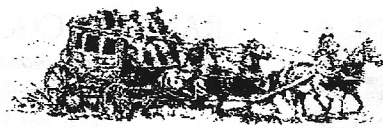


TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

November 2003 Vol 3 Issue 11

ARCHIVES AND ACCESS

Commissioners for the new County Archives Commission met in Winchester on October 15th. During a comments period, members of the public spoke of their hopes and concerns, and expressed interest in the tasks ahead. Chairman, Chuck Wilson, gave an overview of the archival program and listed the benefits. He urged those in attendance to write or call their Supervisor to thank them for their foresight and support in establishing the commission. The ultimate goal of cataloging and storing documents is to make public records accessible for research.

On a parallel note, a bill in the state legislature intended to bolster public access to state government records became entangled in the state budget dispute and never came up for a vote in the full Assembly. That amendment now waits til the legislature resumes session in January, 2004.

Federal archives for much of Southern California, Las Vegas and Arizona are currently housed in Laguna Niguel, but will be relocating to Perris. Access for some records may hinge on the Freedom of Information Act.



AIRPLANES AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting Committee extends a warm invitation to each member and guest to come have fun as we celebrate the first 25 years of powered flight. RSVP a.s.a.p. and dress casual or in togs of the era -- 1903 to 1928. We'll be watching and waiting for you!!!!

See notice and invitation inside.

President's Corner

Balloting for Directors is now complete and the Board will meet in special session from 1:00 to 2:00pm on November 7th to elect officers. Under provisions in the bylaws, the members elect the directors, and the directors elect their officers. Installation will be part of the Annual Meeting on November 16th.

Several readers commented favorably on the first part of the series on Jacob Bergman. The story continues in this issue and unravels another strand of misinformation. Coral Bergman's research on the family's early settler is also the story of how time affects fact, and the careful researcher must sometimes revise, devise and advise to put the record right.

I want to thank the members and Board for having allowed me to chose the best articles and to design and layout this newsletter over the last several months. I've gained immeasurably in the process and hope that I have made history just a little more interesting for all the readers.

The impermanence of a newsletter, however, compels me to suggest that it is time for the Society to assemble and publish a Journal. This would be no small undertaking, but would provide a publication of archival benefit. As we create an interest in local history, let us not forget to leave our special legacy for future generations.

Charolette Fox

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Santa Rosa Plateau Tour
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www.tvhs.homestead.com/FrontPage.html



THE JOHN RAINS HOUSE

by Pam Grender

Care to take a step back in time this coming Christmas season? If so, you might want to visit *The John Rains House* in Rancho Cucamonga, December 5th and 6th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. My husband and I visited this former Rancho last Christmas and were thoroughly charmed by the docents who wore period costumes, served cookies and discussed history with visitors. One of the docents was introduced as a descendent of some of the house's earliest occupants. The home, built in 1860 and restored in 1919, was decorated for the season with soft candlelight, giving an ambiance of another time. With such a setting of peace and fellowship, one might believe happiness always filled the rooms of this intriguing place. Venture into the dining room, however, and you will see an amazing array of portraits. Listen carefully to the stories told by docents and you will be entertained by history that proves fact can sometimes be less believable than fiction. The Rancho period of California's history is filled with true stories of romance and violence, loyalty and betrayal, and Rancho Cucamonga experienced its own share of real life drama. The stories held within the walls of this brick building, nearly razed in 1971 and saved by the pleadings of a clever, determined schoolteacher, will entertain and excite any student of history.

Temecula has fascinating ties with this mid-1800 Rancho. Phil Brigandi offers some background information on John Rains in his book, *Temecula at the Crossroads of History*. He writes about the association between Temecula's Luiseno Indian leader Pablo Apis, former cattleman Isaac Williams, and John Rains, who served as Williams' ranch foreman and eventually as Indian sub-agent in Temecula. It's a matter of record that Isaac Williams fathered five of

Pablo Apis' grandchildren and at least three of them lived in this house for a time. The story of who they were and why they came to this place may be found in the pages of a book entitled, *Rancho Cucamonga and Dona Merced*, by Ester Boulton Black. You can buy it in the little gift shop at the Rains house.

When John Rains planted 160 acres of vines in 1859, it marked the change from cattle grazing to acriculture in San Bernardino County. Wine and brandy made at Cucamonga gained wide popularity. An earlier small vineyard and winery is said to date back to 1839, thus establishing the claim that Cucamonga has the oldest commercial winery in California.



**8810 Hemlock
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(909) 989-4970**

Open Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm;
Sunday 1-5pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays,
New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
Group tours by appointment.

