

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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Old Town Temecula, by Ralph Love

A Salute to Temecula Artists

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

I reflect with gratitude on those souls who have preserved the stories of Temecula's history by various mediums of art, including photography and written accounts. I appreciate the old-timers who spun unbelievably hilarious stories that left the readers or listeners doubting the validity. For example, was it true that the liquor law enforcement officer was the first one to drink himself to oblivion during the fundraiser for the first St. Martha's Church? And was a stick of dynamite truly inserted into the warming fire where men gathered in the livery stable on chilly evenings?

There are many wonderful stories and legends about the Temecula Valley. When people start reading them, they are hooked until they have collected full sets of the High Country magazine that the Temecula Valley Museum produced from 1967 to 1984, and 2002 to 2014. The publications contain a mix of humor, romance of the West, and serious accounts of local history written by skilled writers including Tom Hudson, Bill Harker, and Sam Hicks.

Temecula history aficionados search online to buy a copy of the out of print "Temecula at the Crossroads of History" by Phil Brigandi. Some of us own two copies, one kept in pristine condition as a "collector copy" while the other "working copy" is dog-eared throughout. Brigandi did his homework when it came to research and while he interviewed old-timers, he always found validation in primary sources before putting it into print. He worked with the Temecula Valley Museum to produce the book and included many significant photographs.

Tom Hudson's "A Thousand Years in Temecula Valley" is another classic that is chock full of entertaining vignettes and serious historic accounts. Hudson did not have the advantage we have today with readily access to online databases from academic institutions. He, in many ways, was the pioneer writer for our history. In addition to the colorful stories within the volume, Hudson included multiple visual art images by Temecula's artist Ralph Love.

Another lovely booklet is "Temecula Remembered" by Carole Hen-

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A Salute to Temecula Artists



Tom Hudson

derson Wright who inserted a few drawings and many photographs. A local librarian, Emily Gerstbacher, compiled “Temecula History a Chronology 1797 – 1993” that is helpful in understanding the timeline of events in our valley. When a reader has exhausted all the Temecula-based history books, there are some from the broader area like Anne Miller’s “Southern Emigrant Trail in Riverside County” and others about the Warner Springs area and beyond. My recommendations are listed on our Temecula

Valley Historical Society website under the tab “Recommended Reading.”

I should also mention the Images of America photo books that Loretta Barnett and I authored with others for Temecula in general, the Wine Country, Old Town, Murrieta Hot Springs, Murrieta, and Fallbrook. We attempted to be faithful in telling the stories of the area with the photos available to us. Except for Hudson’s “A Thousand Years in Temecula Valley” and Brigandi’s “Temecula at the Crossroads of History,” the other publications are available at the Temecula Valley Historical Society’s antique store. The Temecula Valley Museum in Old Town also carries many of them.

Regarding photographic art, Glen Travis took hundreds of photographs of the Temecula area in the 1990s, diligently documenting things and places that would not exist much longer. His extensive collection is owned by the Temecula Valley Museum. Also, there was an Eagle Scout who did a project in the 1990s called “A Day of Life in Temecula”. For the project he gave disposable cameras to several people and asked them to photo document our city on that day only. The Temecula Valley Museum owns that photo collection.

I appreciate the people who saved local photographs. We can learn by scrutinizing old photos saved in albums. Pictures of things that were commonplace at the time are now valued for their rarity. The three most well-known visual artists in our valley were Ralph Love, Roy Morrissey, and Leverne Parker. Love’s work is the most known of the three. Several years ago, when I boarded a plane in Kansas City my seat partner, a dentist in Washington State, told me he knew about Temecula because he collected Ralph Love’s paintings.

Some of the most significant works Love created were those of scenes of the area as he saw them in the

1960s and 1970s. Thanks to him, we know how Old Town Temecula looked and can view a painting of the old Roripaugh barn that once stood on Jefferson Avenue. Love’s studio was on Old Town Front Street where the Baily’s restaurant patio is now. He is celebrated each year with the Ralph Love Plein Art event sponsored by the City of Temecula.

