



TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001

Vol.1 No. 3

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

GREETINGS from Eve Craig:

Many wonderful things have happened since our last newsletter, published and edited by our incomparable Bill Harker. Our membership has grown to an astonishing 123 people who hunger for history of the Temecula Valley. It's amazing and exciting.

Our prime project has been to preserve Wolf's Tomb. We've been working on it for months and Norman Pico, Sr., owner of the property and great grandson of Louis Wolf - as well as great, great, great, great grandson of Pio Pico, the last Governor of California under Mexican rule - has taken care of all the hurdles and obligations involved. One of our Board members, Ben Masiel with his brother Manuel brought other members of the family, opened the sealed gate and we had a lovely spiritual cleansing ceremony before entering the enclosed area around the sarcophagus.

Since 1887 the sarcophagus has taken a beating from the weather and earthquakes and is not in good condition. We're now taking steps to repair and support the heavy sarcophagus as well as to beautify the property. It will be some time before this is accomplished but we are delighted that the family is taking a big part in restoring and reviving this wonderful historic site. It will take a lot of work and financial support for this project, and it is so worth it.

Because we appreciate the interest and support of our membership, we've invited our members to be our guests on a bus trip to the San Luis Rey Mission as well as the nearby Guajome Adobe which has its own remarkable history. This trip has about ten seats left so for those who wish to go, it would be wise to make a reservation by calling me, Eve Craig, at 699-9872 as soon as possible.

And, if you like the Antique Roadshow on TV, you'll love this!! On October 6th we'll be hosting an exciting afternoon and evening of appraisals, dinner, silent and live auctions with a low admission of \$20.00 at Wendler's A-Antiquarian House. We need items for the Silent Auction and Sponsors for the event. If you'd like to learn more, please call me, Eve Craig, at 699-9872 and I'll send you an invitation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

By Darell Farnbach

How can one speak to someone in the next century? Though a few build great monuments or write great works of literature or moving symphonies, there are some very simple and practical ways each of us can speak to someone in 2101.

Recently, on an historical research trip to the Riverside City Public Library, I discovered an old photo of the Wolf Store that I had not seen previously. Because I am collecting a pictorial history of the Wolf Store and the surrounding buildings of the Historic Vail Ranch, I wondered when the photo was taken, and where it fit chronologically with my other photos.

Wendell Ott and others at the Temecula Valley Museum were unable to help me identify the era of the photo, but directed me to Leverne Parker, another local historian. She invited my wife and me to her home and showed us her photo album where we found an original of the copied photo in question, with more visible detail. My heart jumped as I recognized it. Carefully, we opened the album page, and to my delight, the photo was labeled: Luddy Ranch, February 22, 1902! Someone spoke to me from a century ago.

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I would encourage everyone to participate in research and preservation, whether by volunteering at the Museum, searching old records of historic residents in this region, recording a lengthy history of your own family with photos and stories, or just to label names and dates on the backs of your photos. You never know whether or not it will happen, but you just may speak to someone in the next century yourself.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

by Charolette Fox

Got funds? Not exactly. Grant writers are sometimes called ivory bars, because they spend 99.44/100ths of their time researching and only 56/100ths of their time actually writing anything. I'm still trying to figure out the "quantitative documentation", the "evidence of demand" and the "rationale" sections some grant applications ask for. And "the Budget"? Well, that part is really paralyzing!

But progress toward restoration of Wolf's Tomb is certainly happening and that is a real stimulus. Progress toward a local historical display for school children is certainly happening and that is another stimulus.

Recently the County hired an Historian to fill a position that had been unfilled for several years. Also locally, we have two commissioners appointed to the County Historical Commission. Each of these three people are interested in, and potentially helpful to our historical society.

In addition to these people resources, the Development Committee continues to contact groups. There may be some collaboration possible with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and also with Americorps (formerly best known as VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America).

There are small grant monies available for specific type projects through The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In the meantime, without lots of outside cash, but lots of spirit propelling us, we make progress the old-fashioned way....we work for it. We share ideas, use our shoe leather, and volunteers to push on. If you know others who want to join the Society, please have them contact Bill Harker. If you know someone who has talent, equipment or service to donate, have them call Eve Craig. In kind donations are often as good as cash, and we can certainly put them to use!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Wendell Ott

