

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

February 2004 Vol 4 Issue 2

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RECALLING OUR BEGINNING



quotes from John Hunneman and "The Gift of History", a publication of the American Association for State and Local History

A little over three years ago after a stirring presentation by John Hunneman, a Mission Statement was developed and a vote taken which resulted in our becoming a nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation for the purpose of preserving Temecula Valley's historical gifts.

These gifts "derive from memory and from traditions, from documents, images, artifacts, buildings, monuments, and from landscapes and ruins that have survived. Being keepers and tellers of America's heritage and history in towns and cities across the land is a weighty responsibility."

Those on the Board have accepted direct leadership for this task, but we all share in the progress made and can look forward to a future which "delights and enriches us, enlarges and intensifies the experience of being alive." For as Victor Hugo said, "The past is prologue."



THE LUDY FAMILY

Through the efforts of those who knew and saved the records of early pioneers, we are able to revisit the time when the nearest store was a half-day's journey away by buggy or children rode to school on horseback. The Ludy family once owned large expanses of land in Southwest Riverside County. We are indebted to Audrey Cilurzo for sharing the material which is the basis for our two new series, Schools, and the Ludy Family.

President's Corner

At a recent Temecula City Council meeting the Council voted to purchase property in Old Town Temecula which contained the Escallier house and barn. Members of the Society were concerned by rumors that everything on the property would be destroyed to build a parking lot. I prepared a letter to the Council expressing the Temecula Valley Historical Society's concern about saving these historic buildings (see letter inside). Although unable to attend the meeting, my letter was read to the Council by our Secretary, Eve Craig. The members of the Council indicated that these historic buildings would be preserved.

On January 12, the Old Town Review Board met to discuss the revision to the Old Town Specific Plan. Contained in the plan is a list of the historical sites within Old Town and specific provisions for protecting them from destruction. The governing body of Temecula respects our history and will continue to strive to protect our touch with the past.

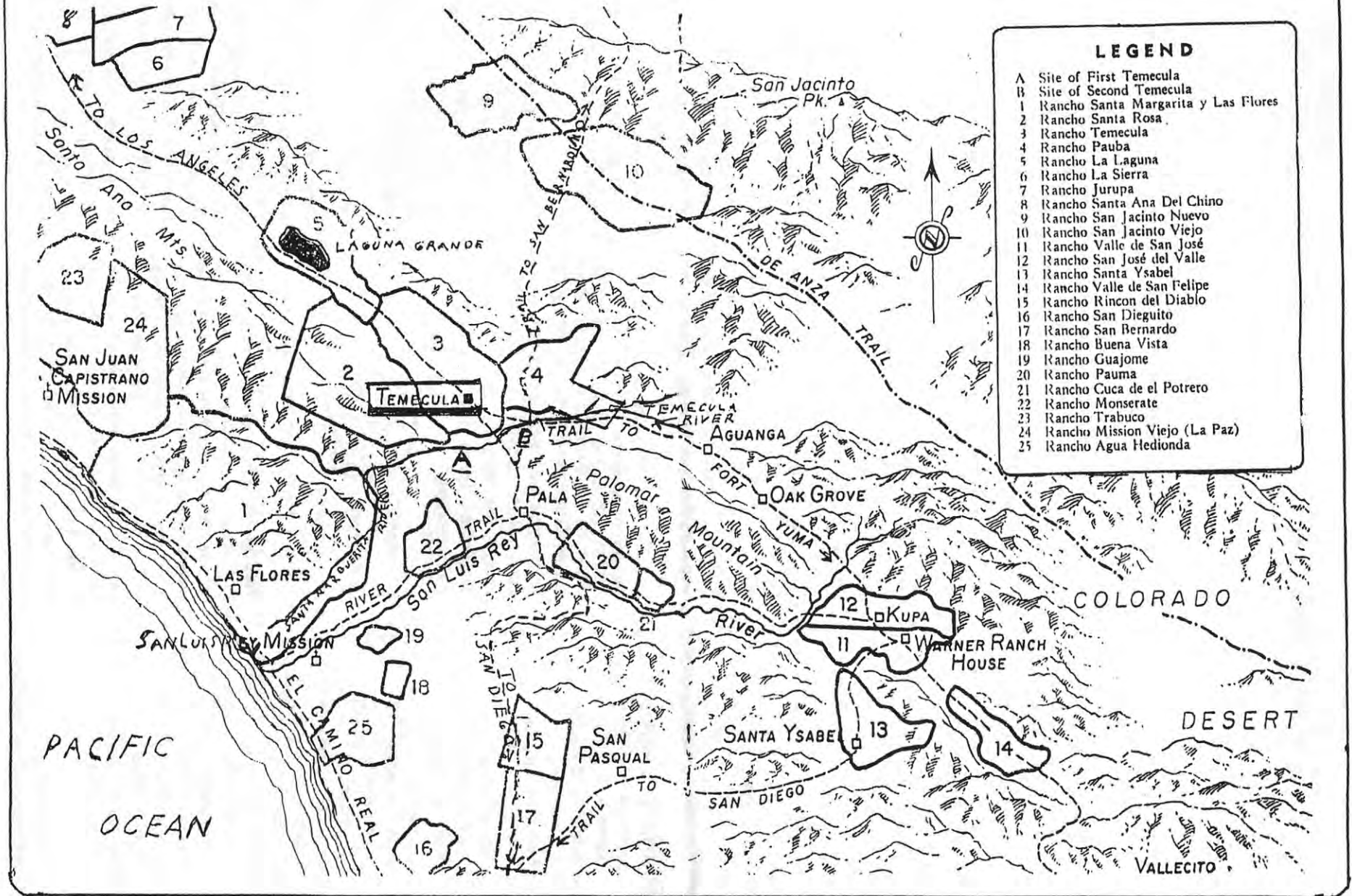
There will be public hearings in the future on the Temecula General Plan, which will contain the Old Town Specific Plan. When you read of these hearings taking place, please take the time to become aware of the provisions of the Plan, and if you have issues with any part of it, please attend the hearings and express your opinion. That is democracy in action.

