

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

July 2022
Volume 22 Issue 7

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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P.O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593

www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



View of folks gathered to cheer the ribbon cutting event of the Grand Opening of the Vail HQ in summer of 2016. Audience included county and city officials, members of VaRRR, Temecula Valley Historical Society, and the Temecula Gunfighters.

Vail Headquarters

A Touchstone to the Past Celebrates 6th Anniversary

On the 16th of this month, the Vail HQ will celebrate the 6th anniversary of the ribbon cutting and official opening of the restored Vail Headquarters complex. This historic site is now the home to multiple commercial enterprises that have embraced the old time feel for the location.

For those who have not yet visited the area be on the lookout while driving near the intersection of Temecula Parkway and Margarita Road, there is a surprise tucked between modern retail stores. You first notice rustic wood signage, a water tower and a vintage windmill. The curious slow their vehicles to get a glimpse and then they view people walking through the park-like landscape.

Maybe later when you see events posted on social media about the monthly Starlight Bazaar or Sunday Funday, you gather some friends and check the place out. Frequently live music is available on the stage located in the central plaza.

From the time you step onto the property, you know the place is special. You can't quite say what it is, but there is a good feeling to being there.

Vail HQ is not a fake old town. It is the genuine article that predated Old Town Temecula. In fact, when what we call Old Town popped up near the new railway in 1882, the new area was called the New Town of Temecula.

At Vail HQ, the Wolf Store adobe, constructed in about 1867, is now home to a coffee shop. It was originally a general store, post office and hotel

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Vail Headquarters

A Touchstone to the Past Celebrates 6th Anniversary

along the Southern Emigrant Trail, the only road through the area. Also, it was the ONLY store, post office or hotel to be found for miles around. The building used as the cookhouse during the Vail ranch days, is now the center for 4 separate kitchens with a variety of tasty menus.

To inform visitors about the history of the site, the Vail Ranch Restoration Association placed interpretive plaques throughout, identified by freestanding wagon wheels with the plaques mounted on Temecula granite harvested from the nearby hills more than a century ago. Each plaque tells the history of the nearest building.

Also, to educate the community about the important local history of the area, the Temecula Valley Historical Society continues a tradition of welcoming students, scouts, home school groups, RV clubs, etc., onto the property for history tours. When groups of students tour, volunteers set up learning stations where participants can pump water, plant seeds in a garden, ride in a Model A, make rope, wash laundry on a washboard and hand-worked wringer, and hang the clothes on a line to dry.

A visitor can take a look in the front window of the Wolf Store and see an old hotel room made up as it would have appeared in the 1880s. Also, in the two windows to the right of the front door of the bunkhouse is a bunkroom made up as it would have looked in the 1940s.

Historians wanted to save the Vail Headquarters from threatened demolition in 1997 so people and events from the past would not be forgotten. After long negotiations with the County of Riverside and developers, the plan developed to have retail shops and restaurants in a park-like atmosphere. So, Vail HQ remains with all the historic information a person would want to know, and as a place for rest and relaxation, nourishment for the body and the soul.



The Wolf Store before restoration work was done.



*Sad looking barn buildings and abandoned truck before restoration work.
Mary Jo Costilow lived in the foreman's house from 1988—1998.*

Come by on

***Saturday, July 16
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.***

**Join the Anniversary
Celebration**

*Live music, historic demonstrations,
Tours, family friendly events.*

President's Message

July, 2022



The importance of photographing and documenting historically significant buildings, trails, rocks and boulders was hammered home in June.

It seems that the County of Riverside began work on preparations for widening roadway at intersection of Briggs Rd. and Los Alamos. In that initial work by a bulldozer a large boulder outcropping with a chiseled inscription from the 1890s by one of the area pioneers was knocked over and damaged.

Although a survey of the area was supposedly done by the County in 2008 it was so poorly done that this rock inscription and other significant pieces were not mentioned in the 2008 report. When events like this happen it causes one to think that could only be the case due to incompetence or sheer neglect.

So once again the importance of documenting, photographing and reporting historically significant items to the governmental organization that is appropriate to the area.

Monthly Presentation July 25 By Member Mark Bellnap

On Monday, July 25 at 6:00 p.m. our member Mark Bellnap will give a presentation about the Reno-Beenten fight that took place during the Battle of the Little Bighorn. In late June he will be at the Little Bighorn battlefield site serving as a historic interpreter during the anniversary of the battle.

Mark attended the U.S. Cavalry School near the battle site where he learned cavalry tactics, fired weapons of that time period, rode the Custer trails on horseback, and served as an re-enactor during the annual re-enactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

This presentation will focus on the Reno Valley Fight and the fight on Reno-Benteen Hill. Other topics include some background information and a discussion of whether Custer and others disobeyed orders? This presentation will have NO analysis as to whether the U.S. Government or the Native Americans were right or wrong in their views as to the U.S. Government's Indian policies or the battle itself.

