

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

February 2020  
Volume 20 Issue 2

*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

<b>President</b>	Shari Crall
<b>Vice President</b>	Darell Farnbach
<b>Secretary</b>	Dick Fox
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Cudé
<b>Past President</b>	Rebecca Farnbach

### Directors

Loretta Barnett  
Toni Benson  
Mike McNeff  
Wendy Lesovsky  
Bonnie Martland  
John Randall  
Bonnie Reed  
Carol Strode  
Bill Veale  
Dave Wilson

### Committee Chairs

<b>Research &amp; Preservation</b>	Darell Farnbach
<b>History Center &amp; Vail HQ</b>	Darell & Rebecca Farnbach
<b>Membership</b>	Lynn Cudé
<b>Program Speakers</b>	Rebecca Farnbach
<b>Projects &amp; Plaques</b>	Open
<b>Events &amp; Education</b>	Bonnie Reed
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Dick Fox
<b>Website</b>	Roger Cudé

A Publication of the

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

[www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org)



*Photo of inaugural flight of Western Air Express in conjunction with American Railway Express to transport U.S. Mail and provide air freight service, Aug. 31, 1927.*

### Did You Know?

## Two Historic 1927 Events Happened at Vail Field . . .

### Compiled from Internet Sources

In 1927 two separate historic events took place at Vail Field. Where was Vail Field you ask? It was a small airfield that was carved out of farm land acquired by a fledgling company by the name of Western Air Express, and purchased from some well-known area cattle ranchers, the Vail Cattle Co. The land was in the vicinity of today's Montebello and City of Commerce.

Vail Field was historically important as one of the first air mail contractors Western Air Express, had its origins there. Western Air Express was incorporated during 1926 for the purpose of bidding on airmail contracts to be awarded under the 1925 Kelly Air Mail Act, which provided for the transfer and transport of U.S. mail by private carriers.

Western Air Express initially purchased six Douglas M-2 airplanes built in Santa Monica. These planes were built with special features specifically for air mail service. Their inaugural flight left Vail Field on August 31, 1927.

The second significant event to occur the same year was Charles Lindbergh landing at Vail Field in his *Spirit of St. Louis* as part of a nation-wide tour following his historic transatlantic flight. A large crowd gathered at Vail Field to cheer and welcome Lindbergh.

In the 1930's Western Air Express built the Alhambra Airport which included a passenger terminal, and an airplane hangar which was the largest in the world at the time. Air Express operations at Vail Field were transferred to Alhambra Airport. Vail Field continued to be available as a general aviation airport, and during World War II was listed as an Auxiliary Airfield.

Western Air Express later became Western Airlines, ceasing to exist following its 1987 merger with Delta Air Lines.

# Thank you notes

from students at Pauba Valley Elementary, who visited the Vail Headquarters and History Center in November, 2019 on a field trip. All “thank you” notes have been re-keyed as they were written, misspelled words and punctuation as written (as much as Word would tolerate without auto-correcting).

*Dear Vail Ranch staff,*

*Thank you so much for having us on our awesome field trip! I really liked how we learned that the path we walk on is the last remaining part of the Butterfield Stage trail. I like how we did laundry – the old fashioned way. My favorite part of the trip was when we did the ropes. It was also fun when we got to go inside of a post office car in the olden days.*

*From, Leisa Marie*

*Dear Vail headquarters.*

*I had a ton of fun learning about the old times and how thing worked back then. The grinned up coffee beans were my favorite part and getting to learn about the blacksmith and how to laso. The coffee beans were very light and tasty and I really hope to bring my family and friends to the head quarters.*

*Love, Avery from Group 2*

*Dear Vail ranch staff,*

*Thank you for letting us come and hang out. My favorite part was when we got to go wash laundry. The guy was really funny. I also liked the laso guy’s timer “milkshake” Thank you for letting us try out stuff. I love that you have vail ranch history and spirit. And how you know all those places. The coach was really cool, when I got to go in the coach it felt like I was in the past. By the way I was in group 1. Hope you have a good day. Hope to see you again.*

*Audrey*

*Thank you for taking your time to tell us the history of Vail Ranch. My favorite part was when we saw the different tools, because it looked cool to see all those cool gadgets and metal things. Overall I appreciate you helping us understand a piece of history, thank you for my first field trip.*