The Rancho Cucamonga was along the route of the Old Spanish Trail from Cajon Pass and the road from the Pueblo de Los Angeles and Mission San Gabriel to San Bernardino. Each followed the Mojave Trail. Cucamonga welcomed travelers including Native Americans, padres, explorers, mountain men, pack trains, pioneer wagons, and stage lines.

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

*excerpted from material created by
The Casa de Rancho Cucamonga
Historical Society*

The name "Cucamonga" may have been derived from a Shoshone word meaning "sandy place." The area, watered from mountain streams, was the site of a Native American settlement. The Mission Gabriel established the Rancho Cucamonga as a site for grazing their cattle. In 1839, the 13,000 acre rancho was granted by the Mexican governor of California to Tiburcio Tapia, a wealthy Los Angeles Merchant. Tapia transferred his cattle to Cucamonga and built a fort-like adobe house on Red Hill.

The Rancho was sold in 1858 to John Rains by Tapia's daughter, Maria Merced Tapia de Prudhomme, and her husband Leon Victor Prudhomme. Rains and his wife, Maria Merced Williams, granddaughter of Isaac Williams, purchased Rancho Cucamonga for \$16,500 and constructed a burned brick building on the property at a cost of about \$18,000 in 1860. Ohio brick masons made the brick from red clay adjacent to the site, and the roof was waterproofed by tar from brea pits in Orange County. An open flume carried water from springs through the kitchen, into the patio, and under the house to the orchard, providing cooling for the structure.

John and Maria Merced moved into their new house with their three children in the Spring of 1861. On November 17, 1862 John left Cucamonga headed for Los Angeles. Eleven days later his body was discovered in the bushes near San Dimas, the victim of murder. His murder was never solved, though charges were brought against Ramon Carrillo. (In May of 1864 Ramon Carrillo was himself shot from ambush, and this murder too, was never solved.) Carrillo's chief accuser was Robert Carlisle, the husband of Maria Merced's sister. In July of 1865, Carlisle died from a gunshot wound inflicted during a duel at the Bella Union Hotel, in an argument about Maria's property.

Admission is free.
**Your donation helps support
the preservation of this historic site.**



**THE TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT**

**"THE FIRST 25 YEARS OF CONTROLLED POWERED FLIGHT"
1903-1928
AT THE 2003 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

Date: November 16th

Place: Temecula CRC Building
30875 Rancho Vista Way

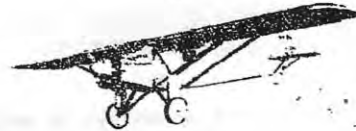
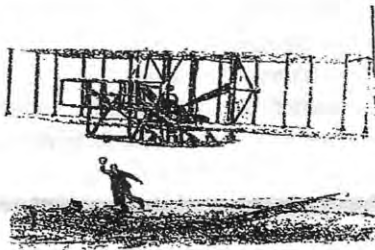
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Desserts Will Be Served

The Public Is Invited To Attend

Cost: \$10 per person --- \$15 per couple
(reservations are required)

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or call (909) 302-0180 or (909) 676-3691



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**WIN AN AIR TOUR FOR 3
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tickets 1 for \$1 or 7 for \$5**

HISTORICAL TOURISM

This Society belongs to state and national organizations that publish newsletters containing survey and study results on every topic which touches historical research or historic preservation. In addition to technical bulletins, books, videos and other materials, these organizations provide many workshops, seminars and conferences across America so that museum directors, architects, planning departments, elected officials, landscapers, archaeologists, geneologists, local historical Boards and the public may become better informed about the issues involved in historic preservation. The article below is an excerpt from the Dispatch, a monthly news update.

Traveler's Desire to Experience History and Culture Stronger Than Ever

*from the American Association for State and Local History,
September 2003*

"A new study from the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) and Smithsonian Magazine shows continued and growing interest in travelers' desire to experience cultural, arts, historic, and heritage activities. Study results, as reported in *The Historical Cultural Traveler, 2003 Edition*, show that a remarkable 81 percent of U.S. adults who traveled in the past year, or 118 million, are considered historic/cultural travelers. These travelers included historical or cultural activities on almost 217 million person-trips last year, up 13 percent from 192 million in 1996. (A person-trip is one person on one trip traveling 50 miles or more from home, one way.)

"These travelers also spend more money on historic/cultural trips compared to the average U.S. trip (average \$623 vs. \$457, excluding cost of transportation), making historic/cultural travelers a lucrative market for destinations and attractions. In fact, for 30 percent of historic/cultural travelers, their destination choice was influenced by a specific historic or cultural event or activity."

