

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

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Volume 20 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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The Flood at Temecula 1884

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of story that ran in the San Diego Union February 27, 1884 following major rain storm in the area.)

Much Damage to Property – Railroad Bridges Between Temecula and Colton Washed Away.

Assessor M. D. Hamilton has received a letter from Mr. J. M. Gonzales, of Temecula, giving a more detailed account than has yet been published of the extent and damage done by the recent flood at Temecula. He writes, under date of February 20th:

The flood has done me more injury in proportion to the size of my place than anyone else here. A fence inclosing sixty acres of my land is either washed away or damaged to such an extent that it cannot again be used. My fruit trees have been greatly damaged, and some fines which I had buried, to plant in March, were washed away. Four hundred trees which I had ordered at Colton will be lost, on account of the stoppage of trains.

To give you an idea of the force of the flood, it is only necessary to state that I have railroad ties on my place that were washed clear up amongst my fruit trees.

Murrieta's division fence is gone, and also most of his new wire fences

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The Flood at Temecula 1884

and his sheep corrals. Part of the railroad line is on his land on top of wheat and barley fields.

The hotel and blacksmith shop at Temecula were greatly damaged.

Mr. Guffy, the Railroad Agent, had a narrow escape from the flood, and had to be rescued with a horse.

Not a single bridge on the line of the railroad is left standing between Temecula and Colton.

Jake Bergman and Joe Marks swam the Santa Margarita river, after leaving the train which was blocked there, and came on here on foot by way of Fall Brook. They say the latter place must have suffered a great deal, judging from the number of fruit trees, fences, etc., which were

San Luis Rey flood 1884

(Reprint of article that appeared in the San Diego Union, February 26, 1884)

The Recent Floods – Extensive Damage to Property

(Correspondence of The Union by C. SeSur)

The recent rains started this usually dry and waterless river on a rampage.

From the time it left the Indian village of Rincon it commenced its depredations, bringing down Indian huts and their winter supply of acorns.

As it progressed, it swept into the Sickler mill and brought away timbers and everything loose.

At Higgins it swept away a nursery of fruit trees; also fencing and a lot of hogs.

Passing the Monserrate Ranch large trees, which had hitherto stood the floods, came whirling down. So the swollen flood swept on until the river's mouth was reached, where it carried a portion of the railroad embankment away, leaving the bridge hanging in the air.

In the Santa Margarita Valley the torrent was even more violent, and where it had passed destruction met the eye on all sides.

The De Luz creek overflowed its banks, bringing down the house of Mr. Judson at the Sulphur Spring, furniture and all.

Railroad bridges, telegraph poles, windmills, "Stone's flume," bee-hives, trees, hogs, cattle, and a little of everything, have been carried off.

Since the waters have subsided, a motley crowd can be seen, looking up lost property.

There is not a railroad bridge left in the Temecula Cañon, and it will take at least sixty days to get through, even by "cribbing," only. Davis's train stands high and dry in the Santa Margarita, with only two rails in front and two behind.

People are making the query whether a change of location to that of the "Strong survey," would not be sound economy.

seen floating down the river.

Dominigoni passed by here yesterday on foot. He reports a good many of his cattle mired down on the hills. He says the flood covered the San Jacinto plains as far as the eye could see.

Louis Wolf's store here did not suffer, it being a little higher than the hotel; but his old place in the other valley came very near being swept away. The river was washed out within a few feet of the stables.

Some of Machado's newly plowed land at the Laguna is submerged, and the lake is rising rapidly; already it has advanced four hundred yards on the Machado side and about a mile to the south.

The San Jacinto creek is flowing bank full, and will do so for some time to come, as there is yet much more snow in the mountains to melt.

Mr. Rhodes, of the hotel, has had to send away twenty boarders, as the supply of provisions at the Temecula store has been exhausted. And the question continues when can the stock be replenished? The damage to the railroad has been very great, and it is likely to be some time before it is repaired.

My little band of cattle had a narrow escape during the flood. After being surrounded by water for thirty hours, they of their own accord, swam across to the hills.

Macedonio Machado has bought a half interest in Wolf's store at this place. Mr. Wolf is to retire from the active management of the business, and will put William Goldbaum in his place.



1916 Flood in Old Town

Join us on Monday Oct. 26th at 6:00 p.m.

For a ZOOM presentation to hear from these Notable Women of Temecula.

To join the Zoom presentation go to the TVHS website (www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org). On the home page is an announcement about the presentation, find the place to “click” to join the Zoom presentation and learn about these two early residents of Temecula.



*Michelle Elling will portray
Edna Swanguen*

EDNA SWANGUEN

Edna Swanguen was born in Los Angeles in 1896. She moved to Temecula during her childhood in the early part of the 20th century. In 1918, Edna became Temecula’s switchboard operator...for next 43 years! She inherited the job from her Mother, Lizzie Hall.

