

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

June 2023
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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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June 2, 2023 - A Historic Day

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

June 2, 2023 is a day we will long remember. After waiting twenty-seven years, today the Vail Headquarters has been successfully designated as a National Historic Site by the US Department of the Interior!

In formative meetings during 1996, members of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRA) discussed the merits of the location, based on the many significant people who passed through and the monumental historic events that took place at the Vail Ranch Headquarters. These include the Native presence, the Mormon Battalion coming through during the Mexican-American War, the hundreds of people who passed on the Southern Emigrant Trail en route to California Gold in 1849, Helen Hunt Jackson's visit with Louis and Ramona Wolf, the presence of a Temecula Post Office and General Store in the true old town called Temecula, and the Vails running the massive cattle ranch from the location.

When the historic buildings and footprint of the headquarters were threatened with demolition in 1998, nomination as a national historic site was central to the lawsuit to save the property from demolition, and after the settlement of the suit, it was not forgotten. Dick Fox drafted the first nomination in 2012, but the party in management of the property chose not to sign the nomination, which stopped the procedure. Meanwhile, VaRRA merged with the Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS). We attempted submitting a nomination for a second time in 2020 but were asked to wait until January 2023 when the property management would be free of certain restrictive tax considerations. So as soon as we could prepare the nomination, members of TVHS' Research and Preservation Committee, Jim Sappington, Lisa Woodward, and Rebecca Farnbach, rolled up their sleeves and worked on it again.

After several go-arounds with Amy Crain of the California State Historic Preservation Office who was advising us, the nomination was accepted in mid-March (yay!), and it was forwarded to the US Department of the Interior with the expectation of success. Although our excitement was palpable, we didn't make any announcements just in case calling attention to it would incite a protest against the nomination.

We now celebrate this success after so long a wait. Darell Farnbach, who was one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit to save the Vail Ranch, and Dick Fox who wrote the first nomination, each died knowing the nomination was in the works. The Vail Ranch Restoration Association no longer exists, but the Temecula Valley Historical Society has taken up the challenge. Things change but the National Historic Site designation will endure.

Please help us shout out the good news to the rest of the community!

TVHS Milestone Reached Saturday, May 20, 2023

Board Members joined in a very special celebration held at the Little Temecula History Center on Saturday afternoon May 20th, to honor the academic achievements of Marcus Zarinelli. His family and friends were in attendance, along with 8 members of the Society to share in the occasion. Graduating with honors, Marcus received a degree in History.

He is the first college student to be awarded a scholarship by the Society, as we have only awarded scholarships at the High School level in the past. We found him worthy of the award, after interning with us in 2020, and expressed his interest in pursuing a career in the field of Historical studies. Again, in 2022, we extended another scholarship to aid him with the last semesters fees. The experience has given us the vision to expand our support to the student already enrolled in History programs who might benefit from an additional boost to aid in the ongoing financial needs of college studies.

Marcus and his family are bound closely to the art of history. They were very pleased that we agreed to grant Marcus' wish to celebrate with them, and we felt honored to be asked. They included us in the festivities with a brief overview from Rebecca Farnbach on the history of Temecula, and a portrayal of Mary Jane Welty by Temecula's Notable Woman, Bonnie Martland. Board Members toured the guests through our History Center. It was a very rewarding day for all concerned.



Monthly Presentation for June

The public is invited to the Temecula Valley Historical Society's free presentation by Aditi Wocester at 6 pm on Monday, June 26 at the Little Temecula History Center, the red barn at the corner of Redhawk Parkway and Wolf Store Road. Wocester, who works at the San Diego County Archives in Santee will present information regarding conducting research at the San Diego County Archives where their collection holds an estimated 65,000 recorded maps, 250 cubic feet. of historic birth, death, and marriage records, 600 cubic feet. of official records, and around 40,000 rolls of microfilm.

Any questions regarding this presentation may be addressed to Rebecca Farnbach at: info@temeculahistory.org.



Photo credit to photographer Chipper Hatter.

The state of the effort to have Vail Headquarters added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009

Reprinted from VaARRA News
2nd Quarter 2009

... Did you know that VaARRA has completed all of the necessary forms and paperwork required by the National Park Service as part of an application for the National Register of Historic Places. All we need is to complete Section 6 (where restoration plans must be detailed). Completion of this requires detailed cooperation from the property owner. Jerry Tessier of Arteco Partners has indicated that as soon as hurdles such as financing are in place then completion of the application is a go . . .

Temecula in 1893-94

“Temecula is one of the oldest towns in the county, and is located at the foot of the Great Temecula Valley on the Southern California Railroad, about forty-five miles from the county seat. There is a good school here, telegraph and express office, church services twice a month by Rev. Camp of De Luz, large stone quarries, many valuable farms and ranches. The land is very productive; heavy yields of hay and grain being the rule rather than the exception. Bee men are numerous, and they furnish an immense quantity of honey that is chiefly shipped east over the Santa Fe route. Sheep and stock raising flourish.”

(History of Directory of Riverside County, 1893-94)

Reprinted from *The High Country* issue 69
Spring 2006

With permission of the Temecula Valley Museum

Murietta in 1893-94

“Murietta is located on the Southern California Railroad, about forty-five miles from Riverside, and about 105 miles from Los Angeles. About eight years ago the town was started by a large land and water company, a large hotel was erected and the valley soon began to settle up with a class of intelligent, progressive people who have succeeded in a few short years in transforming about 10,000 acres of then barren land (save for a little sage brush) into producing grain fields, orchards, and homes.”

