

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

August 2020
Volume 20 Issue 8

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



www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Frankie Chavarria giving a tour of the Little Temecula History Center to a Japanese Sister City delegation. Frankie was the grandson of Reyes Laborin, one of the cowboys featured on the large photo mural on the side of Kohls facing the Vail Ranch HQ.

Behind the Scenes

Variety of On-going Activities Keep Historical Society Busy

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Perhaps most think of our monthly presentations and newsletters as the main activities of the Temecula Valley Historical Society. These are our most visible functions, but there is a lot more going on behind the scenes.

We are busy in the community. We watch over historic buildings and graves. We protest to the city council when historic properties are threatened. We've paid for repairs to several pioneer tombstones and provide the yard maintenance and pay taxes for Louis Wolf's tomb. We have representation at the Old Town Review Board meetings and on the Riverside County Historical Commission. We are working with the City of Temecula to provide tax incentives for owners of historic properties.

Where do our funds come from? Until recently, our only income was from membership dues (thanks to each of you), from our annual dinner fundraiser, and from sales of 395 signs.

Since merging with the Vail Ranch Restoration Association in September 2019, our historical society has new income streams and fun, new responsibilities. We now receive royalties from the Images of America books that Loretta Barnett, Jeffery Harmon and Rebecca Farnbach compiled. Plus, when

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Page 1)

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the books are purchased at the Little Temecula History Center or at the Vail HQ Antique Store, we receive the income from the sales of those books and other books, like Anne Miller's book on the Southern Emigrant Trail in Riverside County.

Also, we run a kiddie train at Vail HQ that brings in a steady income when we are not all sheltered at home. Sales in our antique store bring in funds and our being at the store provides a visible presence on the historic property.

Fortunately, we had sufficient income this past year to provide four one-thousand-dollar college scholarships, instead of two, for students pursuing history related fields who will, we hope, replace us someday in our efforts to preserve history.

As far as other activities, we would like you to be aware that with our merge with the Vail Ranch Restoration Association, we inherited ownership of the Little Temecula History Center, our meeting place. When museums are allowed to reopen, you may want to stop by on a Sunday afternoon to see how this museum looks quite different on a Sunday when it is open for visitors from how you experience it on a Monday evening when the Historical Society convenes.

When you come to a monthly presentation, all the wagons are neatly tucked into the first room of the "barn", but when you arrive on a Sunday afternoon, the open area west of the building is filled with wonderful horse-drawn conveyances: an 1880s doctor's buggy, a 1910 mail delivery wagon and a chuckwagon, complete with typical gear that docents will explain.

Dick Fox, Rhine Helzer and Darell Farnbach made the chuckwagon from a heap of deteriorated lumber and hardware that they judged was an old spring wagon. On removing a wheel to grease an axle, they found "Studebaker" stamped on the axle. After recognizing that Studebaker spring wagons were often used to make chuckwagons, they found plans to design the wagon like the ones often used on cattle drives in cattle country like Temecula once was.

Inside the first room that is closed except for Sunday afternoons, is a stagecoach large enough to climb into to get the feel of riding across country with other passengers. Darell Farnbach designed displays throughout the History Center with a timeline and a map of the area with photos of how things looked some time ago. There is a honey station where you can suit up like a beekeeper and turn the crank on a honey extractor to collect imaginary honey into pails.

The stagecoach was a donation that came from Pioneer Town, a movie set from near 29 Palms. We have seen the stagecoach on episodes of "Judge Roy Bean".



Antiques, Books & Collectibles store at Vail Headquarters.

Misters Fox, Helzer and Farnbach restored the stagecoach to the beauty that it is now.

Exiting the back of the first room you enter a large yard with old farm equipment like a fresno and hand plows and also the car that Al Knott the blacksmith modified to use when he went out to work at local ranches.

When you enter the meeting room at the History Center, you see the Model T, an 1880s brougham, and a visible gas pump. There is an assortment of mechanized washing machines, a treadle sewing machine and a laundry stove to heat heavy irons.

You pass some antique furniture and a kitchen area to enter the meeting area where you sit near a table of artifacts and a wall of books on topics of Native American and other indigenous people. Several oil paintings by local artists Ralph Love and Roy Morrissey are displayed in that room. Our friendly volunteers headed by Toni Benson will orient you and answer any questions you have.

So that is the History Center that we invite you to visit on a Sunday afternoon when you want a no cost outing after the museum is allowed to open again.

