

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Newsletter

September 2005 Vol 5 Issue 9

2005 OFFICERS

President *Jimmy Moore*
1st Vice President *Keith Johnson*
2nd Vice President *Sis Herron*
Secretary *Eve Craig*
Treasurer *Bill Harker*

DIRECTORS

Audrey Cilurzo *Bonnie Reed*
Darell Farnbach *Barbara Tobin*
Wendy Lesovsky *Don Vierstra*
John Moramarco *Doris Whited*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Research & Development
Darell Farnbach

Historic Markers & Plaques
Pam Greder

Wolf Tomb Restoration
Eve Craig

Public Relations
Wendy Lesovsky

Program Committee
Audrey Cilurzo, Wendy Lesovsky

Budget
Bill Harker, Keith Johnson

Youth Projects
Open

Planned Giving
Keith Johnson

Newsletter
Bill Harker, Rebecca Farnbach

Speaker's Bureau
Audrey Cilurzo

Historian
Myra Gonsalves

Webmaster
Open

Membership
Barbara Tobin

www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org
Contact us at 951-501-9159



President's Corner

The City of Temecula and the Temecula Valley Historical Society lost a jewel last month with the passing of Maggi Allen, Curator of the Imagination Workshop and Chairperson of the Society's Youth Projects Committee. Maggi, the daughter of our Secretary, Eve Craig, brought joy to everyone who met or worked with her and she will be sorely missed by all.

Bill Harker has been appointed to head the nominating committee for the upcoming Society elections in October. If you would like to serve on the Board, please give him a call at (951) 676-3691. The Board meets at noon the first Friday of each month at the Community Room of the Temecula Library. All are invited to attend the meetings.

If you attempted to access the TVHS web site after the 1st of August, you probably were unsuccessful. We hope to have the site up and running again soon. Our thanks to Jeff Harmon for serving as our web master over the past several years. He provided us with an interesting historical Internet connection and valuable historical information.

Congratulations are also in order to Darell Farnbach who chaired the Vail Ranch Centennial entry in the July 4th parade in Temecula. The entry, the combined effort of the Temecula Valley Historical (continued inside)

President's Corner, continued

Society and the Vail Ranch Restoration Association again captured a first place trophy.

If you have wandered down Main Street in Temecula since early August you will note that the front of the Mercantile Building is being restored to look exactly like it originally looked when constructed in the late 1890's. Roger Sannipoli, a former board member, reported that the contractor was within ¼ inch of the original specifications. We are thankful to the City of Temecula for restoring the building as close as possible to its original construction.

Jimmy Moore

Special Thanks for Donation

Besides those who were thanked in the August newsletter for donations of items and service for our booth at the Pow Wow, we want to give special thanks to Cheryl King, the assistant manager at the Ralphs Store on Highway 79 South, who personally donated six 20-pound bags of ice to us. Thank you, Cheryl!

Erle Stanley Gardner Weekend & Writing Contest, November 4 – 6, 2005

Plans are underway for the Erle Stanley Gardner Weekend, an annual event sponsored by the Temecula Valley Museum during the first weekend of November. For those of you who are interested in history and who enjoy a mystery have an opportunity to combine your talents and enter the Mystery Writing Contest.

The contest is open to three categories: middle school, high school and adult. Entries must be of the mystery genre and must include references to historical buildings and/or people, living or dead, of the Temecula Valley and cannot exceed 1,000 words for middle school, 1,500 words for high school and 2,500 words for adult entries.

All work must be original, written by the applicant. Entries should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Adult themes, which include excessively foul language are not permitted. The winning entries will be published in

The Californian, so they must be rated no more restrictive than PG-13.

If you are interested in submitting an entry, please call Society President, Jimmy Moore (951) 302-9536, for a complete list of instructions for the contest.

Members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society will serve as judges for the writing contest. If you do not care to enter the contest but would be willing to devote an afternoon in late October to serve as a judge, contact Jimmy Moore at the telephone number listed above.

Look for notices in the local newspapers for a listing of all of the events that will take place during the Erle Stanley Gardner Weekend.

The Auld Valley and Hyatt School

This information is from an oral history project Christine Trunnell Ford did during an internship program with the Riverside County Parks Department. Christine, the daughter of Don and Esther Trunnell, is presently the curator of the Grant Kohrs Ranch in Deer Lodge, Montana.

