

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

March 2023  
Volume 23 Issue 3

## The Roads We Travel

By Stacia Deutsch

*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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Did you know Old Town Temecula is framed by two streets named after Mercedes Pujol? In honor of Women's History Month, let's find out the history behind Mercedes Street and Pujol Street...

It was 1876 when local businessman Domingo Pujol received word that the woman he was supposed to marry was finally old enough to take her vows. Domingo had been in United States territory since the 1850s, knowing that his family had an arranged marriage waiting for him back in Spain.

Imagine young Mercedes, engaged to an older man, a man she didn't know, now waiting for him by the altar.

Domingo Pujol was a lawyer and a businessman who owned part of a Mexican land grant called the Rancho Temecula. Before he left for Spain, he divided the holdings with his partners. The Murrieta brothers, Juan and Ezequiel, claimed the area that now is Murrieta. Domingo held on to 37,000 acres of land that included what would eventually include Old Town Temecula along today's Interstate 15 corridor.

Domingo didn't live in the Temecula Valley. He lived in San Francisco. It might be assumed that he planned to bring his new bride back to California, but that never happened. In 1881, Domingo died in Spain. His Temecula land became the property of his new, young wife.

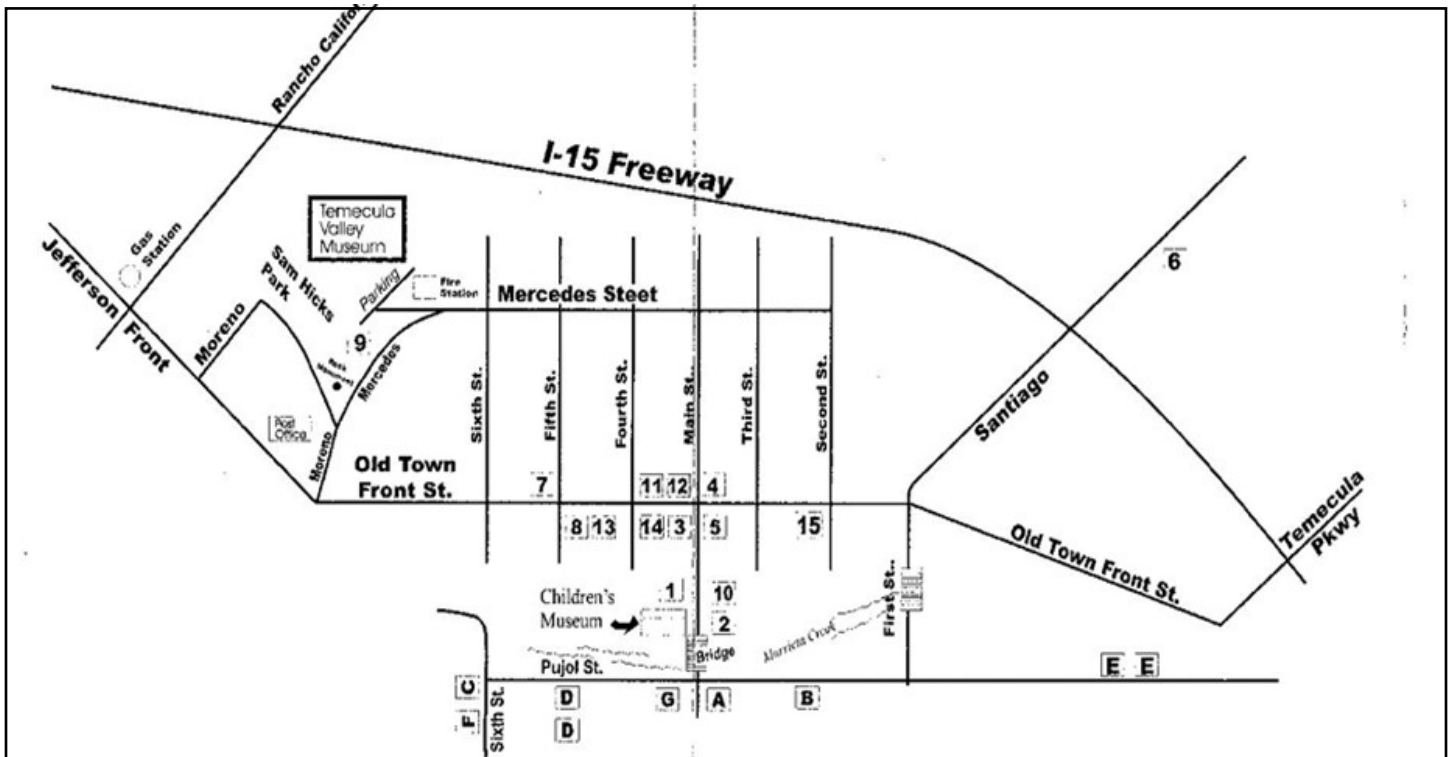
In 1884, Mercedes Pujol, along with her father and sister, took the long and arduous trip from Spain to California. She made a brief visit to Temecula in order to settle his estate.

