wife accompanied by relatives from Glendora motored to Keen Camp Wednesday where they expect to enjoy an outing for a couple of weeks.

H. C. Kirkpatrick, who is representing the American Railway Express Company was an over night visitor here Monday.

James Nienke, who is working in Los Angeles, spent the weekend with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Nienke. Mr. Howard was a Los Angeles visitor for a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Burnham and daughter, Miss Ethel; Mrs. Kolb, who has been their guest for a week and Miss Elizabeth Nienke motored to Oceanside Sunday and enjoyed a bountiful picnic lunch. They returned through San Marcos, leaving Mrs. Kolb to visit with her parents for a short time before she returns to her home in El Centro. L. A. Ernest is taking a short vacation. R. Davis of San Bernardino is relieving him.

Issue of September 10, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Tuesday while waiting to be loaded, 350 cattle from the Warner Ranch became frightened at the engine blowing off steam and decided to return home the shortest way, tearing down forty feet of stock fence with a general stampede. By efficient methods the men were able to return the runaways to the pens and the shipment was made with very little delay outside of slight bruises and a sprained leg no damage was done to the stock.

Olga, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fickelsworth is home, after quite a long illness in Los Angeles. She has three little friends from Los Angeles visiting her.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Burnham and the Misses Ethel Burnham, Francis Powell of Riverside, Elizabeth Nienke and Grace Greenfield motored to Riverside Wednesday evening to attend the show.

Albert F. Nienke and family motored to Santa Rosa Sunday and enjoyed a picnic in the mountains. Dan Tripp was in town Tuesday with a new Chevrolet truck.

Ole E. Larsen is giving the Anaheim Sugar Company scales a general overhauling this week.

Issue of September 17, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Escallier, William M. Friedemann, Ole E. Larsen and Vance B. Sands attended Masonic Lodge in Elsinore Thursday evening.

Eldred Roripaugh will attend high school in

Fallbrook this winter. She will stay with her grandmother.

Messrs. Friedemann, Walters, Larsen, and Smith were hunting in Smith Mountain Sunday. They brought back the limit of doves.

Roy S. Roripaugh is on a camping trip in the mountains. Here's hoping he'll bring home the limit.

Albert F. Nienke and family motored to Corona Monday where Mr. Nienke underwent a minor operation. Dr. C. Shank did the work. They returned that evening.

School opened Monday with an unusually large attendance Miss Domingoni and Miss Fleishman, the teachers of the Union School, are domiciled at the hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Buck are the proud parents of a boy. They have named him Loren.

Fernando Escallier received serious injuries Sunday when he fell off a truck.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Sykes and four children have returned from their trip to Santa Cruz to attend the golden wedding of his father and mother, where the twelve children and 24 of the grandchildren and one great grandchild were present to celebrate the occasion August 30.

Herbert Aids of El Segundo is here on a vacation. His brother Allen has just come home from the hospital where he has been for four months with a badly broken leg.

Dr. Rasmus, superintendent of the San Diego district of the M. E. church, was here Saturday looking after the work here.

An airplane was stranded here with engine trouble Monday night and Tuesday.

September 24, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. Gray is operating five and six trucks so as to handle the ore from the Lapidolite mine.

Mr. Jones of Elsinore was here with his truck last week helping Henry Gray on account of the unusually heavy output of Lapidolite ore.

The Union School has an attendance of 52 pupils, which is the largest in the history of the school and others are expected to enroll within the next few days. We sincerely hope the interest displayed in the work so far will be maintained throughout the year. The faculty is of the highest standard and with the co-operation of the parents of the joint district the present school year should be a winner.

Nineteen cars of cattle were shipped by the Warner and Mendenhall ranches Tuesday. This shipment was handled by a special train through to Los Angeles.