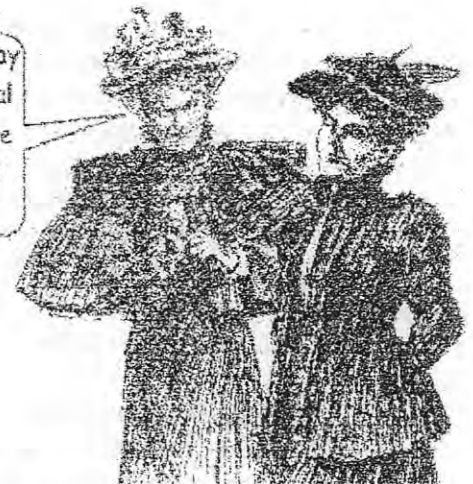
The committee met in July at the Temecula Valley Museum. Attending were Wendell Ott, Maggi Allen, Pam Grender, Henry Miller, Trisha Shea and Norm Taylor.

Plans for the "members only" bus trip to Mission San Luis Rey and the Guajome Adobe were finalized. The trip will be on Monday, September 24, leaving at 9:00 a.m. from the Museum and returning about 5:00 p.m. Participants may either purchase box lunches for \$10.00 or bring their own lunches. Guided tours will be given at each location.

As an educational opportunity and a show of appreciation to the members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, there will be no charge for members to attend this event.

Additionally, the committee is working with local elementary schools and specifically 3rd grade teachers to develop a traveling historical exhibit, which can be moved from school to school during the year. The exhibit would be about Temecula's history, its heroes, legends and major events and would add to the school's current requirements for history and community programs. The Education Committee will continue to present the Board of Directors with suggestions for speakers at their meetings.

We're on our way to the Historical Society Antique Appraisal and Auction

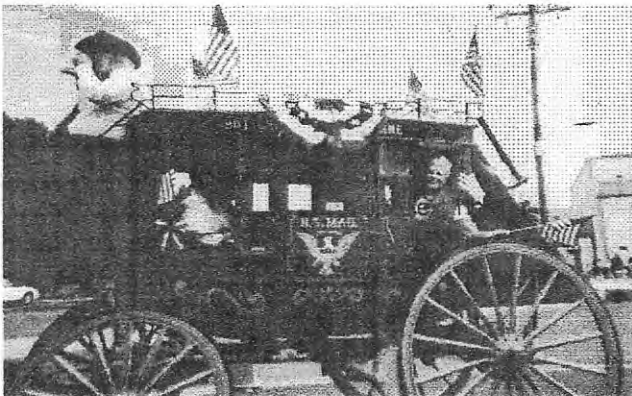


These fine ladies of good moral character know a good thing when they hear about it and you may be fortunate enough to meet them in person if you attend the Appraisal & Auction at Wendler's A-Antiquarian Auction House on October 6th. Just 20 bucks will get you an appraisal of your favorite item plus a dinner.

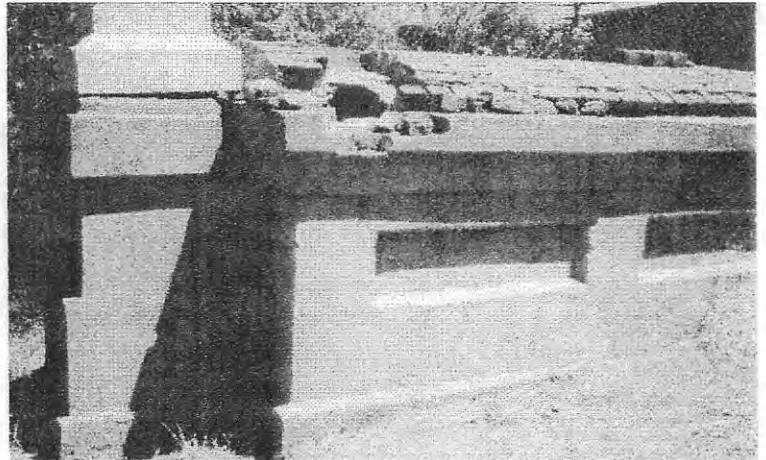
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MEMBERS of the Founding Board of the Temecula Valley Historical Society shown above are: (left to right); Carol Marsden, Bill Harker, Martha Minkler, Eve Craig, Charolette Fox, Darell Farnbach and Pam Grender.



RIDIING SHOTGUN on the Butterfield Stage during the 4th of July Parade in Old Town Temecula. Shown above is the Historical Society's float entry in the 2001 annual event which garnered us a third place award. Bill is not downing a beer, he's taking photos of the parade.



POOR CONDITION of the Wolf Tomb can be seen in this photo. It shows the degree to which the heavy sarcophagus has sunk into the earth over the years and the damage sustained to the top resulting from weathering and vandalism.

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