Most of the property was sold to the Pauba Land and Water Company, but Mercedes didn't sell her entire holdings. Some land she kept aside and deeded it for use as a school, a cemetery, and a park.

During Women's History Month, take a quick drive down Mercedes Street in front of City Hall. Check out the Pujol school house building which has been moved and is currently at 29825 Santiago Road. At the other end of the street is the Temecula Valley Museum and Sam Hicks Monument Park, also once part of Mercedes Pujol's land. Leaving Mercedes Street, take Main Street through Old Town to Pujol Street where there are several historic homes from the later 1800s. At the end of your tour, pause a moment to think about what it would have been like for young Mercedes Pujol to visit the area for the first time. When she went back to Spain, she remarried and never returned. Today, the roads we travel are dedicated to Mercedes Pujol for her generosity.

Happy Women's History Month from the Temecula Valley Historical Society!

*(Continued on next page)*



Map above is from Historic Old Town Temecula Tour Guide

[https://www.temeculahistoricalociety.org/html2/Resource\\_maps\\_guides.html](https://www.temeculahistoricalociety.org/html2/Resource_maps_guides.html)

Additional Resources:

Williamson, Steven P., Pioneers Etched in Stone, Temecula Valley Museum, Temecula, CA 2014

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/temeculaherstory>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-hunneman-one-classy-mercedes-2010dec02-story.html>

[http://www.socalhistoryland.mysite.com/article\\_5.html](http://www.socalhistoryland.mysite.com/article_5.html)

### ***Membership News***

**NOTE:** For a number of reasons there has not been an acknowledgement in this newsletter as is customary, for new and renewing members since the September issue of 2022. New, and new Lifetime, members are listed below. Renewing members are listed on Page 3.

#### ***Welcome new Lifetime Members:***

***Stacia Deutsch  
Carole Honberger  
Roger Honberger***

#### ***Welcome new Members:***

***Karen Fetteroll  
Jack Houston  
Penny Houston  
Chris Houston  
Bruce Klein  
Sandy Neal***

## **Thanks to Renewing Members:**

**Loretta Barnett  
David Beesley  
Louise Beesley  
Mark Bellnap  
Arlie Bergman  
Laurie Cary  
Terry Craig  
Chris Crall  
Shari Crall  
Elaine Culverhouse  
Robert Culverhouse  
Rosalinda Del Castillo  
Sandra Devol  
Perry Doubt  
Arnie Frick  
Nancy Frick  
Dean George  
Jan George  
Meryle Hammatt  
Lorraine Harrington  
Connie Harris  
Phil Harris  
Lynn Marie Hornecker  
Mindy Johnson  
Dara Woods Jordan  
Jacqui Klein  
Kenneth Lavezzari  
Mary K. Lavezzari  
Mahlon Wilkinson Lawton  
Richard Lawton  
Mike Leddy  
Shelly Leddy  
Jeff Minkler  
Martha Minkler  
Patricia Ommert  
Rick Reiss  
Vicky Reiss  
Manuel Robles  
Jim Sappington  
Lori Sappington  
Dennis Sterner  
Karen Sterner  
James Stewart  
Lisa Stewart  
Ronald Turco  
Judith Turco**

*Continued*

**Charlene Washum  
Phil Washum  
Roger Weber  
Whitney Vail Wilkinson  
Dave Wilson  
Nancy Windus  
George Ziegler  
Mary Ziegler**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As this vibrant, all-volunteer non-profit seeks to fulfill our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historical legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance, our desire to expand the days and hours for public access to our facilities and experiences increases the need for volunteers.

There are so many ways to participate and contribute. The profile of the perfect Temecula Valley Historical Society volunteer? A positive, can-do person willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved to help share our story.

Help is always welcomed in a variety of ways, not only physically at the Vail Headquarters and Little Temecula History Center, but in this day and age - remotely as well through involvement with behind the scenes administrative and committee responsibilities.

What do our volunteers do?

A smiling, friendly face sells train ride tickets at the Vail Headquarters; a handy DIY person assists with ongoing restoration and repair projects; a docent answers visitor questions at the Little Temecula History Center; a volunteer remotely catalogs historic payroll records of ranch hands; closet thespians, with research and enthusiasm, can become costumed 'Notables', bringing historic figures of the Temecula Valley to life at special events and presentations.

