

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

February 2022
Volume 22 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.

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A Publication of the

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

www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Fallbrook Station: This shows damage to the tracks, the Howe Station, and surrounding outbuildings after the 1916 flooding of the Margarita Canyon following heavy rains. Locomotive No. 721 was stranded. Weighing 80 tons, it was difficult to extract, but over 400 tons of equipment, including the locomotive, were extracted from the canyon.

1884 and 1916

Area Storms Caused Widespread Damage

The major storm in February 1884 that caused significant damage in the Temecula area and destroyed the railroad tracks in the Temecula Canyon, once again left its mark in neighboring areas in 1916. The area around Temecula, and down into Fallbrook and the San Luis Rey River area the storms left their marks on the landscape. The paragraphs below are a reprint of an article that appeared in the *San Diego Union*, February 26, 1884.

THE SAN LUIS REY RIVER

The Recent Floods – Extensive Damage to Property

(Correspondence of The Union, February 26, 1884)

The recent rains started this usually dry & 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.

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1884 and 1916

Area Storms Caused Widespread Damage

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.

C. SeSur.



Temecula Flood: The 1916 storm caused Murrieta Creek to overflow and it flooded Old Town Temecula with over two feet of water. This appears to be Front Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The small building was the only gas station and it stood in front of a garage and blacksmith shop.

She Passed This Way . . .

Peg Moore Served on First City Council

Peg Moore, who passed away on January 18, 2022, was born in Chicago, Illinois. She attended the University of Illinois, where she met Jimmy Moore, who became one of the loves of her life. Jimmy's military career provided opportunities for Peg to learn many of the skills that she would ultimately use when she and Jimmy discovered another love of Peg's life -- the town of Temecula. Peg and husband Jimmy were founding members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

Shortly after Peg and Jimmy moved to Temecula in 1986, they joined the City Incorporation Committee, and subsequently took on their respective roles as Secretary and President. This was just the beginning of Peg's life as a leader of the community. In the same 1989 election in which cityhood for Temecula was approved, Peg was elected to sit on the first City Council. She held that seat until 1992, when she and Jimmy returned to Maryland. But the lure of Temecula continued to beckon, and after a brief 2000 visit to Temecula, the Moores returned to Temecula in 2001, this time to stay.

Peg truly loved the City of Temecula and the community, and she freely gave her time and energy to a wide variety of city agencies and community organizations through the years. In addition to her position on the City Council, which included service on six city committees, Peg also served on the Old Town Review Board for 19 years. Among others she also served on committees for the Old Town Specific Plan, Redevelopment Agency, and was an active member of Kiwanis.

Peg's leadership and commitment will be sorely missed by her friends, her family, and the city that she loved.



AN IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM THE EVENTS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2022 begins another new year for our Historical Society, and we are anxious to begin. Although 2021 was a very successful year for us, we anticipate even more interaction with the community at Vail Ranch Headquarters and our Little TemeculaHistory Center this coming year. Our goal is to be open Saturdays also at the History Center, with interesting hands-on programs for visitors to participate in.

The possibilities are many, and we are inviting our Members, their families and friends to join in the fun! We will need a few hours of your time to assist us in our goals. We need drivers for our Train and Stagecoach. We also need Hosts for the History Center, greeters that welcome our visitors and make them feel welcome, and it is such a great way to learn about Temecula's past., and you meet the nicest people! We have a Community Services Program for students to complete their requirements to serve the community. and can accommodate a variety of other talents for those that wish to share their expertise.

So, come and be a part of the History of the Temecula Valley, in the making! if you are interested in participating, contact: Bonnie Reed, Education & Events Committee. Phone (760)484-6019 or email: grannyofive@gmail.com

Riverside County History Symposium to be Virtual In March this Year

By Steve Lech

Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic and concerns about safety and how to give you the most effective symposium possible, it will once again be a virtual event. We hate to do it again, but circumstances have warranted it.

So, we will be putting together another online symposium for the morning of **March 5**. We will have two great speakers and topics:

Riverside's 19th Century Photographers
by Leigh Gleason

Rock Art of Riverside County
by Steven Freers

I will send out another e-mail in February with instructions on how to sign up and obtain the link for the symposium.

President's Message

February, 2022

It is always sad and difficult to report to the membership the passing of one of our own, especially one of our founding members. Peg Moore passed away. Peg loved Temecula, and she along with husband Jimmy Moore were among the founders and cheerleaders of the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

The January board meeting was active, and since the first meeting of a new year has always been our planning time for the coming year to include confirming committee members and any special missions, it is usually a longer meeting. We didn't disappoint this year.

New this year we will have a Vehicle Committee. The number and variety of "rolling stock" has been overseen and taken care of on an informal basis by members, but it seemed to be time to have a group to oversee maintenance, repairs, oil changes, etc., not to mention just keeping all in the condition needed for our various activities. The new committee met during January and will be giving a report at our February board meeting.

Numerous openings exist on committees, and as always we appreciate the time that members devote to aiding the society continue its mission.

— Dick Fox

Don't Forget . . .
History Center Open
Every Sunday
12 to 5 p.m.

*Stop by and say hello, share with a neighbor, friend
or visitor the wonderful history of Temecula.*

Also
Every Tuesday
Farmer's Market
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Bring the kids and take a ride on the train
or the stage coach.*

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Tuesday, February 1** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.
- Friday, February 4** — 6 to 8 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.
- Saturday, February 12** — 3 to 8 p.m. Thistle & Sage Vegan Market. Vendors and foods.
- Friday, February 18** — 6 to 8 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.
- Friday, February 25** — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starlight Bazaar, local maker's market, live music, and Family entertainment. Antique store open & train rides.
- Sunday, February 27** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday. Family fun, entertainment, and vendor Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. History Center also open.
- Monday, February 28** — 6 p.m. monthly program via Zoom. Geologist Luke Weidman will talk about the Temecula Valley's unique microclimate that makes it a successful wine-producing region. Many times the story is told from a grower's or winemaker's point of view. Listening to a geologist will give us a different perspective on our region.

