

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Newsletter

December 2005 Vol 5 Issue 12

The Temecula Valley Historical Society meets at noon on the first Friday of each month in the social room at the Temecula Valley Public Library. See us at:

www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Contact us at 951-501-9159.

Or, P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593-0157

Warm Holiday Greetings!

We hope your holidays are happy and that you spend some quality time with family and friends.

...or a hot cup of tea and a ginger snap cookie and reflect over times past in Temecula.

Ledger books from early stores in Temecula show they were open on Christmas Day until WW I. The Machado Store did a brisk business in the days before Christmas in 1899.

A Mr. Alvarez bought a pair of ladies' gloves, cigars, sugar, tea, suet, fruit and coffee. A Mr. Rush bought a battle-ax, tobacco, butter and two pounds of French candy.

John Quinn bought cookies, candy, walnuts and almonds on December 23rd. Jose Cazas must have been going to a family gathering because he bought socks and shoes.

President's Corner

We appreciate the good work done by our former board and wish them well. New officers for 2006 are –

President Eve Craig
1st Vice President Audrey Cilurzo
2nd Vice President Barbara Tobin
Secretary Charlotte Leathers
Treasurer Bill Harker

In addition, we have a great **Board of Directors**: Darell Farnbach, Sis Herron, Keith Johnson, John Moramarco, Sr.; Bonnie Reed, Don Vierstra. Chuba Ko, Bob Newsom, Paul Price and Duane Wheeler – 15 people who we appreciate.

Our purpose is "to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance."

Special plans are being made to enlighten and entertain our membership of over 150, by having knowledgeable historians and residents make presentations at our monthly meetings. The importance of preserving our history is to keep it, or it will be lost forever.

We are also planning tours of historic places and several special events, such as the recent barbeque at the incredible Moramarco Ranch. Your suggestions of possible tour trips may be made by calling me at 699-9872. Welcome, and enjoy our activities.

Eve Craig

Welcome, Newcomers to the Board of Directors:

CASABA "CHUBA" KO: came to Temecula in 1973 as a member of the Kaiser/Aetna Corp., was with that firm from 1970 to 1994, a director of the Rancho California Water District for 16 years and founded the Temecula Soccer League.

CHARLOTTE LEATHERS: a volunteer at the Temecula Library since it opened, and works in the bookstore, a volunteer at the museum since 1990 and works in the Gift Shop.

BOB NEWSOM: owner of Newsom Century 21, Inc., an active member of the community with an interest in preserving our rich historical legacy for future generations.

PAUL PRICE: has studied and worked with the Pechanga tribe and other Luisenos, he has been involved in art, anthropology, preservation and scholarship. His most significant work is as an artist which can be seen in the Pechanga Resort and Casino.

DUANE W. WHEELER: a resident of Temecula Valley for 2 years, after previously living in Escondido for 30 years. He served on the Palomar-Pomerado Hospital District Board and on the first year of the Escondido City Franchise Board. He is a history buff, a genealogist, ham radio operator and member of Huntington Library and Art Galleries.

A 700-Mile Journey to Temecula in 1905 by One Woman and Five Children

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

I first read her story in The Californian in 1993, and remembered it long after I discarded the newspaper. It is appropriate that we remember this courageous and desperate woman who made this incredible journey 100 years ago. Thanks to Joan Roripaugh, daughter of Walt Cooper, who shared her copy of the newspaper so I could summarize the story here.

It was December 14, 1905 in Hilt, California, on the Oregon border. Mary Gudman had baked bread and prepared a good dinner for her husband Fred and their five children, but Fred came home drunk and quarrelsome. Fred, who was handicapped after losing his left arm in a railroad accident, was a frustrated man. He still had a job with the railroad, but he would get drunk and his family was terrified by his violence. That cold December night, he returned to the saloon spewing threats of what he would do to his family when he returned.

They were all afraid of Fred, and Mary had put up with all the abuse she could take. She had to get away from him. In the cold of winter and with only fifteen cents and a small gold nugget, she fled from her violent husband. She packed up their five children, ages three through thirteen, and embarked on a trip to the safety of her brother Amos Kolb's house in Temecula, some seven hundred miles away. A long and difficult trip even in good weather was nearly impossible in December. Her daughter Rhoda, then thirteen years old, wrote the story fifty years later.

Rhoda, the oldest of the children, was staying with her grandmother when Mary woke her up in the middle of the night and told her to get up, dress and get the horses ready. As she hurriedly dressed, Rhoda stuffed into her pocket some things she had bought to give the younger children for Christmas. They harnessed the horses and grabbed their dog Pug and some bedding, while Mary went to get a wagon.

They traveled in cold silence until 4 a.m., putting some distance between themselves and Fred. They stopped to rest the horses and to make beds in the wagon with padding from a haystack.

