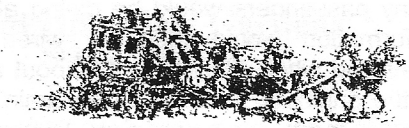


# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

November/December 2004 Vol 4 Issue 11

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Membership Committee	<i>All members</i>

visit us at

[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com) or  
[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

### A DAY AT THE FAIR AND A TRIBUTE

Continuing a long tradition, the 72nd Annual fair for the 46th Agricultural District was held October 16-24, at the Perris Fairgrounds. Rain caused closure for three days, but the FFA and 4H youngsters finally did get their opportunity to show and compete in the auctions and activities that culminate their year of hard work. These kids really put their heart into the projects they undertook. We congratulate them all!

There is a Heritage Village at the north end of the fairgrounds. The village shops include a small printing museum, a blacksmith, a saddle shop, a replica of the San Timoteo Schoolhouse, and several other storefronts. **Herc Bouris**, who's display of restored farm equipment always pleased the crowds, was remembered by a wreath placed in front of one special tractor from his collection. The tribute to him was not misplaced. Those who have visited the Bouris tractor museum in Menifee, know that every piece he repaired or reconditioned became a gleaming example of work-a-day farm life.

[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com)



### STATELY SCHOOLHOUSES, HERITAGE GARDENS, HARVEY GIRLS, AND HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

This issue features the work of several contributing writers. Look inside for these stories as well as announcements of upcoming events.

### *President's Corner*

Where has this year gone? It seems just a day or two ago I started my job as President. As I reflect back, the Society has achieved a lot this past year. The Wolf Memorial is almost complete, thanks to **Eve Craig's** diligent work recovering the granite column that originally graced the site. We worked with the City of Temecula to preserve the Escallier house and barn that will be moved to make way for the new Civic Center. We joined with the Vail Ranch Restoration Association to have entries in the July 4th Parade, and won several 1st and 2nd place awards. **Pam Grender's** plaque committee placed additional plaques in Old Town Temecula and produced a walking brochure for Old Town as well. **Darell Farnbach** and **Eve Craig** completed a map and scrapbook of historical sites to be included in Temecula's new general plan. **Myra Gonsalves** became our official historian, documenting articles and pictures of Temecula Valley's history. **Don Vierstra** placed a sign on his property at the intersection of I-15 and I-215 advertising the Society. We held an outstanding Heritage Luncheon to honor women of historical Temecula, and **Wendy Lesovsky** got our website up and running. **Charolette Fox** continued to produce an outstanding monthly Newsletter, **Audrey Cilurzo** and her committee hosted our installation dinner where new board members were introduced and members presented "show and tell" items.

We say goodbye to board members **Gonsalves, Grender, Sannipoli, Katz** and **Preimsberger**, who all did an excellent job. We welcome "**Sis**" **Herron** and **Darell Farnbach** who continue on the board, along with newly elected **Keith Johnson, John Moramarco, Barbara Tobin** and **Doris Whited**.

*Jimmy Moore*

## THE HARVEY GIRLS

by Virginia Marsh

It started in 1870 when an English immigrant by the name of Fred Harvey came to New York in search of a new life. After working in restaurants and then on the railroad, he moved to Kansas City and met with Charles Morse, the General Superintendent of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. With his background in the restaurant and railroad industry, Mr. Harvey decided that the railroad could benefit by having first class restaurants and hotels along the tracks of the Santa Fe. Based on verbal agreements and a handshake, a deal was struck and a new chapter in history began.

Since railroad dining cars had not yet been in use on the railroads, train travelers had to either bring a box lunch aboard the train or buy food from greasy spoon type restaurants along the way. After experiencing travel on the railroad Fred Harvey wanted to give train travelers a better dining option. His plan was to offer quality hot meals at affordable prices.

He opened the first of his new restaurants in Topeka, Kansas in 1875 and the next in Florence, Kansas in 1876 and then 15 more as the Santa Fe laid track to the west with the last being built in Barstow, California. All was going well except for the problems he was having with the male waiters and it was after a major fight occurred in the Harvey House at Raton, New Mexico that he was convinced by one of his restaurant managers that women waitresses would be a better choice as food servers.

He agreed, and immediately started placing ads in eastern newspapers looking for girls 18 to 30, who were attractive and of good character. The ads also offered wages of \$17.50 per month, room and board, free rail transportation and a chance to see the west. All they had to do was sign a contract for either a 6 or 12-month period and agree to not get married or to move to a new location. These girls became known as "The Harvey Girls."

Fine china, large portions, clean and inviting environment, friendly staff and excellent service were all part of the Harvey House dining experience. About an hour before

the train was due to arrive at a station, the train's conductor would pass through each car and determine how many passengers would be dining at the next stop. This information would then be wired ahead to the restaurant and when the train was about a mile from the station, the engineer would blow the train whistle to alert the staff that the train was arriving. Upon arrival, a porter clanging a large gong would greet the passengers and they would follow him into the restaurant.

Once inside, a Harvey Girl would direct the diners to tables and take their orders for drinks and food. She would place the coffee cups in certain ways that would tell the Harvey Girls serving drinks what had been ordered. With this kind of organization, the feeding process went very smoothly. The goal of the Harvey House restaurants was to get the passengers off the trains, serve them a hot meal and get them back on board and on their way as quickly as possible.

Fred Harvey was very protective of his girls and was very strict with company policy. The girls were expected to be polite, well mannered and properly dressed. They were not allowed to wear excessive makeup and their hair was always to be tied up with a white bow. Their distinctive uniforms consisted of a long-sleeved, ankle-length black dress, white apron, black hose and black shoes. Harvey Girls were the most prim and proper women the old west had ever seen.