Top Ten States Visited By Historic/Cultural Travelers

California	Virginia
Texas	Illinois
New York	Tennessee
Florida	North Carolina
Pennsylvania	Georgia

*Source: Travel Industry Association of America/
SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE*

Recognizing the importance of historical tourism as an academic pursuit as well as a family vacation choice, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has appointed a Historical Tourism steering committee and charged that committee with exploring ways to unify and promote historical tourism countywide. Representatives from each of the five major geographic areas meet every other month. If you would like to work on the committee, please contact Charolette Fox, SW Area Representative, at (909) 302-0180 or email to: lottiefox@cs.com.



GARDENING IS AMERICA'S #1 HOBBY



Recognizing that gardening is both a hobby and a landscaping necessity for the many new residents in Southern California, Metropolitan Water District has conducted several Landscaping Forums over the last 18 months. The focus of the forums has included how to create wonderful landscape designs using indigenous and native plant material that is water conserving yet lush and beautiful.

Landscape contractors, developers, local water district representatives, city officials, teachers, commercial nurseries, land conservationists and legislators have attended the Forums and are taking the lessons they've learned back to their communities. Public buildings, parks, schools and historic sites as well as home gardens are being re-designed to take advantage of these low maintenance, cost saving plant materials.

For design tips, irrigation and watering requirements, and "how-to" guidance for *your* landscape, visit www.bewaterwise.com.

Jacob Bergman of Aguanga: The Real Story

by Coral R. Bergman

This edition of the newsletter continues the family research undertaken by Coral Bergman of Aguanga. In Chapter 1: The Beginning, Mrs. Bergman's research, and conclusions from that research, disavow the popular theory that Jacob drove the first Butterfield stage through Aguanga. As we continue with the next segment of the series, note how the spelling of names varies. Research is part shoe leather, part intuition, and part deduction sometimes. **The following material is copyrighted, 1996, and used with permission of the author.** -- Editor

CHAPTER 2: The Mounain Ranch

The exact sequence of events by which Jacob discovered the Aguanga Valley is unclear, but his acquisition of the original ranch is documented in family papers and in county records. Some versions of the legend have him owning the ranch at Aguanga before he went to the War. Most of these versions pay little attention to the chronology of events in the rest of the world at the time. Most agree, however, that he bought the ranch from Joseph Gifhtaylor for the sum of \$800. Tracing Gifhtaylor can shed some light on the story of Jacob Bergman.

The San Diego County Census Records of 1860 for the town of Temecula, which included those living in most of the area up to Warner Springs, list a Joseph Gifhtaller, farmer, age 44, from Bavaria. The value of his real estate was listed as \$1000 and that of his personal estate was also \$1000. The Index to Citizens naturalized in San Diego Superior Court, 1853-1956, shows that a Joseph Gifteler was admitted on September 10, 1860. So it seems that Gifhtaylor was in the area at the time. There is no mention of a Mrs. Gifhtaylor.

A curious bit of data is found in Tom Hudson's book Three Paths Along A River. In Chapter 16, in which he discusses Camp Wright, located in Oak Grove in 1861, Hudson mentions that certain officers were located at "The Dutchman's" (page 150) (The quotes are Hudson's). It has been assumed that the place alluded to was Aguanga and that the Dutchman was Jacob Bergman, but we know now that Jacob was not in Aguanga at that time; he was in the army getting ready to fight in the East. Later accounts by tourists passing through San Diego County do mention stopping at "the Dutchman's" and give the name Jacob Bergman. Probably, then, Jacob was not the original "Dutchman." It is possible that the place referred to in the papers from Camp Wright was the same ranch, but was owned by another German, Joseph Gifhtaylor.

In 1864 Jacob bought one half interest in Gifhtaylor's ranch. A record of that transaction is located at the San

Diego Recorder's Office in the Miscellaneous Book 1, page 76 and reads as follows:

"This is to certify that I have this day sold to Mr. Jacob Bergman of San Bernardino, California, in and for the consideration of Four Hundred Dollars, the receipt of which I hereby acknowledge, the one half interest in the title and all the improvements on the Ranch known as the Mountain Ranch in the County of San Diego, State of California and at present occupied by me.

Joseph Gif(undecipherable)

Witnessed, San Bernardino, California, September 28, 1864. Recorded in San Diego County November 1st, 1864 at the request of Joseph Gifhtaylor."

We have in our possession an account book with the following written on the inside front cover, in a flowing hand which closely resembles the handwriting in the account book that Jacob carried with him in Fort Tejon: "Mountain Ranch, 1867, Jacob Bergman & Joseph Gifhtalar." This is an account book similar to the earlier one carried by Jacob. The first of the book contains a daily accounting of funds starting in October 1864 and is written in German. The last entry of its kind is for April 1866. If we then look at the end of the book we see a list of individual accounts written in the same hand, and reading from back to front. On the inside of the back cover is the name Jacob Bergman, written several times, just as it was in Jacob's account book. The first listing of accounts is in the same hand as the beginning of the book and dates from 1864 through 1865 are mentioned. An entry on a page dated 1865 lists several records of having received both cash and legal tender from Jacob Bergman. Entries in the book dating in the 70's seem to be by Jacob Bergman. They are in pencil and in the same hand as the earlier account book carried by Jacob. Additionally, the dates in the first book terminate around 1867 and the dates written by Jacob in the second book begin at about the same time.