Roy Morrissey was one of Love’s many students. Unlike Love whose serious representations are treasured, Morrissey injected humor into his compositions. An example is one that he titled “Moonshine over Temecula” with the focus on a cowboy leaving a saloon under the light of a full moon. Another of his works shows in the foreground of the landscape, a tiny artist painting the same scene.

Leverne, who often signed her work “LaVerne” is best known for watercolors of the chapels at each of the Native reservations in Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Her collection is now at the Sherman Library in Laguna Beach. What we locals most appreciate are Leverne’s postcard sized pictures of street scenes depicting life in early Temecula. Her art studio is still intact at the historic Hotel Temecula.

After reminiscing about the many who have contributed to our knowledge of Temecula, I beg the reader to ask what they can do to save the history. My advice is to keep taking pictures and save them in the cloud. Print the images and label the backs. Too many digital photos are lost when cellphone data cards are corrupted.

When you hear an enlightening story about Temecula, repeat it and record it. Watch the historical buildings in our town and if you see one that is threatened for demolition, advocate for it to be saved. We are all in this together and if our generation does not keep records, no one will know about what we have seen and heard.



Watercolor by Leverne Parker of Old Town

President's Message

May, 2022

The Society is indeed blessed to have many volunteers amongst its members, and some who are not members. These volunteers participate in supporting our activities in a variety of ways. Working an assigned learning station task for a school tour, or being part of a larger committees efforts toward completion of a project.

Members have the opportunity to give of their time for the betterment of the organization by serving on a needed specific focus committee. Participating on a committee does not require being on the Board of Directors.

At the moment we have a number of open board member positions that we've been unable to fill from the membership. Having a full Board of Directors helps by having new energy and ideas as part of our on-going efforts of supporting our mission . . . "to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance."

In addition to open board positions, we have some existing active committees that need additional participation. Our Scholarship committee is in need of a chairperson. Many of the pieces of this effort are already established, and only in need of coordinating with the school contacts in selecting applicants to award.

With the amazing growth and changes the society has experienced over the last 3 or 4 years, I believe it is time to review our existing By-Laws to affirm they are consistent with how our operations have changed in recent times. This new committee already has a volunteer chairperson in Roger Cude, but we are in need of a couple of members to work with him in reading the By-Laws and in detail applying our current operations to assure there are no conflicts or inconsistencies.

Please consider stepping forward to help your Society by volunteering for one of these needed positions and contacting me at fox_r@verizon.net or through our info@temeculahistory.org e-mail address.

— Dick Fox

Cleaning out the garage?

Our store at Vail Ranch HQ takes donations of everything but clothing and furniture. Sales support the mission of the Society to identify, preserve and promote the history of the Temecula Valley. And come visit us! We have amazing, constantly changing inventory at very reasonable prices. Open Tuesdays 9-1, Sundays 11-4 and during special events at Vail Ranch HQ, you will find something to fit your fancy. Email us at info@temeculahistory.org to arrange for donations. PS -- we are looking for a few more volunteers so we can open the store on Saturdays too. And PPS, volunteers get a first look see at the new donations.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Every Tuesday — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vail HQ Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.

Sunday, May 1 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday. Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.

Thursday, May 5 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Culture Shock Market. .

Friday, May 6 — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. LIVE music every Friday evening on stage at Vail HQ from May to August. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to set up and enjoy.

Saturday, May 7 — Noon to 4 p.m. Creative Babe Market. 60+ makers from LA and OC. Photo ops.

Sunday, May 8 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids. **Mother's Day**

Friday, May 13 — 6 to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. Live music. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, relax.

Saturday, May 14 — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle and Sage Vegan Market. Vegan friendly vendors and food, other family activities.

Sunday, May 15 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.

Friday, May 20 — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series, live music. Bring lawn chairs & blankets.

Sunday, May 22 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment, and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.

Monday, May 23 — 6 p.m. monthly history presentation, IN-PERSON at Little Temecula History Center (the red barn next to Kohl's).

Friday, May 27 — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starlight Bazaar. Local maker's market, live music, and family Entertainment

Saturday, May 28.— Noon to 3 p.m. Performance by the Temecula Music Academy on the main stage at Vail HQ students of the Academy. 40+ families Expected in attendance.

