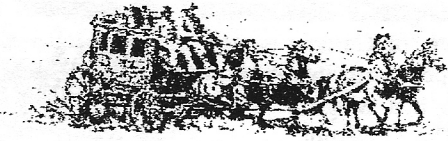


# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
September 2002 Vol 2 Issue 4 5

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## SNAPSHOT IN TIME

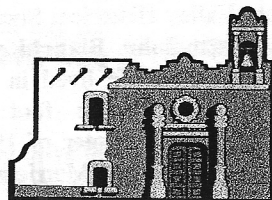
Time is slowly revealing the history of the Temecula Indians living in the area that covered Wolf Mountain down to Pala, west into the Santa Rosa Mountains and into the valley where Temecula is now located. The first known white man to set foot in the valley was during the expedition of 1797 -- almost thirty years after Father Serra founded the first mission.

Little is known about Temecula from 1797 to 1860 because town records were destroyed by fire. During those years, a great portion of California was controlled by Mexico. By the mid 1840s, Mexico was losing its hold and began the process of making land grants. In 1845, Rancho Temecula was granted to Felix Valdez. In January of 1847, the Butterfield Canyon Massacre (where Mexican soldiers enlisted the aid of the Cahuilla Indians to massacre the Temeculans) ended Mexico's control. In 1859, the first Butterfield Overland Stage arrived, bringing new settlers to the valley.

In a 5-part series, Myra Gonsalves presents her research of the Temecula Valley:

Native American Period  
 Mission Period  
 Mexican Period  
 American Period  
 20th Century

The series begins with Part 1, Native American Period, in this issue.



## President's Corner

Our Annual Meeting will be November 8th. That is the time when new directors are elected. A nominating committee has been formed and is contacting individuals to determine their time and interest to serve in positions on the Board. This is an exciting organization and we need everyone's talents. If you want to serve, or want to recommend another individual for consideration, please contact Bonnie Reed, (909) 676-0233, immediately.

The theme of this year's dinner meeting will be "Remembering the 1940s". Members are invited to bring a cherished memory or memento of that decade to share with others. Information and invitations will be out soon.

*Charollette Fox*

*Please remember us in your will or trust.*

### THE MARCH OF THE MORMON BATTALION DURING THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

tours films diorama

A volunteer group charged by the U. S. government with building a road from St. Louis to Southern California, passed through Temecula arriving in early 1847, just a few days after the Mexican-American battle at Butterfield Canyon. Known as the Mormon Battalion, these men and women assisted with the wounded and helped to bury the dead before continuing south into San Diego County.

**MORMON BATTALION VISITOR CENTER**  
 DAILY 9 TO 9  
 2510 JUAN STREET, SAN DIEGO  
 (619) 298-3317

## Our Readers Respond...

August 27, 2002

I enjoyed reading the Historical Society's newsletter today. I just wanted to add a little bit of information on **Horace Magee**.

Horace had hocked his gun at a little cafe that used to be just south of Knott's Garage operated by Charlie McVicker. Horace needed money for something or other and left his six-shooter, belt and holster with Charlie for the loan of \$15.

When Horace got angry after being made a fool while drinking at the old watering hole (now the Corner Sandwich Shop), he came running to Charlie to get his gun. Charlie saw that Horace had been drinking and refused to return his gun and advised Horace to go sleep it off. (I never heard where he got his hands on another gun prior to the article in the Historical Society's newsletter).

The rest of the story had been told to me several times because my Dad bought that six-shooter from Charlie when I was a little kid. I wanted that gun so bad because it was a Colt 44-40, with original holster and cartridge belt, just like the cowboys carried in all the movies! Unfortunately Dad sold that gun to some collector about ten years ago, even though he had promised it to me someday.

I remember Dad shooting that Colt and having me watch to see where it hit. After the smoke cleared from the first shot (black powder cartridges), I pointed to the ground about twenty feet in front of Dad and said, "right there!" Dad didn't believe me, so he fired again! Again I pointed to about the same spot as before and Dad got a little impatient with me. I ran over and picked up the hot bullet, bouncing it from one hand to the other, and brought it back to him. It seems the cartridges got wet, or were too old or something, and lost their power.

