

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

July 2023  
Volume 23 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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## He Passed This Way: Richard "Dick" Fox

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

A large granite rock stands in Sam Hicks Monument Park with names of notable individuals inscribed upon it. It is called the "They Passed This Way" monument. Now days, each time a person who significantly contributed to historic preservation passes away, Dick and I would publish a tribute in this newsletter under the heading like this one.

Today we honor Dick Fox who passed away on February 12, 2023.

Until now, those newsletters were designed by Dick, our longtime newsletter editor, who also served leadership roles in the historical society as president and secretary, and in many other capacities behind the scenes. He was also a longtime volunteer and later employee at the Temecula Valley Museum.

The general audience of the Temecula Valley Historical Society will remember Dick as a warmhearted person, who despite his obligation to keep things moving, loved a good story, laughed easily, and fulfilled duties reliably and well. My son remarked to me that Dick remained upbeat even as his health challenges increased.

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Those of us who knew him well realized what a family man he was at heart as a devoted husband to Charolette and a loving father to his children Rick, Sharon, Dawn, and Suzanne. He adored his grandchildren Rich, Dana, and Harrison and was charmed by his great-granddaughter Sunny.

In August of 2022 Dick gave the historical society program on the story of his father Edwin Fox's experience as a prisoner of war in China during World War II. Dick also related how his mother struggled raising Dick and his brother Don in their father's long absence, and the joy Dick experienced when Edwin returned home, which was Dick's first memory of his father.

At my house, our hearts ache as we process the passing of our good friend Dick. He was an important person in our lives. Dick, Darell, and I spent many hours together strategizing plans for Vail HQ, the Little Temecula History Center, the Vail Ranch Restoration Association, and the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

I can't tell you how many times Dick would hear a wild idea and his response was always the voice of reason. He would say, "Let's think about this" and we would make an appointment to talk it out.

One wild idea Dick agreed to was when we decided VaRRRA should present US historical figures in the town 4th of July Parade. Darell was Uncle Sam driving the Model A, Dick rode shotgun representing Ben Franklin complete with long hair, walking alongside was Charolette as Suffragist Carrie Nation, and I was Betsy Ross while sitting in a rocking chair in the back of the Model A sewing a flag.

Dick proofread most of things I've written in the past fifteen years, which included the six books Loretta Barnett and I did for the Images of America series, numerous articles for newsletters, newspapers, and history journals. In the past three months he contributed greatly by proofreading the biography of Walter Vail that I am presently editing.

Editing the newsletter and proofreading came naturally to him. Dick had a career in the newspaper business. When he was living in Kenosha, Wisconsin as a seventeen-year-old Dick started work with an old-fashioned printing press much like the one he later restored at the Temecula Valley Museum. It is not lost on us that he managed to write and produce his final newsletter during the last week of his life. He was always a printer at heart.

Dick left this world knowing that we had taken his work forward toward making the Vail HQ a National Historic Place. He did the first draft for the designation in 2002. The hearing at the state level will be in April and a review by US Department of Interior will follow. Likewise, he had the satisfaction of knowing that the Butterfield Trail just received the designation as a National Trail, part of which runs through the Vail HQ property.

Dick was always helpful. Just three days before Dick

passed into eternity, he coached me by phone on how to set up the laptop and projector for a presentation I gave later that day.

Dick did wonderful things for the community, and he was a caring, considerate, consistent, loyal friend who we admired. He had a twinkle in his eye when he found humor in something, and he raised an eyebrow at times when he suspected something was amiss. There are so many nuances of Dick's presence that we will miss and will remember fondly.

In case you want to hear Dick's voice again, his August 2022 presentation is archived on our Temecula Valley Historical Society Facebook page. Rest in peace, friend.

#### **From Dave Wilson:**

In addition to his dedication publishing the monthly newsletter, Dick was a logical thinker who provided key administrative and procedural input and guidance regarding completion of the Wolf Store historic designation application.

