

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

January 2005 Vol 5 Issue 1

### 2005 OFFICERS

President	<i>Jimmy Moore</i>
1st Vice President	<i>Keith Johnson</i>
2nd Vice President	<i>Sis Herron</i>
Secretary	<i>Eve Craig</i>
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<i>Audrey Cilurzo</i>	<i>Bonnie Reed</i>
<i>Darell Farnbach</i>	<i>Barbara Tobin</i>
<i>Wendy Lesovsky</i>	<i>Don Vierstra</i>
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Research & Development	<i>Darell Farnbach</i>
Historic Markers & Plaques	<i>Pam Grender</i>
Wolf Tomb Restoration	<i>Eve Craig</i>
Public Relations	Open
Program Committee	<i>Audrey Cilurzo, Wendy Lesovsky</i>
Budget	<i>Bill Harker, Keith Johnson</i>
Youth Projects	Open
Planned Giving	<i>Jimmy Moore</i>
Newsletter	<i>Charolette Fox</i>
Speaker's Bureau	<i>Audrey Cilurzo</i>
Historian	<i>Myra Gonsalves</i>
Webmaster	<i>Jeffery Harmon</i>
Membership	Open

visit us at

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

### THURSDAY LECTURES

The Temecula Valley Museum has offered once-a-month lectures on the first Thursday, almost from its opening in 1999. These lectures have featured speakers on Luiseno baskets, early California trails, and printing equipment of yore, as well as authors, artists, historians and researchers of our local history. As exhibits change (usually every two to three months), an evening program is devoted to acquaint the public with the display, and often to meet and hear the person or family who's artifacts or stories are being showcased.

Noted genealogist and historian, **Dr. Anne Miller**, will present "Life in Temecula 1830-1880", on January 6th at 6:00pm. Dr. Miller's strong personal interest in this region, as well as her skill as a researcher and speaker will make this a don't miss opportunity to get the facts of Temecula's past.

Reservations are not required; there is no admission fee (though a donation left in the donation box would be appreciated). The museum is located in Sam Hicks Park, at 28314 Mercedes Street, Old Town Temecula. For more information, contact the museum at (951) 694-6452.



### SPECIAL NOMINATION

The Society has been nominated by the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce as "Nonprofit Organization of the Year." In addition, Audrey Cilurzo and Jimmy Moore have been nominated as "Citizen of the Year," and Wendy Lesovsky of TCI, "Business of the Year." Congratulations!

### President's Corner

**Happy New Year!** Hope you all had a very nice holiday season and are ready to keep your New Year's resolutions. Please make one of those resolutions to become more involved with the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

In December officers were elected for 2005. **Eve Craig and Bill Harker** remain as Secretary and Treasurer. **Keith Johnson**, will serve as 1st Vice President, **Sis Herron** as 2nd Vice President, and yours truly begins a second term as President.

One of my goals this year is to increase member participation by scheduling public meetings quarterly. Program co-chairs, **Audrey Cilurzo** and **Wendy Lesovsky**, plan historical presentations for March, June and September. The meetings will begin at 1:00pm and last about one hour. Please reserve the first Fridays of these months and plan to join us at the Library for the presentations.

Society Historian, **Myra Gonsalves**, displayed scrapbooks of photos, news clippings and letters that tell the three-year story of the Society.

The **Roripaugh Foundation** granted \$6,250 to make a video/DVD of Old Town Temecula. If you have knowledge of television or movie production and would like to serve as a technical advisor, please give me a call at (951) 302-9536.

The list of projects for 2005 was reviewed and accepted (see finalized list inside).

**Jeffrey Harmon** has uploaded our website with a wealth of information about the history of Temecula Valley and added a new feature, the gossip columns from 1910 to 1920. It makes wonderful reading! If you haven't already, log onto [www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org).

*Jimmy Moore*

## The Vails, Before Coming To Temecula

by Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

*Two greenhorns from the East with good business savvy cashed in on adventure and made their fortunes in frontier Arizona.*

Walter Lennox Vail was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1852, the same year Indians gathered at Apis' adobe by Temecula Creek to sign the Treaty of Peace and Friendship. By Walter's sixth birthday, he and his family moved to New Jersey where his father owned grain farms and a mill. Although Walter agreed to someday take over the family business, he dreamed of venturing to the West. When profits fell, Walter's father sold the grain business, freeing Walter from obligation to family business, so, on the day he turned twenty-one, he bade his family goodbye, and with one hundred dollars in his pocket, he left to seek his fame and fortune in the West.

Walter's story is not just about success. In fact, his first venture didn't go well at all. He traveled to Virginia City, Nevada, hoping to strike it rich in the silver mines. He was a timekeeper in the silver mines, but he didn't like the gambling and drinking, and he didn't make a fortune. When his savings were stolen, he asked Nathan Vail for help. Uncle Nathan urged him to buy a ranch near Tucson, Arizona to start a cattle raising enterprise. The rest of his story is legendary.

Walter made his first trip to the Arizona ranch in 1876 with a prospective investor. They traveled south from Tucson on mud roads and arrived at a tumbledown adobe house surrounded by a few cattle. The wild country with few conveniences and reports of recent Indian raids on white settlers frightened the prospective partner, who was immediately disinterested.

Uncle Nathan then contacted Herbert Hislop, a young man he met in London, where Nathan had made a fortune installing the city's first streetcars. In 1876 Walter Vail and Herbert

Hislop, two twenty-four-year-old greenhorns, purchased Fish Ranch. A month later they bought an adjacent ranch property that came complete with sheep, cattle and a yellow dog named Billy.