By the way, Horace Magee was the last man to be sentenced to hang in the State

of California. Mr. Garner (of Garner Ranch by Lake Elsinore), petitioned the Governor on the grounds that Magee didn't get a fair trial. The Governor ended up placing Horace in Garner's care with the understanding that Horace live the rest of his life at Garner's ranch.

Horace performed a favor by riding for medication for Garner's daughter from their Elsinore ranch to San Jacinto and back during a pouring rainstorm, on horseback. I think there's a story about that episode in one of "The High Country" books.

*Gene Knott*

August 30, 2002

**Frank and Catherine Fernald** are my husband's grandparents. Catherine was called Trixie.

My husband is H. (Harry) Loren Fernald, his father was C.R. (called Bert) Fernald. Have you seen the diorama at the Temecula Museum? It is the town as it was in the early 1900s. There is a little building that is the [photography] shop at that time. We even have her camera.

Trixie's sister, Aunt Polly, was married to Ormie Gonzalez of the famous Gonzalez. They have a house in Old Town that has pictures on the walls.....

Many of the family are buried in the old graveyard in Old Town. They were stone masons so all the monuments were made by them....

We have the old ledger of the business in Old Town -- we have some pictures, too.

*Leah Fernald*

September 10, 2002 (excerpt)

I am writing because I was a member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society about 1980 when **John Bianchi** was President...I and my wife lived in the old rock house near the foot of Temecula grade in the winter of 1931 and 1932. I first came to Murrieta in 1921....

*Walt Cooper*



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

*Aug 15 - Sept 15, 2002*

William & Jo Barrett  
Louise Roripaugh Beesley  
Gregory & Stephanie Davis  
Harry & Leah Fernald  
Gene & Judy Knott  
Mrs. Laura Marold  
Louis J. Munoa  
Virginia Rippey  
Paul Price  
Hedy Roripaugh  
Eric & Pamela Voit

Donation in memory of:  
Marion Roripaugh and Margaret  
Roripaugh Ramsay



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you moved? Changed your email or phone number? Don't forget to report these changes to us. We depend on the accuracy of our mailing list to keep your newsletter coming.

Send a postcard, FAX, or call:

Newsletter Editor @ 32800 Hupa Drive, Temecula, CA 92592;  
Phone (909) 302-0180, FAX (909) 302-0171.

*Thank you !!*

## The Rock House in Temecula Canyon

as related by Walt Cooper to  
Malcolm and Loretta Barnett  
in May, 2002

*Walt now lives in Nevada. He is 90+ years of age, with a vivid recall of names and events of Temecula and Murrieta. Here, in his own words, is his account. Researchers will find many useful clues within this short biography to guide their search for greater detail.*

After returning from Lodi in the fall of 1932, I tried to make a living by cutting wood. But so little demand made it a poor proposition. A maiden lady named Miss Izon owned two small ranches, one in French Valley and the other in Temecula Canyon. I think there were 160 acres in each. This lady hired Alfred "Toad" Freeman as foreman on both ranches. Toad had a son, David, who went to grammar school in Temecula. Toad hired Jessie and me to take care of a few cattle and a team of horses and cook for David and send him to school. A bus picked kids up on Temecula grade and it was one mile from the house to Temecula grade.

We were working for our board, but we had to trade at Tarwaters store, that provided little more than potatoes and some canned goods, bread but no meat. So the board was poor and it got cold in that canyon.

We could not cut any oak trees for wood, and the willow wood we used put out little heat. The well was in the creek in front of the rock house. We had to take hot water and thaw our pumps in the morning. After, breakfast we had to thaw the pumps again.

Pat Quinn, an Irishman, built the house of rock to serve as a bunkhouse for his crew. These men could cut up boulders and make fence posts, steps, curbs, etc. They split the rock like splitting wood. The granite curb at Temecula Bank was made by them. Also, the Courthouse steps in Riverside. The house had no ceiling, which made it hard to heat. The rock quarries operated for a good many years. After cement plants became more popular, the rock business quit. I understand that lots of rock went to San Francisco.

It rained a lot that winter and on one trip to the grade my car bogged down and it was a month before we got it out.

We planted a garden and potatoes and that made for better food.

About the first of May in 1933, I went to cutting oat hay for Maurie Stoner in Murrieta. I quit Toads job and never went back again.

