

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2002

P. O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593-0517

Vol. 2 No. 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Charolette Fox.

It isn't until we try to fill the shoes of our predecessors we learn what giant strides have been made. So it is with humility that I follow where Eve Craig led. As immediate Past President Eve will remain a member of the Board and the Executive Committee. Her special project now is restoration of the Wolf Tomb.

The first year of the Society was a busy one - and this year will be just as busy. We're starting the new year with 12 items of business before the Board. As the Society undertakes new projects, volunteers will be needed. Sometimes the work is research of one sort or another. Some times the work is time-consuming, or labor intensive, or tedious, but serving on a committee is a good way to meet other members and be active in a meaningful way in the work of the Society.

The Board is preparing a list of

committees needed for this year, as well as a brief description of what time and talents are involved. This list will be mailed to members and include a tear-off response form.

So in the weeks ahead, when you get a call or postcard inviting you to join a committee, please think about contributing a few hours to help.

"In the good ol' days"! How often have we heard that expression? Well members of the Society relived the good ol' days at Old Vail ranch by donning costumes from the days of the past and helping the Vail Ranch Restoration Association present their School Days program for 3rd graders from Sparkman Elementary School.

Many thanks to Darell Farnbach and VaARRA for including the Society.

We adults had fun, and learned lots of local history, too!

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Our annual election resulted in some new faces on the Board.

Officers and Directors for the year 2002 are:

OFFICERS

Charolette Fox,	President
Darell Farnbach,	Vice Pres.
Jeffery Harmon,	Secretary
Bill Harker,	Treasurer
Keith Johnson,	Asst. Treas.
Eve Craig	Past Pres.

DIRECTORS

Malcolm Barnett
Myra Gonsalves
Wendy Lesovsky
Ben Masiel
Martha Minkler

Pat Ommert
Bonnie Reed
Bruce Singer
Gretchen Smith

ANNUAL MEETING

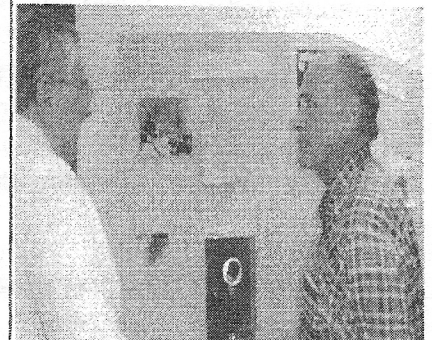
Our Annual Dinner meeting held Jan. 4th was a big success and with 107 people attending.

Eve Craig acting as Mistress of Ceremonies introduced members of the Board and the guest speakers.

John Hunneman, main speaker for the evening, presented a talk on the Butterfield Stage.

Eagle Scout, Cody Glotfelty was also on the program and spoke about his project

EDUCATION



Wedell Ott and Dick Fox working on mock ups of Educational Panels which will be available for display in local elementary schools later this year..

A NEW YEAR FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Eve Craig

In turning over the gavel to our new President, Charolette Fox, I know the Temecula Valley Historical Society is in very capable hands and you may be assured that Darell Farnbach, as Vice President, in charge of Research and Preservation, will continue to discover and promote the preservation of many more sites in this fascinating valley. My appreciation to all the officers and directors who served so well in their respective responsibilities during the past year.

As Past President, I'll be working on restoration of Wolf's Tomb. We have been blessed by George Graynor, Structural Engineer, who is donating his expertise in overseeing the restoration of the sarcophagus and has enlisted the aid of T.H.E. Soils Co., Inc. to test the soil. They have prepared a very comprehensive report.

Many others have called to offer services as a result of a special article with photos that was done by Tim O'Leary and Tom Kelsey published in the Press Enterprise..

As soon as funding is available we plan to raise and support the sarcophagus and will proceed with the project. Final touches will be to landscape the property and create an atmosphere this historical site deserves. If you wish to participate in this endeavor, please see the notice insert in this newsletter or call me, Eve Craig at 699-9872.

My presidency is over, but I'll still be around to help when and where needed. Many thanks for the support of our wonderful people of the Temecula Valley.