Some events the Society will participate in this year are the annual Heritage Luncheon, the Pow-Wow at Pechanga, possible bus tours, tour of the Santa Rosa Plateau, winery tours, the Independence Day Parade and a Historical "Show & Tell". Look for information in future newsletters -- and plan on attending and having a good time.

As a reminder, all of you are members of the membership committee, so bang the drum and help make non-members aware of our Society by encouraging them to join.

Jimmy Moore

TEMECULA A CENTURY AGO



LEGEND

- A Site of First Temecula
- B Site of Second Temecula
- 1 Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores
- 2 Rancho Santa Rosa
- 3 Rancho Temecula
- 4 Rancho Pauba
- 5 Rancho La Laguna
- 6 Rancho La Sierra
- 7 Rancho Jurupa
- 8 Rancho Santa Ana Del Chino
- 9 Rancho San Jacinto Nuevo
- 10 Rancho San Jacinto Viejo
- 11 Rancho Valle de San José
- 12 Rancho San José del Valle
- 13 Rancho Santa Ysabel
- 14 Rancho Valle de San Felipe
- 15 Rancho Rincon del Diablo
- 16 Rancho San Dieguito
- 17 Rancho San Bernardo
- 18 Rancho Buena Vista
- 19 Rancho Guajome
- 20 Rancho Pauma
- 21 Rancho Cuca de el Potrero
- 22 Rancho Monserate
- 23 Rancho Trabuco
- 24 Rancho Mission Viejo (La Paz)
- 25 Rancho Agua Hedionda

The History of Temecula as Remembered by Christian Ludy at Age 75.

from his handwritten notes, circa 19__

These memoirs are printed verbatim. They contain both "crumbs" and "whole loaves" of historical data -- and the reader who has followed stories published in previous newsletters will have some advantage over new readers in placing names and events in context with Temecula's historic record. "Chris" Ludy was first known to Vince and Audrey Cilurzo when they were newly arrived as landowners in the area, coming as weekenders to plant and grow grapes. We are indebted to Audrey for sharing these pages with us. They are prelude to further episodes scheduled to appear in upcoming issues.

Section 1: Aguanga

In the old days when someone spoke of Aguanga, right away the thought would come into your mind -- Jacob Bergman, otherwise called "Jake" Bergman. The only man who ever opposed Jake was Smith, who opened the store and post office in Aguanga.

He built an adobe building where he and his wife lived and ran the store along with the post office. The mail came every day by horse and buggy. The mail route was a big job and it was good for one year on each bid. When the time came to bid on the mail route, excitement ran pretty high and sometimes came to blows.

According to the records, Bergman walked from St. Louis with a wagon train filled with gold seekers. That was the year 1851. In passing through Aguanga, Bergman liked the looks of the valley and decided that he would come back and make his home here. Bergman went as far west as Ft. Tejon which he helped build.

Jake returned to Aguanga and filed on his land which he had selected. Later years he bought other lands and enlarged his holdings. He had a lot to do with the Butterfield Stage which came west in 1858, and was one of the first drivers on the stage line.

