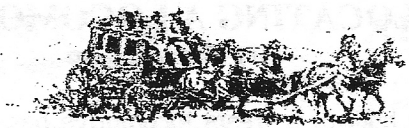


# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

March 2004 Vol 4 Issue 3

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### Reaching Our Historical Potential

It was a dark and stormy night... hackneyed, right? But some stories do have to repeat themselves. For instance, the relating of oral histories that one generation tells another. We are grateful for the storytellers who capture not only the essential facts but some of the comedy or drama of the story as well.

Several people have expressed a desire to learn how to do oral interviews in order to record the lives of valley residents who carry the heritage of the last 60 or 70 years in their heads and hearts. If you would be interested in learning how to conduct an oral interview, or if you are someone with a story to tell, please contact Charolette at (909) 302-0180. We need to bring the story tellers and the story takers together.



### THE LUDY FAMILY

Other members of the Ludy family have left us a written record of life in Rainbow, Temecula, and Riverside. Inside we relate the memories of Elizabeth Griebler, sister of Chris Ludy. She will remind us that a visit to the Pacific Ocean, a commonplace occurrence to us today, was not so commonplace in 1900. The distance has not changed, but 100 years ago the school children at Rainbow School had no roads, no cars, and only make-shift camping gear when they made the trip.

We will conclude the account of the Perris Elementary School centennial of 1993, and update you with committee reports.

### President's Corner

In the quest for historic preservation of Temecula Valley, the City of Temecula Planning Department prepared a map of the known historical sites within the Valley and forwarded it to the Society so we could verify its accuracy and completeness. Darell Farnbach, Chair of the Research & Preservation Committee, is reviewing the map and will report back to the Board when all sites have been verified. We will return it to the City for inclusion in the City's General Plan. We will keep you posted through the Newsletter. This cooperation between the City and the Society helps insure that our few precious reminders of the historical past are preserved for many generations to come.

The Event's Committee is working on a calendar that will list the events to be included in the upcoming year. It too will be published in a future Newsletter.

A group of volunteers is working on the 100th Anniversary of the Vail Ranch. The celebration will begin with the July 4th Parade and continue for a full year. The Society is participating, along with representatives of other groups such as the Temecula Valley Museum, Temecula Library, Vail Ranch Restoration Association, Chamber of Commerce, Arts Council and others interested in this commemoration.

Our yearly balanced budget was approved at the February Board meeting and it looks like the Society is on firm financial grounds. The expenditure of funds was approved to rent the Wells Fargo Stagecoach for the July 4th Parade. You can help by participating and encouraging your friends to buy tickets too.

We have changed the dues structure by increasing the initial membership fee. The renewal fee will remain the same, providing the renewal takes place during the month before expiration. Remember, you are all on the membership committee so we expect great results from your efforts -- keep recruiting and save yourself some money by renewing your membership on time.

*Jimmy Moore*

## PLAQUE COMMITTEE REPORT

*by Pam Grender, Chair*

A total of ten new plaques have been installed, and all but one have been erected in Old Town. The exception is a plaque on the Stone House on Temecula Creek Golf Course. Two plaques are ready and waiting to be installed. One will be erected on the Friedemann house when the remodeling is completed and the other is the large plaque commemorating the California Southern Railroad. That plaque will be installed sometime in early Spring.

Material for a descriptive tour brochure, including a map identifying where all the historical plaques are located in Old Town, has been compiled with contributions from committee members Myra Gonsalves, and Loretta and Malcolm Barnett. Jose Sanchez has agreed to get the information into a brochure format ready for publication. Jimmy Moore made contact with Minute Man Express Printers who have agreed to do 2500 copies at cost.

As chair, I spoke before the City Council on two separate occasions recently, once regarding the plaque on the Escallier House on Main Street, and a second time to introduce the information that will be contained in the tour brochure. With exposure to what the society is doing to actively commemorate historical properties and sites, we hope the council will come to value these locations enough to preserve them. Since the City has supported the plaque project through three community service grants, we can remind them where their money has been invested. The Council seemed appreciative of the information presented and Mayor Naggar suggested the tour brochure be put on the City's website.

Four new plaques are presently in the planning stage. These will commemorate original businesses in Old Town: The Temecula Hotel (also known as the Escallier Hotel), The Champion Building, Al Knott's Garage, and Hall's Cafe.