The other facility we staff is the Antiques, Books & Collectibles store that we run at Vail HQ. It is located in the small square Water Building at the back southwest corner of the property, snuggled between the Craft House, garden and Cheflavor. The store is chock full of delightful treasures to discover on a leisurely Sunday afternoon, a Tuesday morning during Farmers Market or during special events.

Mind you, this is not a store like a second-hand garage sale, these are quality items that are hand-selected by Loretta Barnett, Rebecca Farnbach and Toni Benson. Items range from furniture, lamps, dolls, old license plates

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and dishes. We carry books about our local history, the Civil War, histories of the world and modern novels. You just have to stop by to find the treasures that call out to you.

We receive our merchandise as generous donations from members and friends of the historical society. If you have items you wish to donate, please call, text or email Rebecca in advance to make arrangements at 951-775-6057 or info@temeculahistoricalociety.org.

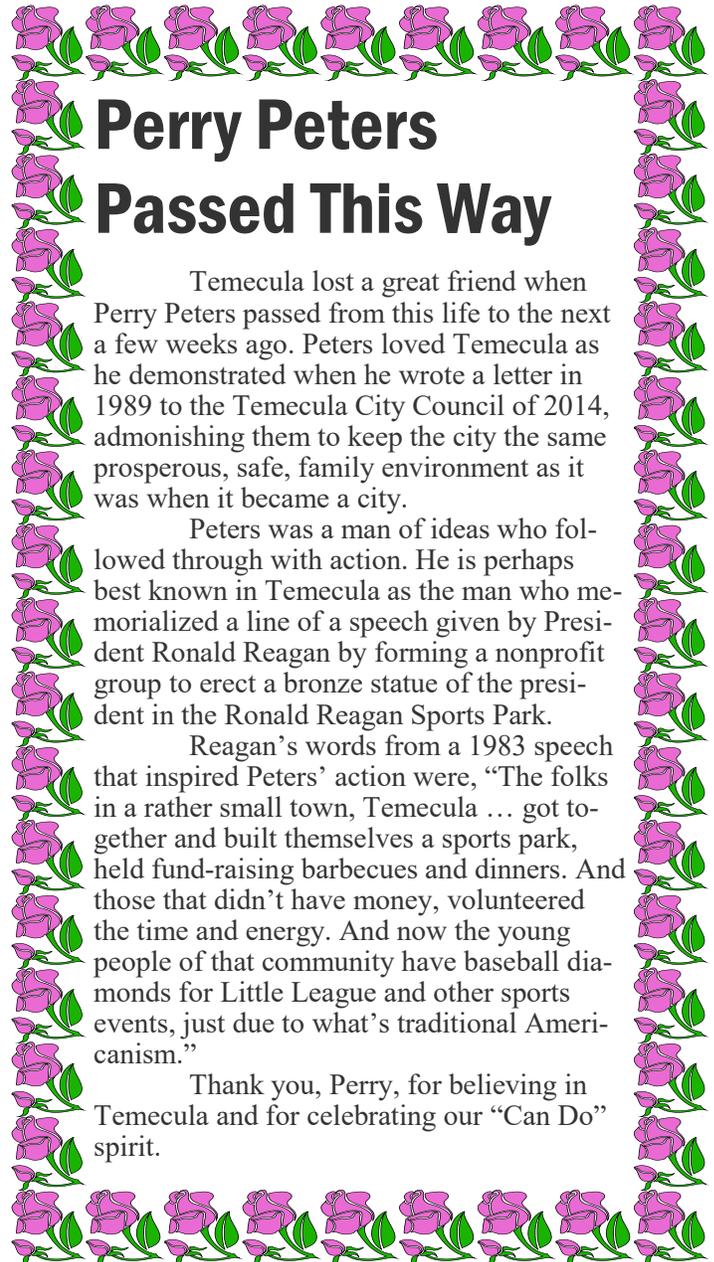
You may like visiting the History Center and Antique Store so much that you will want to be a greeter. You don't have to know a lot about local history, you just need to give visitors a warm welcome and to invite them to view the displays. We also like to have additional train drivers and other volunteers. To volunteer, please contact Rebecca as noted above.

Throughout this time of cautious interaction, our volunteer staff for the store, train and museum are exercising the utmost of care by wearing masks, restricting numbers of people in the store and train and swabbing of surfaces. We offer tours of the historic Vail HQ every Tuesday at 10:30, starting at the Antique Store.

We would like to encourage all our members to frequent the restaurants and shops at Vail HQ, the historic district that we watch over. It is a safe and open area where you can purchase food and eat it in the open air at a picnic table.

During these challenging times it is helpful to patronize the businesses there to keep them in business. At present, Vail Pizzeria is open seven days a week and the other restaurants open at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays.