The Butterfield Stage Route from Warner's through Oak Grove, Aguanga, Temecula, Temescal, Chino, and Spadra to Los Angeles was transformed into a passable road with stations, corrals and hay depots. All this was largely possible through the efforts of this young Immigrant from Germany.

The floor of the Aguanga Valley was covered with brush and grass that was tall and thick. To clear off the land so it could be farmed, another German from Youngstown, Ohio, came west and got the contract to clear and burn all the land that Jake Bergman and others owned.

This German's name was Jacob Ludy, my grandfather, who had five boys coming into manhood, and it didn't take long before the valley was de-brushed. In the meantime, "Jake" Ludy, as he was known by then, also took up a homestead and cleared the land.

Section II: Temecula

But Jake Ludy didn't stay in Aguanga Valley, south of Temecula -- only a year or so -- getting a chance to buy the Wolf ranch which is now a part of Rancho California, and which also served all these years as the Vail's main ranch house.

Rancho California was better known the first twenty years as the Pauba Ranch. After the first World War it changed its name to the Vail Ranch. It came into being in 1905 when the elder Mr. Vail [Walter] bought the Pauba Ranch from Cobb and Calver who had owned it for years raising cattle and farming.

The east and west ranch houses were where Cobb and Calver lived -- Cobb on the east and Calver on the west. The center ranch house is where my grandfather, Jacob Ludy, owned and lived. It also was the place and ranch where I spent many happy days and months living as a child.



He also sold out to Mr. Vail in 1905. My grandfather and grandmother sat around a table placed in the shade east of the kitchen, talking to make the sale.

My grandparents had six boys and two girls. Four boys first, then one girl, then a boy and the last a girl who was a few years my senior. We both went to school in the schoolhouse that sat below the Wolf monument on the hill.

When the river was high and we were walking to school (three miles) we would have to take our clothes off, wade across the ice cold river, dress again and go on to school. We had a one room school with about 25 children. This was in Temecula.

Rancho California was better known the first twenty years as the Pauba Ranch.

In the years of 1902-1904, Cobb and Calver drilled quite a few water wells east of the eastern ranch house and the wells would flow over the top with four to six inches of

water. In 1904 my grandfather drilled a sixteen inch well east of his house and it is still in good shape, as the Vails brought the water to the tank and it is still flowing today.

The eastern part of Rancho California in those days was called the "Lone Pear Tree Valley." The reason was -- along the south side where the river in recent years has washed the land badly, stood, majestically, the largest Bartlet pear tree that I have ever seen. It was about forty feet high and 25-30 feet wide, and had the sweetest pears I've ever eaten. When the fruit was ripe, people came from everywhere to help gather the pear crop.



Where Vail Lake is now -- those years it was called Nigger Valley and the canyon coming west, called Nigger canyon, was where you could ride a horse through there with a shotgun and a good dog to retrieve for you, and you could get a big mess of ducks, geese and other good-eating game. As you came out of the canyon, the valley opened up looking west -- grand as could be!

The California Southern Railway was built from San Diego [National City] to Colton in the year 1887, and came by the way of Riverside, Perris, Elsinore, Wildomar, Murrieta, Temecula, and down the canyon to Fallbrook - then Oceanside.

The present site of New Temecula was surveyed and subdivided in 1884. The reason it was called New Temecula is that Little Temecula was at the Wolf Bros. store which is on Rancho California at the middle ranch house, my grandfather's, where the treaty was signed between the Indians and the U.S. Government.

Section III: Murrieta

Murrieta was laid and subdivided in 1884 and boasted of three newspapers printed there in 1887. The largest building in Murrieta was the Fountain House with an ornate gabled roof. The train crews would eat there. All of the express trains stopped there during 1886-1891. The three newspapers were the ERA, the Transcript, and the Union.

All the back country was booming -- cattle being raised and shipped to market by train.

The Murrieta Hot Springs was found by the medical profession to have curing qualities in the water and mud baths.

Section IV: The Railroad

In February 1884 a storm dumped ten inches of water on Temecula in a single night -- all but completely obliterating the railroad link between Temecula and Fallbrook.

The railroad crew, under directions of Fred Perris of San Bernardino, did not fully complete the repairs through the canyon until some months later. Though trains started to run again in January 1885 between San Bernardino and San Diego. But not all was good for the California Southern Railroad -- as for the third and last time it was washed out in February 1891 -- thereby making New Temecula the end of the line from San Bernardino and [it] remained as such until World War II when all the tracks were pulled out.