When an Englishman named John Harvey joined the venture a few months later, the locals to dubbed the enterprise "The English Boys Outfit," despite the fact that Walter was an American.

They soon bought more cattle and sold the sheep. The ranchers built a corral, attaching the only gate to the wall their adobe house so they could vigilantly guard against Apache raiders and animal predators.

While the two Englishmen preferred to stay at the ranch, Walter eagerly traveled into New Mexico to buy more cattle. Walter wrote of his adventures in the "Wild West," to his older brother Edward in New York City. In one letter, Walter told about camping with some of the ranch cowboys along the San Pedro River in New Mexico during a cattle buying trip. Apaches came within 50 yards of them and stole the cowboys' horses, plus a large number of wild horses the cowboys had rounded up. The cowboys thought they would track the Apaches and steal the horses back, but after seeing how badly they were outnumbered, the cowboys gave up pursuit.

Walter's letter didn't say how they got home with the cattle after they were stranded without horses 200 miles from home, but he did mention that the same Indians headed immediately to the ranch, killing three neighbors and stealing horses from every ranch except for theirs.

Another adventure is described in a later letter, "I left the ranch to be gone one day and was gone seven. I have been in the saddle from daylight to dark, and part of the time I have ridden half the night as well. I found after I left home that some of the cattle that we bought from Mr. Miller had gone back to the San Pedro River, so I went right after them."

Walter told how he almost lost his life trying to defend his dog Billy. Billy always ran under the tongue of Walter's butcher wagon, between the mules. One day, a big dog "jumped on Billy and was chewing him up. I picked up a stick and was beating the big dog off of Billy when the owner of the dog came up and pulled out a gun. In a minute several men with six shooters drawn were facing each other and I was in the middle. But some way, although I was scared, I felt most anxious to prevent a fight. I think I said, 'You men are all friends of mine; don't kill each other over a yellow dog.' One of them laughed and I said: 'Come with me,' and we all went into George's saloon and I paid for the drinks and that ended the trouble."

By 1879, after just three years of ranching, both Englishmen sold out to Walter. Walter's brother Edward, working south of New York's Wall Street as a ship chandler selling supplies to outfit ships, wanted Western adventures and left his job to take part in the ranching enterprise.

While in New York Edward had a hobby that paid good dividends later for the two brothers. Assaying, determining the value of precious metals in rock, fascinated him, and he frequently visited an assay office, assisting with calculations.

Business at the ranch took off when Edward joined Walter in Arizona. The two had a plan, and it worked. They bought all available acreage in the area, especially property that gave controlling water rights.

They held offices in every organization dealing with the cattle industry. Walter served on the Arizona Territorial Legislature, and they each served as Pima County Supervisors. While Walter presided over the Livestock Ranchman's Association he authored several regulations that were to their own advantage, including fencing regulations to curb cattle rustling.

The two brothers maintained strict control of every aspect of their ranching enterprise, never

relinquishing management of operations to anyone else.

Although Walter didn't get rich from his first experience with silver mines, something happened one day at the ranch that changed his fortune. His friend Jerry Dillon looked up at the hillside and said, "There's a big ledge, and the whole damned hill is a total wreck with quartz boulders of ore."

They filed a claim and called it the Total Wreck Mine. They set up a stamp mill to extract the silver, and built a house for the mill man nearby. Edward, the assayer, wrote about the mill man later, "He said he slept fine as long as the mill was running, but if for any reason it stopped he was up there in a minute – anyone who has ever heard a quartz mill running would not consider it a lullaby to induce sleep."

A town grew around the mine. It boasted of fifty houses, three stores, three hotels, four saloons, a brewery, butcher shop and a lumberyard. The Vail, Arizona post office building sat on Vail Road. The Southern Pacific put rails to the new town. It brought supplies in and carried ore out.

The mine produced up to \$2000 worth of silver daily, with a total production of \$500,000. The Vails used capital from the Total Wreck mine to expand their ranch land holdings and to improve the herd. They bred Herefords at the Empire Ranch and shipped them out to fatten elsewhere before selling. By maintaining a superior quality of cattle, they could command higher prices.

In 1881, Walter Vail married his longtime sweetheart Margaret Newhall in New Jersey and took her to their Empire Ranch home. He had improved it from the bare adobe with dirt floor and no windows or doors, to one habitable by a civilized lady.

Walter and Edward founded the Empire Land and Cattle Company in 1886. Three years later California entrepreneur Carroll W. Gates bought a half interest in the company. When

the Arizona markets for beef collapsed in the mid-1880s, the company found new markets in Kansas City and Los Angeles, and expanded to new grasslands in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and California.

Walter faced death in 1890 after he shot a beautifully marked Gila monster and slung it over the saddlebag behind him. After riding a distance, he reached backward, and the reptile that Walter thought was dead bit him. He hurried back to the ranch and someone sent a message for the Southern Pacific Railroad to rush an engine to the mine to take him to Tucson for medical treatment. Walter was seriously ill for several weeks, but eventually recovered from the potentially deadly bite.

Shortly afterward, Walter and Edward led a protest against the same rail line that had saved his life. The Vails needed to get cattle from Arizona to pastures in California. Southern Pacific had sharply raised shipping fees, so the Vails boycotted the railroad and took the stock by cattle drive. Edward, Empire Ranch foreman Tom Turner and eight Mexican ranch hands drove 917 steers from the Empire Ranch in Arizona to the Warner Ranch pastures in California.