Edna and her husband, Carl, also helped Lizzie run Hall’s Café, the first eating establishment in the town of Temecula.

In 1938, Lizzie moved to Los Angeles, and left the Café to Edna and Carl. They owned and operated the Café until 1954. Edna continued to operate the switchboard until 1961, at which time the General Telephone Company finally installed the technology for Temecula residents and businesses to use dial telephones.



*Shelley Leddy will portray
Catherine Fernald*

CATHERINE BEATRICE FERNALD

Two families that joined together and made a tremendous impact on the community of Temecula. Catherine’s family (or “Trixie” as she was known) moved from Great Bend, Kansas. Frank Fernald’s family moved from Maine. Frank and Catherine met and married in 1896 in Temecula.

They had children and developed business interests in Temecula. Marriage gave Trixie the opportunity to develop her interests in photography, bike riding (bicycles and motorcycles) and even flying an airplane!

Frank operated Temecula’s first gas station which serviced and sold automobiles. The Fernald’s also owned a bicycle shop and a general merchandise store in town. Tune in to learn more about the Fernald family past and present!

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE "TWO WOMEN WHO DARED – THE 19TH AMENDMENT"

Please Join the Friends of the Murrieta Library Live on Zoom
Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Check www.murrietalibraryfriends.org for log-in information
(Please log in several minutes early to avoid delay—business meeting starts at
10:00 am and program starts about 10:30 am)

This year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the occasion of our country's 59th Presidential election. During this election season in which all citizens are urged to exercise their right to vote, the Friends of the Murrieta Library take time to remember that during the country's first 33 Presidential elections, many women were not eligible to vote. The Friends are honored to celebrate the women's suffrage movement with its more than 70 years of struggle and innumerable sacrifices that resulted in the 19th amendment:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.



Friends Board Member Karen Michaud, portraying Alice Paul, and Temecula Valley Historical Society Director Bonnie Martland, portraying Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, will bring these two daring women to life! Though a generation apart in age and from differing backgrounds, they worked passionately for women's suffrage and eventually established and led the National Women's Party. Party members were instrumental in finally achieving passage of the 19th amendment after staging peaceful protests in front of the White House for over two years, being imprisoned under harsh conditions, staging hunger strikes, and being force fed and brutalized in prison.

The Friends of the Murrieta Library support the Library in serving the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of our community, through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism. Since its founding in 1996, the Friends has raised over \$1.1 million, and has donated over \$825,000 of that to the Library for computers and furnishings for the new library, a grand piano for the Community room, books and other media for the Library's collection, and underwriting the very popular programs for children, teens and adults. The remainder is available for future Library needs.

The Friends operate two bookstores, entirely staffed by volunteers, selling a wide variety of donated books in the stores and on the Internet. Monthly business and program meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 10 am in the Library Community Room when possible, but currently via Zoom. Please visit www.murrietalibraryfriends.org for more information.

* **President's Message** *

To Members and Friends of the Temecula Valley Historical Society

The pandemic lockdown occurred just days before our festive Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting ceremony at Vail Ranch Headquarters. Scheduled to celebrate the completion of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRRA)'s mission to preserve that historic property and its merger into the Temecula Valley Historical Society, invitations and press releases were out, dignitaries scheduled and food and activities planned for Friday, March 20. Even that Monday, we were in full preparation. By Wednesday we were in full discussion and then Thursday, the Governor made it official – California was shutdown.

I don't know what I thought then. With no frame of reference, I thought maybe we would reschedule for April.

Now I regret to announce the postponement of our annual dinner. We have celebrated the Historical Society and initiated new board members every November for the past 20 years at this event. More realistic in our planning, we are looking toward Spring. We will get the word out when we can gather again on that scale.

In the meantime, the lessening of restrictions at the end of September means we will be opening the Little Temecula History Center again on Sunday afternoons. You will find it easily with our new banner. The Antique Store at Vail Ranch Headquarters and the kiddie train continue to run. Our monthly presentations have moved to zoom and Facebook Live. The Board continues to meet and work on projects. We hope you are keeping well and busy too and we can't wait to see you all again!

Shari —



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 3 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vail HQ
Annual Native Plant Sale open to public.

Sunday, October 4 — Each Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Antique Store is opened and the train will be running, all operated by TVHS at Vail HQ

Tuesday, October 6 — Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer's Market at Vail HQ. Come get fresh veggies. Also Antique Store Open, stop in, see late additions.

Saturday, October 10 — Volkswagon Car Show at Vail HQ.

Wednesday, October 21 — Great Oak Band and Color Guard Performance at Vail HQ at ? Time.

Sunday, October 25 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Synergy Social vendors at Vail HQ.

Monday, October 26 — 6 p.m. Monthly program by Zoom, Michelle Elling will portray Edna Swanguen, and Shelley Leddy will portray Catherine Fernald.

Friday, October 30 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Starlight Bazaar at Vail HQ.