TAKING A RIDE ON OLD 395

Don't miss the story about Old highway 395 written by Jeffery Harmon and included in this newsletter as an insert page. It's a fascinating story.

IT COULD BE FOR EVERYONE

By Darell Farnbach

Do you like pouring over old maps and documents located in research libraries or historic archives? Does the smell of 150 year old paper and books excite the detective in you? Do you dream of discovering the one document or photo that will answer a question historians have

pondered for many years?

Maybe you will discover an unread diary that gives a glimpse of life in the 1870s or 1920s— words that bridge the gap between you and someone who died before you were born. You may discover an author who would influence you or someone else to reflect on ways to communicate his life, or your own, to benefit those yet unborn.

You may be the outdoors type, liking to hike and discover the beauty of trails and old roads. While crawling through the underbrush you may find an artifact from a timepast. You may uncover a relic of the hard work and endeavors of people who roamed our valley over a thousand years ago. Or, you may find a car left from the 1920s

After photo-documenting your treasures, you can share the information with fellow researchers who confine themselves to cold and musty libraries.

On the other hand, maybe neither of those scenarios work for you. Maybe you like a good fight. You like writing letters to the editors, monitoring city council meetings and making sure the county government does not run over us.

You know who to call to avert disaster when one of our valley's treasured vestiges of the past is threatened to be bulldozed to oblivion by someone who thinks a parking lot would be more attractive in its spot.

This fighting approach may be as far from your style as can be. You can be an outgoing person who loves to chat and make friends. If you are a good listener with good communication skills and have a knack for getting others to tell their stories, you may want to interview people. You might interview folks who have lived in our valley for 80 or 90 years and record their tales on tape before the stories are lost forever.

There is a place for everyone on the Research and Preservation Committee. We meet once a month to share our data and prepare for the monthly Historical Society meeting. To volunteer for a research or preservation project, call me at 699-5148.

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Take a Ride on Highway 395

By Jeffery G. Harmon

In 1872, M. G. Wheeler, San Diego County surveyor, drafted a map representing the route of the San Diego and San Bernardino Railroad. The railroad was never built, but today Interstate 15 follows very closely to that old surveyor's map.

Before there was Interstate 15, there was Highway 395. Highway 395 began as a windy dirt road that ran from San Diego through the Cajon Pass going north. It was known simply as the Inland Route. In 1909 planners began the process of paving these roads. Paving of the roads continued up to 1924.

In 1931 the Inland Route was defined as LRN 77 between San Diego and Miramar. In 1969 it was signed Route 163. Between Miramar and Temecula it was known as Route 71 from 1934 to 1939. In 1939, through legislation Highway 395 was designated. It ran from the Mexican Border to the Canadian Border, crossing the states of California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, nicknamed, "The Three Flags Highway."

In San Diego the military realized that the highway needed more strategic routes between the San Diego Naval Station, the Ammunition Depot at Fallbrook, and the March Air Force Base for national defense. The military began campaigning for highway funds, to improve Highway 395. In 1941 the state appropriated \$1,400,000 for the improvements. The highway received the nickname, "The Cannonball Highway" as construction began in earnest.

The highway between Escondido and Temecula was straightened between 1938 through 1948, bypassing Fallbrook, Vista, and San Marcos. This cut an hour of travel time between Riverside and San Diego. The final 3.5 miles between Rainbow and the county border was completed by 1949. Also in 1949 a four-lane bypass opened in Temecula, where the present day Interstate 15 is. No longer did travelers have to go down present day Old Town Front Street.

The highway was straightened between Miramar and Escondido in 1954 by passing Poway. In 1931 LRN 78 was opened, but it was not until 1950 that Highway 395 was redirected from Temecula to the March Air Force Base, (a.k.a. Interstate 215), by passing Murrieta and Lake Elsinore.

Eventually traffic overwhelmed the highway and work began on Interstate 15. The 1970s saw growth of the Interstate between San Diego and Temecula. In the 1980s the housing boom pushed the need for Interstate 15 and Interstate 215 north of Temecula. Today the highway brings new residents to the Temecula Valley. Every month the population of Temecula grows and businesses expand as the highway continues to carry more and more vehicles. Who would have thought this windy dirt road would eventually evolve into a busy interstate.