They survived a stampede and a perilous crossing of the Colorado River. They recaptured 110 runaway steers, and were detained in Yuma by a sheriff who demanded taxes. After intervention by their Tucson attorney, they followed the old Butterfield Stage Trail and encountered a challenge by Indians. After appeasing the Indians with sugar and coffee beans, they passed through a valley full of rattlesnakes. They traveled the desert at night with a lantern hung on the tailboard of a wagon, which the steers followed "like soldiers." They stumbled on cattle bones, a broken-down wagon and a human skull. A sheriff approached and shot and killed a young man who had joined them, and took his brother into custody.

After two months and ten days of adventure, the desert drive ended at the Warner Ranch pasturelands. They had lost only two head of cattle while crossing the Colorado River. When the cowboys returned to Arizona, they met with other ranchers to identify a safe route for driving cattle to California. The route was never established, because a Southern Pacific representative attended the meeting and shipping fees were reduced to the previous rates.

The Vails developed one of Arizona's largest and most influential livestock operations of one million acres and 40,000 cattle, a success mainly attributable to Walter's business genius and constant supervision. Walter constantly analyzed breeding patterns and sales, and adapted ranch practices to capitalize on trends.

The one room adobe with a dirt floor was transformed into a 22-room home with electricity and indoor plumbing. Walter and Margaret raised seven children there before it was sold in 1928. The house is now listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The United States Bureau of Land Management manages the ranch as a conservation area, and allows cattle to graze, by special permit. One of Walter Vail's great-granddaughters heads the Empire Ranch Foundation, a non-profit historical group that presents educational programs at the ranch.

*Two young men from the city came west, seeking adventure. They found it and amassed a fortune, too. None of the dangers of frontier life killed them, not Apaches, Gila monsters or fights over a yellow dog. At age fifty-seven, with his empire at its zenith, Walter was fatally crushed by streetcars in Los Angeles. Edward Vail never married. He stayed in Arizona where he regaled listeners with stories of his early life in the Arizona Territory. He served as president of the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society and died in 1936 at the age of 87.*

## GEORGE SAWDAY, CATTLEMAN 1876-1949

*submitted by Marianne Immel Wilson*

George Sawday began life in San Diego County, but his chosen profession in cattle would carry him all over the southwest. His father had been in the mercantile business, including the operation of a store in Mexico. The movement of the family to a similar business in the area of Witch Creek in San Diego County would begin George's odyssey through life as the consummate cattleman.

Perhaps his smartest move was his marriage, in 1904, to Emily Elizabeth "Bess" Crouch of an old-time California family. She provided the familial and financial stability which permitted George to survive the great depression, plus all the other reversals that are part of the cattle business. He began his first major operation with 500 head of cattle when he went into a partnership with George Gilbert running the cattle on the San Felipe Rancho. The ranch covers the desert area lying east of Julian. It was only fitting that George Sawday would later own the ranch which he purchased in 1945 from the Thomas L. Duque family. The ranch is now owned by the Mary Lou Edwards family of Yuma, Arizona, Mrs. Edwards being the granddaughter of George Sawday.

He once stated that he owned 14,000 head of cattle in San Diego County. Considering how many acres are required to feed an animal in a relatively dry area, it is probable that he owned or controlled much of the rural part of the county. Stories exist that he built a pier in Carlsbad from which to unload cattle from ships, and then had them driven to his holdings near Julian. It was a three day cattle drive, and each night the cattle would be rested on land either owned or controlled by George Sawday.

In the early years, Temecula was reminiscent of Dodge City, Kansas in that it was a major loading point for the shipment of cattle to slaughter. Many of the cattle shipped from Temecula during that wild and woolly era, belonged to George Sawday.

During all these years, he and Bess lived at Witch Creek. He originally constructed the family home from lumber he had salvaged from an old church building which he had purchased for \$200. He and Bess raised their two daughters, Lucy and Mary, in that home. When the daughters married, each of them built homes and also lived in Witch Creek. Today's descendants include members of the Edwards, Tullochs, Drowns, Tellams, and Starr families.

Probably his first major coup in the cattle business resulted from his outbidding the Vail Company for the lease of the Warner Ranch. The ranch is thought by many to be the finest cattle ranch, for its size, in the state of California. After George's death in 1949, much of the water had been taken to slake the thirst of the urban areas leaving a ranch which quite probably is only a shadow of its former vitality.

By 1910, George Sawday had begun coming to Imperial Valley in conjunction with the cattle business, and his

affiliation would continue either directly or indirectly for the next half century. He had the prescience to select Fred Palmer, who had land east of Westmorland, to handle the Sawday cattle in Imperial Valley. Fred Palmer was a man of high caliber and ability who generated confidence among all those who met him.

Banning Vail was moved to remark "I have met him (Palmer) when going out to look after some cattle, and I have met him when going down town after nothing more than a pint of butter, and I find him in the same gear all the time." Fred's health did not permit him to remain in the desert during the time of the greatest heat, but he had good men to run the operation during his absence. George did not limit his involvement to Fred Palmer, however. He was instrumental in the original financing of Orita Land and Cattle Company.