During its nearly 100 years of operation, The Fred Harvey Company employed 100,000 women and at its peak in the 1930s, there were 84 operating restaurants and hotels in the chain. During those peak years, over 15 million meals were being served annually.

*The Orange Empire Railway Museum located in Perris, California established a Harvey Girl Historical Society in 1998 to preserve and present a part of women's history that relates to development of the railroads in the west. They have done extensive research on the history of The Fred Harvey Company and the Harvey Girls and their relationship with the Santa Fe Railroad. For additional information about the Harvey Girl Historical Society or the Orange Empire Railway Museum, please call (951) 943-3020.*



(2 original Harvey Girls at center of photo)  
Picture taken at a San Bernardino Dedication - June 2004

## Local Historical Gardens

by Myra Gonsalves

The parameters of historical authenticity for buildings and landmarks have expanded over the last several years. Today, in addition to the materials used in construction for the restoration of a building's exterior or interior, the very grounds and the surrounding landscape are included in the context defining historical sites. This "whole picture" of preservation has brought about some new terms in landscaping and gardening, as well as given rise to a new group of preservationist -- those whose attention focuses on the natural terrain, botanical, horticultural, and agricultural aspects of history.

Land cultivation significantly changed or affected the natural landscapes of America's eastern seaboard as early as the pilgrim's arrival in the 1600s, when indigenous landscapes gave way to European farming techniques. Thus for the east coast, **historical landscapes date from circa 1620 to today.** Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts is an example of a very early eastern garden. Many of America's beautiful gardens such as some southern plantations, homes-turned-museums such as Monticello, Mt. Vernon, and Elvis Presley's Graceland, are prime examples of historical gardens from the mid 1750s to the 1970s.

For the west, it is generally accepted that **historical landscapes here date from the 1700s** when Spanish explorers began regularly traversing Baja California on their way from Mexico to Alta California and other points now known as Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and Nevada. Of course, centuries of Native American agricultural practices preceeded the 1700s and may date back 4,000 to 6,000 years in Temecula Valley.

In recent times, the U.S. Congress has enacted legislation such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These efforts augment our State and National Parks systems for preservation and conservation of geographical or geological sites of unique interest. In their truest sense, these sites are indigenous "gardens", and nearly all are open to the public.

In this issue, **Myra Gonsalves** shares information about one important pre-historic landscape (Santa Rosa Plateau), and two historical landscapes (Guajome, Mission San Luis Rey). We appreciate Myra's interest and background information to help us understand historical gardens. The full text of Myra's material will be presented in two issues, this being Part I. Look for Part II in next month's newsletter.

To learn more about trees that have played a part in America's historical events, and the lives of famous Americans, go to [www.historictrees.org](http://www.historictrees.org). Many of these trees may be ordered as seeds or seedlings for planting in home landscapes. Unique gift items available as well. Call the American Forests Historic Tree Nursery, 1-800-320-8733, for a catalog.

## Santa Rosa Plateau - Natural History Site

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve is an 8,300-acre reserve of one of the richest, most diverse natural landscapes remaining in Southern California. The Site of a historic ranch, the Santa Rosa Plateau is reminiscent of old California in the days before settlers arrived in great number.

The name "temecula" is a Luiseno name meaning "place of the sun." With open land, ample resources and a benevolent climate, Temecula Valley provided an abundance of food for the Luiseno Indians. Named for the Mission San Luis Rey, the Luiseno Indians were hunters and gathers who settled in villages along the waterways of Temecula and Murrieta creeks.

Temecula Valley was the backyard garden and supermarket for the Luiseno. They had knowledge of hundreds of plant species, which included seeds, berries and fruits, succulents, roots, and greens that were used for medicine, building materials and clothing. The acorn was their staff of life as bread is for us today. It is high in protein and carbonates and provided a healthy meal.

carbonate, *n.* Chem. a salt or ester of carbonic acid; to make sprightly or enliven.



carbohydrate, *n.* any of a class of organic compounds which form the supporting tissues of plants and are important to animals and man.

Each spring when "the rains came and grass sprouts," the village women gathered tubers, roots, greens, and wild fruits which were supplemented by the hunting of small birds, small mammals and fishing. In the early spring the women gathered the nutritious seeds from the chia plant -- ground and cooked as a mush or soup. The wild onion bulbs were eaten raw or roasted. The chocolate lily root was considered a delicacy, growing during the rainy season. Many a Luiseno child said "yah" to their roots, just as the child today with their vegetables. In late spring, scheduled burnings were an important means of revitalizing food sources and controlling the potential destruction of wild fire.

As summer came, the Luiseno saw the long, hot days as "everything as brown and dry." The manzanita red berries from June to late fall were eaten raw or dried for winter use. Each fall brought the "wind whistling" and the village population settled in oak groves of the Santa Rosa Plateau and Mt. Palomar to collect acorns. The acorns were then stored at the village for use during the winter -- "fat months." Leached of its tunic acid, crushed to a fine meal and boiled, the acorn mush (called "wee wish") became a tasty dish when a skinned rabbit, berries and herbs were

thrown in to make an acorn dumpling-rabbit stew. A tea was brewed from the rose hips of the wild rose. A favorite herb was the aromatic sage leaves used to scent their living quarters and used as a herb to flavor their food.

### **Mission San Luis Rey - The Spanish Period**

Life changed for the Luiseno with the founding of Mission San Luis Rey (near Oceanside) in 1798. The eighteenth of twenty-one missions founded by the Franciscan Friars, the mission was among the largest, most prosperous and most beautiful missions in California. Thirty years previous, the Spanish, coming to California, brought seeds and cuttings of fruits, flowers and vegetables from Mexico, which they thought would grow here. They had learned to make rooted cuttings to be wrapped in leaves and cotton to keep them moist during the long journey north.