Membership News

Renewing Members, Thanks for your support

Mary Lou Reid

Penelope and Terry Lebow

Penelope and Kent Johnson

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Every Tuesday** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vail HQ Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.
- Friday, July 1** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. LIVE music every Friday evening on stage at Vail HQ from May to August. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to set up and enjoy.
- Saturday, July 2** — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club swap meet. 30+ cars expected.
- Sunday, July 3** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market.
- Friday, July 8** — 6 to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. Live music. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, relax.
- Saturday, July 9** — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle and Sage Vegan Market. Vegan friendly vendors and food, other family activities.
- Sunday, July 10** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market.
- Friday, July 15** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series, live music. Bring lawn chairs & blankets.
- Saturday, July 16** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vail HQ 6th Anniversary Party. Live music, demonstrations, Tours, crafts, kids activities. Historical entertainment.
- Sunday, July 17** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment, and vendor market.
- Friday, July 22** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series, live music. Bring lawn chairs & blankets.
- Saturday, July 23** — 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Summer Party By Crosspoint Church. Music, kid activities,
- Sunday, July 24** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market.
- Monday, July 25** — 6 p.m. monthly history presentation, IN-PERSON at Little Temecula History Center (red barn next to Kohl's). Member Mark Bellnap will make presentation about one of the fights that took place during the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Mr. Bellnap has served in the past as a re-enactor at the annual Little Bighorn anniversary.
- Thursday, July 28** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet. 20+ cars expected.
- Friday, July 29** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starlight Bazaar. Local maker's market, music, & family fun.
- Saturday, July 30** — 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Caribbean Nights Presented by Caribbean Corner. Caribbean music and vendors, Family fun event.
- Sunday, July 31** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – July 1922

July 7, 1922

By V.B. Sands

H.R. Price moved his family to Wildomar Saturday. He has just completed a fine new oil and gas station there and will carry all kinds of cold drinks, cigars, tobacco, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Friedemann and son, Billie, and Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Burnham and family of Elsinore, picnicked at Live Oak Park Sunday.

W.H. Haynes has his kitchen and bath stall remodeled last week. Mr. Nelson of Elsinore did the work.

Sawday & Moore of Warner's ranch shipped a train of nine cattle to Los Angeles last Friday.

A.M. Reinhardt of San Francisco, assistant general traffic manager for the Santa Fe, was a visitor here last Friday.

Mrs. A. Knott and children spent the Fourth with friends at Oceanside.

A.B. Barnett and family and house guest, J. Ferraro, motored to San Diego Sunday. J. Ferraro of Ogden, Utah is visiting at the home of A.B. Barnett.

Henry Gray is running six large trucks to Warner's dam every day and will no doubt have to put on that many more to handle the business.

Harry Walters is clerking in G.A. Burnham & Son's store during the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham and daughter, Miss Ethel, and Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Burnham motored to San Marcos Sunday.

There is a ten percent reduction in freight rates on practically every commodity, effective July 1st.

Mrs. F. H. Hall has purchased A. Escallier's store and the two adjoining lots. McSweeney Bros. started to ship potatoes Wednesday for eastern points.

July 14, 1922

By V.B. Sands

Walter Tafel, representative of the California Vegetable Union is registered at the hotel.

McSweeney Bros. are shipping six and seven cars of potatoes a day.

The Southern Sierras Power Company are placing the poles for electricity here in town and will have the wires strung all ready to connect this week.

F. A. Burnham and wife motored to San Diego and Coronado last Monday returning Tuesday evening.

McSweeney Bros. started to plant their fall potatoes Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Spivey and the children and Mr. and Mrs. Phillips of Rushville, Indiana left Sunday for two weeks camping at the beach near Capistrano.

Mrs. Shiveley of Curtis, Nebraska, and Mesdames Hindorf, Keeler and Mack of Fallbrook were guests at the home of their sister, Mrs. Machado last week.

W.T. Barton was a Fallbrook visitor Monday.

July 21, 1922

By V.B. Sands .

Mrs. Ernest Sweet and children, who have been visiting Mrs. Sweet's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kolb, left last Thursday for their home in Riverside.

D. R. Crane will install the electric motor for pumping water at the school house to take the place of the old gasoline engine.

Bent Bros. of Los Angeles who have the Warner dam contract received two cars of cement and one of dynamite Monday and one car cement each day for a while will be received. Henry Gray is kept quite busy getting it to the dam.

Mrs. Johnny Cantarini of Riverside is spending the week with her brother, Carl Swanguen and family.

D. R. Crane of Elsinore is wiring all the buildings here for electricity. Messrs. A. Knott, W.M. Friedemann and A.F. Nienke have installed electric motors at their places of business.

A.F. Nienke received a car of cement this week for Gus Almquist, who is making the irrigation pipe for the Pauba ranch.

Joe Nicolas received a car of feeder cattle last Wednesday.

A. Escallier and W.M. Friedemann attended Masonic lodge at Elsinore last Thursday evening.

McSweeney Bros. are still shipping six and eight cars of potatoes each day.

Vail Bros. shipped three cars of cattle to the Oehl Packing Co., San Bernardino, Monday.

July 28, 1922

By V.B. Sands

A group of six workers are holding services here at present. The meetings began the 16th and will continue until August 6th. Attendance has been good and the local people have displayed an interest. The tent is the property of the Holiness church and the old fashioned full gospel message is being preached.

A.F. Nienke received a car of lumber from San Pedro Monday.

Roy Bateman on Tuesday shipped seven hundred cases of honey to San Pedro for export.

Mrs. W.M. Friedemann attended a one o'clock luncheon at the home of Mrs. C.H. Jacobs at Rainbow Saturday. The game of five hundred was played during the afternoon.

George Sawday of Warren ranch shipped a train of eleven cars of cattle to Los Angeles Friday.

Joe Nicholas has ordered a new Dodge touring car.

Miss Lillis Alezama Jerauld and Milton Saul Lewis both of San Diego were married on July 20th. Mrs. Lewis will be remembered by many as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Jerauld, who resided here several years ago. Mr. Jerauld was then the Santa Fe agent here.