In later years, Gib Miller, Harry Kerdroan and I would drive to the Rock House and hike up that high mountain west of the house. There were three or four little meadows up there where the deer would feed. We would kill some and dress them there

and put the meat in white cloth bags and carry it out in lighter loads.

I don't know if anyone ever lived in the rock house after we did, but I think it is still there. I think Rancho has a golf course near there. I have stopped my car right by the railing on the grade and looked down on the roof of the old rock house. It would be over 125 years old.

Another little event in history was old Eli Barnett. He farmed a lot of grain between Murrieta and Temecula. He drove a long 1924 Cadillac Touring car. He also was a tobacco chewer and always spit out the left side, his spital coated with tobacco juice. Eli would be Malcolm's great grandfather.



*The Temecula grade is the freeway bypass between Rainbow and South Temecula. The Rancho golf course is now known as the Temecula Creek golf course. The recently refurbished and restored Courthouse in Riverside still sports the granite steps quarried in Temecula. As it stands today, the rock house has a roof and is maintained on it's original site, though the future of the stone house is in doubt.*

*The Isabel Barnett Elementary School was named for Eli's wife (Malcolm's great grandmother, Isabel).*

***Item of Note: Recently the Riverside County Courthouse was renovated and restored. The granite steps remain. Further, we have learned the following:***

The cornerstone of the Court House was laid on May 7, 1903. May 7 was picked to coincide with the arrival of President Theadore Roosevelt, who was due in Riverside that evening on a campaign tour. Construction of the Court House was completed on June 23, 1904, at a cost of \$160,280. During the celebration of Riverside County's Centennial in 1993, the cornerstone was removed and the contents of a capsule laid therein was opened and displayed as part of a public ceremony. The contents are now under the custodianship of the County Historical Commission.

Although the 1903 structure was (and always has been) called the Court House, the building at that time contained only one courtroom and was used primarily for offices by several county departments. Over the years, those departments have moved out to make room for additional courts.

# Temecula Valley History

by Myra Gonsalves

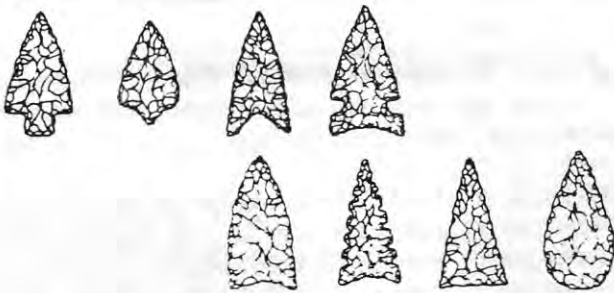
The history of Temecula Valley reflects the Spanish, Mexican and American periods and the involvement of native people throughout all these periods. Temecula Valley includes Wolf Valley in the south, beyond Lake Elsinore to the north, French Valley to the east and the Santa Rosa Plateau to the west.

## Native American Period

The first settlers in the valley were small nomadic groups of hunter-gatherers who followed herds of large game animals. Research conducted by the Metropolitan Water District's archaeologists has uncovered evidence that people lived in this area for more than 8,000 years. Though no human remains have been found in the base camps, stone tools and animal bones have been recovered.

4,000 years ago, mortars and pestles had begun to be used, indicating knowledge of acorn processing. The population increased and people settled in permanent villages along the waterways gathering seeds and acorns, supplemented by hunting small game. Pottery is thought to have been introduced as early as 800 years ago.

The most recent group to make Temecula Valley their home was the Luiseno people who ranged throughout northern San Diego County and the southwest portion of Riverside County. The Luiseno were members of the Shoshonean language groups, thought to have arrived in this area from the Great Basin about 1,500 years ago. It was the Shoshonean people who introduced the small projectile points that were used with the bow and arrow. Their economy was based extensively on acorn collecting and their population was estimated to be approximately 10,000 people.



Projectile Point Types

In Temecula Valley, they constructed their homes of thatched tule in villages along the Santa Margarita watershed. During warm weather months, temporary camps were established at higher elevations like the Santa Rosa Plateau and Mount Palomar to take advantage of hunting and acorn collecting in the fall. The Luiseno would carry as much of their acorn supply as they could to their lowland village to store in granary baskets, while saving the rest in large clay jars (which the Spanish called ollas), at the site.