None of the mission gardens of the San Luis Rey survived intact, and the flower-filled areas that today delight visitors give a false sense of their origin and purpose. Auguste Duhaut-Cilly, in command of the French vessel "Le Heros", visited the mission in 1827. He described two well-planted gardens (known as huertas) in front of the church that had abundant vegetables and fruits of all kinds. Water was channeled to a lower level lavanderia for washing clothes and bathing and then distributed to one of the gardens. The other garden in a higher place was watered by a chain pump. Duhaut-Cilly wrote, "These gardens produce the best olives and best wine in all California."

Pablo Tac, the only mission Indian to write about mission life, drew a rough drawing showing the mission gardens and described them as "full of fruit trees, pears, apples, peaches, quinces, pears, sweet pomegranates, watermelons, melons, vegetables, cabbages, lettuces, radishes, mints, parsley and others which I don't remember." The pear seems to have been a favorite. The harvest of wheat, corn, beans, lentils and garbanzo proved to be bountiful.

Ornamental plants were also planted, though most had practical uses. Flowers imported for church services were the calla lily, jasmine, hollyhock, oleander, nasturtium, sweet peas and other ornamental species. Many flowering herbs were cherished too, including lavender, rosemary, thyme and tarragon. With the help of the Luiseno Indians, the priests learned many uses for the native California plants including sage, chia, pennyroyal, yucca, agave, native strawberry and grape.

From the plantings set out by the Franciscans down to the modern garden, no plant has been more popular than the rose in California. The first letter sent from California by Father Serra mentions the wild rose, similar to that of old Castile. The Rose Californica grows abundantly in the foothills and interior valleys wherever it is moist. The rose best loved by the early fathers was the Rose of Castile, this was the Damascus rose. An oil and ointment were made from the flowers and no mission dispensary was

complete without a good supply of the dried flowers and hips. The musk rose (*Rosa moschuta*) was a favorite and *Rosa centifolia* was also popular and was grown for generations and was the cabbage rose of our grandmothers' garden.

A sailor visiting the mission gave the fathers pepper tree seeds which had been obtained in Peru. They were planted near the mission where they sprouted and grew, though all but one tree finally vanished. The grand old pepper, now over a hundred seventy years old, would make the Incas proud. From San Luis Rey the seeds of the pepper tree were distributed to the other missions.

### **Rancho Gardens - The Mexican Period**

After Mexico achieved independence from Spain in 1821, and after the missions were secularized in 1832, the mission bells were silenced. The Luiseno, who had not fared well under the mission system, were to have more difficult years ahead under the Mexicans and the Americans.

The Mexican government divided the land holdings of the missions and made grants of them. Mission land in the Temecula Valley was divided into the Temecula, Pauba, Santa Rosa and Little Temecula grants. Little Temecula was one of the few ever given to a California Indian. Pablo Apis, a Luiseno leader at San Luis Rey, built his two-room adobe on the south bluff where the Red Hawk Bridge now crosses Temecula Creek. There he raised livestock, and also had a small vineyard and pear orchard. Other Luiseno from the mission moved near him for the water needed for farming and irrigation. A portion of Temecula Creek was dammed, creating a pond from which irrigation ditches ran to the planted fields.

Californios who lived in Los Angeles owned the other three ranchos. Their majordomos lived in simple ranch houses with utilitarian gardens of corn, beans and chiles. Fruit trees of pears and peaches were grown in irrigated areas further from the house. Jean Louis Vignes, the father of the California wine industry, may have planted grape vines on his Temecula and Pauba ranchos. The Santa Rosa ranch site had two adobes, built around an oak tree that is estimated to be 400 years old now.

### **Guajome - The American Period**

The end of the Mexican-American War, statehood and the gold rush had a tremendous impact on Temecula. In 1849, more than nine thousand people passed through to reach the goldfields. The settlers, coming west along the Southern Immigrant Trail, brought supplies for six months and traveled twelve to fifteen miles per day. Women carried seeds, bulbs, roots of plants and even their favorite flowers and roses along with their pots and sewing needles. Root cuttings were stuck into potatoes to keep them moist during the trip west. Although their possessions and furniture might be abandoned crossing

the desert, their precious seeds and roots were saved to plant in their vegetable garden close to their new home. A rose bush planted near the back door brought back memories of the old life.

Cave Johnson Coutts, who served under John Fremont, passed this way in 1849 and married Isadora, the daughter of John Bandini, in 1855. One of the wedding gifts to the young couple was a considerable parcel of land near San Diego, which Coutts called Guajome. He turned the ranch into a vast garden of orchards and vineyards, all enclosed by willow thickets. Here the couple hosted extravagant fiestas, lively rodeos and constant visitors.

Noted author Helen Hunt Jackson stayed at Guajome while she gathered material for her famous novel "Ramona." Based on her visits to Rancho Guajome in San Diego and Rancho Camulos in San Fernando Valley, she described an idyllic rancho setting, one that hadn't existed just thirty years earlier. Mrs. Coutts was an avid grower of flowers and the patio of their home became renowned for its trees and shrubs. She planted the Cherokee Rose in honor of her son's marriage in 1886. It still blooms beautiful white roses along side a bougainvillea from the same period. The inner courtyard has been replanted with roses, herbs and flowers from the 1880s.

