

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

October 2021
Volume 21 Issue 10

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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Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593



www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Darell & Rebecca thanking the City Council for Wall of Honor citation.

— Photo Courtesy Shawna Sarnowski Photos

A Significant Recognition

Farnbachs Honored by City With Names on Wall of Honor

By Dick Fox

Over 25 years ago Darell and Rebecca Farnbach embarked on a journey of dedication for the preservation and restoration of an historic site in Temecula. Their efforts have resulted in what we know today as the Vail Headquarters.

Early in this journey the vision was Darell's, and he shared it with Rebecca on their first date over 30 years ago. Darell drove Rebecca by and showed her the complex of old buildings and shared his vision of what it should and could become one day. His infectious enthusiasm got Rebecca hooked and soon she became his partner on the long journey to see the project through to what we have today, an interesting and significant piece of living history which includes most of the important buildings once the headquarters for the Vail ranching operations in the Temecula area. Prior to the Vails, other pieces of the property's history include the historic Wolf Store at the center of the original village of Temecula, and the last remaining segment of the Southern Emigrant Trail.

Their almost 3 decade journey included filing a lawsuit, forming the Vail Ranch Restoration Association, and participating in the design and oversight of the eventual finished project.

In 2020 the Temecula Chamber of Commerce recognized them as "Citizens of the Year", then more recently on the evening of August 24, 2021 the City of Temecula honored them by adding their names to the city's Wall of Honor. Both of these recent recognitions and the accompanying accolades are certainly meaningful and well deserved. All members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society can be proud that they have continually championed the project and included us as part of this incredible journey. Now it is on to the filing of a National Historic Places Registry application.

More photos next page.

Farnbachs Names Added to City Wall of Honor



Mayor Maryann Edwards preparing to unveil the latest addition to the Wall of Honor for the City of Temecula.
— Photo Courtesy Shawna Sarnowski Photos



Darell and Rebecca get first close-up view of their names on Wall of Honor after special ceremony.
— Photo Courtesy Shawna Sarnowski Photos



Latest recipients of being named to City Wall of Honor, Darell & Rebecca Farnbach are shown with City Manager, City Council, senior staff, Jeff & Pat Comerchero, while Mayor Edwards points to their nameplate.
— Photo Courtesy Shawna Sarnowski Photos

He Passed This Way . . .

Well Known Local Historian Steve Williamson, Passes Away

By Dick Fox

On Tuesday afternoon, September 7, 2021 we in Temecula lost a longtime resident, a personal friend, work colleague, and local historian extraordinaire, when Steven P. Williamson passed away suddenly at his home. Everyone knew him as just Steve. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, two sons and four grandchildren, all of Temecula.

Steve was raised in Riverside, California and was a 1965 graduate of Riverside Polytechnic High School. In 1967 Steve began a 30+ year career with the United States Postal Service, interrupted with a tour of duty in the Air Force as a radio telemetry technician stationed at the Naval Parachute Test Facility in El Centro, California. During his time in El Centro he learned to skydive, and in his younger years did it frequently. Upon completion of his enlistment in 1971, he returned to the Postal Service to continue his career, retiring in 2002.

In 2007 Steve began work as a Museum Specialist at the Temecula Valley Museum. Steve and I worked together for over 10 years. When Steve became interested in a subject, he would read and review all related material on the matter – and then somehow with ease was able to sort, collate, and compile a thorough dissertation on the person, place or event in local history. Organizing stories for either publishing in written form, or putting into “slide show” format to present to large groups was a strength of his. Over the years of service at the Temecula Valley Museum, Steve amassed an impressive library of PowerPoint presentations, and written works. He was the author of “*Pioneers, Etched in Stone*,” a compilation of biographies of the people whose names are chiseled into the *They Passed this Way Monument*, in Sam Hicks Monument Park in Old Town Temecula. He developed in depth knowledge on Temecula History, Guenther’s Murrieta Hot Springs Resort, Helen Hunt Jackson and the story of Ramona, Temecula’s famous author Erle Stanley Gardner, and the beginnings and development of Temecula Wine Country.

One of my favorite stories happened at the beginning of a special presentation he created about the Guenther’s Murrieta Hot Springs. Before the evening program began Steve had the opportunity to meet and chat with members of the Guenther family and close friends. Also in the audience that evening were many folks who had worked at the Hot Springs in earlier times. During his introductory remarks and greetings he acknowledged that many in attendance that evening had worked at the “springs” as life guards, or in service areas such as the kitchen; and that one of the attendees was convinced that he was “conceived” at the springs. That brought down the house. Such is an example of Steve’s comfort in front of groups.