Apart from the account books there is another record that seems to tell us that Bergman and Gifhtaylor were in partnership. In 1865, several thousand acres of the Joseph Rains Estate was put up for auction in Temecula. Records in the San Diego County Recorder's Office show that a portion of that estate was purchased by Joseph Gifhtaylor. The same land was sold in 1866 by Joseph Gifhtaylor and Jacob Bergman.

According to Jacob's Pension Records, his address in 1864 and 1865 was San Bernardino. According to his son James Bergman, however, the family moved to the ranch in 1864, when their son Henry was one year old. In the light of the paperwork mentioned above, this seems like a likely time frame.

The year 1867 was a crucial one for Jacob in the acquisition of the Ranch. The following documents are in

our possession or are in the office of the San Diego County Recorder.

1) A receipt dated April 24, 1867.

"Received of Joseph Gifthaler by the hand of Jacob Bergman one hundred dollars for medical services in his last illness. I.A. Rousseau"

2) A handwritten note to Mrs. Mary Gifthaeler, San Diego, From San Bernardino, April 22, 1867.

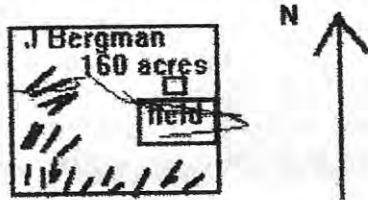
"Mrs. Gifthaeler

Dear Madame

I herewith inform you that your deceased husband sold his property to his partner J. Bergman and I would advise you to consult Judge Weatherby who is Public Administrator for your interest. Yours truly, A.J. Spencer

The witnesses that would be valuable to you are Mr. Cabels, Mr. Breeze, Charles Thomas, Griff Williams, Matthew Webber, Theodore Anderson."

3) A record of the Pre-Emption Claim of Jacob Bergman.



"Be it remembered that on the 2nd day of May, A.D. 1867, I, Jacob Bergman, under and by virtue of An Act prescribing the mode of maintaining and defending (-----) actions on public lands, in this state passed April 20th, 1852, have laid claim to Pre-Empted and do hereby claim for Pre-Emption and occupy the following described piece and parcel of public land, lying and being in the State of California and described as follows:

NW 1/4 of Sec. 30 T8S R1E"

The evidence above leads to the following conclusions: Sometime, possibly during his mail route from Yuma to Los Angeles, Jacob Bergman met Joseph Gifhtaylor at the stage stop known as "The Dutchman's". In 1864 Jacob bought a half interest in Gifhtaylor's Mountain Ranch, which we assume was what we have always called the "old ranch", located near the remains of the old house at the west end of the Aguanga Valley. Sometime in that time period, Jacob moved his family from San Bernardino to the ranch. In April 1867, Joseph was taken ill in San Bernardino and died. Jacob was with Joseph at the time and paid his medical bills. During that illness, Joseph sold the rest of the ranch to Jacob. Thus, Jacob Bergman came into full possession of the Mountain Ranch, which became the original Berman Ranch.

According to documents located in the San Diego Historical Society's Archives, Jacob became a citizen of the United States on October 7, 1867, just months after he had filed the Pre-Emption claim for the ranch. The 1870 Census shows Jacob and Phillipena living in Temecula Township (where the ranch was located), with three children, Henry, Caroline, and Mary B. (Blanche).

CHAPTER 3: The Growing Years

If you have passed through the Aguanga Valley in August, you may have wondered why anyone would choose to live there. But the answer is very simple -- water. In the wet and dry cycles of Southern California, the valley has undergone a number of changes. The flood of 1916 and other floods have carved out a deep ravine where before there were meadow and swamp. Much of the land was settled and homesteaded as swamp land. There is evidence that when Jacob and Phillipena came to live in Aquanga much of the western end of the valley was cienega. "Cienega" is a Spanish word which means marsh and is applied locally to sub-irrigated meadows where wire-grass grows and where the water is close to the surface. The northern spur of the valley also contains swamp land and springs. During the dry cycles the swamp dries up and people build on what they believe to be dry ground. Then come the wet years. What a surprise to find a new spring where before there was none, or to sink down in the wet ground which yesterday was completely solid. There have been reports of artesian wells in various places in the valley. The floods have altered the water table in the valley as well as altering its physical features. People living in the valley today have seen the changes take place. We are living in a world which is still being formed by the forces of nature and, in Aguanga, nature has been generous with the use of water.