## LOCATING A LOCOMOTIVE

*by Charolette Fox*

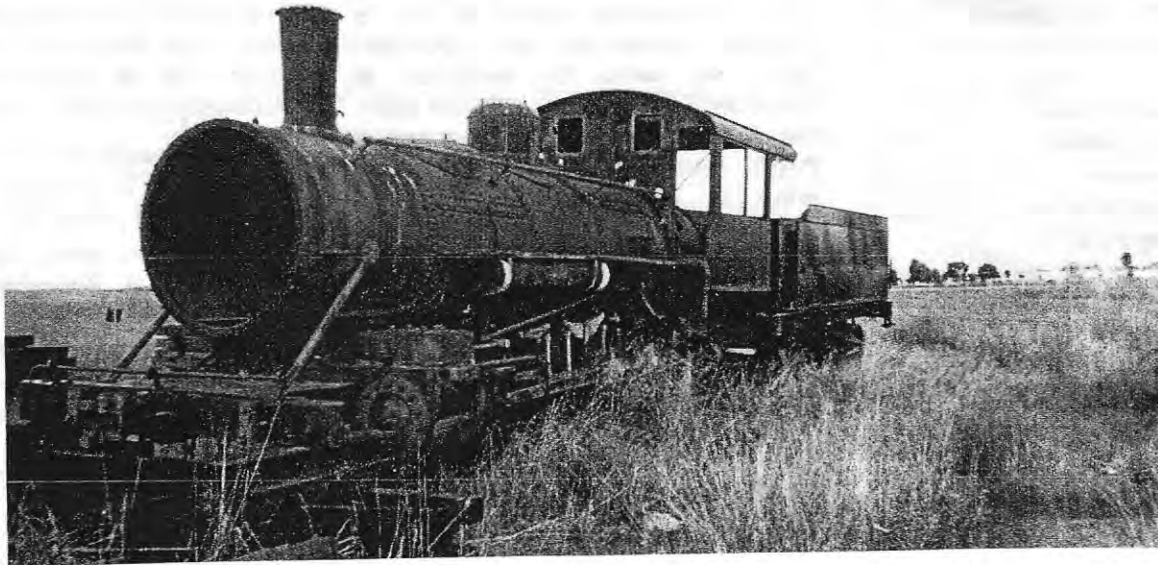
A rusting hulk of a steam locomotive has been located in Southwest Riverside County, and research into its history is ongoing. Is it the one that was stranded in Santa Margarita canyon before the turn of the last Century -- or one like it?

The route from Temecula to Colton continued into the 20th Century, but the California Southern ceased operating between Oceanside and Temecula in 1892 after the train and tracks were flooded. The passengers and crew were helpless for seven days until one of the stranded hiked down the canyon and brought back a rescue team. We are fairly certain the name of the train's engineer was Richard V. Dodge, as we have seen the accounts written by Dodge's son, also named Richard. But the son's accounts don't go far enough, never revealing the name of the locomotive's maker, its engine number, or what happened to it after its passengers left for the safety of Oceanside.

Parts have been removed and are laying on the ground. Other parts, including most of the track, may have been hauled away for resmelting of their metals for World War II defense efforts. The ghostly hulk still sits on a few feet of track, not able to move forward or backward.

The track's gauge could be a clue to the origins and type of train it is. It has the same wheel configuration as the ill-fated engine -- two small wheels forward of two large wheels. The cattle catcher, now detached and laying nearby, appears to be of the same style as our lost engine's type. No paint remains on the shell--no indication by flake or speck what number or line was once painted on the coal car attached behind the engineer's box.

Sitting lonesome as it does, in a field plowed all around, I'm told the owners come once a year to check on it. So for now we have a name and at least one new lead to follow for more information.

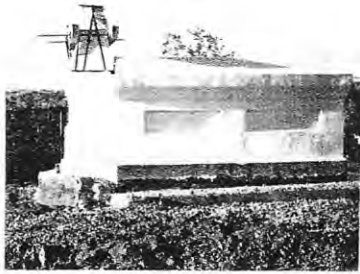




## RESTORATION OF WOLF'S TOMB

by Eve Craig, Chair

Work continues on the monument to complete restoration of Wolf's tomb. Younger Bros., House Movers, brought heavy equipment and replaced the huge marble headstone on its pedestal.



John Bell supervised the grading of a good portion of the property and prepared it for his contractors to pour concrete for steps and a path surrounding the structure.

The next step will be to replace the long missing pillar and install an urn similar to a Grecian urn on top of the column.

It is exciting to see this historically significant structure nearing its completion through the generosity of many people who have great respect for the rich history of Temecula.

*Eve's efforts have continued unabated since the inception of this project -- the first undertaken by the Society and one with occasional setbacks and delays. The Society recognizes and appreciates these many months of leadership Eve has given. To volunteer your time or services, please email Eve at [Ecraig3@juno.com](mailto:Ecraig3@juno.com). To donate to this worthy project, please make your check out to "TVHS". On the memo line indicate your gift is designated for the "Wolf Tomb". Gifts over \$200 are tax deductible. Checks should be mailed to PO Box 157, Temecula, CA 92893.*

## AN ORAL HISTORIAN AT THE CAPITOL

*In a presentation about the changing technologies available to record oral histories, this speaker opened his remarks with a story he stumbled on during an oral interview he conducted in Washington, D.C. Here, excerpted from *History Times*, the magazine of the American Association for State and Local History, are his opening remarks.*

*"For the past quarter century I have been conducting oral history interviews on a particular community that has grown from a small town into a bustling city -- or as one interviewee described it, 'a metropolis out of a barnyard.' These interviews are not unlike those that you may have done in your own neighborhood, except that my community is the United States Senate."*

So started the presentation given by Donald A. Ritchie, historian for the Senate Historical Office since 1976. Mr. Ritchie goes on to relate the growth and changes that few of us have taken time to notice, saying that even though the business of our Capitol is well recorded, much of the detail is embedded in the memories of "those who were there." His efforts have been to dig these details out by augmenting oral interviews with research through the written records. He continues ...