The old Hyatt Schoolhouse is the small, unpainted building on the right side of Rancho California Road as you drive toward Lake Skinner.

Life in the Auld Valley centered around farming and the Hyatt School was the community center. It was named for Edward Hyatt, a Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. From 1899 to 1907 it sat on land donated by George Herbert Baisley, but was moved to its present location two miles northwest to a more central location for the children attending the school.

Brothers Sherman and Arthur Buck built the school with supplies provided by Riverside County. With all the fathers' help, it took two days to build the small, rectangular clapboard building with three windows on each long side.

Cement steps led to the front door and the teacher's desk sat at the back of the room. An eight-foot-long recitation bench was at the front of the room. The old-fashioned desks were one in

front of another, each with a hole in the top for an inkbottle and shelves below for books. When only six students attended Hyatt School, each had a window for light and ventilation.

A bucket of drinking water with a dipper sat to the right of the front door and coats hung from hooks on the opposite side. There was a small closet for supplies and a small walk-in library. In the center of the room a small wood stove radiated heat. Blackboards were on the east end. Outside were two outhouses, a shed for wood and hay, and a place to tie horses.

All the students were related in the first location: the Bucks, Roripaugh's and their relative Marian Pugh.

Teachers were selected by the school board, which was comprised of parents of the students. Teachers lived in an extra room at Arthur Buck's home without paying room or board. The ladies from the city learned to do farm chores and to look for rattlesnakes.

A minimum of five students was needed to keep the school open. One year, three-year-old Hugh Buck attended school so the other four students would have a teacher.

Students walked or rode horses or mules to school. After a salute to the flag and a song, class began. There were sometimes eight classes in the room. Each class would come to the recitation bench to receive instruction from the teacher, then they would return to their seats to work on assignments. Older students often helped younger ones with their work while the teacher instructed other classes.

Subjects included reading, arithmetic, U.S. history, spelling, art, health, current events and penmanship. Students memorized poetry and passages from the Bible and Shakespeare. Students brought cold lunches to school in lard buckets, but during the winter they sometimes heated their lunches on the wood stove.

During recess, students made a grassy hill into a "toboggan run" and built forts in bunch grass. At the second location, the students cleared an area of rock and brush for a tennis court. They liked to

pour water down tarantula holes, play Hide and Seek and Kick the Can.

When students finished their work, they were allowed to read book at their desks. Children were not assigned homework, because after getting home they had to do chores.

The students looked forward to visits from parents like Tommy Rawson who gave them apples and Mr. Guenther who brought candy.

Report cards were sent home six times a year with grades given for each subject, plus deportment, industry and painstaking. After finishing eighth grade, students would go to San Jacinto to take a test for graduation.

Students were hired as janitors to stack wood, fill the water pail, sweep the floor and wash the blackboards. Mr. Vail provided the wood, but the fathers cut it and hauled it to the school. The students fetched water for the first location from a location called "Mad Allen's Camp." They had a hand-dug well and windmill at the second location.

Hyatt School participated in debates and spelling bees with other area schools, taking turns hosting them. They decorated the school and threw a community party at Christmas and graduation. It would start with a play, puppet show or recitations and would end with a dance and a potluck dinner. As the evening went on and the younger children got tired, they would be bedded down in the wagons to sleep.

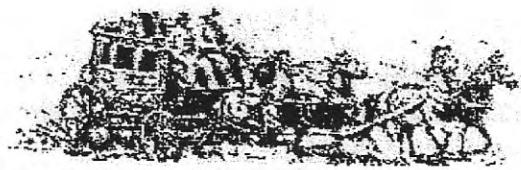
The school building was used for non-denominational Sunday Services, too. When there wasn't a minister available from Hemet or Temecula, Mr. Milholland, the father of some of the students would give a sermon.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 27 – Dedication of Tony Tobin

16 Elementary School

Nov. 12 – Historical Society Installation
Dinner



**NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
TEMECULA CA**

PERMIT #447

**Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593-0157**

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tax exempt charitable & educational organization

Membership

Membership/Donation Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$10,000.00

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

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

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

Checks payable to:

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Mail to:

P. O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593-0157