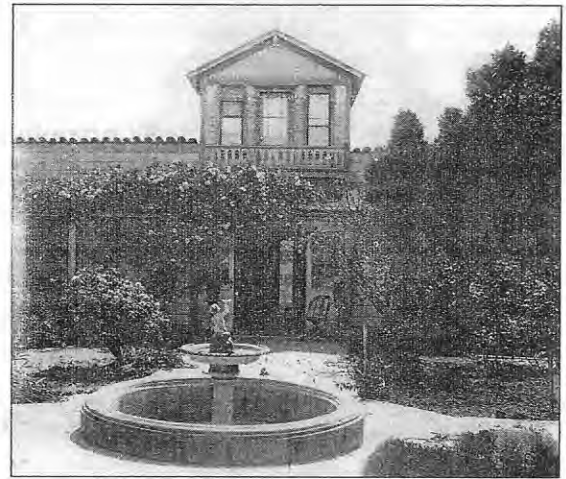
*to be continued in the January 2005 issue*

## Rancho Guajome Adobe Today

In 1970 Rancho Guajome Adobe was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Careful preservation and restoration, including replacement of the tile roof, rebuilding and plastering adobe walls, and repair of doors and windows, was completed by the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department in June, 1996. Original building materials were saved and repaired. The paints used were identified from research that required removal of 150 years of painting, one layer at a time. In cases where the original materials were too deteriorated to retain, replicas were made. The entire restoration was in strict conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for Historic Preservation Projects. The preservation and restoration has won many awards.

Today, visitors step back in time at the Rancho Guajome Adobe. Docents lead tours of the house and grounds, recreating the hospitality and life and times of the Cave and Isadora Coutts family. Special events recreate the celebrations of life as it was lived 100 years ago. School children are immersed in rancho life through tours that complement their curriculum. The Adobe stands as a precious jewel of San Diego's past, a legacy preserved.

*~ brochure published by County of San Diego*



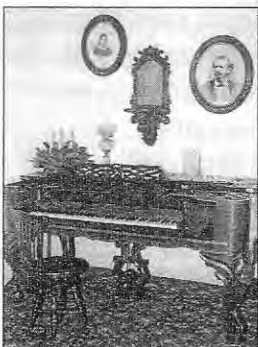
San Diego Historical Society

*Rancho Guajome Adobe, circa 1905*



Photo by Jean Rath

*Isadora's restored buggy in the carriage courtyard.*



Photos by Jean Rath

*Historic furnishings and courtyard plantings bring the rancho to life.*

**Rancho Guajome Adobe**  
 2210 North Santa Fe Avenue  
 Vista, CA 92083  
 Information: (760) 724-4082  
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks)

**County of San Diego**  
**Department of**  
**Parks and Recreation**

*This is the first in a series of articles on old schoolhouses throughout the Temecula Valley. This article was originally part of a booklet written by Virginia Funk and published by the Bonsall Woman's Club in 1984. Copyright © 1998-1999 by Fallbrook Historical Society at [http://la.znet.com/~schester/fallbrook/history/memories/bonsall\\_schoolhouse.html](http://la.znet.com/~schester/fallbrook/history/memories/bonsall_schoolhouse.html)*

## The Little Old Bonsall Schoolhouse

### by Virginia Funk

Researching the little old Bonsall schoolhouse was like stepping back in time to an era when children learned the three "R's" in basic education with no time for frills. In our research we uncovered a fount of Bonsall lore which should interest old and new residents alike.

Records show that Bonsall was originally known as "Mt. Fairview" and later as "Osgood," after the chief engineer who was in charge of the Southern California Railroad Survey Crew in the 1870s. A petition for a post office in 1889 recommended the names of "Reed," "Favorite," or "Bonsall." Post office headquarters in Washington, DC chose the latter, the name of a retired Methodist minister, James Bonsall, who developed a fruit tree nursery in the area in 1889.

Apparently, Mr. Bonsall was taking a load of lumber south through Gopher Canyon when his wagon broke down. He found the area so appealing, he purchased some acreage from a settler, built a home and developed his nursery all with a cash capital of \$3.00. His enterprise was very successful and his house still stands today.

In the late 1800s, the hamlet of Bonsall offered the services of a post office, blacksmith shop complete with tethering rock to tether the horses while shopping, a general store, hotel and local school. The fertile valley became the center of a small dairy industry.

The post office was the community center; the postman carried more than just mail. He toted cream from the Creamery in Bonsall to the train at Oceanside for shipment to San Diego.

The post office was a tiny five-by-five foot space inside the general store in the south (east) bank of the San Luis Rey River where the Bonsall Community Church now stands. In the early 1900s the store was known as George D. Stevens & Co., "dealers in dry goods and groceries, hats, caps, shoes, hardware and notions, ladies and children's furnishings." In 1918, when Bonsall's population was only 100, John Patten, who worked in Mr. Stevens' store, inherited the store upon the death of Mr. Stevens. Patten and his wife, Evelyn, ran the store until his death in 1937. Soon after, Evelyn bought a store across the river on the site of former Perry's Market, and ran it until she sold it to the Wilson Perrys' in 1945.

The old hotel stood opposite the original schoolhouse. It was run by two sisters who provided

accommodations for travelers and for teachers on the occasions when roads were impassable due to heavy rains.

Former postmaster and Bonsall resident, Joseph Koehler, came to North County from Chicago, Illinois when he was nine years old and attended school in our little old schoolhouse. He recalled when, in 1916 the flood waters of the San Luis Rey River washed out the concrete bridge that crossed the stream where West Lilac Road crosses it now, and a one-lane wooden bridge with a turnout in the center was constructed in its place, which was used until 1927. The San Luis Rey River Bridge AKA the Bonsall Bridge, was built downstream in 1924-25 and was used until it became too small to handle modern traffic.

The community surrounding the schoolhouse was one of large ranches and small farms. The valley floor had several dairies of good size, registered Herford cattle, wine grapes, truck farms, chicken, turkey and olive ranches, pig farms, an ostrich farm and several rabbitries. Some people raised thoroughbred horses. Bees were plentiful. All water was pumped from wells along the river.

Now days, as one travels from our present post office via Old River Road, it is so easy to drive past the school buildings without giving thought of their contribution to the quality of our life here. There is an excellent modern school of high academic standing (along with the new Norman L. Sullivan Middle School at 7350 West Lilac), a fleet of busses to transport the eager pupils to class, and there, sitting midst a group of eucalyptus trees is the "little old schoolhouse." What a wealth of living has passed through her doors (and still does).