*"One old-timer staffer commented that when he arrived in the late 1950s, he needed to use an adapter to plug in electrical appliances at the Capitol because the building was still on direct current. Direct current? Recently released records of closed-door hearings conducted by Senator Joe McCarthy reflect that the committee wanted to see a documentary film made by one of the witnesses. One senator asked if there would be any problem in showing it in the Capitol. "Perhaps so, we have direct current here," said Senator McCarthy.*

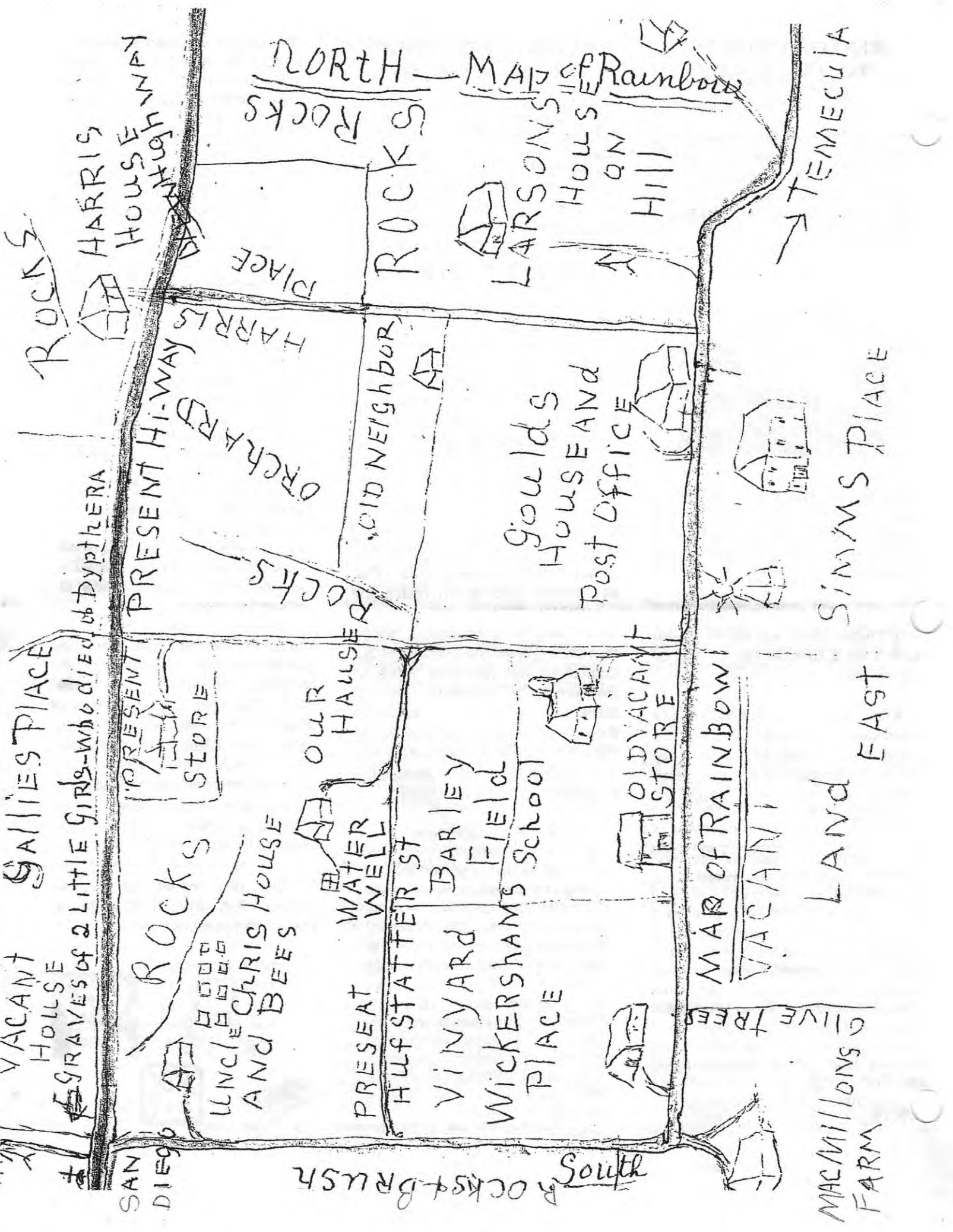
*This piqued my curiosity and I tracked the story back to several failed experiments to electrify the Capitol in the 1880s. Congress then hired the Edison Company. By 1880, they had installed some 1,150 electric lights around the Capitol. Wires were run through gas pipes and adapted gas fixtures that one architectural historian described as 'sometimes smelly and always dangerous.'*