Dick was a significant participant with implementation and follow through of important Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRRA) fiscal responsibilities, protocols, and follow through with due diligence ensuring we maintained our non-profit status when at the time we could have easily overlooked procedural requirements. Dick was a key facilitator in transitioning the 2019 merger between VaRRRA merger and the historical society.

#### **From Bonnie Martland:**

When Dick worked at the museum and I was a docent, we reminisced about our shared experiences with typesetting. As a journalism major at Cal State Long Beach in the 60s, I had to set stories for the school newspaper the old-fashioned way, laying out the pages and setting the stories in metal type.

Dick and I shared fond memories of setting and reading the set copy upside down and backwards before it was inked, and a copy proof was pulled. I started my teaching career in Torrance and understand Dick worked for the Daily Breeze there.

During a historical society excursion to Old Town San Diego, when we stopped in front of the old newspaper office, Dick smiled widely as he told stories about working for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Whether Dick was working with wood, putting together exhibits for the museum, laying out the TVHS newsletter, or researching a story, he did it with precision.

He was gracious working with my grandson Michael who presented to the historical society the story of the 1880s baseball league.

Dick encouraged young people who were interested in history.

Dick would often greet me with "Hey, Kiddo!" He and my dad were the only ones who ever did that.

I will miss him greatly.

## OBITUARY

### Richard Leslie Fox

August 27, 1937 – February 12, 2023

Richard Leslie “Dick” Fox passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup> at his home in Temecula, California. He was a husband, a father, grand-father, a great-grandfather, a father-in-law, a friend, a colleague, a hot rod enthusiast, a Scout Leader, a historic preservationist, a community volunteer, a mentor, and a leader. He was a very outgoing ‘people-person’ who will be missed by many.

Dick was born in New London Connecticut on August 27, 1937. He was the youngest son of Edwin Spencer Fox and Hazel Irene Fox. Dick grew up in modest circumstances. His father was a U.S. Navy corpsman who put in 30-years of service, and was stationed at numerous Naval facilities throughout the United States and the globe. Dick’s first real recollection of his own father occurred about age 7 when Ed returned from overseas at the conclusion of World War 2. They lived in San Diego, California at the time.

Dick’s sense of service began early. In 1949, at age 10 he received a certificate from John Adams Elementary (San Diego) for Faithful Service rendered as the “Teacher’s Tray Carrier”. As a kid, Dick was active in DeMolay a service organization for young men affiliated with the Masons—an organization in which both his folks were active. Halfway through the 7<sup>th</sup> grade his family moved to Great Lakes Illinois and then to the Navy Reserve Training Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. While attending Lincoln Jr High, Dick cut his *first and only* vinyl record; a session of him playing the accordion.

In 1952 the family moved back to San Diego when Ed was transferred to the Balboa Naval Hospital. Dick graduated from Hoover High in June 1955, where his love of printing was confirmed during print shop with his favorite teacher Mr. J. Wells Hershey. Dick began his 45-year career in the newspaper business when he was hired as an apprentice printer in September 1955 by the San Diego Union and Evening Tribune, both owned by the James & Helen Copley family.

Dick met his wife Charolette through mutual friends in 1956 while Charolette was working at the W.T. Grant store in the Clairemont area of San Diego. They were engaged in 1957, and married in San Diego on April 20, 1958. They began raising a family of their own beginning with the birth of their son in August 1961, and ending with the birth of their third daughter in December 1965.

In February 1961, Dick enlisted in the US Army in San Diego, completing basic training with the US Army 6<sup>th</sup> Division stationed at Fort Ord, CA. While serving in the Army National Guard he received a special Commendation for Perfect Attendance in 1962 and again in 1963. Dick completed summer camp in the Summer of 1963 at Fort Irwin, CA with the 40<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, serving as a Track Vehicle Senior Recovery Specialist. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Specialist SP5 in May 1965.