She has quite a story to tell. A peek back reveals a long path of progress:

## Memories

The "little old Bonsall schoolhouse," as she is known affectionately to area residents, has been serving the community since she opened her doors on Aug. 26, 1895 at her original location, the present driveway entrance to the school grounds.

Grandparents and great-grandparents of present-day students received their primary education in the one room structure. Until 1920, one teacher taught all grades.

Looking even further back, where did local children learn their three R's before "Mount Fairview School?"

It is hard to pinpoint the exact location of the early schools. Four schools existed which later made up the Bonsall District: "Mount Fairview," which had its beginning in 1882 and was located near the present site of our little old schoolhouse. The Monserate School which was located north of State Route 76 and east of I-15, the "River School" on North River Road west of State Route 76 and the Oaks School in Moosa Canyon near Castle Creek golf course. Teachers were hired for three months at a time back then. The school year usually ran for seven and one half months, beginning in mid-summer and closing for several months in mid-year. Our research indicated the children had time off to help plant the crops.

## A Legend Is Born

In the spring and summer of 1891, meetings were held for the purpose of locating a site and raising money to build a new school. It was decided to have a bond election on June 20, 1891, the amount to be \$740.00. At a meeting June 13, 1891, Joseph Rooker proposed to donate an acre of land for the school site. The school board accepted.

When the bond election failed, supplies were purchased to fix up the old school building which had to be continually refurbished and used for the next couple of years. On Aug. 25, 1891, the district elected to extend the number of grades offered from eight to twelve, thereby presenting students a high school education.

In the fall of 1893, meeting was again held for the purpose of building and relocating Mount Fairview School District. At the meeting held Nov. 4, W.A. Stratton donated a lot 150' X 200'. On Dec. 2, 1893 it was decided to hold another bond election. Notices were posted on May 19, 1894 and the bond election was held a week later. The amount of money involved was \$900.00 plus interest at seven percent. The bonds passed. All 21 voters had approved.

A meeting of the people of the school district was called for Dec. 15, at 2 p.m., a popular hour to get things done 90 years ago, so they could give instructions as to how to dispose of the original Mount Fairview schoolhouse. By unanimous vote they elected to have the building sold at auction but retain the use of the "house" until the new schoolhouse was ready to be occupied, at which time it must be moved off the premises within 10 days.

Construction of the new Mount Fairview School continued at a steady pace. On Jan. 24, 1895, Jonathon Stratton was paid \$1.50 for hauling a load of bricks from Escondido. G.H. Brodie was paid \$6 for three days work as stone mason on the foundation. William Robinson received \$5.25 for three and one half days labor as his helper. A month later, the contractor received his first payment of \$400.

Mrs. Elise Averill was the first teacher hired to instruct the children in the new schoolhouse. She received \$60 per month. Nettie Dusing was appointed "Janitoress" at a salary of \$4 per month.

According to the "Census Marshall's" report dated April 1895, 41 children were attending area schools, 14 girls and 9 boys from 5 to 17 years of age; with 18 in the under-five age group. Many years passed before there would be an increase in attendance number.

Students came from sturdy stock. They walked to school or came by buggy and knew class was about to begin when the teacher stood in the doorway and rang the school bell. Lunches were brought in tin lard pails and eaten outdoors in nice weather. In the school's small confines, good behavior was a necessity. Children learned in an atmosphere of firm but fair discipline. . .and from each other. They got a "licking" if they were disobedient and were made to wear a dunce (fool's) cap. A wood heating stove was used for warmth and outhouses were the fashion.



## An Era Ends, A New One Begins

Bonsall Union School District was so named July 25, 1919, when the board of directors met to choose the new name for the school. Miss Matilda O'Neal was elected principal at the meeting at a salary of \$100 per month; Miss Roberta Ellis was teacher for \$90 per month. On Oct. 2 funds received from the sale of the River School (\$75), and Monserate School (\$188) along with Oaks School were added to the school treasury and combined they became Bonsall Union School.

In 1920, a school bond election for \$18,500 carried and a new school building of Spanish style, consisting of an auditorium, stage, small kitchen, two schoolrooms and a tiny principal's office was built and dedicated in 1922. The "Little Old Schoolhouse" was moved to a location behind the new one for use as a primary school, its name, Mount Fairview, forgotten by many but not by all.

*A note from the author included in the booklet:*

It's taken four years to gather the history within these pages. We hope you have enjoyed reading what we have uncovered along the way. But more than that, we hope as you drive by the 'Little Old Schoolhouse' you'll look at her and treasure her as you would anything that has contributed to our American heritage. Who knows? You might even hear the original bell ringing in the bell tower the Bonsall Lions installed!



### On the Trail of Old Schoolhouses

Our Society newsletter is distributed to schools, libraries, Chambers of Commerce, senior centers, tourist bureaus, museums and other historical societies. In addition, we ask every member to share their monthly issues with friends and neighbors whenever possible. The society also has a website which extends information about our local history to researchers and interested persons well beyond our immediate reach.

Affectionados of history and preservation seek resources such as we are providing -- stories on the people who settled this area, articles that segue to the larger historical picture and that help define who we are as Temeculeans or Californians, as well as some quaint or unique items intended to spur readers on to a mini- or magna-search on their own.

This article on The Little Old Bonsall Schoolhouse is the first of several articles that will appear from time to time about schools. When the topic of old schoolhouses was suggested to new member, **Agnes Gaertner**, she immediately took up the challenge to find out everything she could and contribute her research for our readers. So we hope this focus will bring back memories of your own schooldays wherever they were spent, as well as inform you about the historic schools of Southwestern Riverside County, their locations, and their current condition.