The old adobe ranch house in Aguanga was at the foot of a hill at the west end of the valley, not far from where the Temecula creek flowed. The house was low with thick adobe walls. Between the walls and the eaves of the roof there was a ledge large enough to hold a small child. As with all of the old adobes, we may suppose an internal darkness, relieved by small windows, and a certain dankness which was cool in the summer and relatively warm in the winter -- once it had been warmed up. Later reports indicate that it was a very nice house and that the grounds were well cared for and green. In an area with weather as uncertain as the Aguanga area, it was as comfortable as might be expected in those days. There were outbuildings and stables and barns -- of which we have no record or indication now, but which must certainly have been there in order for the business to survive.

It was to this place that Jacob moved his young family. Jacob himself was around 32 years old and Phillipena was around 27. They had three children listed in the 1870 Census, Henry Frederick, Born September 21, 1863, Caroline (Carrie), Born July 27, 1866, and Marie Blanche, born January 18, 1869. Five other children came in the next few years: Jacob William, December 2, 1871; Eli Curtis, May 15, 1875; Matilda, August 17, 1877; James Fain, November 14, 1879; and Lilly Katherine, November 30, 1882.

While Phillipena had the care of an ever increasing family, Jacob was faced with making a living for his growing family. The decade of the 70's finds him astonishingly active in business and community affairs. For a while at least, he continued with the business that he and Giftaylor had established. This would include farming, as well as buying, selling, and transporting goods -- activities which went with the occupation of farming and ranching. The account book for Mountain Ranch has some very active accounts for the early to mid 1870s. Among the names listed are those of Francesca Rameres, Charles Thomas, W. Tweet, Fritz Schleppe, Gorge Lungenshen, Thomas Brady, etc. Items listed include a lot of barley, beef, coffee, hay, horses, and sugar. Other documents in our possession show him to be a careful businessman:

1867 -- A Receipt as follows:

*Tucson A.T.
October 11th 1869
Mr. Jacob Bergman
Mountain Ranch, Ca.*

Sir -

I have the honor to acknowledge my receipt given to you August 23, 1867, for one Counter, scales at a cost of \$15 in coin -- for which I send you a certified voucher for 11 dollars in coin -- Enclosed please [find] the difference in currency \$5.20. Making your account 15 dollars in coin.

*I send through the kindness of Col. Wingard Paymaster
U.S.A.*

*Very Respectfully
Your Obd't Serv't
JHGallager
1st Lieut Inf U.S.A.
A.A.M. & A.C.S.*

In 1870 -- Another receipt from a store in Temecula --

Temecula Aug. 6th 70

*Received of Jacob Bergman two hundred and forty two
50/100 dollars, in full of demands.*

Louis Wolf

For D. Burroughs

Besides his ranching and farming business, Jacob began reaching out to look for new ventures. He had already had experience carrying the mail and would have, we suppose, connections with people who could appoint Postmasters and establish Post Offices. In 1870, he opened the first post office at Aguanga and called it Guahonga [sic]. The record of postmasters shows that Jacob Bergman became Postmaster of this new Post Office on July 27, 1870 and that the branch was discontinued on September 12, 1870 in favor of the Oak Grove Post Office which opened on September 17, 1870.

Beginning in 1869, we find the name Jacob Bergman appearing not infrequently in the San Diego Union. The position of Road Overseer or Road Supervisor was apparently a local political job which was very desirable. It was also a good way to meet and to know one's neighbors. Jacob held this job, in addition to others, for many years. The Temecula District included roads from Warner Springs to Lake Elsinore. There are several indications in the Union that Jacob's work in this capacity was appreciated by the people in the area. In 1869 he is reported to have been paid Warrant #8 from the Road Fund for the amount of \$40. In 1870 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for the Temecula Township. In 1871 he entered fully into the political arena. He was a democratic delegate to the Joint Senatorial Convention in July. It was in 1873, however, that he had his most intensive experience with party politics. The Democratic Convention that year was held August 17 in Julian. According to articles in the San Diego Union it was a rowdy and unruly convention which selected an inferior slate of delegates. One writer called it "a disgrace." There were reports of heated exchanges of words and of delegates yelling at each other and interrupting each other. Nonetheless, the candidates for Board of Supervisors were not among the controversial offices. Jacob, nominated as candidate from the First District, and all of the other 4 candidates for the Supervisorial Districts were nominated by acclamation.

The election took place in October. Jacob ran against G.A. Collins, the Republican candidate. Polling places in the First District were at San Luis Rey, Temecula, and Monserrate. When the voting was over, Jacob won with 72 votes to Collins' 38. At the Temecula polls Jacob received 27 out of the 29 votes that were cast. In this way, Jacob Bergman, German immigrant, became a member of the Board of Supervisors for San Diego County. At some point in 1874, he acquired a city lot in San Diego, but there is no record of his ever developing anything on it.