If they hadn't realized the seriousness of their situation before, they did when they awakened with nothing to eat and not even a match to light a fire. To make it to Temecula, they needed warmth, food and fodder for the horses.

On their first day, they bought a ten-cent box of crackers and a five-cent hair comb. Mary sold the nugget for seven dollars, which bought them flour, sugar, salt, lard and some matches. The storekeeper gave them some warm coats. They found an old pan and a piece of tin by the side of the road, which became precious cooking implements along their way. Mary made griddlecakes as their first meal. That evening a man gave them a duck.

On December 16th, it was so cold that they hoisted quilts over the bows of the wagon to keep warm as they traveled near Sisson. It was raining, so they looked for a structure to sleep in. They found a vacant building in ghost town where a logging camp had been. They made a fire and made a dinner of boiled duck and dumplings.

Everything was covered with snow when they left the ghost town and they had to pay their last dollar to ferry over Pit River. Later in the day they found an orchard and feasted on apples.

On December 19th they camped at a fish hatchery and a man gave them a large salmon. Mary packed it in salt, and for dinner they dined on boiled salmon and hotcakes. A sympathetic lady gave them some warm clothes.

On December 20th they camped at a farm in the mountains. They slept in a barn as a shelter from a storm. They preferred sleeping in the wagon where they felt more secure, close together and warm.

Rhoda wrote that every day that they traveled they were farther from the danger of their father. Even with hardships along the way, the family felt happy.

By December 22nd they camped near Rawson. They were out of feed for the horses, so they took some from where it was stacked in a field. Rhoda said that if anyone saw them taking the feed, no

one stopped them. They filled the wagon as full as they could.

By December 24th they were near Chico, where Rhoda and her ten-year-old sister Agnes saw windows brightly decorated for Christmas when they were sent to town to buy soap. A man gave them oranges and candy.

That night, Rhoda felt proud as she and Mary filled the stockings that Agnes, Jessie, age eight, young Mary, six, and Bill, three, hung on the dashboard of the wagon. When they awakened on Christmas morning, they found Santa's gifts of oranges, candy and the harmonicas and heart pins Rhoda had hidden in her pocket. After a breakfast of hotcakes and sugar, the family inched their way to Biggs, California.

On December 29th near Sacramento, they saw fields full of sweet potatoes that the farmers couldn't sell. They filled their wagon and after that they feasted on sweet potatoes every night.

On January 5th Rhoda had a bad toothache. She put her cheek against Pug and his warmth made her feel better. On January 6th, they were in Madera and one of the horses needed shoeing. Mary sold her watch chain to pay the blacksmith, but he wouldn't take her money.

On January 7th they were in Fresno where they picked walnuts. On the 8th they bought hay for the horses in Travers. One of the horses got loose in the night and just about ruined the hay. The family picked up what they could salvage and moved on. By the time they arrived in Tulare on the ninth, the overworked horses were tired and hard to move.

It was dark, cold and windy when they arrived in Bakersfield. They heard that the ridge route was closed because of snow, so had to go through Tehachapi. They traveled miles and miles without seeing a house. Rhoda was sent to a sheep camp to ask if they were on the right road. No one was home. She saw a ham bone in a screen cupboard called a desert cooler. She was hungry and took the bone.

It was biting cold going through the Tehachapi mountains. A man heading back to Bakersfield

gave them his groceries. It was raining so hard, that they had to stop. When the sun came out, they hung out their bedding and clothes. On the 14th they stopped at a farm in Tehachapi, where two brothers fed them bacon, eggs and biscuits and a lady sent them on their way with eggs and jar of jam.

They spent the 17th in Mesquite Canyon and were afraid because a mountain lion had been spotted near their campsite. Jessie found fifteen cents there. Mary cooked white beans with the hambone.

By January 20th, they were eager to reach Temecula. They were out of money and nearly out of food. It was warmer when they reached Azusa the next day. In Pomona they ate oranges. They camped near a dump in Riverside. Every day the horses went slower. Near Menifee a pack of dogs stopped them from going to a farmhouse, so they slept in a school.

They finally arrived at Amos and Maggie Kolb's home in Temecula on January 25th, six weeks after they had started their journey.

Mary took sick and was in bed for six weeks. Fred came by train and tried to win back his family, but Mary wouldn't have him. Mary and Rhoda became cooks at the Pauba Ranch for the Vails. Mary fell in love with John Ludy and they married and ran a chicken ranch in Rainbow. Rhoda also married into the Ludy family.

Amos and Maggie were Mildred Tobin's grandparents.

Mary Gudman was a smart and determined woman.

The Latest Dirt on Louis Wolf

From Eve Craig

We're happy to report that Jose', our Landscape Maintenance treasure brought a load of superbly rich dirt and mixed it with existing dirt so we are prepared to contact The Rose Society and hope to have multi-colored rose bushes in front of the front fence soon. Happy Days.

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



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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.

Checks payable to:

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Mail to:

P. O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593-0157