Temecula Valley, with its many varied habitats, offered a wide selection of foods and fresh water year-round, even during autumn, the driest time of the year. Besides the acorn, other foods included wild buckwheat, herbs, grass seeds, berries from wild currant, manzanita and animals such as rabbit and deer, as well as waterfowl hunted from behind rock blinds next to the vernal pools on the Santa Rosa Plateau. The Luiseno wove beautiful baskets of many designs, but their pottery was of a utilitarian nature.

Women were responsible for food preparation and most of the gathering, while the men hunted and protected their villages. Based on artifacts found such as obsidian knives and steatite bowls that were made from materials unavailable in their area, the Luiseno were in touch with cultures outside their range through trade routes. Temecula Valley was one of several routes used by the Luiseno in their track to the Pacific Ocean, mountains and the desert.

The name Temecula is broadly applied to include parts of Pauba Valley and north to Lake Elsinore. According to Luiseno linguists of today, Temecula is derived from the Luiseno name Temeekunga -- the place of the sun. "Temet" in the Luiseno language means sun or day, and adding locational suffixes to "Temet" it becomes Temeekunga. John Harrington was a linguist who interviewed various Luiseno elders in the 1920s and 1930s. In his notebooks he listed sites from Temecula to Lake Elsinore. Every landmark, spring and piece of land was given names.

Avaaxa ("cottonwood") was a major village near the mouth of Cole Canyon where thousands of artifacts were excavated. Farmers in early Murrieta dug up mortars as they tilled their land and lined their pathways and gardens with them. The village of Meha, near the ranch site on the Santa Rosa Plateau, has deep bedrock and small ceremonial mortars and extensive midden that testify to approximately 6,000 years of human occupation.

Traditionally, the first Temecula village was located near the banks of Temecula and Murrieta Creeks. Named "Temeku" from the 1954 archaeological excavation, the site was a major village and ceremonial site dating back over a thousand years. It was probably one of several lineage settlements belonging to a clan in Temecula Valley. A village located near the vicinity of present Pechanga Reservation was probably a lineage settlement of the same clan.

The village of Temecula probably supported no more than one hundred people at any given time and was not more than a half-day's travel from any temporary camp. As a major village, it would have been the center for a settled community of hunters and gatherers with their permanent houses and major facilities, storage caches, primary cemetery and major religious activities. Nearby was the outcrop area with its own milling area for acorns and each mortar hole belonging to a particular family which was inherited from mother to daughter.

Some mortars were ten inches deep, representing a hundred years of use.

Portable mortars made from small rocks were used to enable transport for some distance. Before acorn meal could be prepared, the nuts had to be shelled. The nutmeats were then crushed to a fine paste in the bedrock outcrops, leached to get rid of the bitter taste, and water added to make "wiiwish", a food of mush-type consistency. Berries, rabbit meat, and other edible foodstuffs were added for variety.



METATE AND MANO

Food was usually plentiful so there was time for leisure activities such as playing games, making music, and telling stories. There was time, too, for religious festivals and for the development of arts and crafts. As the days grew shorter, the people stored their nuts, roots, seed and meat for the winter months. On the cold winter nights, the children nestled close to their parents around a warm fire as the elders of the village told stories of long ago. The children listened and, in the future, they passed these stories on to their children and grandchildren.

References (available at Temecula Library or Rupert Costo Library, University of California, Riverside):

- Beemer, Eleanor. My Luiseno Neighbors. 1980.  
DuBois, Constance Goddard. The Religion of the Luiseno Indians of Southern California. 1908.  
Harrington, John Peabody. Annotations, Alfred Robinson's Chinigchinich (1846) 1933.  
Moratto, Michael. California Archaeology. 1984.  
Smith, Gerald A. and Stephen M. Freers. Fading Images: Indian Pictographs of Western Riverside County. 1994.  
Sparkman, Philips. The Culture of the Luiseno Indians. 1908.  
White, R. C. Luiseno Social Organization. 1963.

### ***Readers, News Clippers, and Archivists Needed***

Dedicated volunteers are needed to clip local history articles, date them, xerox them and file them. Only work 2-3 hours on Monday mornings at the Temecula library. These archived clippings grow and maintain archives which are available for local historical research. Call Lucy DuVall at (909) 695-7066 to learn more.