In the meantime, Jacob was adding to his land holdings and increasing the size of his ranch. We were fortunate to find in the San Diego Historical County Archives copies of his property tax receipts from 1870 until his death in 1894. The very first receipt in 1870 gives only personal

property as the basis for his tax of \$43.97. Since the land had not been surveyed, there was no property description. The tax receipts from the early years all give descriptions such as "Unsurveyed Possessory Claim known as Bergman's Ranch, containing 160 acres." In 1875, the property was established as being worth \$224, Improvements worth \$200, and Personal Property worth \$1579, giving him a new worth of \$2003, and causing him to pay property taxes of \$52.18.

The year 1878 is the first year in which property descriptions are found. Apparently there was still a little confusion as to the property and the descriptions. When Jacob filed his initial Pre-Emption Claim, he located his property in Section 30, which is around Rader. several miles from the original ranch. The description on the tax receipt for 1878 is still slightly off. In 1879 there are some corrections written in, but by 1882, the location of the original homestead and ranch was established.

After Jacob's term as Supervisor, he seemed to have been tired of party politics, but he appeared to want to continue in public office. The following appears in the San Diego Union:

"Jacob Bergman announces himself as an independent candidate for Supervisor from the First District. The sturdy Supervisor from the First believes in making a direct appeal to the people without the interposition of conventions."

Apparently, however, his direct appeal to the people did not work, for he was not elected.

It seems that Jacob had many friends who would not accept even the implication that he would do his work as Road Overseer for his own benefit and profit. In 1876, a letter to the editor of the Union appeared written by J. Metzgar. Metzgar quotes a letter written by another gentleman to the editor of World, another San Diego newspaper. The letter which Metzgar quoted spoke of the bad conditions of the road in the area of Warner Springs and the need for the San Diego County Supervisors to give money to repair the road. The original letter went on to read as follows:

"It would be well enough to make an appropriation for this road, especially as the Union's strong friend, Jake Bergman, is doing what he can to have the road turned in to San Bernardino to favor the railroad and take the trade to that place."

Metzgar is indignant that this charge is leveled at Bergman and says that he, Metzgar, had remarked to two gentlemen from San Diego that the roads were bad because of rain and if they could not get help from San Diego then they would try to get a road through the San Geronio Pass to San Bernardino, approximately the same

distance away as San Diego. Bergman would never advocate such a road anyway because if such a road were built, it would turn aside a short distance the other side of Oak Grove and "would change and absorb the travel that now goes by his place." Metzgar says that he can't see that Bergman would benefit, rather it would work to his detriment, and Bergman has never advocated a road through San Geronio.

The editor of the Union replied that he was sorry that Metzgar was bothered over a matter which he considered unimportant and that the Union has little influence with the Supervisors, but does advocate improving the road between San Diego and Warner's Ranch. The editor of the Union believes, however, that if the people in the area really want a road, they should start a subscription and then he is sure that the Board of Supervisors would do all they could to help and see that the road got fixed quickly.

Apparently the Bergman Ranch was considered quite a show place in the back country. In June of 1877, an article entitled "Our Mountains and Valleys" appeared in the Union describing an excursion between Campo and San Bernardino. The following portions describe the Aguanga area:

"There are two routes from Julian, one by way of Banner and San Felipe and the other by way of Santa Isabel and Vallecitos to Warners. From the latter point you pass along a splendid road to Jacob Bergman's place at Oak Grove and thence to Temecula. From Temecula the mail goes to San Bernardino by way of San Jacinto, but there is a nearer road that goes by Box Springs near Riverside and thence to San Bernardino..."

We next come to Jacob Bergman's place, which is well worth seeing. Here is the only real artesian spring in the county; it bubbles up 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 I ever drank. From the stream our 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, who come up to eat his vegetables and browse off the trees. It will be imagined that there is good deer hunting hereabout, and excursionists will find good accommodations at Mr. Bergman's.

Leaving Bergman's hospitable place we go to Temecula..."

OSWEGO

To be continued ...



Historical Network Tours Garbani Homestead

More than two years ago, 10 people gathered in a small room to discuss the issues and events that are of special concern to organizations engaged in the preserving, restoring or education of local history. From this beginning has emerged a consortium of organizations with attendance from many of the genealogical, historical and museum groups throughout the Southwest County. Meetings are now open to guests as well, and the presentations have taken on a new urgency as local historical sites, artifacts and features are in such danger of rapid and irretrievable loss.