(History of Directory of Riverside County, 1893-94)

Reprinted from *The High Country* issue 72
Fall 2007

With permission of the Temecula Valley Museum

Temecula in 1912

Six miles from Murrietta (sic), at the terminus of the valley, the town of Temecula is reached; it is four miles north of the San Diego county line. It contains two hundred and ninety residents, has one school, and one hotel. The soil in this part of the valley is quite productive, and yields grain and alfalfa in abundance. Water seems plentiful, and is flowing on the surface in a number of places.

(History of Riverside county, California 1912)

Reprinted from *The High Country* issue 67
Summer 2005

With permission of the Temecula Valley Museum

They Passed This Way

Two members of our society have left the cares of this world behind. Their names are etched in our hearts.

Bill Catlett, the handsome white-haired greeter at Vail HQ called himself "Captain Bill" for his position with the US Merchant Marines. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Vail HQ along with his wife Lori and served on the VaRRA Board of Directors. The Catletts provided the seed money to purchase the kiddie train that is now a big hit with the children who visit Vail HQ. His wit and friendliness are missed.

Charlene Washum was a joyful person who loved participating in the Temecula Valley Historical Society along with her husband Phil. Charlene found humor and enjoyment when associating with society members and especially loved going on the outings Phil arranged for members, like jaunts to the Rains House, to Nate Harrison's Cabin, and the San Juan Capistrano. We will miss her smile.

Temecula Valley's First High School

Temecula Valley High School, known by locals as TV, is a public high school for grades 9 to 12 in Temecula, . The school opened in 1985 as the city's first high school. When it was built, it was a part of the Elsinore Union High School District (now the Lake Elsinore Unified School District) until the Temecula Valley Unified School District was founded. It is a California Distinguished School.

Membership News

Thanks to renewing members:

Mary Lou Reid

Barbara Tobin

Liz White

"Achievements of today are the stepping stones for the future ones." ~ Invajj

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — May 1923

June 8, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, June 8, 1923 By Mrs. V.B. Sands Temecula, June 6 – Jack Domenigoni is a Los Angeles visitor this week.

The Misses Cleo Patterson and Florence Crawford and Mrs. Pettrie of San Bernardino were weekend visitors of Miss Ethel Burnham.

Mrs. Fred Guiol and baby of Los Angeles spent last week here with her mother, Mrs. F.H. Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Carilston of Imperial were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham, Mrs. Pettrie, the Misses Cleo Patterson, Florence Crawford, Ethel Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann and son, Billie, spent Sunday picnicking at Oceanside.

Messrs A. Knott and E. Greenfield were fishing at Oceanside Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Knott and Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Hall attended the Modern Woodman's box social at Murrieta last Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and son, Edward, spent Sunday in San Bernardino.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Niemann of Carlsbad were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann, Tuesday.

June 15, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, June 13 – Miss Peggy Domenigoni is clerking in G.A. Burnham & Son's store.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Haynes spent Thursday and Friday with friends at Yucaipa.

Miss Ethel Burnham spent the weekend with friends at Escondido.

Miss Ellen Ludy is visiting in Los Angeles this week.

Mr. Forest of Brawley was here a few days this week looking after his business.

E. Higgins has sold his trucking business and truck to W.T. Barton.

Louis Otto and family of Los Angeles are spending this week here with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Otto.

Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands and son, Edward, were San Bernardino visitors Sunday.

Little Miss Vera and Master Vernon Knott are spending this week with their grandparents at Murrieta.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergman and grandson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham Monday.

June 22, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, June 22 – Miss Ethel Burnham left Saturday for Berkley where she will attend summer semester of the University.

E.D. McSweeney of El Monte was a business visitor here last Friday and Saturday.

Chester Barton is digging his potatoes and the yield is exceptionally good. The shipments are being made to the eastern markets.

The Pauba ranch shipped four cars of beef cattle to Los Angeles Tuesday morning.

Johnny Gibbs and Carl Swanguen have taken over the management of the Temecula Indian ball team and expect to have some very lively games in the future.

Mrs. Mahlon Vail has returned from Los Angeles where she has been visiting for the past two weeks.

Mrs. John Magee left Monday for Hemet where she expects to spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Knott were Elsinore visitors Sunday evening.

June 29, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, June 27 – Messrs. S.E. Veazey, Elmer Hansen and V.B. Sands attended the barbecue and reception given by the Eighty-Seventh Masonic District at Escondido for the Grand Master of California last Friday evening.

Dan Tortuga was a Los Angeles visitor Sunday.

Mrs. F.B. Corgan is visiting in Los Angeles this week.

The Pauba ranch is shipping hay now and will continue until one hundred and fifty cars are shipped.

A.B. Barnett shipped two cars of alfalfa hay to San Diego this week.

Mesdames A. Knott, F.H. Hall and W.M. Friedemann attended the Royal Neighbors at Murrieta Tuesday evening.

Tom Tune left Saturday for Hemet where he will make his future home.

M. Machado was a Riverside visitor one day last week.

Charles Baxter of Monrovia, Miss Grace Baxter and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hahne of Los Angeles were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Kelly.

Mahlon Vail was a Riverside visitor last Friday.

Mrs. A.F. Nienke and daughter Miss Mable who have been in Riverside for the past year for Mrs. Nienke's health have moved to San Bernardino