By 1961, after years of hard work he became a journeyman printer. He transferred to the Daily Breeze in Torrance in 1966 where he was promoted to Assistant Production Manager. In 1968, Dick and his family returned to San Diego where his role within the Copley Newspaper group began to shift from overseeing daily newspaper production to the introduction of computer systems into the newspaper industry. He joined the Computer Systems Department at the La Jolla, CA Corporate offices in July 1969. He was promoted to General Manager of Copley Computer Services Inc., in October of 1970, based at the time in Pacific Beach, CA where he helped usher in the world’s first use of the Digital Equipment Company’s System-10 for newspaper publishing.

As part of his professional development, Dick joined Toastmasters International. He was a charter member of his Fireside Toastmasters Club and served as its President in 1970. He was awarded citations for outstanding speeches during numerous contests.

In 1973 he helped manage the relocation of the Union-Tribune from the old downtown location to the newly-built facility in Mission Valley. Shortly after managing the relocation Dick hosted a special tour of the Mission Valley plant and the CCSI facility for a few dozen high-ranking Chinese government officials, to show-off the cutting edge technology at Copley - technology that he was instrumental in developing.

While living in Torrance, Dick was an active father in the YMCA-Indian Guides. After the family relocated to Del Mar in 1969, he continued his active fatherhood serving as an adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 713. He served as Troop Committee Chair, Assistant Scout Master, and then as Scout Master for many years. He hiked the John Muir Trail in the Sierras many times, led numerous canoe trips on the Colorado River, and led summer camps from 1974-1977.

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He was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's highest honorary leadership development program that recognizes Scouters who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, who maintain camping traditions, and cheerful service to others.

After his tenure as Scoutmaster, Dick was honored in 1978 for his outstanding efforts in scouting, and recognized for 1,084 hours of public service. In addition to scouting, Dick coached youth baseball from 1969-1976 and served as President of the Del Mar Little League.

Dick remained with the Copley Newspaper group for 24 years, until leaving in 1979. After which he worked until his retirement in December 2000, as a sales and marketing executive for several companies serving the publishing industry, including Digital Equipment Corporation, CompuServe, GEAC Publishing Systems, and Collier Jackson. He was the Vice Chairman of the Newspaper Computer Users Group, and flew more than a million miles on business travel during his career.

In retirement Dick pursued his hobbies of wood-working and furniture refinishing, while continuing to serve the Temecula & Riverside County communities that he so loved. He volunteered at the Temecula Police Department, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department. He was a founding member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society where he served in multiple capacities: as Secretary, multiple terms as President, and proudly served as the editor of the TVHS newsletter. Dick was instrumental in preserving the Vail Ranch and Wolf Store. He proudly volunteered at the Temecula Valley Museum where he served as a docent, where his keen interest in printing and fascination with the Old West converged. He refurbished an antique printing press that he loved to demonstrate its operation to school kids and museum visitors.

Dick will be remembered by his family for his persistent level-headedness, his steadfast adherence to established procedure, and his unwavering sense of fair play. He loved to celebrate a job well-done. He valued community newspapers and believed that such publications should be deeply rooted in the life-experiences of each hometown where they originated. Dick was a staunch defender of freedom of the press. For him, the First Amendment meant something deep and abiding about the power of transparency and getting the facts right. He believed that a free press is fundamental to a functioning democracy, and that pride in one's country and service to community is fundamental to genuine citizenship.

Whether it was mastering his craft, excelling in his profession, leading scouts on a weekend outing, or being a docent at the museum, it was the opportunity to mentor others that Dick found so deeply satisfying. In all that he did, Dick steadily and dutifully worked his way up through the ranks, ultimately finding his way at the top in a position of leadership; he is our hero and he will be missed.

The family wishes to thank Temecula Valley Museum for their generosity, the Historical Society for their kind remembrances, and the Mayor and City Council for their kind and heartfelt remarks during the adjournment of the February 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Dick is survived by his wife, four children, three grand-children, and one great grand- child.