Steve’s idle time activities centered mainly around his love of everything aviation. He held a private pilot license with single engine and glider ratings. Following retirement from the Postal Service he embarked on a 7-year project to build from scratch a Pietenpol Air Camper 2-seater airplane, which when almost finished he trailered to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for one of their annual fly-in get-togethers. It didn’t have the exterior “skin” on it, but folks could see the masterful work he did on the wooden airframe. For over 10 years he was the President of the French Valley chapter of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association). He was also a member of the Soaring Society of America, and a past member of the U.S. Parachute Association. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle, and listening to music.

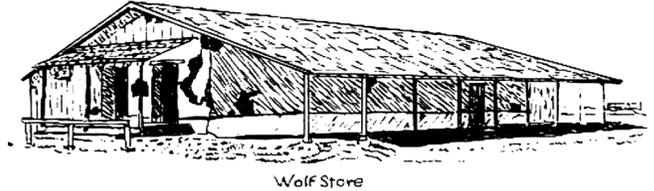
While many who engage in activities such as skydiving, soaring in gliders, or flying personally built aircraft leave this world in other ways, Steve passed peacefully on the couch watching TV. His writing and presentation talents, along with his wry sense of humor, will certainly be missed.



Steve Williamson

Temecula Valley Historical Society

P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593-0157



You are cordially invited to the 20th Annual Meeting of the:

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm

at **Wilson Creek Winery**

35960 Rancho California Rd., Temecula, CA 92591

The price of \$40 per society member, \$50 per guest
includes lunch and the afternoon's program.

**Our invited speaker is BONNIE MARTLAND, presenting:
"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"**

Bonnie will talk about veterans from US wars and conflicts,
using their own words in a stirring tribute for Veteran's Day.

Introduction of the 2022 Board of Directors and Officers
Opportunity Drawings with new & unique items

A portion of the dinner proceeds go to the TVHS Scholarship Program

Please complete the form below and return it with your check

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021.

TVHS Annual Meeting Reservation

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 1:00pm

Menu: A buffet lunch of Vineyard Salad with organic baby greens, golden raisins, bleu cheese, candied pecans, and vanilla balsamic dressing, Herb-Crusted Roast Beef Top Round, Grilled Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes with thyme, Seasonal Vegetables and Assorted Desserts. You will be greeted with a glass of Wilson Creek's award-winning sparkling wine.

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Additional Name(s): _____

Number of members attending: _____ Total: \$ _____

Number of guests attending: _____ Total: \$ _____

I cannot attend but will assist with a donation for TVHS scholarships. \$ _____

The cost is \$40 per Society member. Guests are also welcome at a cost of \$50 per person.

Make checks payable to: **TVHS** (checks must be received by October 28th)

Please mail form and check to: **TVHS, P.O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593-0157**

You may also pay through our website using PayPal or a credit card at: www.temeculahistory.org

Online, look for: "To make a reservation: [Click Here](#)" and follow the instructions.

For further information, contact: Shari Crall: sscrall@gmail.com or call her at: (951) 323-6509

President's Message

October, 2021

As I come to the end of a three year term serving as Board President I feel nostalgic. TVHS was officially formed in January 2001, after several formative meetings during the fall of 2000. I was in those initial meetings having fallen in love with the historic town of Temecula. I wrote about and interviewed folks with historic stories in my column, The Crall Space, in The Californian, during the 1990s and again in the early 2000s

Then with my kids grown, I went to grad school and started a career, taking me out of the day to day life of Temecula with a long commute to San Diego. So when Darrel Farnbach called me up in 2015, inviting me to get back involved, it was just the nudge I needed.

As I reconnected I found many dedicated volunteers had been busy saving the historic Vail Ranch HQ properties, Tony Tobin's collections had blossomed into the well established Temecula Museum, Rebecca Farnbach and Loretta Barnett had partnered with others to write books documenting many aspects of local history and Pechanga had taken ownership of historic and sacred properties. Louis Wolf's tomb, the original project of the society, was well cared for.

It has been a joy working in the Society with those whose names you see throughout these pages. Because of members like you, the Society continues to flourish with monthly presentations, interesting tours, supportive education for the community, and a material presence at Vail Ranch HQ in the Little Temecula History Center, antique store and kiddie train and stagecoach rides.

Here's to the next 20 years!