During the early days the railroad came up the Box Spring Grade into Perris Valley. From the top of the Grade into Perris there were three other stations. After leaving Perris the railroad came down through Railroad Canyon along side of a canal carrying water for Temescal Canyon. Also the extra water was allowed to flow into Lake Elsinore. But in the year of 1916, all of Southern California was drenched by rain and cloud bursts flooding and washing out everything from dams in San Diego County. It washed out the railroad between Perris and Elsinore, causing the line between Corona and Elsinore to disconnect with the old line at Alberhill.



Alberhill was called the "Clay Mines" in the early days. They would dig the hills and load it in gondolas for shipping to Los Angeles, but in the years between 1910 and 1920 the plant was moved from Los Angeles on Slauson Avenue, between Central Avenue and Avalon, to [left blank] .

On the north and south street of Temecula, and after you crossed the bridge on your left, there were three large derriks (sic) used for unloading the wagons which hauled the stone curbstones which were cut from granite boulders east and south of Temecula. For many years all the curbs of San Francisco and Oakland were cut of white granite, also cobblestones which paved the streets of those two cities.

As you crossed the bridge which in those days was built of wood, it would rattle and make a noise scaring many a horse or mule hitched to wagons.

EARTHQUAKE 1899... The Christmas the Earth Shook

*from the Valley Edition of The Daily Enterprise,
Friday, December 24, 1976*

The railroad depot was on the right. The engines would come in, engine first. A few hundred yards west of the depot was a turntable where they would turn the engine around for its return trip to Riverside and San Bernardino and points between.

The line from Perris to Hemet and San Jacinto was built during the 1890s. No one seems to have the exact date.

The large earthquake of 1898 just about knocked San Jacinto flat. It did a great deal of damage -- though the reason I speak of that earthquake is because my folks lived in Rainbow at that time, and Rainbow was badly shaken up. It was the first earthquake that I experienced, and I was badly scared too, believe me!

Returning to the rail line that stopped in Temecula... there was a conductor on the passenger train, who's name was Mr. Hayines. He lived in Temecula south of the tracks, which in those days was the elite of all people who lived or worked there.

The people of Temecula and Murrieta Valleys nicknamed Mr. Hayines, "Mr. Railroad." He was quite a character, at that. He always wore a swallow-tailed coat -- and woe to the person who got on the train without a ticket or money to buy one. He would reach up and pull the cord, and off you would go regardless of where you were! He really ran the train that he was conductor on!



My folks lived in Riverside in 1905 and I got to go quite a bit on the train between Temecula and Riverside, and the greatest thrill any boy could have was to ride the train by himself, but always under the watchful eye of Mr. Railroad. When the trail reached Elsinore there was a "Y" [fork] and the train would back in. Mr. Railroad would take me as far as the door leading to the platform where he would stand with the air whistle in his hand, and he and I would back the train into Elsinore -- a matter of about three miles. And when the train stopped at the depot, he would always say to me, "Well, we got her here, didn't we?"

It was pretty hard for a young fellow about my age to keep the buttons on his shirt -- [I] would swell up SO BIG ater that remark!

SAN JACINTO -- It had been cooler earlier in that Christmas week in 1899 and there had been several days with early-morning frost, but the weather warmed as the days wore on and Christmas day probably was typical for the time of the year in Southern California -- shirtsleeve weather.

But it would not be a typical Christmas in the small city of San Jacinto (incorporated in 1870; population about 1,500), for at 4:23 a.m. that day the first shocks of a severe earthquake ripped along the San Jacinto Fault, through the middle of the city.

The most intense damage was done to the downtown business district and since the quake hit at an hour when almost everyone was in their homes, there was no loss of life in San Jacinto.

But on the nearby Soboba Indian Reservation, six women were killed when portions of an adobe house collapsed on them. They were the only ones to die in that quake.

Considerable damage also was done in Hemet, but not as much as here.

The quake today has been estimated at 7.2 on the Richter scale which compares with the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco and its rating of

8.25. Most of the business buildings that were destroyed were of brick construction and many of the bricks were used to rebuild the area, only to come down again in the April 1918 shake.

Both hospitals, the Vosburg and the Lockwood, survived without major damage. Both, of frame construction, are still operating today [Dec, 1976].

Reports of the earthquake, printed in the Riverside Daily Press on Dec. 26, 1899, say that the State Bank building had such extensive wall damage that it would have to be rebuilt completely.

Walls also were down at the Odd Fellows Lodge hall.

The shake was felt over an area of 100,000 square miles and as far east as Seligman, Ariz.