### **National Historic Trail Designation**

In response to the announcements from the National Register of Historical Places and The National Historic Trails List concerning the Vail Ranch Headquarters location, the Temecula Valley Historical Society will be hosting an event on September, 17th, 2023 to celebrate its acceptance to both designations.

The Overland Butterfield Trail that extends from Tipton, Mo to San Francisco, stopped on its first run through Temecula in September, 1858. Primarily established for moving the mail across the country, the trail, also referred to as the Southern Immigrant Trail, Gila Trail, and several additional names, have been preserved through the center of the Headquarters property. The Wolf's Store Adobe and additional buildings within the Ranch have been designated Historical, also, bringing significant interest to history buffs throughout Southern California and the Country.

Our Celebration will alert history buffs and visitors to the significance of this designation, and will invite Southern California residents to visit our Historical treasures.

To this end, we ask our members and the community to join in the planning and execution of this event. Anyone interested in volunteering your time or talents in any way to assist us, please contact Bonnie Reed at (760) 484-6019, or email to: [grannyofive@gmail.com](mailto:grannyofive@gmail.com)

(National historic trails were authorized under the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 and have a total length of approximately 40,000 mi)

## **Vail Headquarters and the Butterfield Overland Trail Receive National Recognition.**

The Temecula Valley Historical Society will host an event on September 17th, 2023, to celebrate the recent designations of Vail HQ as National Historic Site and of the Butterfield Overland Trail going through Vail HQ as a National Historic Trail. These distinctive designations were recently received after advocacy of our members for over twenty-seven years.

The four-acre Vail HQ site which includes the Wolf Store Adobe and other buildings is of profound historic interest throughout Southern California and the US. Many significant historic events occurred within the small property that influenced the development of the West, including the Mexican American War, the Civil War, and the visit to the property by author Helen Hunt Jackson.

The Butterfield Overland Mail delivery route between Tipton, Missouri and San Francisco first delivered mail to Temecula in September 1858. The Butterfield Overland Trail, also known as the Southern Immigrant Trail, Gila Trail, and Road to Yuma, is preserved through the center of the Vail Headquarters property. The National Historic Trails, authorized under the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, now equal approximately 40,000 miles.

The celebration on September 17 will allow our community to visit the historic site where they will experience depictions of old-time events to demonstrate the significance of these prestigious historic designations. The Temecula Valley Historical Society invites members and other interested parties to help plan the event and to volunteer on the day of the event.

To volunteer your time and talent for this venture, please contact Bonnie Reed at 760-484-6019 or: [grannyofive@gmail.com](mailto:grannyofive@gmail.com).

### **A Baseball Story From 1920**

In 1920, the Los Angeles Angels baseball team trained in nearby Lake Elsinore. Hearing that Temecula had a baseball team, the Temecula Indians, the Angels sent their second string team to show them how to play. To their surprise, the Indians won the game, so the following Sunday the first string players went to Temecula. Yup, you guessed it. The Temecula Indians beat them too!

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With permission of the Temecula Valley Museum

## **Temecula's "HayDay" Reunion Wrap Up**

The Hay Day Reunion on June 3 at Vail Ranch Headquarters was an overwhelming success. The Temecula Valley Historical Society Scholarship Fund received over \$3,000 in donations from generous businesses and members of the community. Dedicated volunteers worked diligently to provide an event where past "movers and shakers" of the Valley could renew old friendships and share memories with visitors, focusing on the years between 1964 when the Vail Ranch sold and 1989 when Temecula became a city.

The Temecula Valley Historical Society thanks the women of the Hay Day planning committee, many of whom are from Murrieta. We also thank our members and board of directors for their support. Sincere thanks to all who planned and supported the wonderful event. Hooray to All!