*Elijah*

*Dear Vail Staff.*

*Thank you for allowing us to go to Vail head quarters. I loved how rebbica taught us about the history because my favorite subject is history and science. My favorite thing their was the blacksmith because I love their work and skill to bend iron and shape it. Thank you for letting my class come there.*

*From Logan A. from Mr. Sloans class.*

*Dear Vail Staff,*

*Thanks for shoging my class everything you guy’s have my favorithing was the pankeck maker I liket because I use to have one but I never have see one that is to old and. I liked the cow boy and every other thing you guys have thank you for teaching my class everything you guys have.*

*Camila (group 2)*

*Dear vail staff,*

*Thank you so much for having us, I had a wonderful time! It’s funny how the information next to the coffe shop is all wrong. I was also very fun to use the lasso. My favorite part was being able to sit in a model T ford and it was cool to sit in the stagecoach.*

*From, Roman*

*Dear vail staff,*

*Thank you for teaching me more about the history of Vail ranch. I liked the cowboy station because you never get to swing a lasso at school. Another station I really liked was the blacksmith station because I would like that as a job. I also really liked the stage coach station because I learned about how that was the last part left of the stage coach. Thank you for volunteering your time.*

*From, Luke*

*Dear Vail Staff,*

*I had a wonderful time at Vail Ranch. It was so cool learning about the black smith, cowboys, Vail Ranch road, and the stage coach. It was fun doing laundry old fashioned way. I was cool seeing how car were made back then. The lasso was my favorite part. Thank you, for taking your time out of the day to help us learn about Vail Ranch Head Quarters.*

*Felina*

*Dear Vail Ranch Headquarters,*

*Thank you for having us do learn more about the history of Vail Ranch. I really love learning about the materials that they used back then. One thing I really enjoyed was the blacksmith when we learned about mechanical advantage. Another thing I enjoyed learning was when we learned about the cowboy history. I really enjoyed our visit. Once again thank you so much for having us at your wonderful place.*

*Izayah (Group 2)*

**\* Attention \***  
**Members and Friends of TVHS**

***TVHS is currently seeking volunteers and docents to help with school tours and events at both the History Center and Vail HQ.***

**\*\*\***

***We are In need of like new children's books for our Little Library at Vail HQ.***

**\*\*\***

***Come by the Water Building Antiques & Collectible store at Vail HQ to find great books at discounted prices, gift items and nostalgia pieces you can't live without. Funds from each sale go to TVHS in support of our mission.***

**\*\*\***

***Looking for a place to meet up with friends? Consider the many options for dining at Vail HQ, or Augies Coffee.***

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, February 1** — 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. Valentine Fling Vendor Fair at Vail HQ.

**Tuesday, February 4** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Tuesday the Farmer's Market at Vail HQ.

**Wednesday, February 5** — 7:00 p.m. Bonnie Martland will portray Mary Jane Welty for the De Luz Women's Club. This is a private engagement.

**Sunday, February 9** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Synergy Social Vendors at Vail HQ.

**Sunday, February 16** — 4 p.m. Sweetheart Sock Hop Event at Vail HQ.

**Monday, February 24** — 6:00 p.m. Regular monthly program at the Little Temecula History Center featuring Bob Kent, a member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society presenting the story of Audie Murphy.

**Ongoing through March 15** — at the Temecula Valley Museum a special photo collection entitled "American Farmer".

**Monday, March 9** — 6:00 p.m. Gerry Nicholas will portray O.T. Hackett, the stagecoach driver, at the Murrieta Library for the Murrieta Valley Historical Society. Open to the public.

**Monday, March 23** — 6:00 p.m. Regular monthly program at the Little Temecula History Center featuring Mindy Johnson portraying E. Hale Curran. Open to the public.

**Saturday, April 4** — 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Civil War Conference "*The American Civil War: 1865: Turning Homeward*" presented by Gazette665 at the Temecula City Conference Center in Old Town. Registration Required at [www.gazette665.com](http://www.gazette665.com)

## **TVHS TOUR TO SAN DIEGO ON FEB. 18th.**

*You are welcome to join us at the LTHC (red barn) parking lot on Tuesday, Feb. 18th, at 8:45 a.m. to car-pool. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. There will be a docent-led tour to see the exterior of seven Heritage Village Homes in San Diego. The tour costs \$6 person. Afterwards, we will tour the Whaley House (known as the most haunted house in the U. S.). We can then have lunch somewhere close by. Contact Phil at (951) 201-0020 for reservations.*

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – February 1920

## Issue of February 6, 1920

The dance last Thursday night at the dancing pavilion was a grand success. People came from far and nearby towns. The music was furnished by a four-piece orchestra of San Diego and the hall was crowded to the limit from the start to finish. Remember, if you want to have a good time and dance to the best music, come to Temecula a week from Thursday and you will have the best time that you have ever had.