Later reports from the San Jacinto area said artesian wells increased their flow following the shock and a number of new hot springs opened up at the Soboba Springs resort, then owned by the Richey family.

Major damage in Hemet was done to the west end of the Hotel Mayberry, the three-story milling company, the McKee, Weber and Johnson blocks and W. F. Whittier's new block, nearing completion after a recent fire.



One is lucky, historical research is a painstaking journey through a maze of resources requiring sifting, sorting, collating and even deductive reasoning. It can be a better stimulator of mental faculties than a crossword puzzle or a novel by one of today's pulp writers. Getting that "ah, ha!" glimpse connecting events that seemed unconnected, or locating the very spot where a building stood, a treaty was signed, or a long-forgotten treasure awaits discovery is the best kindling for lighting the fire of knowledge that I know of. And most times it is the knowledge we gain of ourselves in the process that makes the study of history so valuable...and so humbling !!!

PERRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT: The First 100 Years

presented by Nan Sanders, 1993, at a centennial celebration held at Perris Elementary School

Nan's presentation is chock-full of names and dates that will make researchers drool. Today's urbanization and seats of power have changed. Temecula doesn't tend to feel the closeness, the reliance, or the same sense of space it once shared with Perris. This look backwards tells it like it was. Thank you, Audrey Cilurzo, for this heretofore unshared resource. May our readers learn from and be inspired to share their memories, too. An old saying goes, "Sometimes the more things change, the more they stay the same." Enjoy the picture Nan's colorful word palette paints of Perris past.

Tonight I wish you to travel back with me in time to 1893, 100 years ago.

History says The United States was on the brink of financial panic. There had been six years of depression in the central part of the country and foreign trade had declined and private debts were high.

In 1848 Mexico had ceded all of present day California to the United States and only a short time later gold was discovered and the land that had been virtually ignored for over 300 years became very important.

California was admitted to the union in 1850 as the 31st state. It is today the third largest state, only smaller than Texas and Alaska.

In this part of California there was disagreement between the counties of San Bernardino and San Diego over many issues. The governor formed a commission to study the problems. It was recommended by this group that a new county be formed. So on March 11, 1893 Governor Markham signed the bill that took land from the two counties and 7,090 square miles became Riverside County. It is the second largest in the state with 200 miles from Corona to the Colorado River and Blythe.

The vote for the new county was 2,277 "yes" and 681 "no". In the selection for the county seat, Riverside city received 2,140 "yes" and Menifee received 459. Just

think what might have been different!

In Perris the Santa Fe Station was one year old, having been built in 1892. This is where the Perris Valley Historical and Museum Association are located today.

The railroad was the real reason for the town being at the present site. Fred T. Perris had surveyed the area and laid out a city plan.

The railroad stop had been near Pinacate where the Orange Empire Railway Museum is now, but it moved to the new Perris Station.

There were large alfalfa ranches, orange groves, olive and fig trees as well as grapes. Windmills that pumped the water could be seen all over the valley. It is reported that one year there was a bumper crop and one olive tree produced \$8.00 worth of olives.

One of the first settlers was Mr. J. W. Nance who bought 200 acres of prime valley land for one-dollar down and the whopping mortgage of \$1,999.00. The purchase was made with NO PAPERS SIGNED, ONLY A HANDSHAKE BETWEEN TWO MEN. This same Mr. Nance is mentioned as a supporter in the early history of the Perris School District.

There were ranches southwest of the town of Perris and near Pinacate and Quail Valley with large herds of Holstein and Durham cattle.

The Good Hope Gold Mine was in full operation with a shaft 70 feet deep

and 240 feet long. It carried free milling ore that assayed at \$78.00 a ton. Large numbers of men worked the mines in Good Hope along with the Virginia Mine and another mine in the Menifee area.

A large dairy three miles north of Perris used the first irrigated water from a well for 70 acres of alfalfa at a cost of eight cents (\$.08) per inch for twenty-four hours. They made 65 pounds of butter a day and sold it for the outrageous price of forty cents per pound. Hay sold between \$12.00 and \$13.00 a ton. Today [1993] hay is \$7.50 per bale (sixteen bales make one ton).

Water was about twenty-eight feet below the surface. Grain farmers planted 40 to 60 acres of grain per season. Today they plant 400 to 1,500 acres.

The future was bright and in the early 1890s Perris was called the "Little Italy of America". It had green fields, oranges, grapes, olives, figs, and gold mines. Water came from a huge Bear Valley Water Company, but the Bear Valley system failed. Many stockholders lost vast sums of money and crops dried up and people moved away and the land became useless.