— *Shari*

Membership News

Welcome new members:

Bernadine Anderson

Jan & Dean George

Meryle Hammatt

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Arnie & Nancy Frick

Mindy Johnson

Wendy Lesovsky

Vernette Mackley

Laurie Cary

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Friday, October 1** — 6 to 9 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.
- Sunday, October 3** — 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Family activities, vendors, rides and DJ also.
- Tuesday, October 5** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer's Market. Fresh local produce EVERY Tuesday.
- Sunday, October 10** — 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, family activities, vendors, rides. DJ also.
- Friday, October 15** — 6 to 9 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.
- Saturday, October 16** — 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. *Walk for Freedom*, 5k walk fundraiser to benefit victims of human trafficking.
- Saturday, October 16** — 4 to 9 p.m. Thistle and Sage Vegan Market *Halloween Carnival*. Come in Costumes. Treats.
- Sunday, October 17** — 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, family activities, vendors and rides. DJ also.
- Wednesday, October 20** — 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chamber Business Mixer & Expo, 50+ local businesses to meet each other and public.
- Thursday, October 21** — 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Great Oak High School band fundraiser and performance. Jazz Ensemble, Drumline & Color Guard on stage.
- Sunday, October 24** — 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, family activities, vendors. and rides. DJ also.
- Monday, October 25** — 6 p.m. Regular monthly Historic Society presentation, in-person event at History Center. Dan Stephenson, Founder and Chairman of Rancon Group will talk about the history of development of Rancho California.
- Wednesday, October 27** — 7 p.m. Spin Class hosted by Grazing Theory. 40 stationary bikes on stage and In central courtyard with class leader on stage.
- Thursday, October 28** — 6 to 9 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.
- Friday, October 29** — 6 to 10 p.m. *Starlight "Bizaare" HALLOWEEN EVENT*. Our annual Halloween Themed Starlight Bazaar. Performers, photo ops, Trick or treating at vendor booths & more. Costumes.
- Saturday, October 30** — 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Jack O' Lantern Jamboree sponsored by Crosspoint Church. Event with decorated trick or treating booths, face painters, balloon twisters, and music. Not a vendor event, just for trick or treating. Come in costume.
- Sunday, October 31** — HAPPY HALLOWEEN
NO Sunday Funday today.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — October 1921

Issue of October 7, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

Miss Grace Edythe Greenfield, daughter of Mr. E. Greenfield, cashier of the First National Bank of Temecula, and Mr. Dan Cantarini were married at high noon on Monday, October 3, at Riverside in the presence of a few intimate friends, Rev. B. S. Haywood officiating. The young couple left immediately for a short honeymoon trip in Los Angeles and other places of interest. They will be at home after October 10 at the little cottage on the hill, which Mr. Cantarini has so attractively furnished for his bride. Mrs. Cantarini will be remembered as the assistant cashier in the Temecula bank and is a gifted musician, especially on the violin and piano. Mr. Cantarini is the youngest son of A. Cantarini of Temecula and has been engaged in extensive farming with his brother on the huge family ranch. A host of friends join in wishing the popular couple much happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham have moved into their new ranch home north of town. The house is of the colonial type, small but one of the most unique and cozy in the valley. Of special note is the little breakfast room which is strikingly Oriental in its furnishings and the bath and dressing room combined with its built-in dressing tables.

J.E. Roripaugh and family are on a camping trip in the northern part of the state.

Farrell Freeman killed a large deer one day last week and Charlie Clogston was as lucky last Sunday morning while hunting back of the Swanguen mountain ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield have moved into the bungalow vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham.

Mr. Verne Spivey and family have taken the house recently occupied by the Greenfields.

Many Temeculans have attended the Indian Fiesta at the Pala Mission the past week.

Mrs. William Friedemann and Mrs. A.B. Barnett attended Eastern Star chapter in Elsinore Tuesday evening.

The Temecula baseball nine played Murrieta at the Hot Springs diamond last Sunday and led them a merry chase to the score of 12 to 1. Next Sunday Temecula will play the Perris nine at Perris and it promises to be one of the most interesting games of the season.

The dance given last Saturday night at the Temecula ball for the baseball team was well attended.

Mrs. Ernest Sweet and little daughter Mildred, and cousin, Mrs. Turner, all of Riverside, have spent the week visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. Kolb.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Otto have moved into the house recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Spivey

Mrs. E. Beemis, Mrs. Welty, Mrs. Mack Machado, and Miss Dolly Fisher were Elsinore visitors on Wednesday.

Issue of October 14, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

Mr. and Mrs. George Burnham, Miss Ethel Burnham, Mrs. Anna F. Burnham and Miss Elizabeth Nienke

were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shipley of Fallbrook last Sunday evening.

The town was practically deserted Sunday afternoon, many going to Perris where the Temecula baseball team frolicked with the team of that place, account of which will be found in another section of this paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Burnham and family, Mr. Lou Burnham and daughter, Bettie Rae of Elsinore, were visitors at the George Burnham home on Friday.

Mr. Chester Barton of Monrovia has bought the Ramona Calac ranch south of town. Mr. Barton has land interests in the Cottonwood district also. Mr. Calac and family will move to Escondido shortly.