Thank you for being part of the Temecula Valley Historical Society. We look forward to seeing you more!



Perry Peters Passed This Way

Temecula lost a great friend when Perry Peters passed from this life to the next a few weeks ago. Peters loved Temecula as he demonstrated when he wrote a letter in 1989 to the Temecula City Council of 2014, admonishing them to keep the city the same prosperous, safe, family environment as it was when it became a city.

Peters was a man of ideas who followed through with action. He is perhaps best known in Temecula as the man who memorialized a line of a speech given by President Ronald Reagan by forming a nonprofit group to erect a bronze statue of the president in the Ronald Reagan Sports Park.

Reagan's words from a 1983 speech that inspired Peters' action were, "The folks in a rather small town, Temecula ... got together and built themselves a sports park, held fund-raising barbecues and dinners. And those that didn't have money, volunteered the time and energy. And now the young people of that community have baseball diamonds for Little League and other sports events, just due to what's traditional Americanism."

Thank you, Perry, for believing in Temecula and for celebrating our "Can Do" spirit.

Fallbrook's Live Oak Park Marks 100 years

Live Oak County Park in Fallbrook, one of San Diego County's oldest parks, celebrated its 100th anniversary July 17 with free parking on the weekend. The 27-acre park was dedicated on July 17, 1920, as the country was emerging from the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. The 1920 dedication event attracted a crowd estimated at 1,500 area residents for a flag-raising ceremony, music, poetry and speeches. Attendees picked the name of the park as a tribute to the park's massive oak trees.

Recently the park staff has been preparing for the birthday celebration by adding benches, replacing walkways, installing exercise equipment, improving restrooms and restoring two concrete tables that date back to 1920.



A popular activity for youngsters and families is the miniature Train, that takes riders on a tour of the entire HQ complex.

* President's Message *

To Members and Friends of the Temecula Valley Historical Society

Here we are ZOOMING into the future. Not sure what the people who came up with ZOOM as their brand name were envisioning, but I feel they captured the product. It's a Meet the Jetsons vibe for me. I remember well the episode where Jane had her hair in curlers and did not want to be seen on the video call. I also remember the video call station at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, where I grew up. It was two stands set up about 20 feet apart and you could talk to one another on screens. What a marvel that was. What an even greater marvel it was as face time and skype actually let us video chat with grandchildren living around the world on military posts.

Pandemic restrictions are pushing the society forward to not only using ZOOM, but trying to get better at it. February – ah, remember February? -- was the last time we met together. We had hoped to have an outdoor, masks on, socially distanced meeting in July, but community gatherings are again restricted.

In the meantime, our speakers have shared video and live presentations, keeping our mission alive. I learned during my presentation last month, that if we recorded what was on my screen, that included audience members appearing in a gallery shot. My favorite was my friend's dog, Clyde, who is now a part of our historical record. He stared attentively at the screen for at least 20 minutes before falling asleep.

As a society, we have invested in the small fee to keep our meetings live on ZOOM for the time being, as well as posting recordings on our Facebook page and website. We want all who to desire to join, to have access. If you need a practice run at using ZOOM, send us an email at info@temeculahistory.org, and we will respond with our fledgling tech squad. We'd love to see your face!

-- Shari

-- Please visit the store
run by the Temecula Valley
Historical Society at Vail HQ --

Membership News

Welcome New Member
Jacqui Klein

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 4 — Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Farmer's Market at Vail HQ. Come get fresh veggies.

Saturday, August 8 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ramble on
Car Show at Vail HQ.

Sunday, August 9 — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday Funday at
Vail HQ.

Saturday, August 15 — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle & Sage
Vegan vendors at Vail HQ.

Sunday, August 23 — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday Funday
At Vail HQ.

Friday, August 28 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Starlight Bazaar
at Vail HQ.

**Dear Ms. Martland and
Temecula Valley Historical Society,**

I would like to express my gratitude for being a recipient of the Temecula Valley Historical Society scholarship. This scholarship award will allow me to set my sights on accomplishing the most that I can in regards to my career and future.

I currently am a History major in the College of Arts and Letters at San Diego State University. I chose to major in History and work towards becoming a teacher because I am determined to help my community flourish and learn about what made the world into what it is today, and perhaps show others that the past can be a means to having a better future. I have devoted much of my time serving both my community and others around it throughout my high school years and I am very glad I did so; the growth of others is a beautiful thing that, in my opinion, makes the world a healthier and happier place one person at a time. By receiving this award, I now know that I have the support to continue putting time into bettering the lives of others well into my career.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation for the aid that has been offered to me. Thank you for supporting not only my dreams, but me as an individual. This an opportunity that I cherish greatly.