*The problem was that Thomas Edison believed in direct current rather than alternating current. Although the Capitol's electrical system was quickly outmoded, the expense of rewiring a 500-room building postponed further change until the 1960s. The old system posed few problems in the era of manual typewriters, but as electric typewriters and other appliances proliferated, the Capitol's technological obsolescence became increasingly evident. Finally, architects used the 1960 renovation of the Capitol's east front as the occasion to convert the electrical system to alternating current."*

The speech went on to relate all the changes in the devices used for recording interviews ... and Mr. Ritchie has seen and used most of these from handwritten notes, typewritten notes, 3x5 cards, and several other time-consuming and labor-intensive methods. So what devices does he use now? Which technology does he think will endure?

For that, dear reader, call me. Or contact Don Ritchie directly at [Don\\_Ritchie@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Don_Ritchie@sec.senate.gov).







## Rainbow, Riverside and Temecula

Notes from Elizabeth Giebeler, written when she was 90 years old

*In the last issue we related the memories of this area as told by Chris Ludy, decendent of Jacob Ludy. As German immigrants, the Jacob Ludy family originally came to Southwest Riverside County to help clear the land for other farmers who had settled in Aguanga and Oak Grove. In a very short time, however, Jacob Ludy bought land of his own closer to present-day Temecula. In fact, it was a portion of the Ludy land that was sold in the early 1900s to Walter Vail, and even later still that a portion was sold to Vince and Audrey Cilurzo to begin their vineyards and winemaking business in the 1960s.*

*The notes that follow are the memories written by Chris's married sister, Elizabeth Giebeler. The story exists for the retelling because of another of Jacob Ludy's decendents, his granddaughter Margie Gilian, daughter of Elizabeth and niece of Chris.*

*We express thanks to Margie, and to Audrey, for submitting this detailed, wonderful "travelogue" back into Temecula's past.*

### RAINBOW 1897 - 1902

I have just finished a sketch of Rainbow showing where the various families lived when I was a child. I can remember only eight families and one other man who had a garden and raised some sugar cane and cut and gave us children a piece to taste the sugar syrup. I was disappointed; it didn't taste very sweet to me, but the other children seemed to think it great. I can't remember his name or if he had a wife. He had no children or I would have remembered them. I remember where he lived, though.

Most of the neighbors lived along the road from San Diego through Rainbow to Temecula and beyond. It

had a certain name as an old route to Southern California, but I do not know it. [the Southern Immigrant Trail ???]

My mother's brother's house, where my folks stayed while my father dug a well and built a little house not far away, was the first house along that road as it entered Rainbow. Then east, along the same road, on the corner as it made a turn to go south, was Walter Wickersham's and his old mother's house. Walter was well along in years or, at least, so it seemed to me. He had a five-acre vineyard. Across the street or road, as I should say, was the MacMillon place. They had an olive grove and something else that always fascinated me: guinea hens. I had never seen any before and their speckled feathers and their heads seemed so pretty. Mrs. MacMillon said they kept them for "watchdogs." They gave a loud alarm if anything strange was around.

The MacMillons were vegetarians and we children used to say they "ate weeds." I suppose there are various wild plants that people in the past cooked as greens. I have had people tell me they were so fond of this plant or that they would always stop and pick a mess of it if they found it growing wild.

A little farther along on this block was a vacant old store building. I think it had bedrooms upstairs, I am not sure, but it must have been a stopping place for travelers going through. I don't know anything about the early history of Rainbow except that it was once called "Valleyctos" until the Post Office would not accept that name as there was another Valleyctos. So, it was called "Rainbow." Why, I don't know. If I heard the folks talk of early history, I wouldn't have been interested for I was too young to understand.

The little one room school house was just behind the old store facing the other road.



Across the road from the school on the corner, was the Gould property. The Goulds had a well-built house and kept the Post Office. I was told later that the only pay people who kept the Post Office received was the amount the stamps cost to send the letters mailed there. At two cents a letter and people didn't write too many letters in those days, I wonder what the Post Office earned. Not much, I am certain. It was a convenience for the neighbors and a certain honor to be "Postmaster."

Directly across the road from the Goulds' was the Simms' place. I remember it well because it had a windmill and Mrs. Simms had a garden and sometimes she shared her string beans or peas with us. She also had a large "black fig" tree. The figs were not ripe when she was showing them to my mother one time, but oh! how I wanted one to eat. Fresh vegetables were to be had only by those who had windmills and could have a garden. Therefore, by today's standard, our diet was very restricted. All my life I still crave fresh fruits and vegetables. When I hear mothers say, "Johnny just won't eat his vegetables," I think he should be sent back in time to the old days. He would never say that again.