For all of his skill in the cattle business, George Sawday is probably most strongly remembered for honesty and integrity. He once commented that his first partner, George Gilbert, had told him at the beginning of their relationship to buy cattle to make money on them, but also to buy them so that he could always go back to the same ranch. One of the prominent disciples of George Sawday was Dan Cameron, who also strongly endorsed this principle. For George, Dan, and the others who lived their lives in this manner, the rewards were ample.



One of his biographers, Lester Reed, observed "More than once have I wished that all young cattlemen of today could have known George Sawday and learned through him and the example he set how important it is to maintain a reserve in credit. Knowing George Sawday as I did, I realize that there was no effort required of the one who wrote the editorial in tribute to George Sawday that was printed in the *San Diego Union* 12-23-1949. That editorial reads, in part: 'His splendid character and exceptional achievements might well inspire American youth with faith in American opportunity'."

Resources: Written by Lynn Wilson, Jr. from sources in *Ranch Magazine*, Fall 1996 and *Old Timers of Southeastern California* by Lester Reed

## GOSSIP COLUMNS

excerpts from our website, [www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
Jeffery Harmon, Webmaster

Many of our members and friends do not have access to the internet. For them, as well as for those who haven't yet taken time to review the Society's website, the following tidbits are presented for their humor, horror, distain or interest. The many, many pages of material was collected by Jeffery Harmon from newspapers circulating in and around Temecula Valley the first half of the 20th Century. Printed here are a few of the items from 1910.

### May 13, 1910

Adrian B. Barnett, who recently purchased a fine new Fairbanks-Morse engine for his well-drilling outfit, is putting down a well on his home place, which looks very promising. At a depth of but thirteen feet the well produces 15 inches of water. Mr. Barnett will go deeper in an effort to secure a supply of at least thirty inches.

### June 17, 1910

Adrian B. Barnett is developing water on his ranch two miles west of this place he is meeting with good success. Let the good work go on. We would be glad to see more people developing the country.

Joe Winkels is sojourning at the Murrieta Hot Springs.

### June 24, 1910

The Temecula baseball team gave a dance in the Swanguen Hall Saturday evening. They had a nice crowd and a fine time.

The Temecula baseball nine are ready for action. They have a good team this year and should give a good account of themselves.

John Nicolas is going to develop water on his ranch in French Valley.

Alex Escallier, who has been laid up with an abscess on his neck, is at work again for Cephas L. Barnett. He carries a scar in memory of his pet.

### July, 1910

Some one got busy with poison Saturday night and our population of dogs has decreased somewhat.

Reports from Louis Roripaugh who is being treated in Los Angeles for dog bite state that he is doing well.

The Pauba Ranch Co. shipped four carloads of fine beef cattle Tuesday.

### October 28, 1910

It is a practical certainty that an abundant water supply underlies the rich soil of both the Temecula and Elsinore valleys, and that development of the water is the main thing needed to transform large areas of these valleys from sparsely settled grain tracts to intensely cultivated ranches yielding many fold the returns which they now yield. The Press [Press Enterprise] is glad to note the increasing interest in water development, and hopes that

landowners will get the habit generally. From the Enterprise we quote: "Eli E. Barnett of near Temecula, was in Riverside yesterday, telling of his good fortune in sinking wells on his ranch. He has put down three wells, and struck flowing water in each of them at a depth of only fifty feet.

The flow, of course, is not very strong, but Mr. Barnett is arranging to install pumps, and is confident he will get 100 inches from the three wells, when he starts his engine. Other wells are to be put down by Mr. Barnett, who owns 1400 acres of land.

"I feel pretty good over the outcome of my venture," said Mr. Barnett yesterday, "as I am the pioneer in that line in my section. The ranch is an old one, having been occupied fully forty years, and yet no one ever tried putting down a well." Mr. Barnett felt confident over the outcome of the experiment as numerous springs are to be found in the vicinity. He believes there is a natural reservoir of water beneath his farm. Mr. Barnett is the Democratic candidate for assessor.

### November 11, 1910

The Pujol School has reached an enrollment of over 40 and with a slight increase, will be considering the matter of an assistant teacher.

The Pauba Ranch has several tons of alfalfa hay in the stack and is grazing a few thousand head of cattle on their extensive alfalfa acreage.

### November 15, 1910

Mrs. McGonigle has withdrawn from the management of the Temecula Hotel, which is now operated by the owner, Miss M. A. Welty.

### November 25, 1910

#### Elsinore Ball Team Downs Temecula

The City Beautiful ball tossers were on the long end of a 14-1 score in a game played with Temecula on the Murrieta diamond, Nov. 20th. The feature of the game was the pitching of Keck for Elsinore, but one runner getting as far as third base after the first inning. The newly organized team gives promise of developing in a fast aggregation.

### December 9, 1910

Miss M.A. Welty has made several valuable sanitary improvements to her popular hostelry, the Phrono Hotel, [later renamed the Welty Hotel].

## Local Historical Gardens - Part II

by Myra Gonsalves

*In the last issue, a quick history of early local landscapes was presented. Whether farming for one's self or farming for the greater community, agricultural practices in Temecula Valley depended on terrain, soil condition, prevailing weather.... and the availability of water. As population increases demanded higher crop yields, ways to capture rainwater or divert streams were found. Horticulturists such as George Washington Carver and Luther Burbank experimented with ways to hybridize, propagate, graft, or improve plant stock. These two things, the search for a reliable source of water and plants bred for greater yield, were significant American developments starting about 1870. Today, the family farm is giving way to the home garden and, in a sense, we are witnessing the "urbanization of agriculture". There is no less need for a reliable water source or plant stock that thrives. Part II presents a glimpse of how ancient landscapes gave way to modern cultivation as Temecula Valley evolved from 1850 to present.*

### Agriculture - Temecula 1850

Progress came to Temecula Valley with the Butterfield Stage in 1858. The stage stopped at the Magee Store which was established near the site of the abandoned Apis Adobe. Many of the stage stations served the usual fare of beans, biscuits and coffee, but a passenger commented that, "a good meal could be had at Temecula," probably because of the available fresh food which might consist of meat, vegetables, peach pie and coffee.