Sunday, May 29 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – May 1922

Issue of May 5, 1922

By Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. Hansen, representing the undenominational Sunday school society was here last week and organized a Sunday school. Sunday was the first session and there were quite a number present and with prospects of several more attending in the future. Let's all try to make this new Sunday school a great success. Sunday school will be held every Sunday morning at ten o'clock.

A.F. Nienke received another car of lumber Monday.

Mrs. V.B. Sands entertained at luncheon and bridge Tuesday: the guests were Mesdames Myron Wolcott, Rufus Hook, Geo Crandall, C.L. Cunningham, H.H. Sharpless, O.P. Spittler, George Hibbard, Henrietta Wolcott, William Newport, R. H. Holloway, George Brum of Perris and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Friedemann, and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands motored to Perris last Wednesday evening to attend the eleventh anniversary of Miriam Chapter of the O.E.S. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Haynes were Elsinore visitors Saturday.

Quite a number of our citizens motored to Elsinore Sunday evening to see Bill Hart in "Three Word Brand." Part of this picture was taken here last summer.

Mrs. R.S. Roripaugh is still in the hospital but is much better.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann attended O.E.S. chapter at Elsinore Tuesday evening.

Vail Bros. shipped a car of hogs last Saturday.

H.R. Price is putting in a gasoline station on his property at Wildomar.

Issue of May 12, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

A couple of representatives of the Southern Sierras Company were here several days last week. Looks like Temecula might get electricity in the near future.

Miss Hattie Welty has returned from quite an extended stay in Los Angeles. While there she had a fine large building, with an open market on the first floor and flats above erected on her property on York Boulevard.

McSweeney Bros. received a carload of sacks Monday; looks like big potato business this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands attended the O.E.S. dance at Perris Saturday evening.

There were services at the Catholic Church Saturday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Barton and O.E. Larson motored to Oceanside Sunday to meet some old time friends from Santa Ana.

Several from Perris, Elsinore and Fallbrook attended the dance Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham motored to San Bernardino Sunday.

The Western Union Company is putting another

wire from Los Angeles via San Bernardino to San Diego and the outfit was here last week.

Mrs. R. S. Roripaugh came home from the hospital in Riverside last Wednesday.

The Santa Fe passenger and freight train will leave here at 5:30 a.m. and return 12:35 p.m. effective Monday, May 16th .

Issue of May 19, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham and daughter motored to Elsinore last Thursday evening to see "The Silent Call."

Miss Elizabeth Nienke is home from college.

Vern Spivey had his tonsils removed Sunday. Dr. Shank of Corona performed the operation.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann, and son Billie, Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and son Edward, and Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett and son Ralph were a merry party who motored to Elsinore to see the picture, "The Silent Call" last Thursday evening.

O.E. Larson is in charge of the pool hall and barber shop again after a year's absence.

Mr. Ritz has moved his family to Atwood where he will run a barber shop.

Mr. Corgan is the new conductor on the passenger train and expects to move his family here in the near future.

W.H. Crane expects to send two tons of the Lepidolite ore as a sample to Los Angeles to be pulverized and then shipped to England.

The Brent Construction Company of Los Angeles was the successful bidder for the construction of the Warner dam and will start the work within the next sixty days. All the material will come through Temecula.

Immigration officer Gerald Riley ran through a wire fence and miraculously escaped death last Friday, when he was crowded off the highway while pursuing a big Marmon car with sixty gallons of whiskey. The Marmon with a "scout" car was seen slowly making its way between Fallbrook and here all day Friday and about seven o'clock the "scout" car came through and was stopped by the officers and while they were searching this car, the Marmon came thundering by at a mile a minute, ignoring all efforts of the immigration officers to stop it. Riley jumped on his motorcycle and the race was on. But as he was making the turn just northwest of town, the fleeing car crowded him off the road. Quickly recovering from the shock, Riley then started in pursuit again and caught both cars on the road between here and Murrieta. The men driving the two "booze cars" gave the names of Frank Powers and H. J. Kurtz.

There was quite a number who attended Sunday school Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Haynes attended Mothers' Day services at Elsinore Sunday.