Along the south side of the Goulds' place there was a road going west past my unremembered neighbor to the Harris' place. The Harrises had three boys, two of them still in school and a little girl a year or two older than I and the only other girl in school and my playmate. I will say more about the Harris family later. Their house is where the highway from Temecula passed [old Highway 395]. I am not speaking of the freeway they are building now. This highway was built about twenty-five or thirty years ago, but we always called it the "new highway." It was no longer a "road."

[Hwy 395 was widened, straightened, and renumbered as the I-15 in the early 1970s. On Assessor's maps for this County, the 215 is also shown as "Hwy 395", denoting the route went north-easterly passing west of March ARB and UCR on its way to San Bernardino.]

The next house along the old road was the Larson place. Their road led a short distance up a steep hill to their house, just at the turn of the road as it went into the little valley just south of Rainbow on the way to Temecula.

Mrs. Wickersham, our nearest neighbor just to the east of us, was a typical older woman with her long hair in a bun and glasses, and her Front Room (not living room as we would call it now) was a typical old-fashioned front room as we now see them pictured as early 1800 front rooms of the old eastern houses, with a comfortable rocking chair and a little table with nick nacks displayed, also a photo or two and everywhere knitted or crocheted doillies. One thing I especially remember -- Mrs. Wickersham always seemed to have a bowl of China Lilies (narcissus) growing in water and rocks. They seemed to have so many blossoms and their fragrance was so strong. I never forgot Mrs. Wickersham's China Lilies. Walter, her son, always seemed to be busy around the yard or barn. Everyone seemed old to me, but maybe he was quite young; he never married. Mrs. Wickersham had another son who married and had a five-year-old daughter living somewhere else.

Mrs. MacMillon and her husband lived across the road, cornerwise, from the Wickershams. They had two grandchildren who came to visit them occasionally. The little boy was just old enough to print his name in my autograph book. I don't remember much of the MacMillons' house except that it was old like all the rest and their olive trees were quite large, so they must have been planted a long time ago.

I don't remember the Goulds. They must have been younger folks because their only child was a boy, still in school, less than fourteen years old, in the seventh grade or so. I heard they moved from Rainbow not long after we moved. There was no future there for young people, as my parents soon decided. The Simms across the street were typical older folks. Mrs. Simms often spoke of her grandchildren. On the road going west lived the neighbor whom I don't remember.

Beyond his place lived the Harris family. They too were younger people. They had the three boys I mentioned before and the one girl, Dora, a couple of years older than I, and my playmate. Dora's mother was still young enough to enjoy making taffy candy for us children on a rainy day when we could not play outdoors. I had never seen anyone make taffy candy before. It was so interesting to watch her put the sugar and other ingredients on to boil and see her watch it carefully until it was ready. Then she would pour it onto a large platter to cool until we could pull it. She gave each of us a little ball of candy and showed us how to pull it and when it was pulled, using both hands we would pull it into a long strip, then fold it over and over and pull again until it was shiny and cool, then would come the best part -- we were allowed to eat what we had pulled, all of it. We didn't get candy very often, so a little excess sugar didn't hurt any of us.

Another unusual thing the Harrises did was to make "ice cream." I had never seen ice cream in my life before, but one Fourth of July they got an old fashioned hand-cranked ice cream freezer and ice for it and invited all the neighbors over for a party. Where they obtained the ice is still a mystery to me. There was no ice-making machine or company in Temecula or anywhere else around there. It may be that the butcher or someone in Temecula had ice sent regularly from Riverside on the

train. Anyway, I had my first taste of ice cream. The Harrises also left Rainbow to move to Los Angeles. Dora came to visit my mother once quite a few years later after we had moved to Los Angeles.

That leaves the Larson family who lived up on the hill in the last house on the road to Temecula. They had one boy still in school and a younger daughter just out of school who still lived at home. Two other girls had gone to Riverside to work and came home to visit occasionally.

I think there was a little house and farm away back near the mountain. I was never there...have just a vague memory of the place which was just at the turn of the road as it left Rainbow.

### Rainbow School

The Rainbow school was the then typical country school -- a one room schoolhouse with one teacher for all the eight grades and all the children who lived close enough to school to walk there. There were no school buses in those days. There were nine students and a teacher who came from Fallbrook. I am quite certain her name was "Miss Baker."

Every Sunday afternoon or maybe very early Monday morning she would ride her little horse to Rainbow. On Fridays she came to school dressed in her riding suit, a split skirt which buttoned together down the front, all very neat, and, to me, very pretty. During the week she boarded with the Gould family who also cared for her horse. From their house she could walk to the school house.

There was no well for water on the school grounds, so someone had to carry a large pail of water to school for drinking and for washing hands in the small enamel washbasin.