Please visit the new exhibit, entitled "Take a Ride on Highway 395", at the Temecula Museum. See historic photos of service stations, such as Al Knott's Garage, or photos of restaurants, such as the Silver Springs Café in Fallbrook. The exhibit runs from February 16th through April 18. I will be giving a lecture on Highway 395 at the Museum on March 7 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this exciting event.

PROGRESS ON RESTORATION OF WOLF'S TOMB

In early meetings of the Historical Society's existence, the Goals and Objectives Committee as well as the Research and Preservation Committee under the direction of Darell Farnbach presented suggestions and ideas for projects for the organization. Since Museum Docents and several members of the committees had seen Wolf's Tomb, the decision was made to preserve and restore it as the number one project. We believed it to be a short term project but due to protests of neighbors and their misrepresenting our actions to the City Hall, we spent time researching and finding the owner who gave us written permission to beautify and restore the property. After several months of hiring a gardener and having high weeds removed and eventually a meeting with some of the neighbors as well as with Norman Pico, owner, an understanding was reached. He wishes to have a wrought iron fence installed eventually to replace the solid wood fence so kids and vandals can be seen if they intrude. The neighbors were told by the City that the City had nothing to do with the property and they realize that we listened to their concerns and do not wish to cause them any harm.

We have raised the cement block fence on one side so kids will find it more difficult to climb in. We have met several times for lunch with Mr. Pico's sister and had a spiritual cleansing at the tomb with relatives. Subsequently there was a big article in The Press Enterprise with pictures. Since then we have had a building mover submit a bid to raise the sarcophagus and a masonry company offer to repair brick damage. A former Mayor of Temecula suggested contacting a Structural Engineer to help us. He has persuaded a Soil Engineering company to submit testing results at no cost. Two companies have offered to do masonry work at no cost. His name is George Grayner and has assumed some responsibilities to oversee the restoration so that it is done properly and several others have offered to do concrete work to support the 35,000 pound tomb and put a couple of stairs surrounding it. The Rotary may dig trenches for a sprinkler system, our gardener installs sprinkler systems as well. We need someone to landscape the property and put in decomposed granite or bark paths so there will be no skateboarding and we are in the process of raising funds for the project which we estimate to be about \$25,000. In our plans is a bronze plaque listing the names of major contributors of \$1,000. or more as well as those who contribute in kind. An estimate for lifting the tomb has been submitted at \$13,900. It may be modified as others can do some of the concrete work.

To date we have written a biology of Louis Wolf and made a form for contributors to designate funds. So far \$4,000. has been designated for the restoration. Other possible contributors have been approached with favorable attitudes, and we are in the business of raising funds for this very worthwhile project. If there are any further questions, please contact Darell Farnbach or Eve Craig. While at my computer, someone just called to do masonry at no cost. It is a most interesting and unusual project, full of history.

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP LIST - 12-8-01 THRU 2-15-02

FOUNDER/GRANTS

Germaine B. Arenas
City of Temecula
Eve Craig

PATRON

Leonard & Fran Gilbert
Robert & Karen Larson
Carol Marsden
Peg & Jimmy Moore
Bonnie K. Reed
Gene & Barbara Tobin
Don & Bev Weeks