Recent Notable Performances

The Notable Men & Women of Temecula are often requested to do programs for local organizations.

On January 23rd, Julie Gilbert, as Jean Bethell, Secretary to Erle Stanley Gardner, performed for the residents of The Colony in Murrieta. Joining Julie was Bonnie Martland portraying Elena Coutts Dear who was a descendant of a prominent Californio family residing at Rancho Santa Rosa in Murrieta.

On February 12th Michele Elling, as Edna Hall Swanguen and the owner of Hall's Café, will perform on Zoom for the members of the American Association of University Women.

Membership News

Welcome new members:

William and Dara Woods Jordan

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Dave & Tracy Frick

Gary & Judy Giles

Ken & Mary Lavezzari

Ron & Judith Turco

Richard & Mahlon Wilkinson

George & Mary Ziegler

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — February 1922

Issue of February 10, 1922

By Mrs. V. B. Sands

The Prairie Production Company has had fifteen people here for the last ten days making pictures. Dick Hatton and Miss Arsells are starring. They expect to re-release the picture under the name "The Four Hearts." This same company was here last fall and made a picture which is now released under the name, "The Fighting Fool."

Mr. M. Machado is shipping four and five cars of rock a week from his quarry in Antelope valley.

W.M. Friedemann is building a new slaughter house which will be strictly modern.

A. Knott has purchased a new five passenger Dodge.

Miss Elizabeth Nienke left Friday morning for Riverside where she will attend Junior College.

The Indians will play the San Bernardino Athletic club ball team Sunday afternoon on the Murrieta Hot Springs diamond. This is going to be some hot game, so everyone come out.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and family spent Sunday with Mr. Sands' mother at San Bernardino.

Rev. Barmose, of Murrieta, was calling on different people here on Tuesday.

The mail will be handled in and out of here on the train, effective February 16th, arriving at 4:30 p.m., departing 5:45 a.m. daily except Sunday.

Two cars of beef cattle were shipped to Highgrove Tuesday.

Little Norman Land, of Glendale, is visiting his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Price.

Mr. and Mrs. Welty's grandson, Stanley Crooks, of Escondido, was here Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McClintock and family and Mrs. Hudson, of Elsinore, were visiting at the home of Roy Roripaugh and Charles Clogston Sunday.

Miss Ethel Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall, and Mr. Gill of Los Angeles, were quietly married a few days ago. Mrs. Gill has been in training at the California Hospital the last three years and her marriage at this time came as a surprise to all her friends.

Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Knott and Mrs. Bemis attended the dressmaking demonstration at Murrieta last Thursday.

Issue of February 17, 1922

By Mrs. V. B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Walters from Illinois and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Thornton from St. Joseph, Mo., were guests of Mrs. W.T. Barton a few days last week.

E.J. McSweeney has let contract for the erection of a large bunkhouse and other buildings on the ranch.

Mrs. Will Vogel arrived Sunday (from) Imperial Valley. Mr. Vogel is employed in the meat market and has been here about a month. They will make their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and son, Billie,

were visiting friends in Hemet Sunday.

Vail Brothers shipped a carload of hogs to San Bernardino Wednesday.

Nine Temecula children attended Sunday school at Murrieta Sunday morning. We hope there will be more join as we have no church here.

Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands motored to Elsinore last Wednesday evening to attend the banquet and meeting given in honor of Mrs. Maud Bradley, grand worthy matron of the Order of the Easter Star.

Mrs. A. Knott's grandmother, Mrs. Parker, of Los Angeles, was visiting her last week.

Mr. Mann and Mrs. Reed and daughter, Victoria, of Perris, spent Sunday at the home of V.B. Sands.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands, with their families attended the Valentine party given at the Fraternal Brotherhood ball at Elsinore by the Eastern Star ladies Tuesday evening.

Issue of February 24, 1922

By Mrs. V. B. Sands

The light from the oil well on fire at Santa Fe Springs was seen here last Wednesday evening.

With the rain of Monday and Tuesday, this valley has had over 30 inches this season.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ray of Elsinore at a lovely four course nine o'clock breakfast Sunday.

Two machine loads of movie stars from the Prairie Production Company were back last week finishing some "shots" for the picture they were taking here a couple of weeks ago.

A number of Temeculaites attended the boxing match at Elsinore Friday evening.

W.M. Friedemann and family attended the Orange Show at San Bernardino Sunday.

G.L. Barrows was in Los Angeles a few days last week. R. G. Smith of San Bernardino was relieving him.

Harry Walters moved his family out on the A.B. Barnett ranch Saturday. Mr. Walters and Mr. Barnett are starting a fine dairy.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and family spent their weekend in San Bernardino.

James Nienke and Earl Otto of Los Angeles spent Sunday at the home of A.F. Nienke.

Miss Domenigoni spent the weekend at her home in Winchester.

Mrs. W.T. Barton returned from a few days visit with relatives at San Bernardino Tuesday.

Messrs Smith and Auman of San Bernardino, Friedemann, Sands and Escallier attended Masonic lodge at Elsinore last Thursday evening.

William Sommerville spent a few days with his family at San Bernardino last week.