When my brother, who was a year and a half older than I, started to school in first grade, I wanted to go to school so badly that the teacher said to my mother, "Let her come along with her brother. I will find something for her to do." So that was the beginning of my school days and I admired the teacher so, all the things she could do and tell us about and the pretty clothes she wore that I made up my mind at five years of age, that I was going to be a teacher too. I didn't quite make it, though. After graduating from high school in Los Angeles and with two years more to go in Normal School, the training school for would-be teachers, I met my future husband and was married and raised a nice family of five children instead. I am certain that I made the right choice. Married women were not allowed to teach in those days.

One weekend, it must have been Easter vacation week, the teacher had two of the older boys borrow a large farm wagon and two horses. All the children of the school, with their sleeping blankets and a very large tent and food for several days and cooking pots, and the Larson girl to help, we all started out on a trip to Oceanside to see the ocean. Oceanside was really not far off, a day and a half trip with a team and camping equipment, but nobody ever seemed to think of driving so far before to see the ocean.



The trip took us from Rainbow through Fallbrook and down a narrow winding road to the San Luis Rey River, where we camped for the night. There was a very nice flow of water in the river at that time which was before the water was used in the mountains to form a lake for irrigation. The horses and farm wagon forded the river easily.

The teacher bought some bananas and gave each of us a half banana. It was the first time I had ever eaten or seen a banana. I didn't think they tasted very good.



The boys all slept along one side of the large tent and the girls along the other side. I remember the teacher shaking me during the night and asking me, "Who are you?" I answered, "I am me." She said, "Who is 'me'?", and I kept saying "me." Finally she said, "What is your name?" So I told her. I had rolled out into the aisle of the tent, between the boys and the girls, and the teacher didn't know which side of the tent to roll me back to. It was really dark and there were no flashlights in those days. It was a grand trip, one I never forgot. I was only five years old.

### *The Story of Mr. and Mrs. Gallie*

The only neighbors I haven't mentioned are Mr. and Mrs. Gallie. To get to their place you took the road, after coming from Temecula, past the school house on past where the store is now down to where the road came into their barnyard. The house was just a little way up the hill... These old California-style houses were made of rough lumber, mostly up and down wide boards and never painted. They were built in the early days from material that was handy just so people could move in as soon as possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Gallies' house was old and weathered. I have no idea by whom or when it was built, but Gallies had it very nice inside -- carpets on the floor and wallpaper on the walls and very comfortable. It was just one large room divided to make a bedroom and a living-dining room with a fireplace. There was a lean-to porch in front which was enclosed at one end to make a bedroom for Mr. and Mrs. Gallie and

another long lean-to build on the back for a kitchen.

The long sloping roof had a trough built along the lower end to catch all the rainwater and run it into a large barrel. This water was used for many things which did not require clear water. Water for cooking or washing clothes came from a windmill across the dry creek below the house and barn. There was a water pipe which carried the water across the creek to empty into two large barrels on a sled which was drawn by the horses to just outside the kitchen when the barrels were full. The water pipe also filled a trough for the horses and cow to drink from and also filled the trough lower down for the hogs to drink from. Mr. Gallie raised hogs for a living in the old style way: a large part of his ranch was fenced with hog-proof fencing and the hogs ran loose among the oak trees in the creek bottom and surrounding land.

In the fall, Mr. Gallie plowed a large field across the creek and planted barley. About the month of May, when the barley grain was ready to be harvested, he turned the hogs in to live on the grain. They did the harvesting and lived and fattened on it until fall and market time. We think now that it was an uneconomical way to farm, but Mr. Gallie was nearly sixty years old and it saved him a lot of work. Many hogs in those days were raised on the acorns from the oak trees where they lived. When I was five years old or so, I would stay two or three days with the Gallies and I loved to trot along with Mr. Gallie as he made his rounds to check the hog fences and see how the hogs were doing....



.... to be continued

## PERRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT: The First 100 Years

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

Any time this Society has the opportunity to relate even a small portion of the history of the farmers, merchants, or residents of Southwest Riverside County we count it a "golden" opportunity. As Nan's school centennial presentation continues, look for the nuggets.

We left the story in 1907. School attendance was being supported by a campaign started by the Perris Progress, and a property tax bill was passed, too. The City of Perris incorporated in 1911, which increased land values to as much as \$40.00 an acre, stimulating the economy. But things were still a bargain... Here is the conclusion of Nan's speech.

The Chinese restaurants baked fresh bread every day and housewives bought loaves for ten cents a loaf. The meals here cost twenty-five cents and they included T-bone Steaks.



One mile west of Perris was a Granite Quarry reported to contain enough granite to build several cities the size of New York. I wonder what happened to that?

Perris also had another hotel with twenty rooms called the "Robertline".

Carpenters had lots of work and were paid twenty-five cents to fifty cents a day.

A thriving business was horseshoeing. Just before harvest time when the 16-mule teams were to pull the machines there was a gathering almost like a celebration or contest. Horses were placed in shoeing stocks to hold them and time for shoeing was counted. One of the wildest horses held the record for twelve-minute shoeing.

In 1916 the Hook family built a garage. This was the building that burned a few weeks ago [1993] on "D" Street.