Membership News

Welcome New Members

Gary Georgi

James "Stew" Stewart

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Loretta Barnett

David & Louise Beesley

Betty Condren

Chris & Shari Crall

Robert & Elaine Culverhouse

Sandra Devol

Arnie & Nancy Frick

Rhine & Sandy Helzer

Roger & Carole Honberger

Lynn Hornecker

Mike & Shelley Leddy

Wendy Lesovsky

Jeff & Martha Minkler

Pat Ommert

John III, Jerri Lynn & John IV Randall

Mary Lou Reid

Ronald & Judith Turco

Nathan Vail

Phil & Char Washum

Roger Weber

Liz White

Whitney Wilkinson

Nancy Windus

100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

Issue of October 1, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Edward C. Greenfield and son-in-law were hunting and fishing last Thursday. They brought home lots of game.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sweet of Riverside were the weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kolb.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Price left Thursday to visit relatives in Denver and Tampa, Florida. They will also visit Washington D. C., St. Louis, Old Point Comfort, VA, New Orleans and other southern cities.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Friedemann attended the dance at Elsinore Saturday evening. After the dance they motored to San Bernardino so as to go squirrel hunting in the mountains Sunday.

Mrs. Otto returned Sunday from the hospital in Riverside.

There is to be a big dance Saturday night. San Diego music. Everybody welcome.

Mrs. George A. Burnham and daughter Ethel are spending the week in Los Angeles.

H. Burke of San Bernardino was relieving W. Somerville a few days last week. Mr. Somerville was in San Bernardino taking treatments for his arm.

Mr. Dersday of San Bernardino is relieving Mr. Price while he is on his vacation.

Henry Gray has purchased four lots on Front Street and is installing a twenty-ton Fairbanks-Morse wagon scale; also expects to erect a modern garage on this site in the near future, to take care of his own trucks as his business has increased to such an extent that his present location is entirely too small.

Issue of October 8, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanguen returned last Friday from a two weeks visit with Mr. Swanguen's mother at Santa Cruz.

Mr. Spivey of Beaumont has moved his family here and is domiciled in the Sweet cottage on Front Street. Mr. Spivey will work for George A. Burnham and son.

Mr. Stone of Los Angeles, who has been here a week or ten days putting in the scales for Mr. Gray left Wednesday morning.

George A. Burnham was in Los Angeles a few days last week, buying his fall and winter goods.

Albert F. Nienke and family attended church at Elsinore Sunday morning. After services they motored to Beaumont, Banning and Hemet, where they visited friends.

Mrs. William M. Friedemann delightfully entertained with a bountiful picnic lunch at Houck Memorial Park Sunday, in honor of her houseguests, Mrs. Pettrie and Miss Friedemann. The invited guests were Miss Ethel Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. Vance B. Sands and son Edward, Mrs. Paul Clark and daughter, Marie, and Messrs. Swanguen and Friedemann.

Frank Burnham is spending all his spare time improving his property at Murrieta.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Haynes motored to the Houck Memorial Park Sunday afternoon.

A stack of unthreshed grain belonging to Mrs. Briggs burned Monday night.

Joe Welty sold his property on Fourth Street last week.

Issue of October 15, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Higgins received last week a new road grader for county road service.

Vance B. Sands has resigned as trustee of Temecula Union School District.

A Whist Club has been organized and will meet every other Wednesday evening. There will be five tables. George A. Burnham is president and Mrs. Frank A. Hall is treasurer. A big time is expected this winter.

H. E. Dorsey, who is relieving Mr. Price, was seriously injured Saturday morning while transferring freight into the Temecula local car at Perris. He was rushed to the hospital at San Bernardino. Mr. F. C. Gilbert of San Bernardino is taking his place.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Friedemann gave a farewell party Friday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clark. A most delightful evening was spent with music and cards. Miss Ethel Burnham made the highest score of the evening. At a late hour dainty and delicious refreshments were served, after which the toastmaster gave a very pretty and appropriate farewell toast to the guest of honor. Those who enjoyed the evening were Mr. and Mrs. George A. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walters, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Vance B. Sands, the Misses Ethel Walters, Serena Cantarini, Ethel Burnham, Bessie Escallier, the Messrs. Joe and V. Cantarini, Swanguen, Somerville, Larsen, Escallier, Meeks and the guests of honor.

George A. Burnham and Son have a new Ford delivery car.

Issue of October 22, 1920 by Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Cantarini, who have been visiting their old home in Switzerland for the past year, returned Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Nienke and the Misses Ethel Burnham and Serena Cantarini, Elizabeth and Mabel Nienke motored to Riverside Sunday to attend the Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Friedemann and son, Billie, were in Riverside Sunday attending the Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Haynes motored to San Jacinto Wednesday to spend the day with friends.

Mrs. Davis, the teacher at the Little Temecula School was in Riverside Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Frank A. Hall is in Los Angeles to be with her daughter, Ethel, while she is in the hospital for an operation on her throat.