Enjoy!

## The History of Christmas Cards

*submitted by Agnes Gaertner*

Although today's Christmas cards can be traced to a card printed in London in December, 1843, there were many European precursors of this English Christmas card. To track the origin of holiday greetings, one can actually go way back to pagan times when people exchanged good luck charms at the winter solstice. New Year's greetings date back to the 1400s, when Germans presented seasonal gifts called "Andachtsbilder," which included a devotional picture and an inscription ("Ein gut selig jar") which meant "a good and blessed year." In the eighteenth century, New Year's cards became more popular when tradesmen began sending them to their customers. Another precursor of the modern Christmas card was the "Christmas Pieces," which students made for their parents in the early eighteenth century by printing special holiday greetings on paper printed with engraved borders.

Other items which influenced the commercial printing of Christmas cards were Valentine cards, trade cards, reward of merit cards, and calling cards. Simple commercial Valentines first appeared around 1800, but by the 1830s there were elegant Valentines decorated with satin, ribbon and lace.

Victorians had a passion for collecting trade cards. As an evolvement from the tradesmen sending cards to their customers at New Year's in the late 1700s, by the early 1800s, trade cards were included with soap, tobacco, and food items. As the quality of the lithography improved, these cards became cherished items that were pasted into the family's parlor albums. Many of the images were indeed the same images later used for Christmas cards.

Another precursor of the Christmas card was the Reward of Merit card. In the late eighteenth century, Robert Raikes introduced a system of rewarding students for good behavior and attendance in his Sunday School classes. He issued small chromolithographed Reward of Merit cards to deserving students who pasted them into albums for the family to view. Over time, these cards developed into such beautiful cards that they were reprinted with holiday greetings at Christmas time.

In the early 1800s, the custom of using calling cards began in France and then spread throughout Europe and to the United States. Designs became very elaborate, and the receiver of such splendid cards would often paste them into the family album. The tradition of exchanging calling cards was leading up to our present day tradition of exchanging Christmas cards.

The origin of our present day Christmas card can be traced to Sir Henry Cole, the first director of London's Victoria and Albert Museum. He, like other well-wishers, would buy sheets of paper decorated with Christmas themes and hand write greetings and best wishes to his family and friends. This became a cumbersome task, so in 1843, he commissioned a friend (Calcott Horsley, a member of the Royal Academy) to design a card with a single message which could be duplicated and sent to everyone on his list. The card was three by five inches and depicted three scenes along with the message "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." 1,000 copies of this card were lithographed, and those which Cole did not personally use were sold for one shilling apiece from a local shop.



*The Cole/Horsley card of 1843.*

In 1844, W.C.T. Dobson introduced another card for public sale. This one symbolized the "Spirit of Christmas" and sold many more copies than Horsley's design from the previous year. The novelty and convenience of Christmas cards began to catch on and was aided by the passage of the Postal Act of 1840, which allowed a piece of mail to be sent anywhere in the United Kingdom for one penny. As the postal system improved, the idea of sending Christmas cards through the mail gained popularity.

The development of the steam printing press created improvements in printing and engraving methods. By the 1850s, these improvements allowed cards to be printed inexpensively and in multiple colors. This caused such popularity that by the 1880s sales figures for Christmas cards were in the millions. The cards produced during this period (1860-1890) are very collectible today.



It wasn't until 1875, however, that the commercial printing of Christmas cards began in the United States. Louis Prang, a German lithographer, had immigrated to the United States and set up a printing business in Boston, where he was reproducing oil paintings using a technique which he had invented and called chromolithography. In 1873, he attended an exhibition in Vienna and promoted his business by handing out decorated business cards. The following year he added holiday greetings to the cards and sent them to England for sale. The year thereafter (1875), he printed highly-colored and beautifully-designed Christmas cards which added sensitivity and beauty to the lives of the free-spirited Americans. His cards became so popular that by 1881 his presses were printing almost five million cards annually. He also printed Easter, Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day cards, bringing seasonal greetings into the homes of thousands of Americans.

By the 1880s, Christmas cards reflected the taste of the Victorians and became more and more elaborate. Some of the cards displayed silk or feather fringe, others were adorned with lace, tinsel, or velvet. A favorite was the mechanical card, where a person could pull a tab or a string to make figures move and reveal a hidden message.

Religious themes and Christmas trees began appearing on cards in the late 1890s. 1890 is also the time when the beautiful Victorian Christmas cards began to give way to the cheap foreign cards being mass produced. Much of the demise of the elaborate Victorian cards can also be attributed to the penny postcard boom in the United States. With many Americans moving west, mailing a penny postcard was an inexpensive way to send greetings back east, and many of the postcards carried the same themes as those on the elaborate cards.

After the U.S. Post Office granted Charles Goldsmith a license to print illustrated souvenir cards at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the modern American greeting card industry began. The early twentieth century saw the establishment of Rust Craft in Kansas City, A.M. Davis Co. in Boston, Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, and Gibson Art Co. in Cincinnati. Yet prior to World War I, most Christmas cards were still of German import. When the market was closed to German imports at the outbreak of WWI, American companies took the opportunity to fill their shelves and develop into well-established publishers of greeting cards.

So with this short review, we wish you very happy holidays and invite you to view some of the 6,900 cards in the collection of Greg Livaudais at [www.livaudaisnet.com/xmas/xmascard01.htm](http://www.livaudaisnet.com/xmas/xmascard01.htm). His research and card collection formed the basis for this Christmas card review.



## YOUR OPPORTUNI-TREE

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of members, researchers, students, and others with an interest in learning about the past of this area. We hope we have uncovered some little-known facets of the lives and events which have shaped our present. One of our founding goals as a Society is to provide a steady stream of historical information to the public. We think we are becoming a respected and sought-after community resource, as well as one that is sensitive to the readership.