Grain from all over the Perris Valley was sold by the Hooks and shipped to Mexico, Arizona, and San Francisco. Six trains a day came through Perris.

A hundred years ago teachers taught all ages in one classroom; grades first through eighth. Many times there would be only one or two students at each grade level. Teacher's pay was about \$1,200.00 a year, but each year the budget was set and sometimes the teacher's salary was determined by dividing the money available equally between the number of teachers needed.

As more people came, overcrowding was not new to the Perris District. In 1913 the two-storied-brick-building needed to be replaced. Classes moved to the church on 6th Street while the old school was torn down. A new school was built in the grass area where we celebrate [this centennial].

The new school used timbers and bricks from the first school and this building had a first floor and a basement. This building was used until 1954. It became the center of community activities.

Mr. Hoadley was hired as principal for the salary of \$1,700.00 a year. He served this district for years. The stories I could tell about this man and his School Board would take another night. He was the most dedicated and fearlessly protective of HIS school and HIS kids of any man who ever lived.

When hired, his contract stated that if he did not improve the discipline he would resign.

Mrs. Hoadley was an accomplished musician and she organized music concerts, bringing noted opera and professional people from the Los Angeles area to the school for regular programs. The money that these programs raised purchased the Baby Grand Piano that we still have in the auditorium at this school.



There were also community sings that always had a packed house on Friday and Saturday nights. Monies raised from the community sings went directly into the operation of the school.

During Mr. Hoadley's time the Perris District began a number of firsts that over the years have grown and improved.

Hoadley thought the children needed warm food at noon, especially in cold weather when classrooms were not very well heated. He began by cooking soup or stew on the top of the heating stove and served all kids and they had better eat or else! Later on a few mothers took turns in furnishing lunch and then for many years the organized PTA (one of the first in our county) volunteered to finance and man the cafeteria. Mrs. Evans was hired as the first paid cafeteria cook.

PTA volunteers continued to help and for years cooked the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the entire school.





The stage had curtains purchased for \$1,000.00 in the 1930s. When they needed to be replaced in 1957 the ladies bought the material and brought their sewing machines to the school. Tables were set together and new curtains were made. Of course, these are not the ones that are here now.

Hoadley thought books were the key to success and so there were book drives and Perris District was the first school in Riverside County to have their own school library. This meant that the school no longer had to depend upon the County School or stand in line for books.

When Mr. Leland Scott was hired we had a full-time music program and a marching band in full uniform. Our principal was allowed to spend only a very small amount of money without the approval of the Board. When he needed uniforms for his kids he ordered them and they came more than he could pay. When they were delivered he paid his allotment and then called a Board Meeting. He advised the board that if they wanted all of the kids to march with uniforms the Board should pay the rest. Since the Board had approved the purchase order, they paid for the balance of the uniforms.

The band performed all over, and was transported in private cars by volunteers. Mr. Vic Giardinelli came to us and volunteered to supervise a drill team that soon joined the marching band. The band and drill team won numerous awards.



Importance of the parents in the school and in the lives of their children has always been one of the top priorities in the district's philosophy. For many years we had

one of the strongest and most active PTAs anywhere.

Years ago the trustees were not controlled so much from Sacramento as they are today. Decisions were made at the local Board concerning most policies. The Board kept minutes of their meetings, but they took up only two or three paragraphs. Today the pages we receive are numerous and take hours to study before the meetings.

The shortest minutes I found read as follows, "Meeting called to order under the tree in side yard. All Trustees present. No business of importance. Bills reviewed and signed. Meeting adjourned".

Board members interviewed and hired the teachers and other help. One of my interesting experiences happened when I had just shortly been elected to the Board.

Mr. Hoadley called me in the morning and said that I should come at once to the school. It seemed that one of the teachers had had a little too much to drink. I told him to take her out of the class and fire her. He replied, "You hired her, so you can fire her". I ended up teaching the class that day and called an Emergency Board Meeting for that night. With the way society is today, this seem simple, but thirty years ago, it was a real crises.

Perris had several community celebrations throughout the years with "Alfalfa Days" being a big event. "Quail Day" was the first day of Quail season and every business in Perris, including the Post Office was closed as everyone went hunting in the early morning. In the afternoon they all gathered together in the center of town and cooked the quail at a big community picnic.



When machines had replaced horses, potatoes became one of the big products of the valley. "The Potato Festival" was a four-day event with all community organizations taking part. There were five or six potato packing sheds in the area and many migrant workers came to work in the Perris Valley.

Trains ran day and night and my husband Roland Sanders, kept our Texaco station open 24 hours a day. Many times he worked all night in order to have trucks ready to roll at daylight.

Potato Pete was the logo on all the streets. The Perris Valley Lions Club still sponsors the festival, but a little differently now...

One year Jewel Fraley and I ran a booth for the PTA. We made a profit of \$10.00 that went to the dental fund.

With the increase in water prices and agriculture land being used to build homes on, the potato farmers moved to other states.