## **PROGRESS ON RESTORING WOLF'S TOMB**

*by Eve Craig*

Funds have been raised to commence the first phase of restoration of Wolf's tomb. Mr. Herb Younger of Younger Bros., Building Movers, met with Tony Elmo, Director of Building and Safety for the City of Temecula on September 16th and discussed plans to start work immediately.

Younger Bros. will lift the approximately 20,000 pound sarcophagus and install five supports underneath with wood, steel and concrete to level it. This procedure is to be followed by masonry and stucco with a concrete mat and small stairs surrounding the structure.

The next phase should take place in 2003. At this point, the property is expected to be transformed into the semblance of a park with landscaping and planting indigenous to the 1870s. The project will not be completed until the funding is provided by anyone who would like to help. To assist in this unique project, your call to (909) 699-9872 will be very welcome and appreciated.



### **LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 11-13

The California Garden and Landscape History Society will present "Cultivating Capistrano, Historic Valley Gardens and Landscapes" a conference featuring lectures and garden tours. Call (949) 388-5573 or email [ajlmuseum@aol.com](mailto:ajlmuseum@aol.com).

Your business ad  
here  
call Charolette Fox @ (909) 302-0180

## Life on the Vail Ranch

*as seen through the eyes of  
Robert "Bob" Roripaugh*

We moved to the Vail Ranch the summer of 1939. I had finished grammar school in Elsinore. We moved into a little house up by the silos and the old dairy. That summer the silos were being filled with chopped corn (silage) and that was my first job. Another fella and I would climb into the silo, and as the chopped corn came in we would spread it with a scoop shovel to keep it about level. I made a dollar a day and all I could eat at the meals served three times a day.

I'm sure I made up for the small wage when I sat down to the supper table! All hands were fed family style at a big long table. The food was put out on large platters and dishes, and ice cold milk was set out in big gallon pitchers. Throughout the summer there were usually 20 or so men at the table. I can remember watching to see who didn't eat their desert because that meant a second piece of pie for me!! We had an hour and a half off at noon, and a guy could get in a little siesta in the shade of the big old cottonwoods after dinner before going back to work. That summer I opened my first savings account at the Temecula Bank.



After the silo job, I worked in the hay fields, learning how to harness up a team of horses and rake hay. Shortly thereafter, I graduated to a tractor part time doing the mowing and windrowing with a side-delivery rake. Also I pulled the hay baler and tried my hand at tying wires. In those days the bales were held together with 3 wires. This was a pickup baler and you poked the wires and tied them while the bales came out the back end. All this was happening while the dust and dirt was flying thick and heavy. Needless to say you better not get behind. The baling crew was 4 men -- tractor driver, boss and feeder, wire piker, and wire tyer. A good morning in the field at this made a guy do justice at the dinner table!! If everything went right, you spent the afternoon picking up the bales made in the morning and hauling them to the barn. This job had its paybacks though. Usually McSweeney had a big watermelon

patch close by and before work started, a delegation went over and picked three or four of the finest specimens for mid-morning testing.

These tasks just about filled up my first summer on the ranch. I finished up doing whatever came along. There was always something that needed doing on the ranch, building and repairing fence, hoeing weeds, burning weed, repairing machinery, plowing fields, and on and on. I would saddle up a horse called Old Blue, a real pet, and take squirrel poison and a shotgun along and spend an afternoon eradicating squirrels around the reservoir banks.

There was a workshop on the ranch and I spent a lot of time learning to weld and fix anything that came along. Behind the shop in the river bottom, was the "boneyard". I often wonder what became of the goodies that were tossed there. In this day and age, the heap would be a real Gold Mine for artifacts! Items such as big old brass acetylene headlamps off old trucks and cars, old buggy lights, and you name it, it was there. In the harness room next door was all the stuff needed to repair and maintain harness and saddles. Bins of copper rivets, tools, leather, snaps, rings, buckles, etc.

I turned 14 in August, and started high school that fall. For some time I rode my bicycle nearly 5 miles from the silos to Temecula to catch the bus. On frosty mornings I wore a wool sweater that was about a half inch thick. It was pretty toasty and when I got to town, there would be a half inch of ice all over the front from my breath freezing. I would leave my bike at Al Knott's garage for safekeeping. On the way home in the afternoon, I might see three or four cars. When I turned off 395 at the "Y" onto Pauba Road, traffic was light enough for me to practice my trick bike riding. I would ride along for awhile sitting on the handlebars and pedaling backwards.