The Civil War brought an end to the Butterfield Stage and by 1868 Louis and Ramona Wolf opened a store across the Temecula River from the abandoned Magee Store, which served as a general store, hotel, saloon, livery stable, post office and school. The Vail Ranch site, with the remnants of the Wolf Store, still has two original sycamore trees estimated to be over one hundred years old.

The railroad in the 1880s brought new settlers into the valley, each wanting their own small ranch, even if it was only a few acres. They raised cash crops of barley, wheat, oats, chickens and table grapes. They planted orange and peach trees, built beehives for honey, milked cows and bottled wine from their vineyards. Near the house was the kitchen garden. Women cultivated the vegetables and herbs for both culinary and medicinal purposes.

Lacking refrigeration, herbs disguised the taste of not-so-fresh meats. Every doorway had at least one lilac and honey-suckle, and climbing roses clustered many front porches and fences. There were no grassy lawns, but there was a shade tree near the

house. Bearded Iris was the mainstay of these gardens. Hollyhocks, hydrangeas and geraniums were also popular. A bucket of dishwater was a favorite way to water the flowers. The orchard consisted of different fruit tree varieties. Picket fences were popular and designed to keep animals out. Sunday church and picnics were time to gather together to swap recipes and to share the bounty.

The May Day picnic on the Santa Rosa Ranch was an occasion looked forward to by the people in the Valley. Parker Dear and his wife, Elena, the daughter of Cave and Isadora Coutts, maintained the traditional hospitality and lifestyle of the ranch period. Each spring when Elena's roses bloomed, people from all over southern California arrived by train and buggy to picnic in the oak grove near the present-day location of the Santa Rosa reserve's visitor center [on Clinton Keith Road].

A person attending the May Day picnic in 1887 saw "an attractive house where Mrs. Dear -- so young and pretty -- greeted us from the porch steps and Gold of Ophir roses covered it. I had never seen those before either." Today, the climbing rose is now called the Fortune's Double Yellow Rose. Some of the roses from that period, mostly China roses, are still at the ranch site, including the Hermosa, Rugged Robin and the Mutabilis.

Though primarily a cattle ranch, Parker Dear also experimented with agriculture. Near the ranch site, he planted trees such as pecans, pears, olives, palms, walnuts, a few still standing today. He also built beehives for honey and bottled wine from his vineyards. Elena may have had a typical English-style Victorian garden which included shade trees and fruit trees, shrubs and maybe a small lawn, a herb and vegetable kitchen garden and possibly a cutting garden of roses, geraniums, bearded irises, honeysuckle, lavender, mallows, poppies, salva, sweet peas, violas, violets, daisies, foxgloves, hollyhocks. Unfortunately, the Dear House burned down in 1979 and we have no confirmation of the full range of flowers and fruits grown in the garden.

### Water and War Shape Gardening in Temecula Valley - 1900 to Present

The early 1900s brought changes to the valley when the Vails purchased the land of Temecula, pauba and Santa Rosa. The Vail Ranch provided employment for the residents. Temecula became a small ranching town with Saturday night dances and Sunday picnics. Murrieta Hot Springs became the leading employee of the Valley. The Springs was known for their beautiful semi-tropical gardens. The kitchen garden and small fruit trees were still the mainstay for the families in the valley.

The most essential resource for Temecula gardens was the domestic water well and functional windmill pumps used to draw the water into either a domestic water tank or a stock trough.

During World War II, when many foods such as butter and sugar were rationed, everyone was encouraged to plant a Victory Garden. An estimated twenty million homeowners planted vegetables, fruits and berries -- with spectacular results. In 1943 alone, Victory Gardens produced more than 40 percent of all produce consumed in this country, freeing up tons of food and supplies to feed the troops at home and abroad. Of course, the people of Temecula Valley did their share. After the war, the need for Victory Gardens faded.

Seed banks, garden clubs and rose societies encourage people to plant heirloom varieties that are available today. Historic flowers are in our gardens now, pleasing the senses as they have done for centuries. The Vista Garden Club replanted the inner court of Guajome in 2002 as part of the total restoration of that once dominant social and cultural place.

The Temecula Valley Gardens of today are a combination of the Spanish with Eastern American and European influences. More recent Asian immigrants have added their unique heritage trying to recreate their familiar surroundings. Since the days of the ancient Persians, gardeners have tried to create a bit of paradise while still on earth.