The small town of Perris survived with about 400 people, 100 years ago. The Southern Hotel was built in 1887. It is one of the few buildings still in use in Perris. It's located on "D" Street and has been restored [circa 1989-1993] by the Mott family.

Before 1889 teachers who moved around where needed, brought most education to the farmers and miners. They stayed with families until they felt the children knew enough and then they disbanded the so-called school and moved on.

Mrs. Amelia Quinton lived north of Perris and in 1892 she became the head of the National Indian Association that asked the federal government to make the Indians citizens of the United States.

She was instrumental in getting an Indian school established on Perris Boulevard, but it had very few students and in 1897 it was moved to Riverside. After relocating to Riverside it was renamed the Sherman Indian School. There were eight tribes of Indians from this area represented in the school.

A school district existed in San Diego County before 1893 and was called the Dyer School District. However, the area around Perris City was named the Perris School District when the new county was formed in 1893.

It is probable that the first school was the Gavlin (Gabilan) in the the gold-bearing hills west of Perris City. The first High School was Vale Union High School in Menifee Valley.

In 1890 the Perris Publishing Company stated that there were three schools in the valley. A \$6,000.00 brick-two-story-building was built in 1888. It was located at a 4th and "A" Street site. A school was built at Pinacate for \$1,800.00.

The two-storied-brick-building at the 4th and "A" Street site had a High School on the second floor and the Elementary School was located on the lower level.

While the Congregational Church was built, they held their church services at the school. Then in 1913 when the school needed expansion,

classes were held at the Congregational Church. This is Reverend Sidler's church on 6th Street.

In 1901 Hartford Publishers started the Perris Progress Newspaper that is still in operation today.

There is a complete file of these papers at the Perris Valley Historical Museum that were the property of Mrs. Feliste Reynolds. Mrs. Reynolds was one of the four young people in high school at that time. She was part of the 1907 graduating class of the two-storied-brick-building Perris High School.

By 1909 the town had grown. There were no electric lights. Coal Oil Lamps were used for lighting the school and homes. There was no gas, so wood and coal provided heat. Water came from individual wells. The only public utility was the telephone company.

The telephone company was located in a private home that had a switchboard with 50 connections. The town had three grocery stores, a hotel, a couple of hardware stores, two rooming houses, one drug store, and one doctor. Along with this there was two pool rooms, a one-lane bowling alley, two blacksmiths, a livery stable, meat market, and one Chinese restaurant.

There were two churches, the Methodist and The Congregational Church. The Catholic Church met in a hall. There was one lodge of the Knights of Pythias, which was active.

Before 1910 there were no automobiles in the area. Mrs. Rosamond Morrison tells of coming from Menifee to Perris to shop in the "surrey with the fringe on top". The horses were watered in a large tank in the back of Hooks store.

In 1910 when automobiles began to come into their own, the first metal

license plate appeared. Before that time, they were made from a variety of materials that included cardboard, wood, leather, or screening.

One report tells of two greyhound dogs that ruled the town. They slept in the middle of Main Street, which was at that time a dirt street. The buggies, horses and even the automobiles drove around them so as not to disturb them.

The bank building at the corner of 4th and "D" Street was built in 1918 by the Stewart family. Members of the Stewart family were leaders in the school until 1950, over thirty years.

The Perris High School District was organized in 1897 with several elementary districts. Mrs. Reynolds' story says that she rode a burro to school and studied by kerosene lamps. The recreation for young people were dances in the homes, sing-alongs, card parties, and traveling medicine shows that visited the town. Most of these activities included all of the families with all ages participating together.

By 1907 the Gavlin School and several other smaller schools were merged with the Perris District. This was prior to compulsory education and no state support. Local districts set their own school assessments.

Very few parents could read or write, so they did not feel education was important.

One board meeting minutes states that they would shut the school the next year if they did not have enough students to warrant a teacher.

The Perris Progress started a campaign to encourage school attendance and was a big success. Gaining the passage of a property

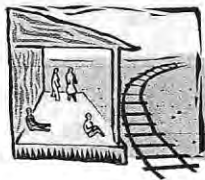
tax to help the schools was also a big success.

Each District Board of Trustees set the tax amount for the coming year's budget.

By 1908 George Chaffin, owner of the Subterrean Water Company supplied the city with domestic water. In 1911 the city of Perris incorporated, so they could finance a city water system for the cost of \$25,000.00.

Land prices increased and land with water now sold from \$10.00 an acre to as high as \$40.00 an acre.