History is not a cancer to be cut out. It is rather a piece of each of us, whether we have moved here yesterday or yesteryear. The "network" has no name, no formal membership, collects no dues. It does represent the region, provide learning opportunities, and cares very much about serving local communities. Working with no funding or staff, the group is developing future programs and keeps in touch with the County Historical Commission, the County Archives Commission, the Historical Tourism Committee, the Board of Supervisors and elected officials for cities, water departments, and school districts.

The meeting schedule is flexible in order to take advantage of available special speakers, workshops or group tours that come our way. If you are interested in being notified of future meetings of this informal group, please call Charolette @ (909) 302-0180 and leave your name, address, phone and email address.

Twenty people toured the now closed historic Garbani Homestead on October 15th. Dubbed "New Helvitia" when built by Rocco Garbani in the 1880s, this Section 10 property is now owned by the Metropolitan Water District. Extensive archaeological and historical research has been compiled to authenticate the backgrounds of the eight (8) remaining structures and evidence of their former usefulness becomes palpable as the tour guides relate the details of their research.

As archaeologists, Melinda Horne and Dennis McDougall of Applied Earthworks have been a part of the project of discovery since 1988. It was in 1988 that MWD's search for a suitable water storage site was narrowed to three locations in Riverside County. The documentation of their work represents the most careful assessment of the local history for the area in the Hemet/Winchester area of Diamond Valley Lake. And it is MWD's hope to one day restore this registered site and open an interpretive park.

We learned that Rocco Garbani was of Italian Swiss decent. He was a stone mason of reknown who homesteaded an entire section of land. About 14-1/2 acres have been preserved. He built the main house in 1880 from stone quarried onsite. As the dry farming of wheat, barley and other grains became productive, he built a storage granary, added horses, dairy cows, pigs and chickens. Other buildings included a chicken coop, a blacksmith shop, a barn and a bathhouse.

Rocco married Josephina, a Native American from Pechanga. She brought her Indian knowledge to the farm, using a metate to grind grains and the handmade needles she always preferred. Water for Rocco, his brother Charles, wife Josephina, four daughters and son as well as maintenance for the animals was very scarce coming in the form of infrequent rainwater stored for reuse and runoff that puddled. A pumphouse was built in the 1930s and electricity was introduced in the 1940s.

Over the years, various money producing operations were begun. From the herds of diary cows, Rocco developed a creamery. From the apiary, he developed a honey operation for Sue Bee. The grain crops of barleys went into beers and the grapes into wines. The daughters managed a poultry and egg operation.

But for a time, the property did not prosper and Garbani was forced to temporarily sell off portions of his land to surrounding families. As soon as his financial troubles abated, he bought back all that he had sold off and resumed his dry farm operations. He was postmaster of the area for two years (1880-1882), giving the job up saying it was too much of a paperwork headache for him -- the foundations of what might have been the postoffice (and his first residence) are another example of his excellent stone masonry, though there is some evidence the building might also have been used as a schoolhouse or a Wells Fargo Stage stop.

He lived to 102 years of age, spoke six (6) languages, including Luiseno. Decendents still live near Temecula.

Special thanks to Lynda Poggenpohl Goldberg of MWD for making the tour so successful, providing transportation and added commentary before and during the three hour event.

Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History

"National History Day invites students to research topics related to the theme *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History* during the 2003-2004 school year. The theme is broad enough in scope to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local to world history. To fully comprehend the historical importance of their topics, students must ask questions of time and place, cause and effect, change over time, as well as impact and significance. They must consider not only when events happened, but also why they happened, what impact they had on broader history, and what factors contributed to their development."

"...Whether a topic is a well-known event in world history or focuses on a little-known individual from a small community, students should be careful to place them into historical perspective, examine the significance of their topics in history, and show development over time. Students may develop papers, performances, documentaries, or exhibits for entry into National History Day Competition."

State Contest: Apr 29 - May 2, 2004
National Contest: June 13-17, 2004

Last year's National winner came from Lake Elsinore. Her project was presented at our Society's Board of Directors meeting on Friday, August 1, 2003 and showed an amazing depth of understanding for last year's theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History".

In speaking with 8th grader, Tracy Empson, and her mother, we learned that she is a "veteran" contestant having entered the last three years and moving up in the standings each year. Contestants pay their own way and need two things; encouragement and appreciation for trying, and financial assistance to allow them to advance through the contest levels from local, to county, to state, to national.

If you would be willing to work on a National History Day committee for this Society or for this County, please contact Charolette Fox at (909) 302-0180, or email lottiefox@cs.com.