CONTRIBUTOR

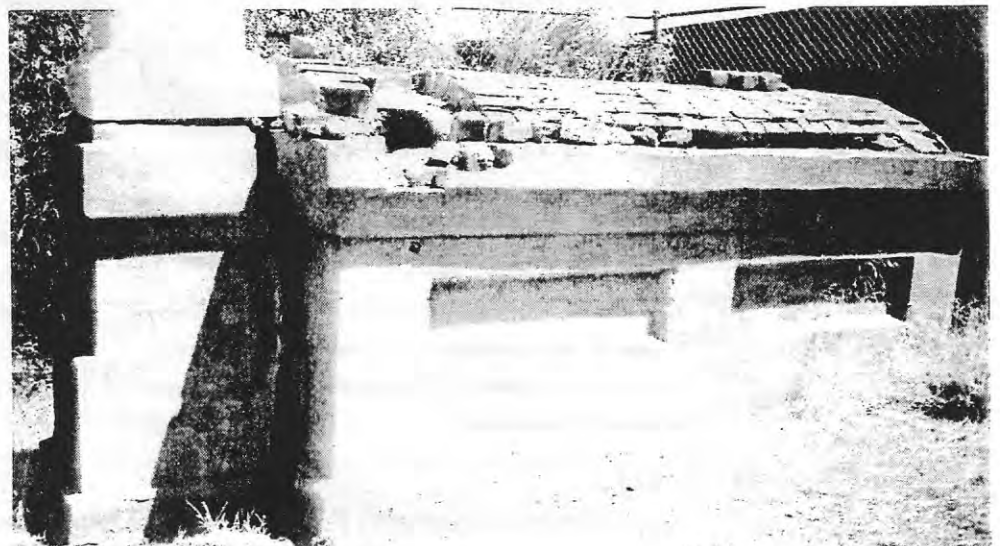
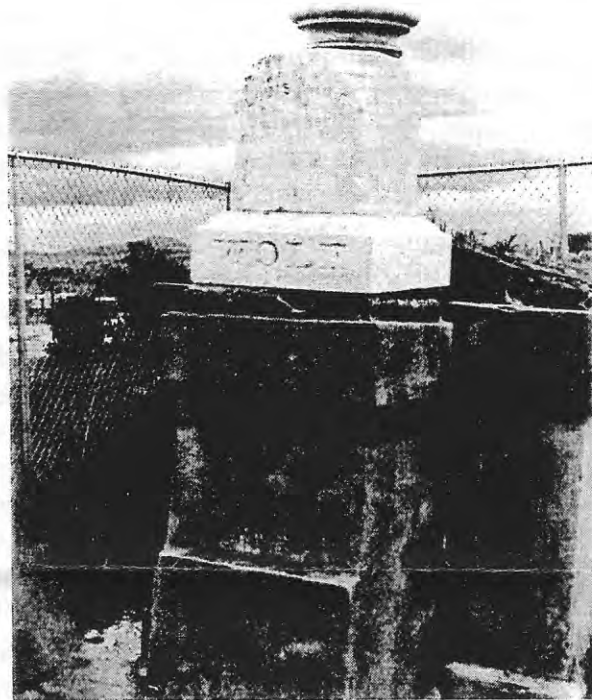
Don & Diana Larkin
Michael R. McMillan
John Moramarco, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Rouse
Rita Pappenfus

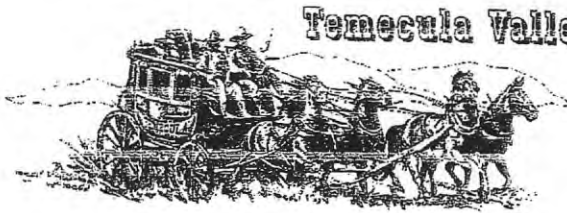
FAMILY

Ken & Edna Barnes
Mr & Mrs Christopher Davis
Wally & By Farmer
Bill & Evelyn Harker
Phil & Constance Harris
Leif & Jean Houkom
Mr & Mrs James M. Lock
Mr & Mrs Ray N. Ogden
Jim & Penny Porter
Dick & Cathy Rainey
Vernon & Gladys Smith
Mr & Mrs Vance Tschanz
Art & Janet Yorke

SINGLE

Betsy Boettiger
Frances Fredy
Patricia A. Lallou
Helen Meadows
Lila Verdin
Donald Vierstra





Temecula Valley Historical Society

P. O. BOX 157
TEMECULA, CA 92593

Dear Resident of the Temecula Valley

We are sending this information to request your assistance in restoring and preserving a very historic site in Temecula Valley. Recently a local newspaper wrote a report on the state of disrepair and the crumbling condition of the Louis Wolf Tomb. Several engineers and others have offered their services to restore the tomb. Even so, to cover related costs, the full preservation and restoration of this site is estimated to be \$25,000.