..... to be continued in next newsletter



Guenther Park Dedication January 31, 2004

A parksite in the Four Seasons community east of Winchester and Murrieta Hot Springs Roads, will now be known as Guenther Park. Coordinating the park's development with the County Parks Department, the developer, and the homeowners has been a two-year project. When contacted by the homeowner's association for a list of possible park names, the Temecula Valley Historical Society suggested that it was time for the contributions of Fritz Guenther to be commemorated as, after all, in it's day Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs location straddled the communities of Murrieta and Temecula and promoted the whole southwest corner of Riverside County.

The Alamos District loosely corresponds to the area today bounded by the I-215 on the west, Winchester Road on the east (and beyond), Clinton Keith on the north, and Murrieta Hot Springs on the south. Sheep may have grazed there in Juan Murrieta's time. Warm Springs Creek cuts through the lower 1/3 of the District. No dams or channels exist today to indicate that early dry-farm operations accessed this water.

ATTENTION HISTORIANS !!! *The Riverside County History Day Contest needs individuals as Judges for this year's competition. If you can volunteer 4-6 hours, please contact Pepper Hanrahan at phanrahan@rcoe.k12.ca.us. County winners proceed to the state-level competition. All entrants have already been judged winners of local contests. (To Judge local contests, contact Charolette, 302-0180.)*

Today, visitor's and residents may not recall that a world-class resort once offered rest, relaxation and relief from rheumatism and arthritis through the healing baths at a natural hot springs on Murrieta Hot Springs Road. A succession of owners has changed the former health and tourist destination, but the history of the Guenther family remains one of early entrepreneurship, bringing visitors to the area via rail, horse and buggy, early automobiles, and eventually by bus.

The following excerpt from "One Hundred Years in Murrieta", a publication distributed in 1985 by the Murrieta Centennial Committee, relates the following:

"Historians say the Temecula Indians were the first to use the hot springs. In 1797 Padres and San Juan Capistrano soldiers visited the springs. In 1844 Felix Valdez received title to the Rancho de Temecula; one of the co-owners, Juan Murrieta, left his name at the springs as well as a nearby village.

"During the boom days hundreds of people visited Murrieta and the springs. In 1902 Fritz Guenther purchased the springs and converted it to a health resort catering to thousands of visitors.

"Hugo Guenther and his son Bud Guenther managed the resort. People from Murrieta, Temecula, and the rest of the valley were employed there for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Guenther had a beautiful home on the hill overlooking the springs. Their daughter, Evelyn Reekie, and her family and Bud and his family had homes at the resort.

"The Greyhound bus transported guests from the Los Angeles area each day. On weekends all 350 rooms were rented...."

And this from a self-guided tour book, printed in 1996 and distributed by "Citizens for Historic Murrieta":

"The Murrieta Hot Springs has been regarded by all groups living in the area to have special healing qualities. This site was first known by the Shoshonean speakers as Pali Sakiwoona, or warm smelling water. Before 1900s there was a Luiseno settlement nearby and ceremonies were held near the springs. Later early farming residents of the Alamos District washed their clothes in the springs. By the 1880s the springs attracted residents from San Diego and Los Angeles who camped and took the waters, as the saying went.

"In 1902 the site and its surroundings were purchased by Fritz Gunther (sic)...Guenther's was one of the few hot springs resorts in California where Jews felt welcome, and many families came on vacation to socialize. Numerous residents of downtown Murrieta and the Alamos District worked there and sold farm products to the Guenthers for their restaurant. Residents enjoyed the lively entertainments the Guenthers provided in the theater at the resort. More than a few met their future spouses at the Hot Springs dances."

Tony and Fred Guenther maintain collections of photos and other memorabilia from the resort's hey-days. A lecture by Tony and portions of the family's collections were on display in 2002 as part of ongoing local history exhibits at the Temecula Museum.



**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 157
TEMECULA, CA 92593**

December 16, 2003

Temecula City Council
P.O. Box 9033
Temecula, CA 92589-9033

Dear Members of the Temecula City Council:

Reference: Consent Calendar Item 9.1, City Council Meeting, December 16, 2003.

Because of a prior commitment in Riverside this evening I have asked Eve Craig, founder and secretary of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, to present this letter to the members of the Temecula City Council.

The purchase of the Escallier House at 41852 Main Street by the City of Temecula is of concern to the Temecula Valley Historical Society. This home, built and occupied by the Escallier brothers, is one of those properties identified by the Temecula Valley Historical Society as being a significant part of the history of Temecula. We hope that this house can be preserved by the City of Temecula to maintain our touch with Temecula's past.