YOUTH HISTORY PROJECTS

the following projects
for school children
will be getting underway
at the

Old Vail Ranch Historic Site



for Tom Sawyers
fence painting for wooden
barricade

for information contact
Darell or Rebecca Farnbach
VaARRA

(Vail Ranch Restoration Association)
(909) 699-5148



for Pauls & Pollyanas
kitchen garden design contest
for information
contact Charolette Fox
(909) 302-0180

Erle Stanley Gardner Middle School Dedicated

Representatives for the Temecula Valley Historical Society attended dedication ceremonies at the newest middle school located close to the Paisano Ranch, the home for thirty-plus years of Erle Stanley Gardner. As a prolific writer, huntsman, adventurer and lawyer, Mr. Gardner employed several secretaries to transcribe dictation for books he authored. One popular series was mysteries about a main character named Perry Mason, and the titles always started "The Case of...". Betty Burke, a former secretary now living in Lake Elsinore, was present and relished the opportunity to talk about the wonderful (but hard!) work of those halcyon days when many notable guests streamed in and out and expeditions to Baja California were underway.

Wendell Ott, Director of the Temecula Museum, presented the school with a large framed photograph of Erle at work in his wood-paneled office. No doubt Erle walked or drove many times over the land where now the middle school sits. This was a day of special meaning for the students who heard a bit about the man behind the name.

The school has a wonderful, well-equipped media center but books of all sorts are needed for the library shelves. In keeping with our policy of donating books to schools and libraries, our Board of Director's authorized money for the purchase of suitable books to be given to ESG Middle School. Myra Gonsalves volunteered to spearhead the selection and purchase of books based on input from the media center's librarians. We hope this project will be ongoing.

In addition, copies of the Society's newsletter will be provided monthly and made part of the student reading regimen for local history.

**ERLE STANLEY GARDNER
MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND**
Old Town Temecula
Saturday & Sunday
November 1 & 2, 2003



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Oct 15 to Nov 15, 2003

New Members

Garth & Janice Bricker

Thomas & Irene Hotchkiss

Roland Vellanoweth

Gifts & Donations

Louis & Sherry DiBernardo

Gerhard & Mia Thyzel



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you moved? Changed your mail 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.

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..... Sheri Crall

Printing..... Potamus Press



Calendar

Board Meeting Nov 7
Annual Meeting Nov 16

Active Committees:

Research & Preservation
Wolf's Tomb
Plaques & Markers
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.

VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED



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www.tvhs.homestead.com/FrontPage.html

CHECK IT OUT !!

T-SHIRTS WITH LOGO SILKSCREENED ON BACK

\$10

to order, contact

Charolette Fox

(909) 302-0180

QUOTES

The best way to get out of a poker game with a small fortune is to start with a large one.

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.

Those who borrow trouble are always in debt.

If you would be content do what you ought not what you please.

"Votes For Women"



Two million women will have a right to vote in the next Presidential election. Twenty million women have voted for the emancipation of American womanhood by serving

Shredded Wheat

in their homes. Every biscuit is a vote for health, happiness and domestic freedom—a vote for pure food, for clean living and clean thinking.

The housewife who knows the nutritive value of Shredded Wheat and the many delicious fruit combinations that can be made with it may banish kitchen worry and household care.

Shredded Wheat is ready-cooked, ready-to-serve. It is a natural, elemental food. It is not flavored or seasoned with anything and hence does not deteriorate in the market. The consumer flavors or seasons it to suit his own taste. It is delicious for breakfast with milk or cream or for any meal with fruits.

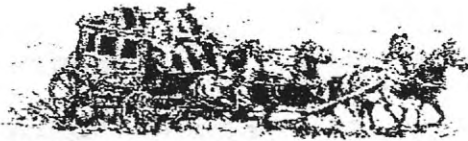
The Only Breakfast Cereal Made in Biscuit Form

Made only by
THE SHREDDED WHEAT COMPANY, NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

In 1913, a Shredded Wheat advertisement used the suffrage issue to capture reader's attention.

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.

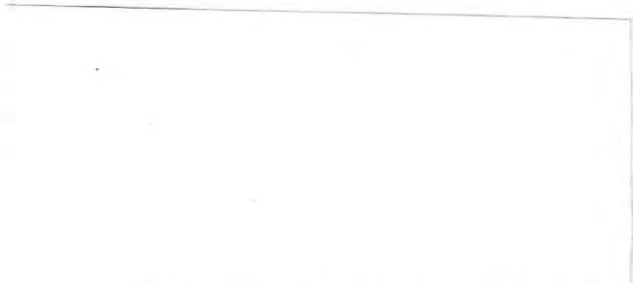


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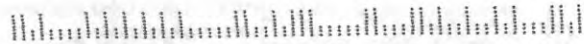
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If you enjoyed this issue, why not share it with a friend? Please pass it on and help us build our readership. Thank you.



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TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tax exempt charitable & educational organization

Membership

Membership/Donation Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$10,000.00

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.

Checks payable to:

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Mail to:

P. O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593-0157