At that time, I think gasoline was \$.19 or \$.21 cents a gallon at Al's garage. On the really bad mornings, rain, etc., I would hook a ride in with someone. I continued to go to work on the ranch on a lot of weekends through the winter and spring, and looked forward to working the summer of 1940.

**ALL DAY GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR**  
**ARLENE H. EAKLE, PhD**  
**Saturday, October 12th from 9:00am to 4:30pm**  
**Temecula Library, 41000 County Center Drive, Temecula**

for registration information & cost, contact  
**TEMECULA VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY**  
**(909) 676-8024 or StuartBorok@aol.com**



**“Remembering the 1940s”  
ANNUAL MEETING  
of the  
Temecula Valley Historical Society  
Friday, November 8  
6:30 - 9:00 pm  
\$15 per person**

**For information, call 302-0180!**



**Community  
Recreation Center  
30875 Rancho Vista Rd  
Temecula**

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**ERLE STANLEY GARDENER**

**“Mystery Weekend”**

**November 1, 2 & 3  
Old Town Temecula**



**Come get a clue on a famous “who done it”.**

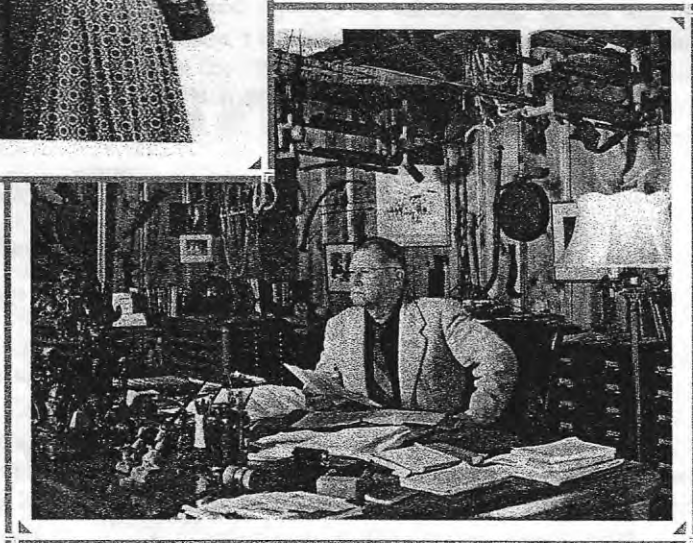
**Visit shops & restaurants  
and the Temecula Valley Museum  
(exhibit Sept 7 - November 24)  
28314 Mercedes Street  
in Sam Hicks Park**

**New Exhibit:**

**ERLE STANLEY GARDNER**

**Photographs & Memorabilia**

**September 7 - November 24, 2002**



**Temecula Valley Museum  
28314 Mercedes Street, Temecula  
In Sam Hicks Monument Park**

**City of Temecula - Community Services Department  
for more information call 909-694-6450**



**“Erle Stanley Gardner:  
Mystery Writer”  
A Special Exhibition at  
Temecula Valley Museum**  
by Wendell Ott

On Saturday, September 7, the Temecula Valley Museum opened a new exhibit, “Erle Stanley Gardner: Mystery Writer.” The new exhibit will be on display in the museum’s second floor gallery from September 7 through November 24, 2002.

Temecula’s most famous resident, Erle Stanley Gardner became widely known for the Perry Mason TV series which ran on CBS from 1957 until 1966. He was one of America’s best selling authors, selling over 325,000,000 fiction titles. The exhibition focuses on Gardner’s extensive career as a writer, but also includes his work as an attorney, and his adventures as an explorer. The exhibition will include numerous copies of his books, documents, photographs and memorabilia.

Erle Stanley Gardner was born in Malden, Massachusetts in 1889. His father was a mining engineer and not long after Erle’s birth the family moved to the mining town of Oroville, California. His academic career was characterized by various starts and stops of an adventurous youth. He was admitted to the California Bar Association in 1911. He set up a law office in Merced at the age of twenty-one and quickly moved to Oxnard to join I.W. Stewart. He gained a reputation defending Chinese clients. (As testimony to his talents, he became fluent in Chinese.) As an attorney, Gardner’s career spanned 22 years. He was a founding member of “The Court of Last Resort” which strived to reopen cases where a person might have been falsely convicted.