The Council's appreciation of the Temecula history as expressed by the building and operation of the Temecula Valley Museum, the reconstruction of the Mercantile Building as the lobby for the performing arts center, and the generous donations to the Temecula Valley Historical Society for historic plaques and restoration of the Louis Wolf tomb is greatly appreciated. I am sure that the value of the Escallier property will receive the same consideration as Old Town Temecula develops for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Jimmy N. Moore
President

This page reproduced from the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Edition compiled and produced by the Rancho California Water District. The water district building pictured here will soon undergo some restoration. It is located within the area being developed as the "Old Vail Ranch" on Hwy 79S, next to Kohl's Department Store.

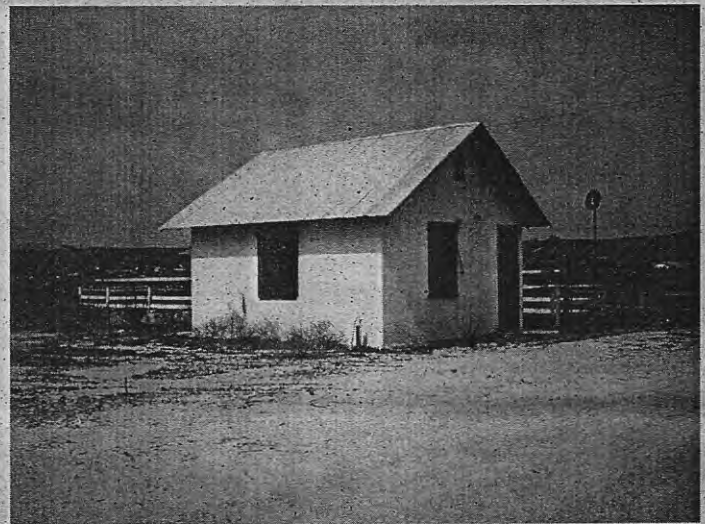


*Serving Temecula / Murrieta Valley
Since 1965*

Luiseno Indians erecting the first dwelling in the village of Temecu..., herds of lowing cattle grazing on vast ranchlands..., sunburned pioneers farming the land and building a thriving new town..., the Butterfield Stage loading passengers in front of McGee's General Store. All of these images recall the rich heritage of California's Temecula Valley.

From humble beginnings, the water district's original headquarters were built in the late 1920's near Vail Ranch. The tiny office served as storage for the voluminous records regarding water matters. As many as seven employees worked in the office between 1964 and 1973.

The pioneering spirit and sense of adventure that characterized the past are strongly present in today's Temecula/Rancho California. An area renowned for its agricultural, residential, and industrial land use while preserving its frontier past - is emerging as one of Southern California's most favored areas in which to live and work.



Thirty years ago, Rancho California Water District (RCWD) was formed to serve water and provide sewage treatment for new development in southwest Riverside County. Its many obvious advantages have made the area one of the fastest growing in the nation. RCWD recognizes its vital role of providing this dynamic region with a dependable supply of high quality water at a reasonable cost, and is committed to meeting these challenges now and for generations to come. Long-term benefits to all citizens are ensured by: constant monitoring of the District's groundwater supply to prevent overdrafting, the development of reclaimed water sources, sound planning for future facilities and the District's financial stability.

Currently, RCWD provides vital water and sewer services to a population of more than 60,000. From its inception in a one-room wooden building to its present state-of-the-art facility, the Rancho California Water District continues to plan for and meet the ever-changing water needs of a growing and diverse community. Conserving and managing the area's unique water resources are essential to the continued viability of the community.

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Jan 15 to Feb 15, 2004

New Members

Gifts & Donations



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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)
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www.tvhs.homestead.com/FrontPage.html

CHECK IT OUT !!

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

Printing. Potamus Press



Calendar

Board Meeting Feb 6
Historical Commission Feb 19

Active Committees:

- Research & Preservation
- Wolf's Tomb
- Plaques & Markers
- Youth

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



PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

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.

QUOTES

If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You're a leaf that doesn't know it's part of a tree.

---Michael Crichton

The bee that makes the honey doesn't hang around the hive.

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

-----Mark Twain



COMING SPRING OF 2004

the

COUNTY HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

to be presented by the Riverside
County Historical Commission



open to historians,
preservationists, archaeologist,
genealogists, researchers, local
groups, their staffs and members



watch this space for future
announcements





TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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 TEMECULA, CA 92592

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 share it with a friend? Please pass
 it on and help us build our
 readership. Thank you.

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tax exempt-charitable & educational organization

Membership

Membership/Donation Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 35.00	<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