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## Historic Gardens

Descanso Gardens  
1418 Descanso Drive  
La Canada Flintridge, CA  
Phone: (818) 952-4396  
Admission: charge

8193 Magnolia Ave  
Riverside, CA  
Phone: (951) 826-5273  
Admission: free

The Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA  
Phone: (626) 405-2264  
Admission: charge

Kimberly Crest House & Gardens  
1325 Prospect Drive  
Redlands, CA  
Phone: (951) 792-2111  
Admission: charge

## Native Gardens or Natural Landscape Gardens

Quail Botanical Gardens  
230 Quail Gardens Drive  
Encinitas, CA  
Phone: (760) 436-3036  
Admission: prices & hours subject to change

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve  
39400 Clinton Keith Road  
Murrieta, CA  
Phone: (951) 677-6951  
Admission: Day use \$2

Landscapes Southern California Style  
450 Alessandro Boulevard  
Riverside, CA 92508  
Phone: (951) 780-4177  
Admission: free

Santa Ana Botanical Garden  
Claremont, CA  
Phone: (909)  
Admission: free

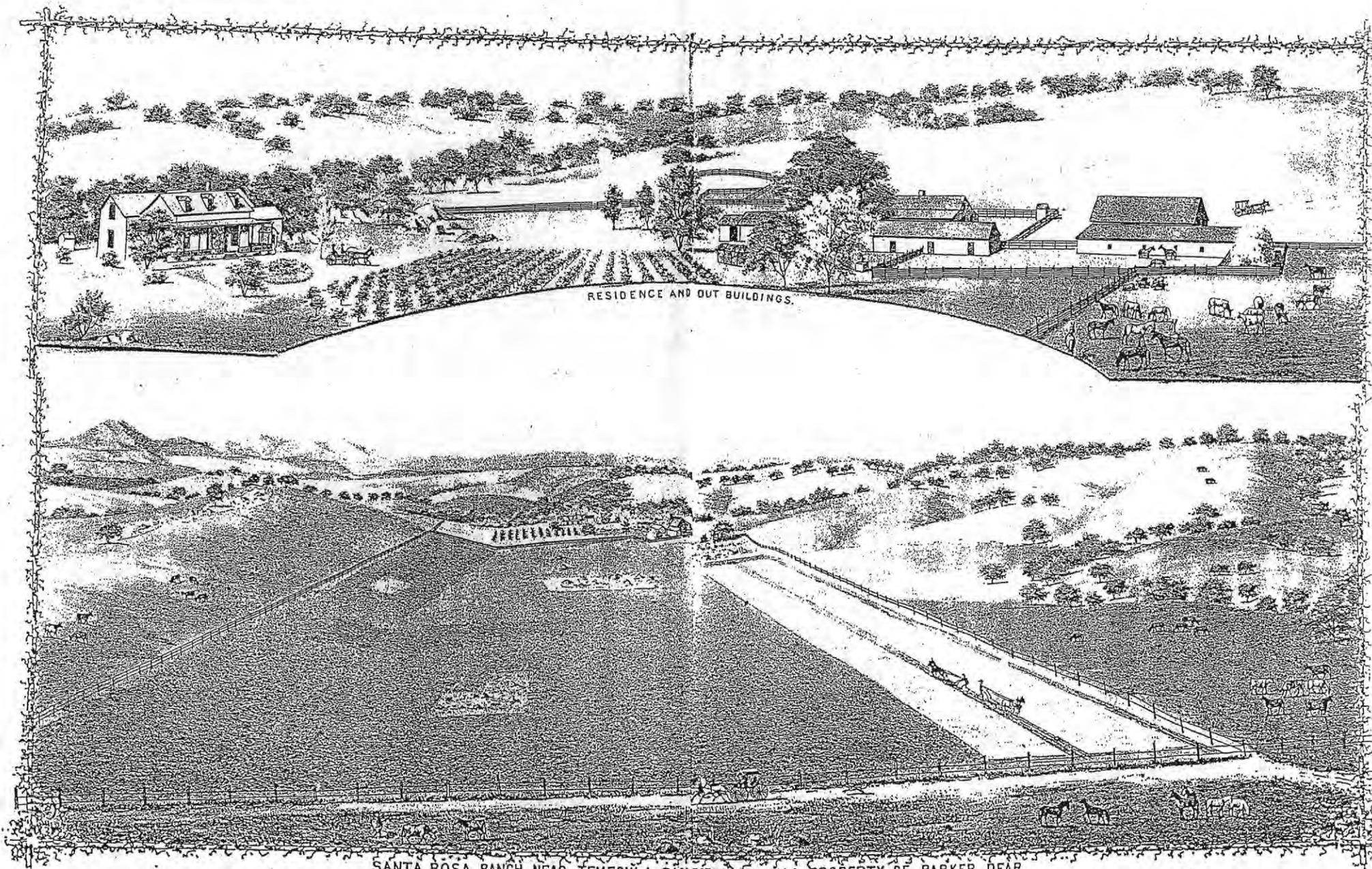
## Heritage gardens books at the Temecula Library

Gilmer, Maureen. Redwoods and Roses. The Garden Heritage of California and the West. 1995.

Martin, Clair G. 100 Old Roses for the American Garden. 1999.

Rupp, Rebecca. Blue Corn & Square Tomatoes. 1997.





RESIDENCE AND OUT BUILDINGS.

SANTA ROSA RANCH, NEAR TEMECULA, SAN DIEGO CO. CALA. PROPERTY OF PARKER DEAR.

Ref: Elliot, Wallace W. History of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. 1883.