It was during his Oxnard residence that Gardner met and married Natalie Talbert. His only child, a daughter named Natalie Grace, was born January 25, 1913. Natalie and Erle separated in 1935, but they remained married until

Natalie’s death in 1968. Soon after, he married his long time assistant Jean Bethell.

Gardner was not one for office work and quickly sought another career that would allow him to be outdoors and travel. A hard worker, Gardner became one of America’s most prolific writers. He produced 131 fiction titles, 85 of which were Perry Mason novels. Of the others, many were written under the pseudonym of A.A. Fair.

In 1967 Gardner wrote the tale of his coming to Temecula in the Winter Issue of *The High Country*. A colorful tale in which he attributes settling in Temecula to his dog Rip and a man named Nienke who operated a trailer park near Temecula. Gardner lived in Temecula for 35 years at his *Rancho del Paisano*. There are several photographs of the ranch, which is now owned by the Pechanga Tribe, and also of the magnificent oak tree there.

His Temecula years (1937-1970) span most of his career as a writer. His first book was “The Case of the Velvet Claws” published in 1933. The museum now owns all of the Perry Mason titles in either hardbound or paperback editions. Most of them are on display.

His love for the outdoors, new places, and new people led him to write travel logs. Among his many adventures, his discovery of ancient caves in Baja California was one of his favorites. Throughout his explorations it was not uncommon that he would bring along two or more of the secretaries who worked for him. Often dictating one or more works while on location, these excursions became standard operations. Three of the secretaries who worked for Gardner are still living in Southern California and have loaned several autographed copies of books to the exhibition.

Erle Stanley Gardner was also an avid photographer. He maintained his own dark room and processing equipment in his quarters at the *Rancho del Paisano*. Photographs taken by Gardner would

also end up on the Christmas cards he annually sent to friends and associates. A number of these will be included in the exhibit.

Erle Stanley Gardner died at *Rancho del Paisano* on March 11, 1970 and his ashes were scattered over Baja California, a place he loved.

The museum is located in Sam Hicks Monument Park at 28314 Mercedes Street, Temecula, CA. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm, Sunday 1:00pm to 5:00pm. For more information, please call Wendell Ott, Museum Services Manager, at (909) 694-6452.



**Items in passing....**

**The Idyllwild Area Historical Society** was organized in 2000 by a group of residents who were concerned about losing many of the historic buildings, artifacts and oral histories of the communities in the San Jacinto mountains. The area is rich with history of early residents, Native Americans, and those who came later. The Society is dedicated to preserving the legacies of those loggers, pioneers, summer camps, miners and others who worked or settled there.

[www.idyllwildareahistoricsociety.com](http://www.idyllwildareahistoricsociety.com)  
or call  
(909) 659-5170

**PUBLIC TELEVISION AIRS  
“Liberty’s Kids”**

“Liberty’s Kids”, a 40-part animated series has aired Monday through Friday, 10-10:30am on Channel 28 (KCET), and 3-3:30pm on Channel 24 (KVCR).

A Stanford University history professor ensures the historical authenticity. Voices for characters include Walter Cronkite, Whoopi Goldberg and Dustin Hoffman.



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**LOST BOOKS**

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**“Three Paths” by Tom  
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routes through Southwest  
County – the Indian trail, the  
Spanish trail, and the Mexican  
trail.**

**“Keeping Secrets” by Olive  
McFate Davis.**

**If you know the whereabouts of  
these books, please call (909)  
302-0180**

**The Chuck Wagon Cook**

by Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

No one complained about the food served from the chuck wagon during a cattle drive, because the cook was likely to hand his barley-sack apron to the loudest complainer. Cooks didn't aspire to that vocation; they were once good riders, ropers and cowhands, who couldn't ride in the saddle after suffering injuries on the trail.

Former cowboy David Cobb told an interviewer in 1957 that the chuck wagon cook's job was a hard one. To prepare for a cattle drive, he would cook half a sack of Mexican pink beans very slowly without any salt, up to the stage where the beans were about to burst open and become mushy. They were spread to dry in the sun, then, the half-cooked beans were packed back in the bag for the trip. Preparing the beans this way shortened the cooking time needed on the road.

