

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

January 2020  
Volume 20 Issue 1

*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.*

### 2020 Officers

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<b>Vice President</b>	Darell Farnbach
<b>Secretary</b>	Dick Fox
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Cudé
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*Annual Dinner Meeting raffle baskets ready to have tickets put in bowls.  
See more November event photos by Cheryl Cady on the next page.*

## TVHS Celebrates Another Year End

The Temecula Valley Historical Society had its annual dinner meeting on Saturday, November 16 at the Assistance League meeting facility. As has become the custom, there were Raffle Baskets galore, and many nice Silent Auction items for attendees to consider and support the societies' projects. We are all appreciative and thankful for our many donors.

This year's quality program was "The Life and Career of Erle Stanley Gardner" the world renown author of Perry Mason mysteries, and creator of *The Court of Last Resort*, presented by Steve Williamson. With Mr. Gardner having been a long time resident of Temecula many of us knew general pieces of his history, but Steve gave an insight to Erle's work ethic and dry sense of humor that many didn't know. It was also Steve's birthday . . . Whata guy!

As the Society enters its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, President Shari Crall shared a recap of the 2019 years' activities and a view of the "State of the Society". (See her message on Page 3).



*Shari — Our fearless leader for 2020*



*Steve Williamson program speaker*



*Centerpieces by Bonnie Martland*



*Always good "Silent Auction" items*



*Lynn overseeing the details of setup*



*Ever popular raffle baskets aplenty . . .*



*How many tickets would you like?*



*Darell our VP for 2020 . . .*



*Red or white? Don't forget donation . . .*

# State of Society 2019

By Shari Crall, President

Temecula is an historic community set amidst the suburban sprawl of Southern California and we delight in learning and preserving the stories here. Our history runs deep by California standards from the first nation Pechanga people through the Rancho era and the Mexican American War, onto the Butterfield Stagecoach era and then to the Vail Ranch and onto modern Temecula.

In 2019, we made history ourselves, as the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRA) completed its mission and merged with the Temecula Valley Historical Society. VaRRA symbolized what a few courageous and committed citizens can do. Twenty years ago as development moved to consume the historic buildings of the Vail Ranch headquarters, a handful of people met, organized, and eventually sued to preserve the properties, acting as their own attorneys. They won! The valley also won and you will enjoy all the activities, events, and vendors that have brought this once busy center of ranch life back to activity.

We also saw the passage of the Mills Act by the Temecula City Council, helping to support owners of historic properties. The Act provides for private owners of historic properties to receive tax incentives to maintain their properties.

One move out of history and into the future, was to place a button on our website where you can pay your membership dues or buy tickets to the Annual Dinner through PayPal or with your credit card. We also bought several large fans to help us cool the Little Temecula History Center (aka the red barn) through the summer months.

We continue to sponsor excellent monthly presentations, have returned to greater participation in local events, including joining the Chamber of Commerce and participating in Western Days, and expanded our board of directors to accommodate the increased responsibilities of continuing to preserve the Vail Ranch headquarters.

Whether you are new or a long time resident of the Temecula Valley, interested in a presentation or activity, or want to get more involved by volunteering for our many events and programs, we welcome you.

## Membership News

### Welcome New Members:

*Lauralee Futrell*  
*Pat & Annette Jennings*  
*Ken Leach*  
*Jackey McNamara*  
*Angel Toussaint*  
*Dave Wilson*

### Thank you for renewing your membership:

*Sue Blanch*  
*Dale Garcia*  
*Arlie Bergman*

**TVHS now has 113 memberships,  
Comprised of 167 individual members**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, January 1** — 8 p.m. Sketchfest at the Cookhouse at Vail HQ, bring your art materials and inspire each other as you sketch new work.
- Friday, January 3** — 6:00 p.m. VW car meet up.
- Tuesday, January 7** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Tuesday the Farmer's Market at Vail HQ.
- Sunday, January 12** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Synergy Vendors at Vail HQ.
- Monday, January 13** — 7:00 p.m. Monthly Board of Directors meeting at residence of President Shari Crall.
- Saturday, January 18** — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle & Sage Vegan market at Vail HQ.
- Sunday, January 26** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Synergy Vendors at Vail HQ.
- Monday, January 27** — 6:00 p.m. Regular monthly program at the Little Temecula History Center featuring Jeffery Harmon, president of the Murrieta Valley Historical Society presenting the story of Juan Murrieta.
- Monday, January 31 ongoing through March 15** — at the Temecula Valley Museum a special photo collection entitled "American Farmer".

## Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve New Docent Led Hike Dates

The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve has set a schedule for its education hiking and bird walk events in the coming months.

It would be helpful to RSVP via e-mail so they know who is coming and can notify you of any weather-related changes. Please RSVP to Beth Cobb at [smerdocenthikes@gmail.com](mailto:smerdocenthikes@gmail.com)

Below are the dates for the upcoming hikes:

- Sunday, January 12      Highlands Hike
- Saturday, January 18      Bird Walk (South Field Sta.)
- Sunday, February 2      Gorge Hike
- Saturday, February 8      Short Hike
- Sunday, February 23      Chaparral Hike

“He Passed This Way . . .”

## Phil Brigandi, SoCal Historian & Author Dies Suddenly at 60

Phil Brigandi who wrote dozens of books and over a hundred articles about the history of Southern California, passed away on Thursday, December 12th at age 60, in the city of Orange – unfortunately not recovering from a devastating heart attack he suffered earlier the same week. Phil was born in Orange, California in 1959, and wrote his first piece about history as a teenager in 1975. His extensive writings and interests included writing a comprehensive piece about the history of the Boy Scouts special internal group, *Order of the Arrow*. Phil was a life-long volunteer for Boy Scouts.