We invite you to make a donation to the Temecula Valley Historical Society and designate your gift for the specific purpose of assisting in the restoration of this significant tomb. The Temecula Valley Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public benefit corporation. We are very grateful for all gifts of any amount and welcome your gift as a membership in the Society.

Major gifts of \$1,000. or more entitle the donor to have a company name or a personal name on a special plaque acknowledging the gift. We deeply appreciate your assistance.

Checks are payable to - TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. Annual non-voting memberships are listed below and apply to both Board and non voting memberships. The entire membership may vote for Directors at the Annual Meeting in January.

Membership and Donation Categories are -

- () Student \$ 5.00
() Single 10.00
() Family 25.00
() Contributor 50.00
() Patron 100.00
() Historian \$ 300.00
() Corporate 500.00
() Founder 1,000.00
() Benefactor 5,000.00
() Supreme 10,000.00 +

Checks are payable to Temecula Valley Historical Society - designated for Wolf's Tomb. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name:
Address City
State: Zip Phone
Fax: e-mail

Please MAIL TO - THANK YOU!!
Temecula Valley Historical Society, P. O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593-0157
Please call 699-9872 for further information

TERM LIMITS.

In order to retain continuity on the Board our bylaws provide for staggered terms of service.

Terms for present Board members are as follows:

TERMS EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2002

Wendy Lesovsky
Bill Harker
Bruce Singer
Ben Masiel
Eve Craig

TERMS EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2003

Malcolm Barnett
Martha Minkler
Bonnie Reed
Keith Johnson
Charolette Fox

TERMS EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2004

Darell Farnbach
Myra Gonsalves
Pat Ommert
Gretchen Smith
Jeffery Harmon

Our bylaws also provide that upon expiration of their terms, Directors may be reelected for an additional three-year term. However, no Director may serve more than six consecutive years unless said Director is elected an Officer for the year following his/her sixth year in which case he/she may serve as a Director for the duration of his/her term[s] as an officer.

BYLAWS REVISIONS

We have found that certain elements of our present bylaws are difficult to work with and a bylaws revisions committee is being appointed to review the bylaws and provide the Board with recommended revisions/amendments. The Board will then take the appropriate action which requires an affirmative vote by all directors in office at the time the vote is taken.

PLAQUES FOR HISTORICAL SITES

As reported in the December, 2001 newsletter, Pam Grender's committee has identified locations for attachment of 18 bronze plaques.

The City of Temecula is giving us a \$1,500 grant to cover part of the costs of having the plaques cast and mounted. We hope to get under way on this as soon as possible.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Memberships in the Society start at \$10 (students at \$5). and include a free copy of the newsletter. During 2001, the newsletter circulation averaged 3,000 for each of our 4 issues.

However, as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, we have looked to the dues and contributions of present members to cover the printing and mailing costs of newsletters sent to non-members. This is neither equitable, or fair, to our dues paying members.

The Executive Committee is considering a recommendation to the Board that an annual subscription fee be established for non-members who wish to receive the newsletter. If you are a non-member and wish to receive the newsletter *without cost*, we encourage you to consider a membership.

As time progresses, the newsletter will be a valuable resource tool for the stories and pictures it contains. Plus it will be a way to stay informed of tours, programs and events of the Society.

You will find a membership application elsewhere in this issue. We look forward with appreciation to your support of the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

SOCIETY WEB PAGE

Yes, the Temecula Valley Historical Society now has its own web page courtesy of Jeffery Harmon.

The site address is:

< <http://www.tvhs.homestead.com/frontpage.html> >

If you have access to a computer and the internet, check the site out for information on the Society's programs and activities

NETWORKING.

We have been researching other non-profit historically oriented organizations and funding sources that could be of assistance in our various projects and efforts.

To date we have taken out memberships in the National Trust Forum and the American Association for State and Local History.

We will continue the search for outside funding this year and will carry on the search for funding sources in the future.

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P.O. BOX 157
TEMECULA, CA 92593

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