The cook would load up his cooking supplies, feed for the horses, a barrel or two of water and all the cowboys' bedrolls, starting out first, to get to the first night's destination ahead of the rest. After arriving, he would unhitch his team, rustle some wood, start a fire and get a batch of beans cooking with bacon. To compliment the beans, he would make bread in a Dutch oven using only flour, water and baking powder.

The cowboys would have to find the chuck wagon. Two-thirds of the men would stay with the cattle, taking turns by thirds until all were fed. The last cowboys might eat at 10:00 p.m. By that time, the bread might be a little hard and the beans a little dried, but no one complained.

The cook washed dishes with soap and water, when it was available, or wiped them clean with sand in a dry camp. The cook was the last to break camp. He fed and harnessed his horses, and loaded up his gear. He would start out late and overtake the herd, arriving at the next stop in time to cook the next meal.

Some trails were so steep, he could have gone downhill without a horse, as the old saying goes, while other hills were a strain to climb with a team of six. During some cattle drives, the cook would wait for the cowhands to arrive before driving his team into a flooded canyon to swim across a swollen stream. The cowboys would pull him out, and he would be on his way.

Cobb said the chuck wagon cook wasn't responsible for anyone's delicate taste, he just provided the basics. He never did hear anyone complain about the cooking, or see a cowboy wearing the cook's apron.



**National History Day  
Announces Theme for  
2003 Contest**

During the 2002-2003 school year, National History Day invites students to research topics related to the theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History." The theme is broad enough in scope to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local to world history. To understand the historical importance of their topics, students must ask questions of time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance. They must ask not only when events happened but also why they happened and what impact they had. What factors contributed to their development?

For more information about National History Day, this contest, or resources for history teachers of grades 6-12, contact the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) at (615) 320-3203 or [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org), or visit <http://nationalhistoryday.org>.



**1930 Census now available on microfilm.  
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Temecula Valley Historical Society is to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.*



*The Winchester Historical Society of Pleasant Valley re-opened the Patterson House Museum on September 7th. The Victorian style house was closed for repair and remodel. Rooms have been added and the douglas fir floors refinished. New displays have been added including a Collard & Collard piano, school pictures, and many artifacts of the Patterson family. Built in 1891 by John Patterson, the museum is the 3rd oldest building in Winchester.*

The museum is located at Patterson and Grand Avenues in Winchester, CA. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted. For information, call Gregg Cowdery at (909) 926-4039.

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*Cultural Tourism Workshop*

*On Saturday, November 16th, the first discussions will be held regarding cultural tourism for Riverside County. Representatives from various historical groups will meet to discuss this concept and to establish working guidelines for the promotion of cultural tourism.*

*For more information about this meeting, please contact Charolette Fox at (909) 302-0180.*

**Researchers take note...**



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history of Temecula Valley.*

*Contact the Society at  
(909) 302-0180,  
(909) 699-5148,  
or (909) 698-6469.*

**Calendar**

Board Meeting	Oct 4 - Noon
Board Meeting	Nov 1 - Noon
Annual Meeting	Nov 8 - 6:30pm
Cultural Tourism	Nov 16
Board Meeting	Dec 6 - Noon

Active Committees:

- Research & Preservation
- Wolf's Tomb
- Plaques & Markers
- Nominating
- Public Relations

Board meetings and member programs are held in the Conference Room of the Temecula Library unless otherwise stated. No RSVP is required.

Date, time and location of committee meetings or special events fluctuates. For information, contact committee or event chair.

When possible, member reminders are sent via email or postcard 10 days prior to the meeting or event. In addition, public service announcements are usually placed in local newspapers.

**The Newsletter**

Articles must include author's name and contact information. Historical research, biographies, and local history articles will be given preference.

All submissions are subject to editing. Some articles may be held for publication in the next newsletter or in a journal to be published at a later time.

- Editor..... Charolette Fox
- Assistant Editor..... Jeffery Harmon
- Printing..... Potamus Press
- Bulk Mail..... Richard Fox



**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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*The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.*

*Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.*

*Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be designated or undesignated.*

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