Examples of these wonderful volunteers include Dara, sharing the fascinating story of the chuckwagon at the History Center with 3rd graders on a school tour; Marcus, who spent countless hours cataloging and organizing historic records; Wendy, distributing announcements and maintaining meeting minutes as board secretary; Conductor Keith giving the kids a ride they will always remember on the miniature train at the Vail Headquarters; Roger flawlessly executing the thankless and burdensome task of maintaining detailed accounting records; Ireland helping out at the Headquarters Antique Store and anywhere else needed; Bonnie constantly recruiting volunteers to help us fulfill this ongoing mission.

These are just a few examples of the more than 30 people, board members to event volunteers, who step up to ensure the history of our fascinating valley is preserved and celebrated.

If you have the interest and desire to add your energy to our altruistic efforts, we'd love to hear from you and work together to figure out where your talents can best be utilized. Let us know by expressing your interest at:

[info@temeculahistory.org](mailto:info@temeculahistory.org)

**Dave Wilson**

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – March 1923

**March 2, 1923**

**By Mrs. V.B. Sands**

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Friedemann and son, Billie, with Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Burnham and family of Elsinore picnicked in the mountains near the Cajon Park. They report a jolly good time playing in the snow.

Mrs. W.H. Haynes is on the sick list this week.

S.E. Veazey spent the weekend with relatives in Los Angeles.

Messrs. O.E. Larsen and W.T. Barton spent Sunday in San Bernardino.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes attended the Orange show in San Bernardino Saturday.

A.F. Nienke spent Sunday with his family at Riverside.

J.W. Woods of San Bernardino was a business visitor here Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peace and baby of Winchester were guests at the Vern Spivey home Sunday.

J.H. Heath, director of publicity, Chamber of Commerce of northern San Diego County, has issued an invitation to all Riverside County folks to come and bring their knitting and spend the day at their celebration of the sixth paving unit of the inland route in San Diego County. This road will connect with our road just south of Temecula. The time and place – Diagamon grove of live oaks at the foot of the north slope of Poway hill, a dozen miles south of Escondido, Saturday, March 3rd.

Mesdames W.M. Friedemann, A.B. Barnett, Lynn Smith and V.B. Sands motored to Elsinore Monday evening to attend the official visit of Miss Stella M. Linscott of Berkeley, the worthy grand matron of the great chapter of the order of the Eastern Star.

**March 9, 1923**

**By Mrs. V.B. Sands**

Mesdames Eila Sweet and Grace Cantarini delightfully entertained a large number of friends with a costume party Saturday evening. Cards, dancing and old fashioned games were enjoyed until a late hour. F.A. Burnham was awarded the prize for wearing the funniest costume and Miss Ethel Burnham for the best costume. Miss Burnham dressed as a Chinese maiden and wore an imported Chinese costume even to the slippers. Dainty and delicious refreshments of sandwiches, pickles, cake and coffee were served. Among those who were present were Miss Grace Francisco and Dewey Francisco of Riverside; Mrs. Hazel Ives and Mrs. Ada Turner of Colton, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shipley of Fallbrook. Mrs. Helen Kirkham of Escondido, Buster Putman of San Marcos, Mrs. Laughead, Mrs. F.H. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann, Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Kolb.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shipley and son, Tommie, of Fallbrook, Mrs. Helen Kirkham of Escondido and Buster

Putman of San Marcos, spent the weekend with Miss Ethel Burnham.

A. Escallier was a Los Angeles visitor last Wednesday. Charlie Clogston is on the sick list this week.

W.A. Sale of Los Angeles spent last week here with his sister, Mrs. W.H. Haynes.

Miss Grace Francisco and brother, Dewey Francisco, of Riverside, and Mesdames Hazel Ives and Ada Turner of Colton, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Kolb.

Mrs. Laughead is entertaining Miss Cockern of Los Angeles this week.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham and daughter, Miss Ethel, are spending this week in Los Angeles.

A.F. Nienke spent Sunday and Monday with his family at Riverside.

Little Majeska Spivey has been quite ill and at this writing is still in a very critical condition.

Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Guthrie, of Hemet, spent last Wednesday with Mrs. W.M. Friedemann.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Otto and daughter of Los Angeles spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Otto.

Miss Isabel Gilbert, Rural Supervisor, visited the school one day last week.

Mr. Heath, the revenue officer, who has been stationed here for the past year, has been transferred to Oceanside.

W.T. Barton spent Sunday in San Bernardino.

A. Briggs, of Calexico, spent the weekend here with William Sommerville.

Mrs. Joe Nicolas, Mrs. Z. Nicolas and Miss Peggy Domenigoni were Riverside visitors Saturday.