## Schooldays at Hyatt, 1938-1940

*by William J. McBurney, CDR USN (ret.)*

In 1937, my father James McBurney took leave of his job delivering gasoline, diesel and oil to the area farmers. He bought 640 acres of what is now the north shore of Lake Skinner from "Doc" Roripaugh. He intended to raise dry-farmed watermelons and cantaloupes on the rich bottomland. The summer weather of 1938 was perfect for melons but the price at the produce market in Los Angeles was only 1 cent per pound (\$20 per ton delivered). Even with the low wages and low transportation costs of the time, it was impossible to make a profit on the crop so my father lost his investment. We moved to the old Roripaugh Homestead, and lived off the land. Mother planted root vegetables and cabbages and lettuce in August. We had a sack of flour, a sack of sugar, a sack of beans and a sack of potatoes plus some canned goods to last out the winter.

The house was a standard single wall construction two-room farmhouse, with a loft bedroom for the three boys. It had been built in the 1880s when lumber had to be hauled from the railroad station at Temecula, so they made the lumber they had stretch as far as possible. The nails that held it together were hand made on someone's forge. They were square! The house had no running water; we had to dip a bucket in the well about 30 yards from the house and carry it to the kitchen. We had a wood stove that burned the cottonwood, willow and brush that we boys collected. Of course we had an outhouse for sanitation. There was no electricity or telephone service. We used kerosene lamps or Coleman gasoline lanterns for light so we went to bed and arose with the sun.

I was 10 years old and I had received a single-shot .22 rifle, (purchased at Montgomery Ward for \$6.00) for my birthday the previous spring, so rabbits were a staple in our diet. My 8-year-old brother had learned to whittle the mechanism for turning any box into a trap for small animals. We ate rabbit and quail meat daily and the meat of an unlucky deer that was eating mom's garden. We went the full year without new clothes or any new toys at Christmas -- that's the way it was in the depression when there was no new income.

Hyatt School was about 2-1/4 miles from our old house. We walked both ways because we couldn't spare the gas at a dime per gallon. It took about an hour to make the trip because we had to explore every interesting rock, lizard, gourd and snake along the way. The Rawson Ranch was raising a herd of Brahma cattle in Tuckalota canyon so we had to be very careful where the bull was before fording the creek, which was ankle deep and about 8 feet wide most of the time. The bull would snort and charge without provocation.

Our teacher was Miss Elizabeth Conrad who was fresh out of teacher college. She roomed and boarded with one of the married Sheld girls on the other side of the Tuckalota Hills from the school. All the roads were dirt and each rattletrap auto that passed in front of the school made a heck of a noise. Miss Conrad tried in vain to make us stay in our seats, but we all jumbed up and ran (3 steps) to the windows to identify each passerby and to surmise why they might be passing our school.

The school was set up to cover Grades 1 through 8 but we only had six students: William and Homer McBurney, Viola, Herky and Alice Carlson, and Virginia Sheld. Recess was fun because the girls were heavily into jumping rope. Boys and girls alike developed great tricks with the ropes. We played other girl games because Vi Carlson had a strong personality and exercised it! (I learned skills in dealing with women that have been valuable all my life.)

The schoolhouse contained the teacher's desk, seven other desks, and a piano. It was heated by a wood-burning pot-bellied stove, but was not air conditioned in any circumstance. The Sheld family furnished the stove wood. The whole south wall had blackboards so we could do our work without using up other precious supplies.

All of the students, both boys and girls went barefoot all the time except on frosty mornings.

The playground had a swing set, monkey bars and a slide as well as a space set aside for dodge ball games and even stickball. The outhouse had two doors and a wall between the two pits. This was before anyone developed deodorants so nobody spent much time in the "privy."

Today I marvel at the ability Miss Conrad displayed in keeping six kids busy at six different tasks and actually teaching them. When I graduated from high school, I was chosen for a full scholarship from the U.S. Navy and I later completed Navy Post Graduate School, which proves that Miss Conrad did an outstanding job in teaching us the basics.

You must remember that the social life for young people was almost non-existent because there were only dirt roads crisscrossing the Wine country (which we called Long Valley), and it was a long way to Hemet or Perris. Winchester, Temecula and Lake Elsinore were dried up bergs that offered nothing except taverns and churches. Sherman Sheld immediately noticed what a great woman Miss Conrad was and began wooing her. Soon they were completely in love. We would often get unscheduled recesses when Sherm would pull his truck under the pepper tree at the front of the school. One day while the teacher and Sherm were kissing, Viola suggested we try it. I kissed Viola and Homer kissed Alice. We were unanimous in our opinion that kissing was greatly overrated. We were aged 8 to 11 at the time so none of us were swayed by hormones.

About once a month, Homer and I would walk home with the Carlson kids which was by Tuckalota creek on the east side of Tuckalota hills. We would then follow the creek west through the gap in the hills and intersect our road about a mile west. On those days we would be about an hour late getting home. Mother knew that we couldn't get lost so she just made us snap it up a little in doing our chores.

Mr. Roripaugh lent us a pair of Percheron horses and a buckboard wagon to help with the chores in the winter when he wasn't using them. I marvel that Homer and I learned to catch those two giants, harness them up to the wagon and drive them about a half-mile up the canyon to haul wood. Modern mothers wouldn't even think of letting 10-year-old kids

work with big horses. Anyway, Homer and I gathered a whole season's supply of wood in the six weeks we had the horses.

Our sister school was Alamos School in French Valley. The teachers would contrive to get us to work together on school plays and music presentations. We also would have a couple of "play days" in the spring to get ready for the district play day each May. The district play day would include kids from Winchester, Antelope, Alamos and Hyatt.