Mr. Brigandi spent over 13 years as the historian and museum curator for the Ramona Pageant in Hemet. During his time in the Riverside County community, Phil penned his wonderful work about our beloved Temecula, “*Temecula at the Crossroads of History*” which is the leading history reference book about the area.

Upon hearing of Phil’s passing, our Rebecca Farnbach posted on Facebook the following: *I just learned that we lost a brilliant historian who provided Temecula with an enormous amount of carefully researched and thoughtfully presented historical information that most of us who care about Temecula history refer to often. Phil Brigandi, a resident of Orange, was an enjoyable colleague and entertaining friend. He was a living resource for all things historical about Temecula and the backcountry. He produced a handbook of Temecula history. Many of us have two copies of “Temecula at the Crossroads”, one to keep in pristine condition as a collector copy and another as a working copy with a tattered dustcover and dog-eared pages. Rest well, my friend. His website: <http://www.socalhistoryland.mysite.com> is well worth visiting.*



Having a little fun in 2009 during a rest stop of a tour on the historic Bradshaw Road, Phil is seen imitating the famous scene of Slim Pickens riding an A-bomb in the movie “Dr. Strangelove”. Photo by Steve Lech who was co-leading the tour.



# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

## Issue of January 2, 1920

Robert Magee who is interested in a quarry at Foster, San Diego County, was here Monday on business.

Dr. Lowry, optician, will be at Hotel Temecula Wednesday, January 14th from 9 to 3 to examine eyes and fit glasses.

John Munoa of Vista came to town the last of the week and will be here for some time to look after business interests. Sunday he was the guest of Mrs. Francisca Escalier.

J. E. Freeman and Rosa Fink went to Riverside Saturday. They are interested in divorce suite, J. E. Freeman from his wife, Mary Freeman, and Rosa Fink from her husband, Pedro Fink. To both parties were granted interlocutory decrees.

Jean Nicolas of Alamos has been in town tearing down some old buildings. Yesterday all the old lumber was removed to his place at Alamos where he will use it to make repairs.

Saturday Jesus Cascara received word from the county hospital of the death of his son Marcilino, who a few weeks ago was taken there from Pechanga. Mrs. Cascara left Sunday for Riverside to bring the remains home and arrived on the evening train. Funeral services were held at the Pechanga church and the remains were laid to rest at the Pechanga cemetery. Marcilino leaves a father and mother, three sisters and four brothers to mourn his untimely death.

Mrs. Rail and daughter, Verna of Murrieta were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Knott Monday.

Miss Elsie Cantarini was a visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Banks, a guest of Miss Esther Banks on Christmas.

## Issue of January 9, 1920

After spending their Christmas vacation, the Sherman children returned to Riverside the first of the week.

Jacques Escallier, who a few months ago had a paralytic stroke, is improving and it is hoped that he will get well. He now can move one of his limbs that were affected.

Ed Vail of Los Angeles is at present at the Pauba Ranch looking after the management of the ranch and of other interests of the company.

Dr. Lowry, optician, will be at Hotel Temecula Wednesday, January 14th from 9 to 3 to examine eyes and fit glasses.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Banks and children returned Saturday afternoon from Lakeside, San Diego County, after spending a few days at the home of their daughter, Mrs. J. C. Rodriguez.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garbani of Perris on his way to Pechanga, made a short visit in town at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Camacho.

The Union school began its session Monday with a full attendance, after a three week vacation.

## Issue of January 16, 1920

Cozad, who all last summer was working at the northern part of the state, returned to town and soon after started to build a house at Pechanga for John Sanders.

Henry Gray has contracted to haul the potatoes of James E. Crew from the Pauba Ranch to Riverside. He started hauling last night, making one trip a day.

Joseph Winkels left for Los Angeles the first of the week on business connected with his granite quarry, near Rainbow. The granite is just as good as the eastern granite if not better. Joseph went to Los Angeles to get some capitalists interested in it.

The Ford car that was stolen several days ago at Riverside was found here about a mile south of town. Whoever stole it drove it as far as there was any gas and then left it on the side of the road for two days. It was taken back to Riverside Saturday afternoon.

Elmer O'Connell of Santa Fe Springs was here last week looking after business interests. At one time, Mr. O'Connell was interested in the pool hall, which has been closed for several months.

## Issue of January 23, 1920

Elmer O'Connell of Santa Fe Springs was in town the other day moving out all his furniture from the pool hall. He had the hall leased two years ago, but business being too slack, he closed it and now has left it entirely.

Joseph Winkels returned from Los Angeles the latter part of the week. He went there to boost his granite quarry and got a company interested in it. They will send a man to look into it.

The dance last Saturday night at the Pavilion was well attended. Remember these dances are held every other Saturday. The best of music is furnished and a good supper also.

James Arner returned to town last week and is employed at the Knott's blacksmith shop. Mr. Arner is a good mechanic.

Dan E. Cantarini, Sr. last week met with a serious and painful accident at the ranch. While working on an engine one of the wheels broke and a piece of iron flew off and struck him on the forehead, knocking him down. The doctor was called and a few pieces of broken bones were taken out of the forehead. He was taken to the hospital at Riverside. Lately we have learned that there is hope of his pulling through.

Mr. and Mrs. Jose Diaz left for Riverside Tuesday. Mr. Diaz is blacksmith of the Pauba ranch.