The men from Pechanga who went to Riverside last week to attend the Indian Federation returned the first of the week. They spent a week there looking after very important business, which was very successful, transacted.

Pete Seeburg, who for the past eight months was employed at the Knott's blacksmith shop resigned and left for his home at San Jacinto Tuesday. Now that it has rained he is going to work at his ranch.

James Arner is again employed at the Knott's blacksmith shop.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Kolb and Mrs. James B. Freeman returned from Los Angeles the first of the week. They went there to attend the funeral of Jim Kolb who died there last week.

Paul Clark last week drove some of his horses to Beaumont from where he shipped them to Imperial where he will sell them.

## Issue of February 13, 1920

George Studley, who for the past five years has been foreman of the cowboys at the Pauba Ranch, resigned and moved to Fallbrook where his family will make their home. For the past year Mr. Studley has been failing in health and that is the cause of his resigning his position.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Scott of Pala were in town Saturday having work done at the Knott's blacksmith shop.

For the past few days Miss Tillie Welty has been confined to her room suffering with a heavy cold.

Since the resignation of George Studley as foreman of the cowboys of the Pauba Ranch James O. Freeman has been appointed foreman temporarily.

Next Sunday morning, February 15th mass will be celebrated at Murrieta Hot Springs at 9 o'clock and at the Catholic church of Temecula at 10:30 o'clock. Rev. Father Doyle, formerly of the Pala Indian Mission and the Banning Indian school will conduct both services.

Juan Munoa of Vista came here last week and is engaged now in drilling a well for Mrs. Ricardo E. Cantarini south of town.

Dan J. Tripp, formerly of Aguanga and staying at Elsinore, was in town Saturday. He is the owner of a large herd of sheep.

Ed Vail of Los Angeles has been at the Pauba Ranch for the past two weeks, looking after the business affairs of the Vail Company.

One day last week Mrs. Meek, while riding with her

son nearly met a serious accident, had the machine been going fast. In front of the post office the machine slowed to stop, but she not waiting for it to stop, stepped off and miscalculating the distance, fell on the hard pavement, but suffered no injuries.

Ole E. Larsen and C. Valencia, who for the past two weeks were hauling hay from Monserat Ranch to Fallbrook, came home the last of the week, having finished their hauling.

Albert Banks bought and moved the frame building that was next to the Friedemann meat market. He will put it on his place and will have it renovated so that it may be used for storage.

## Issue of February 20, 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Saturino E. Calac left for Riverside the last of the week. Mr. Calac has secured employment at the Indian school.

Henry Gray made a trip to San Bernardino Saturday and took a load of furniture for some Mexicans who were employed at the Pauba Ranch.

Last Monday one of the aged Indians at the reservation died and was buried at the Pechanga burying grounds.

Mr. Contreras of Pechanga received word from Los Angeles Monday of the death of his Manuel who died Sunday night, the remains being brought to his home Tuesday and interment was made Thursday at the Pechanga cemetery. Manuel was attending school at Los Angeles and was a promising young man.

J. E. Freeman, his mother, and children, last week moved to Elsinore, where Mr. Freeman is taking care of the sheep of Dan J. Tripp.

Miss Tillie Welty, who has been confined to her room for the past week is much better and in a few more days will be able to be out.

## Issue of February 27, 1920

The last rain we had here was about 3 1/2 inches, making all the farmers very happy.

Last week three new families moved into town, one coming from San Jacinto. They are working at the Pauba Ranch.

Al J. Otto, who is farming the Welty tract south of town, was here Monday, looking after business.

Peter Seeburg, who was employed here at the Knott's blacksmith shop and a few weeks ago resigned, is now employed at the Pauba Ranch at the blacksmith shop.

Joe Diaz, who was doing the blacksmith work at the Pauba Ranch for the past two years, quit the job on account of the illness of his wife. They left for Los Angeles where she will seek the aid of medical treatment. Mr. Diaz expects to return and resume his work in the near future.