Another shared experience was the annual songfest at the Mission Inn in Riverside. The Riverside County Superintendent of Schools had a dedicated music teacher named Ms. Prouty. She made weekly rounds to all the one- and two-room schools in the western half of the County. Her mission was to teach music to the kids because not all of the teachers knew music. She undertook the task of teaching a cantata to the kids of about a dozen schools. It was The Walrus and the Carpenter, a poem from Alice in Wonderland set to music. When the big day arrived, we had one rehearsal together before performing in the auditorium at Mission Inn. The amazing fact is that she pulled it off! We did great even if I do say so myself.

There are nearly 100 alumni of Hyatt and Alamos schools who attended between 1910 and 1967, when the schools closed. We meet each May for a potluck dinner and a day of reminiscing about the days when we were all so poor and made such dear friends.

*The crumbling remains of the Hyatt Schoolhouse still sit at their original location on Rancho California Road (formerly known as Long Valley Road), about 1/2 mile past the Wilson Creek Winery. The old pepper tree continues to dominate the front yard. The blackboards, slide, monkey bars, swing set and outhouse are gone. Now in private ownership and surrounded by lush vineyards, the fate of this one-room school has been in question for several years. Will it be restored? Will it be relocated? Rumors and ideas abound, but to date honeybees and mice are the only occupants and dry rot continues to deteriorate and downgrade the single-walled structure.*

*Photo submitted by W.J. McBurney*



## LOCAL ORDINANCES

A number of cities and counties have passed their own local ordinances regarding cultural resources. These ordinances generally have several goals:

- To clarify the procedures for dealing with cultural resources for both the developer and the landowner.
- To ensure that only qualified archaeologists are selected for performing the work.
- To standardize archaeological report content and format.

In addition, many of these ordinances have specific provisions to protect local cultural resources that are deemed important to the local community or county but which may not be sufficiently protected by state and/or federal regulations. These local ordinances often help ensure that a developer or landowner does not end up with a substandard archaeological report that is not acceptable to the Regional Archaeological Information Centers.

Examples of government entities which have passed such ordinances include the counties of San Diego, Santa Barbara, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Monterey, Mendocino, San Benito, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Lake, and Sonoma, as well as the cities of Santa Barbara, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Rosa, and Fontana.

For further research on local cultural ordinances, visit [www.ceres.ca.gov](http://www.ceres.ca.gov).





### SEEN ON TV

June Tull & the "Makeover Mama's" aired on A&E TV in mid-December and again at 10:00am on Christmas Morning.

The program focused on a 4-room makeover and home reorganization for the Tull family (June's children and grandchildren, including a set of quintuplets and 2 older children).

#### Family Asks Your Help

The Society has received an inquiry for help to locate information about the Escallier and Winkels families of Temecula. Jesse Adams is researching his wife's Temecula roots, and her connections to the Escallier family. Anyone with photos, personal memoirs, news clippings, or other information, is asked to contact Jesse Adams by phone at (619) 271-6442 or via email at [tatboydad@cox.net](mailto:tatboydad@cox.net).

### MILLS ACT

The City of Riverside recently adopted a "Mills Act" ordinance. The Mills Act allows owners of officially designated historic homes to save significant money on property taxes. Through the Mills Act, a property owner enters into an agreement to implement a program of home renovation/maintenance involving a minimum dollar amount to be spent each year. This dollar amount is applied to property taxes to reduce the amount paid by the home owner.

#### CALIFORNIA HISTORY ON THE INTERNET

*A History of New California, Its Resources and People* by William Irvine, c. 1905. Log onto the following website:

[www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/state1/newca/newcatoc.html](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/state1/newca/newcatoc.html)

The *California Newspaper Project* is still collecting information in Southern California counties but already has a fully searchable database that describes over 7500 newspapers. Surveyed for information were 954 cities and towns, 526 publishers and 2513 libraries, historical societies and museums. Log onto the following website: <http://cbsr26.ucr.edu/cnp/index.html>

### PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2005

(In order of popularity by votes taken at October's Board Meeting)

1. Build protective roof over adobe wall of 2nd Magee Store.
2. Build a kiosk in Old Town to distribute maps, literature, information.
3. Obtain office space for the Society, preferably in Old Town.
4. Restore J. Escallier house.
5. Have a historical garden area with the Rose Society's garden.
6. Reenact the robbery of the Temecula Bank on the 75th Anniversary of the original event (August 13, 1930) - August 13, 2005 is a Saturday.
7. Request space in new library for archiving copies of historical documents.
8. Publicize the Society's website.
9. Preserve the adobes at Vail Lake.
10. Document the site of the old Rancho California airport.
11. Conduct a BBQ to raise money.

CHECK IT OUT!

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



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Dec 1 to Jan 1, 2004

### New Members

### 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)

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

### 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 lished at a later time.

Editor..... Charolette Fox

Special Columns..... Agnes Gaertner

Printing..... Potamus Press

### Calendar

"Life in Temecula" Jan 6, 6:00pm  
Board Meeting Jan 7, Noon  
Historical Commission Jan 21, 1:30p

#### 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, and are open to members. 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

*What the world needs now is peace that passes all misunderstanding.*

*-Retirement can be a great joy if you can figure out how to spend time without spending money.*

*A friend you can buy can be bought from you.*

*You are making progress if each mistake you make is a new one.*

### GRANDMA'S APRON

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. Along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids to hide behind. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out to the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace the old-time apron that served so many purposes.

~ contributed by William McBurney

*Pinafore: n. A child's outer garment, or a work apron pinned to the bodice of a woman's dress.*



**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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**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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