Harvey Kolt has leased the A.F. Nienke ranch south of town for the year. Mr. Kolt and wife moved into their new home last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and son, Edward, were dinner guests of Mrs. Reed in Perris on Friday evening.

Mr. W. M. Friedemann of the Temecula meat market has purchased a Signal truck.

Mrs. William Friedemann was in Elsinore Tuesday afternoon, attending the Eastern Star social.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Galis of Fallbrook visited the Welties one day this week. Mr. Galis will be remembered to have had a livery stable in Temecula years ago.

Many Temeculans were pleased to learn last week of Harry Henderson being chosen as general secretary of the Y.M.C.A. Mr. Henderson taught school in Temecula for a couple of terms a few years ago and has many warm friends in this section, who wish him all success in his chosen work.

Issue of October 21, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

Mr. Frank Burnham experienced a very painful accident last Thursday evening while going to his home north of town on his motorcycle. While on the highway between the Ben Barnett and the Roripaugh ranches, a cow started across the road in front of the motorcycle. Mr. Burnham slowed down and the animal changed its plan and turned from the pavement. Just as Mr. Burnham turned on the gas to pass her she again attempted to cross the pavement and was struck, the force throwing Mr. Burnham. When he awoke he had a broken collar bone, a badly cut knee and many bruises. He managed to crawl to Ben Barnett's home and was brought to the G.A. Burnham home and rushed to Escondido, where his injuries were treated by a local doctor. Mrs. Burnham was with him in Escondido. He was able to be moved to the G.A. Burnham place on Monday and is doing as well as can be expected.

Temecula played the Hemet Cubs last Sunday at Hemet and came home with the score in their favor by

(Continued on Next Page)

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – October 1921

but one point, 5-4. The game was an interesting one, but the boys lacked their usual fighting spirit for some reason. Newman pitched a splendid game. Temecula scored one in the first inning, another in the second, while Hemet, on a couple of errors, scored four in the fourth. The eighth inning saved the game for Temecula. Next Sunday Temecula and Elsinore meet on the Hot Springs diamond.

Miss Elizabeth Nienke is clerking in the G.A. Burnham and Son store for a few weeks while Mr. Burnham is recovering from his injuries.

Many Temeculans have attended the Riverside Fair.

Ole Larson, who is employed in Los Angeles, was a Temecula visitor this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peace, who have had the little cold drink and light lunch room on the highway for several months, moved to Winchester Monday where Mr. Peace has employment in the General store. Mr. and Mrs. Peace will return in the spring and open up business again.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walters and daughter, Peggy and Sam Seiple spent Sunday at Tia Juana.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shipley of Fallbrook spent the weekend at the G.A. Burnham home.

A.F. Nienke, of the Temecula Lumber yard, has just received two cars of lumber from the north.

Mrs. Alfred Knott entertained Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peace at a dinner Saturday evening.

Mrs. Houseman and son have secured the old pool hall of Mrs. Louie Escallier in which to show their motion pictures every Tuesday evening. "In Old Kentucky," featuring Anita Stewart was shown to a full house Tuesday. "The Thunderbolt" will be shown next week.

Albert Banks killed a fine big buck in the mountains the past week.

Mrs. J.E. Roripaugh spent Monday in Fallbrook.

It will be of interest to people of this section to know that the picture being shown at Grauman's theatre in Los Angeles, "The Three Word Brand," is the one taken in Temecula this last February, when a special train brought in Bill Hart, Jane Novak and their many players.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Cunningham and little daughter, Ruth, of Murrieta, were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Knott on Sunday.

The teachers and trustees of the grammar school are going to give a pie social or cafeteria supper at 6 o'clock a week from Friday, October 28, after which Halloween games will be enjoyed. The proceeds will be used for the playground apparatus.

Issue of October 28, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

About thirty friends of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cantarini tip-toed over to their home late Thursday evening to pull off a real old fashioned charivari. The joke was on the crowd however, for in some way the newlyweds had suspected the plans and were awaiting the crowd, which fact did not lessen the noise of the harmonious serenade in the least. Delightful refreshments were served and out of door games were played in the moonlight for an hour or more.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands attended the Eastern Star dance at Perris recently.

Mr. and Mrs. William Friedemann, Miss Dolly Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cantarini, Miss Serena Cantarini, Miss Maybelle Pope and Vesty Cantarini attended the dance at Pala Saturday evening.

Harry Walters had the misfortune to have the nail torn from one of his fingers while cranking a car last Tuesday.



1st Gas Station In Temecula

Frank Fernald can be seen in this undated photo by his new gas pump. The 1910 census had him listed as a garage owner.

Newspaper reports indicated that in 1917 he put his gas tank underground as part of an expansion to his auto garage and gas station.

For much of the first half of the 20th century, gas averaged about 21 cents per gallon.