For many years we had growth of about one or two classrooms a years. The auditorium was divided into three classes and the cafeteria was put in the basement. We went on double sessions and staggered hours for different grades.

In the minutes of the years 1934 through 1937 there seems to be many changes that were decided upon.

-- Mrs. Cummins representing the PTA petitioned the School Board to apply to the state for a cafeteria project.

-- Mr. Hoadley was voted a five-cent mileage expense for using his car for school business.

-- It was decided to furnish a home teacher for handicapped children who could not get to school.

-- Notes were to be sent home to parents of children who were going to receive an "F" before grade cards came out.

-- Teachers were informed they would visit parents of children who were having trouble in school.

-- The District did not own buses and it was contracted to pay \$47.50 for the year to bring all the children to school. Don't know how many this was.

-- About 60 parents from the Good Hope area requested the Board to have a teacher ride the bus to make the children behave. Busses were not purchased until the 1950s.

-- In 1936 a night watchman was hired to patrol the school every night two or three times.

-- If you wanted to run for the School Board you just sent a handwritten note to the County School Office.

-- There were no tenure laws, but the Board voted some teachers permanent status.

-- One teacher was given a year's leave of absence and would be granted only to return if her husband was not working at that time. Since he was employed at the time she was to return, she was notified that there would be no contract.

In 1941 Helen Kirpatrick petitioned the Board to establish a

Kindergarten. A bond election was held and passed for \$25,000.00.

An inspector was hired for the building and paid \$110.00. If everything went well when the building was completed he would be paid more. That was accountability!

The Kindergarten here was built first and some years later this school was built around the old school leaving us this grass area where the old school had been.

Hoadley had been the Superintendent-Principal for \_\_\_ years when he announced his retirement. He prided himself on knowing everything that went on in Perris and certainly everything that went on at his school. The mothers of the PTA and the teachers gathered nickels and times from the children very quietly. On his last day all those at the school walked out after the Pledge of Allegiance to the front of the school where Mr. Hoadley was presented with a beautiful reclining chair. He couldn't believe that 600 kids -- Kindergarten through eighth grade had kept this very special secret to themselves.

In the late 1950s all the elementary schools in the valley were bursting at the seams, so it was agreed to build a Junior High School, as none of us were in condition to build five new elementary schools. Perris Junior High School was built in 1961.

This was only temporary and soon the Good Hope School was built against much controversy at a cost of one-half-million-dollars.

The Board was brave enough to go for the full master plan and when it opened with some empty rooms the community was very vocal. It was only a short time until all rooms were full and there was no need to immediately ask for another bond election.

Upon opening the third school in 1986 grades were divided in order not to play the segregation game.

Nan Sanders Elementary School was another first. It was the first cooperation with a county to have handicapped classes as part of the plan. It was adopted by the State of California as model for other schools.

The population growth did not stop and the Annex planned for a temporary-holding school was built. Now it will probably be permanent. We have at the end of one hundred years, four schools that once again are over-filled with 4,000 children, Kindergarten through 6th grade.

The Palms Elementary School is well under way to completion and other schools are on the drawing board as the city continues to have developers with all kinds of plans.

Finances have always been one of the headaches of School Trustees. The State of California has us all in hot water now and what the voucher initiative will do to public education if it passes is only a guess. [That legislation failed.]

We have a history of the Perris School District that we can be proud of. We have had wonderful teachers and other staff members that have passed her throughout the years.

The Board of Trustees was three in number, and now are five...

It has been 100 years of many changes. Changes which included happiness, success, and also frustration. It has also been 100 years of many people working together for the betterment of children.

I wonder what the next hundred years will bring?





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Jan 15 to Feb 15, 2004

### New Members

George Van Valkenburg, Jr.

Tom McGiffin

### Gifts & Donations

Howard & Kathy Katz (in-kind)



## 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.

[www.tvhs.homestead.com/FrontPage.html](http://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

"Cameras" at Museum	to Feb 29th
Board Meeting	Mar 5, Noon
Historical Commission	Mar 18, 1:30p
Wildflower Program	Mar 27, 2:00p
"Ramona" play opens	April 10
County Historical Conf.	April 16

### Active Committees:

Research & Preservation

Wolf's Tomb

Plaques & Markers

Youth & School Programs

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

*Daylight Savings Time is founded on the old notion of cutting off one end of the blanket and sewing it onto the other end to make the blanket longer.*

*Be patient. Get the chicken by hatching the egg - not by opening the shell early.*



## HEAR YE!

## HEAR YE!

## COMING APRIL 16 2004

### COUNTY HISTORICAL CONFERENCE:

## ARCHITECTURE OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

presented by the Riverside County  
Historical Commission



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



## Save the date!

Join us at Benedict Castle for a day  
of history presentations and tours.

Lunch to be included.

*Registration required.*



**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 32800 Hupa Drive  
 TEMECULA, CA 92592

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 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.*

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