If you would like to participate -- either as a financial contributor, or as a writer/researcher -- we welcome your help. Please contact Charolette Fox, Editor, for information for suggested donation amounts or ways you can join the newsletter staff. (951) 302-0180 or [lottiefox@verizon.net](mailto:lottiefox@verizon.net)

## HEALTH AND HAPPINESS



## National Museum of the American Indian Opens in Washington, D.C.

*A trip to Washington, D.C., must include such national landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Memorial, the U.S. Treasury Building, Arlington Cemetery, and the National Cathedral. At an ever increasing rate, new museums, monuments, and landmarks are rising on the grounds around the Nation's Capital every three to five years. Care to use architecture that resonates with Native American architecture and to site the building in a natural landscape of deciduous woods, makes the newest museum a unique and long overdue cultural attraction which now houses a large portion of the Smithsonian Institution's enormous Native American collection -- nearly one million objects.*

The National Museum of the American Indian is nothing like the brick and concrete colonaded and porticoed buildings typical of Washington, DC's other historic edifices. Instead, "both structure and grounds are striking in their avoidance of straight lines."

Hampton Sides, writer for the September/October issue of *Preservation*, goes on to say, "Wherever possible, the design adheres to organic patterns -- curves, ovals, and meandering paths. Its intriguing symmetry observes the cardinal points of the compass, and an east facing door, [is] a mainstay of many Native American dwellings."

Included in the overall plan, is a room available only by appointment so that American Indian visitors can hold ceremonies. With sophisticated exhaust fans incorporated into the design, the burning of sage sticks and the ritual use of smoke "make this a remarkable place." Remarkable among curators because smoke is generally considered as undesirable as water, excessive light, or mold for the preservation of artifacts, displays and exhibits.

The nucleus and accumulation of so many artifacts occurred between 1897 and 1957, by an eccentric New Yorker with a penchant for Indian artifacts. George Gustav Heye "purchased artifacts by the boxcar load...and underwrote ambitious archaeological digs throughout America," a colleague has said. What he couldn't unearth, he bought from other collectors.

With these purchases, Heye became the self-styled director of his own museum in Manhattan in 1916. But among his great trove were human remains and sacred burial objects. Today such "looting" of gravesites is intolerable, but *at the time*, the collection was considered important as anthropologists and archaeologists studied the items. These studies were the forerunner of the systematic academic disciplines used today, and for all the hodge-podge nature of the manner in which the collection was obtained, it did represent "an extremely important contribution to scholarship."

In a telling commentary on the way Indian materials were once viewed, W. Richard West, a former lawyer and trustee of the National Trust who is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma, said, "For a century and a half, the stated policy in Washington was to de-culturalize Indians -- to de-Indianize them in essence. So with this museum, we've had to rewind history." Today W. Richard West is the director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Bruce Bernstein, assistant director for cultural resources, said, "Every object here is considered a living, breathing thing. And a living thing can't be stored. That's the way the Native Americans view these materials, and it's a philosophy all of us adopt." The pieces in the museum are owned by the museum, but the curators treat the objects as if they belong to the individual tribes. The relationship has been called bittersweet for the Native Americans, and though the museum houses these artifacts with integrity, they have undergone a purification of sorts -- "a kind of theoretical and institutional smudging."

So we come back to the private room, a room of reverence where the natural light, the wooded outdoors, and the smoke provide the setting for visiting tribes to conduct tribal ceremonies with the beating of drums and chanting. And where for the next century the Pueblo ceramics, the Navajo blankets, the Arapaho beadwork, and other ancient Indian artifacts are displayed in full daylight, nothing hidden, everything "breathing, and given sufficient room to allow for a certain spacial integrity." This is the way the tribal consultants who worked on the project envisioned these items should be maintained. And each piece is meticulously handled according to ancient tribal requirements. For instance, among many tribes ceremonial drums can only be handled by males.

The meticulous care given to the display of items is echoed by the meticulous way articles are restored. The high tech lab includes a polarized light microscope, spectrophotometer, and other special equipment. Whether it's an old rifle, a fragile piece of jewelry, a beaded shirt, or a woven blanket, every item is scrutinized, carefully evaluated, inventoried, repaired or restored, and given a bar code number for identification. Laboratory technicians in blue lab coats and latex gloves work in a spacious area, and these conservators work closely with tribal elders and other advisors whose assistance is an important part of every restoration.

Without doubt, this new museum pays tribute to the varied and unique character of American Indian culture, honors the people who forged lifestyles well adapted to the outdoors, and presents a refreshing change in historic interpretation.



# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IS 25 YEARS OLD

article from the *California HISTORIAN*, Fall 2004

The year 2005 is the 25th anniversary of National History Day. During this quarter century what has your group done for youth -- for the students who are your future and will carry on when you are gone?

As a starter, the National History Day office is leading a program of activities for winners during these 25 years. Did you have winners in your area?

The theme for students in 2005 is **Communication in History: the Key to Understanding.**

Annual History Day is a year-long program that fosters academic achievements and teaches students to develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to help them use information now, and in the future.

You can help your young people. As finders and keepers of local history, go to your area schools and tell administrators and teachers about this program. Offer your resources, offer research training, pull in professionals to volunteer their expertise, give awards and make students an important part of your society's activities.

History Day starts in local schools at the beginning of each school year. Competitions are held in February at the school level, in March at the county level, in May at the state level and in June at the national level.

Your personal action is needed NOW to draw students into working on 2005's "beautiful history" competition.