The McSweeney Farms are planting their potatoes and will have over 500 acres in this spring.

E.D. McSweeney has returned from an extended business trip in the northern part of the state.

Mrs. W.T. Barton, who has been in the hospital in San Bernardino for the past month, is slowly recovering.

The McSweeney Farms shipped another car of high grade seed potatoes to Sacramento Monday.

Mrs. Steinbaugh of Murrieta is clerking in G.A. Burnham & Son's store here for a week or so, preparing to enter their store at Murrieta which will be opened about March 15.

**March 16, 1923**

**By Mrs. V.B. Sands**

Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Vail have returned from a two weeks' vacation in and around Los Angeles.

A large number of the parents attended the track meet at Wildomar last Friday.

William Sommerville and Henry Gray attended the rodeo at Jack Adams' place Sunday.

G.A. Burnham and son have opened their new store at Murrieta. They expect to carry an up to date line of dry goods and groceries there as has been their policy here.

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – March 1923

## March 16, 1923 (Continued)

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Miss Eula Fleshman, the primary teacher, is home with a bad case of flu.

Miss Morrison, of Riverside, is teaching the primary room this week.

The announcement has been received here that Miss Elizabeth Nienke and Hampton Watts were married in Ventura on the 21st day of February.

Mrs. M.E. McKinney, of San Bernardino, is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands this week.

Temecula Union School made a very good showing at the district track meet at Wildomar last Friday, as thirteen of their seventeen contestants entered won ribbons, six first place, ten second place and nine third place ribbons.

Mrs. Eila Sweet is clerking in G.A. Burnham & Son's store for a few weeks.

A.F. Nienke spent the weekend with his family in Riverside.

Mrs. Eva Heintz spent the weekend with relatives in Los Angeles.

## March 23, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Vail, of Los Angeles, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Vail.

The McSweeney Farms shipped several cars of potatoes last week.

A movie company from Los Angeles was here taking pictures Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith attended the Eastern Star chapter at Elsinore Monday evening.

Francis J. LeClairy, the emigration officer here, and Miss Grace Cockerline, of Rainbow, were quietly married at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Cockerline, at Rainbow, Sunday, March 13th at high noon. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Harris, pastor of the Baptist church at Fallbrook. Following a short honeymoon in Los Angeles the couple will make their home for the present with the bride's mother at Rainbow.

W.T. Barton was a San Bernardino visitor Sunday.

O.E. Larsen has been quite ill with the flu at his home in Rainbow.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes were San Bernardino visitors Monday.

Miss Eula Fleshman, who has been home with a case of flu, is back on duty teaching this week.

Messrs. Henry Gray and Joe Winkle spent several days in Imperial Valley last week.

Miss Hattie Welty has been on the sick list for the past week or so.

F.A. Burnham is managing the new store of G.A. Burnham and Son at Murrieta.

A.F. Nienke spent Sunday with his family at Riverside. John McSweeney spent the weekend with his parents at El Monte.

## March 30, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann were Riverside visitors last Thursday.

Miss Grace Francisco, of Riverside, spent the weekend here with Mrs. Eila Sweet.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Miss Rita Domenigoni attended the Masonic educational meeting at Elsinore last Thursday evening.

Mrs. F.H. Hall has returned from Los Angeles, where she was visiting her daughter,

Mrs. Fred Guiol. Misses Rita and Peggy Domenigoni were Riverside visitors Saturday.

A large crowd of the young folks attended the P.T.A. dance at the Alamos schoolhouse Saturday evening.

The second annual county track meet will be held at Riverside April 14. Temecula Union will have 12 contestants entered who expect to bring home their share of the ribbons.

Mrs. A. Knott was an Elsinore visitor last Thursday.

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

A.F. Nienke spent the weekend with his family in Riverside.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and Mrs. A.B. Barnett motored to Corona Monday evening to attend the Eastern Star chapter.

Messrs. A. Escallier, Lynn Smith and V.B. Sands attended the Fallbrook Masonic lodge Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes left last Friday for Los Angeles, where Mr. Haynes expects to be operated on as soon as possible.

A. Escallier attended the Masonic educational meeting at Elsinore last Thursday evening.

Master Burton Kimpton of San Bernardino is spending his Easter vacation here with his aunt,

Mrs. F.A. Burnham. Mrs. E.M. McKinney, who has been visiting at the home of V.B. Sands for the past two weeks, returned to San Bernardino Sunday.

Joe Welty is entertaining his nephew, Ben Welty, of Alexandria, Minn.

Mr. Heath, of Oceanside, was a visitor here Sunday.