Sincerely, Victoria Gutierrez,
Temecula Valley High School

100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

Issue of August 6, 1920

James E. Crew is about through harvesting his potato crop at the Pauba Ranch. Two trucks are working overtime hauling the potatoes to the station. For the past few years Mr. Crew has been engaged in the potato planting at the Pauba. This is the first time that Mr. Crew has realized such a good crop, 150 sacks to the acre and very fine potatoes too.

George A. Burnham and family returned home last Sunday after spending their annual vacation at different places of interest.

A few days ago the Pauba Ranch Company suffered a loss of about 150 sacks of grain by the grain field getting on fire. Fortunately the wind was not blowing strong and men got the fire under control soon.

Issue of August 20, 1920

Grand Fiesta at Temecula

Annual Event Begins Today and Continues Over Sunday. Interesting Features. Beginning today, Temecula will stage her annual grand Fiesta, extending over Friday, Saturday and Sunday and drawing crowds from all points in this section of the country. The program includes all sorts of races, from horse races to potato and fat men's races. There will be tugs of war and bronco busting with substantial prizes offered for each. At noon every day there will be lunch and every evening all night jiney dances in the open-air dance hall with the Harrison Orchestra furnishing lively jazz music.

The wild west features, the quaint little town itself and its notoriety as the scene of the massacre of Indians described in Helen H. Jackson's *Ramona*, the little old Indian burying ground where Allasandro's people are supposed to rest, all give it an added charm.

Many Elsinore people have heretofore attended and will not doubt do so again this year.

Our Temecula Trip — The writer last week made his first visit to Temecula.

Temecula's greatest assets are her immense back-country, which is devoted to agriculture and stock raising. The amount of shipping from that station is simply surprising, considering the size of the town.

The owners of the Vail Ranch have made plans for and will undoubtedly soon start the construction of an immense dam, which, is said will be the largest in Southern California, across what is called Nigger Canyon and the Santa Margarita River. This will store the waters of the river as well as the storm waters and will be sufficient to irrigate the entire valley. Work was to have begun last spring, but owing to the high cost of labor was postponed.

It is also reported that the ranch will be subdivided and sold in small tracts.

The completion of this project will insure for Temecula's steady, healthful growth and her citizens are

anxiously looking forward to the time when construction work will be started.

Among the citizens we met were Greenfield, cashier of the First National Bank, Albert F. Nienke, proprietor of the Temecula Valley Lumber Co., and Vance B. Sands, the good natured agent at the Santa Fe station. We say good natured advisedly otherwise he could not hold the position.

Mr. Nienke is a good Temecula booster and is quite optimistic over the bright prospects for the future. Notwithstanding the soaring prices of everything in his line, his business has exceeded his expectations.

We enjoyed a pleasant visit with Engineer Nichols during the evening, exchanging San Bernardino reminiscences. His run is from San Bernardino to Temecula, changing, however, the sun's program of "slipping back in the night time," he remains there till morning. We hope to have the opportunity of meeting more of Temecula's citizens in the near future.

Issue of August 27, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham returned Sunday from a three weeks' camping trip to General Grant Park.

Ernest Sweet and family motored from Riverside Saturday evening to attend the dance and spent Sunday with Mrs. Sweet's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kolb.

Mrs. Kolb of El Centro is visiting her cousin, Miss Ethel Burnham.

The Temecula Valley Lumber Co. received a large car of very fine redwood lumber from the north a few days ago.

D. Romero of Redlands, who was running a restaurant during the fiesta, was robbed of one hundred dollars Sunday evening.

The largest car of grain of the season was shipped last week to Phoenix, Arizona, by the Vail Company. It contained 110,000 pounds of barley.

Mr. and Mrs. George Studley of Fallbrook were Temecula visitors during the fiesta. Mr. Stanley had a couple of horses running in the races, and carried off some of the prizes.

Miss Mabel Pope of Los Angeles was the week-end guest of Miss Ethel Walters.

Mrs. Fisher and daughter of Fallbrook are visiting their daughter and sister, Mrs. A. Higgins.

Sawday and Moore of the Warner Ranch had another shipment of 12 cars of cattle last Tuesday.

Mrs. William M. Friedemann, son, and Mrs. John Cantarini motored to Colton Monday, leaving there in the afternoon over the Southern Pacific for Santa Cruz to visit with their mother for a month.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson of Elsinore spent the week-end with Mrs. Hudson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clogston.