*For information and materials, contact:*

California History Day  
Lourdes Morales, Program Manager  
Constitutional Rights Foundation  
601 South Kingsley Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Phone: (213) 316-2125  
Email: [lourdes@crf-usa.org](mailto:lourdes@crf-usa.org)  
Web: <http://www.crf-usa.org>



*Study the logo above. It is an optical illusion. By concentrating on the black space around the key, you will see the profiles of two people "pop" out! What is obvious as well as what is not, is at the heart of all research and is one "key" to understanding.*

## "Save Our History"

The History Channel joins with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), to offer \$250,000 in grants to historical organizations that partner with educators on projects that help students learn about the history of their local communities.

Historical societies, preservation organizations, museums, historic sites, and other history organizations that partner with schools on Save Our History projects are eligible to apply for grants. The History Channel will award grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000. "We firmly believe that unless history lives in the present it has no future," said Dan Davids of the History Channel.

"Preserving history whether on a local, state, or national scale is essential to the future of our county," said Terry Davis of AASLH. "[This collaboration] is a prime example of how to get people involved in historic preservation and AASLH is thrilled to be part of it."

Judging of the grant applications takes place on January 6, 2005 and the process will be completed by May 15, 2005.

To learn more, visit [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com).

## Advocating for History Organizations

Advocacy for historic organizations means more than working to secure funding. Here are some other ways that AASLH has provided leadership:

- worked with a lobbying firm to secure new legislation that includes set-aside funding for tribal museums;
- seeks new federal funding for presidential sites in America;
- implemented changes to a national awards program to provide recognition to history organizations;
- researched the impact of interpretive strategies and visitors' learning in history museums, and developing new tools for experiential learning in history exhibits.

## Third Annual Erle Stanley Gardner Mystery Weekend Held

In another fun-filled weekend, the local writer and lawyer, Erle Stanley Gardner, was remembered with radio shows, cowboy poetry readings, a book faire, writing contest, and other activities. Several organizations worked together to make November 6, 7, and 8 a huge success. Our hats off to everyone for a job well done!

## Conference of California Historical Societies

invites you to

### the Southern Symposium: "Sand Dunes to Golf Courses"

February 18-19-20, 2005

hosted by Coachella Valley Historical Society

Paula Ford, Chairperson

760-771-3868 OR [pbfermosa@aol.com](mailto:pbfermosa@aol.com)

(please indicate CCHS on all emails)

*CCHS is a membership organization offering support and programs to local museums and historical societies. Annually, conferences alternate between Northern California and Southern California.*

*Tours, lectures, great food and wonderful commeraderie provide rich new ways to learn the local history of the host organization. Guests are always welcome. To receive a schedule of events, please contact Paula Ford at the Coachella Valley Historical Society, or contact the regional vice president, John Anicic, at (909) 823-6163.*

## California's Remarkable Women

CALIFORNIA'S REMARKABLE WOMEN is an exhibit showcasing the accomplishments of women past and present. The exhibit is the largest ever presented by the California State History Museum. The exhibit runs through May 13, 2005.

Included is a video of the movie industry's costume maven, Edith Head, as well as dresses deemed the height of fashion and worn by our state's First Ladies, movie stars and flight suit worn by Sally Ride.

Items from extraordinary women have been collected from historians, curators, and prominent Californians to form this amazing exhibit. The leaders of science, sports, business, the arts and politics through the last 150 years are well represented and the visitor will be given a chance to vote for their favorite personage before they leave.

## Grandmother Oak

Rosi Dagit;

Illustrations by Gretta Allison

This sweet little children's book tells the tale of a great oak that has been standing watch on a ridge in Topanga State Park for over 200 years.

1996 Roberts Rinehart Publishers.

32 pp, 8" x 6" \$6.95\*\*



Visit [www.cnps.org/store.php](http://www.cnps.org/store.php), or phone (916) 447-2677 to order.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Oct 15 to Nov 30, 2004

### New Members

Agnes & Harvey Gaertner

Mike Jacobson

Ladd & Jill Stokes

## 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 (951)  
302-0180, FAX (951) 302-0171,  
[lottiefox@verizon.net](mailto:lottiefox@verizon.net)

[v.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://v.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.com)

## CHECK IT OUT !!

### Mission Statement

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

### The 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. articles may be held for publication in the next newsletter or in a journal to be published at a later time.

Editor ..... Charolette Fox  
Special Columns ..... Agnes Gaertner  
Printing ..... Potamus Press

## Calendar

Board Meeting Dec 3, Noon  
"Life in Temecula" Jan 6, 6:00pm

### 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.

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 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

### TEMECULA MUSEUM LECTURE

DR. ANNE MILLER

"LIFE IN TEMECULA 1830-1880"

JANUARY 6TH, 6PM



### Quotes

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*When the well's dry, we know the worth of water.*

-- Benjamin Franklin

**Questions? You can now reach the Society by phone!**

**Call (951) 501-9159**

## BOOKS TO ENLIGHTEN LOCAL HISTORIANS



### Historic San Timoteo Canyon

by Peggy Christian

25 years in the making, this book includes sketches, photos, and information gathered from personal interviews with decedents of pioneer families settling in the canyon as early as 1810. Lauded and applauded by the Directors of the San Bernardino County Museum and the Smiley Library, the book is full of new material on the peoples, places and events occurring there before the area became Riverside County.

(call Peggy Christian at 909-792-3774 for ordering information)



### Looking Back: Anza and Garner Valley

by Margaret Wellman Jaenke

Portions of this book were previously published in early editions of "The High Country Journal", a quarterly magazine.

As a decendent of settlers in Anza, Margaret's literary style depicts what life was like for the early settlers before electricity or paved roads. An index of names provides easy lookup on such folks as Juan Bautista De Anza, the Terwilligers, the Reeds, the Domenigonis, Estudillo, the Tripps, and the Wellmans.

(to order, write M. Jaenke at 31901 Box Elder #8, Mountain Center, CA 92561)





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**Membership**

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The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.

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

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

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