## **Membership News**

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

**Won Yoo**

**Insook Yoo**

### **Thanks to renewing Members:**

**Eve Cannella**

**Wendy Lesovsky**

## **A Visit to Aguanga in 1877**

"We next come to Jacob Bergman's place, which is well worth seeing. Here is the only artesian spring in the county; it bubbles and boils over, the water rising perpendicularly over a foot above the surface of the ground, the stream being about twelve inches, miners' measurement. It is as delicious, clear, cold water as one ever drank. From this spring, our worthy ex-supervisor irrigates his whole farm, and waters all his stock. Mr. Bergman has a fine young orchard and vineyard. He says everything grows splendidly, the only difficulty he meets is from the deer. Which come up and eat his vegetables, and brows off the trees." (San Diego Union)

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*The High Country* issues are for sale in the Museum.

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

## July 6, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, July 4 – George Sawday shipped a train of 11 cars of beef cattle to the Cudahy Packing Co., at Los Angeles last Friday. The Santa Fe railroad is again giving Mr. Sawday the special service that has been given him for the past three years.

A.F. Nienke received a car of lumber last week.

The McSweeney Farms have several large trucks hauling their potatoes to the cars.

C.W. Tolman of Los Angeles, who is supervising the loading of the McSweeney Farm potatoes, for the California Vegetable Union, will handle most of the potatoes produced by the McSweeney's this year.

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann attended Eastern Star chapter at San Bernardino last Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Knott and children spent the weekend in Los Angeles.

A.B. Barnett and son, Ralph, Marvin Douglas, and Leo Roripaugh spent the weekend at Hodge Lake near Escondido fishing.

## July 13, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Temecula, July 11 – The McSweeney's will start planting their fall potatoes the last of the week, they expect to plant over 300 acres. These will be sold for seed. The famous McSweeney brand of seed potatoes is known all over the state.

The Pauba Ranch shipped twelve cars of beef cattle to Los Angeles Tuesday. The Santa Fe is giving special service for these shipments which puts the cattle into Los Angeles without delay.

The McSweeney Farms have to date shipped forty cars of potatoes, all under refrigeration; only a very small percent of the acreage has been dug.

George Sawday shipped ten cars of beef cattle to the Cudahy Packing Co. of Los Angeles, Monday.

Eddie Vail of Los Angeles is enjoying a week's outing on the Pauba and Santa Rosa ranches.

Elmer Hansen left Saturday evening for Los Angeles, returning Sunday with a truck load of Chinamen who will cut seed potatoes for the McSweeney Farms.

Joe Welty left Saturday for a week's visit with his niece, Mrs. Ed Bemis at San Bernardino.

E.E. Barnett attended the big Rodeo at Riverside the Fourth.

## July 27, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

The Pauba Ranch shipped six cars of beef cattle to Los Angeles Friday.

Miss Byrtle Milburn of National City will teach the primary grades this coming school term. Miss Milburn comes to us with very high recommendations. Miss Rita Domenigoni, who has taught the upper grades very successfully for the past three years returns as principal.

A number of our citizens journeyed to Murrieta last Wednesday to witness the "spudding in" of the oil well. E. E. Barnett was one of the speakers of the day and gave a very interesting talk. Mr. Barnett, who has a several thousand acre ranch, is very enthusiastic concerning oil in this vicinity.

Mrs. Eddie Vail of Los Angeles spent the weekend at the Santa Rosa ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Howard of Los Angeles were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Vail. Mr. Howard is a brother of Mrs. Vail.

Mrs. Mahlon Vail is visiting her mother at San Gabriel this week.

Temecula, July 25 – George Sawday shipped a train of eleven cars of beef cattle to the Cudahy Packing Company at Los Angeles last Friday.

The Vail Company shipped seven cars of beef cattle to Los Angeles last Thursday.

Mrs. M. Machado was a Los Angeles visitor Saturday and Sunday.

The earthquake shock which occurred at 11:30 o'clock Sunday night was quite severe through this vicinity but no damage was done except to stop a few clocks and almost causing a panic among the guests at the hotel. A light rain fell during Sunday afternoon and also after the quake.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Gonzales and family spent Sunday at Oceanside.

Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett and Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann spent Sunday at Coachella.