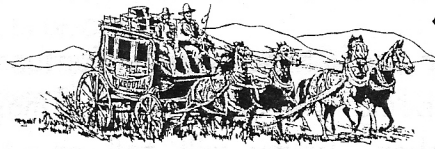


Temecula Valley Historical Society

Newsletter



2006 Officers

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1 st Vice-President	<i>Audrey Cilurzo</i>
2 nd Vice-President	<i>Barbara Tobin</i>
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Historic Markers & Plaques
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Newsletter
Eve Craig, Bill Harker, Leslie Karp

www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Contact us at 951-699-9872
Or P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593-0157

President's Corner

POW WOW * FIREWORKS * PARADE * MORE FIREWORKS *

It was more exciting this year than usual with a real fire going on in the adjacent Rainbow Canyon. We could watch helicopters dumping water on it. Thank God for the firefighters. There were fewer people there because of it and the extraordinary heat, but 500 to 600 dancers in gorgeous regalia took part in the ceremonies. There were great fireworks, controlled by watered areas. We were grateful for donations of bottled water and sodas by Vince Mendoza, Mgr. of Von's at Rancho California Rd. Bill Harker had a donation from Brent Benson, Mgr. of Albertsons in Palomar Village, Barbara Tobin brought sodas and Paul Price bought ice. Sis Herron, Pam Grender and Bill Harker joined us for the festivities. Ron Islas did his part, Darell transported tables and coolers and his donation of sodas and water, Audrey Cilurzo and I donated sodas and water, and we made a tidy sum for Temecula Valley's Historical Society. Bonnie Reed's husband, Ken, brought their 10 X 10 tent and raised and carted it away.

On the fourth of July, Darell and Rebecca Farnbach marched with our TVHS Banner until it was too hot, in front of a beautifully decorated surrey with a fringe on top, drawn by Megan, a gentle light tan horse. Again Darell was responsible for this – and we were delighted to win 1st Prize in the Equestrian Driven category, receiving a great plaque from those discerning judges. Thousands braved the sun and later on many more enjoyed the fantastic City's fire-works.

At our July meeting we were very privileged to have Roger Honberger as the speaker. He reminisced about his family and life here. Several of his relatives and friends came to hear him. We were surprised to learn that his grandfather at one time owned the Neinke House and he visited him often. And, his mother, Agnes, was the teller at the Old Town Bank when the great robbery occurred. We'll ask him to come again to talk about his amazing life. Our speakers have been so good, it is really worth coming to hear them – at Temecula Library's Community Room, 12:00 noon, the first Friday of each month. Everyone is welcome as our guest. Jimmy Moore will be the next, to discuss the committee for the cityhood of Temecula.

Eve Craig

Speakers & Events

By
Audrey Cilurzo

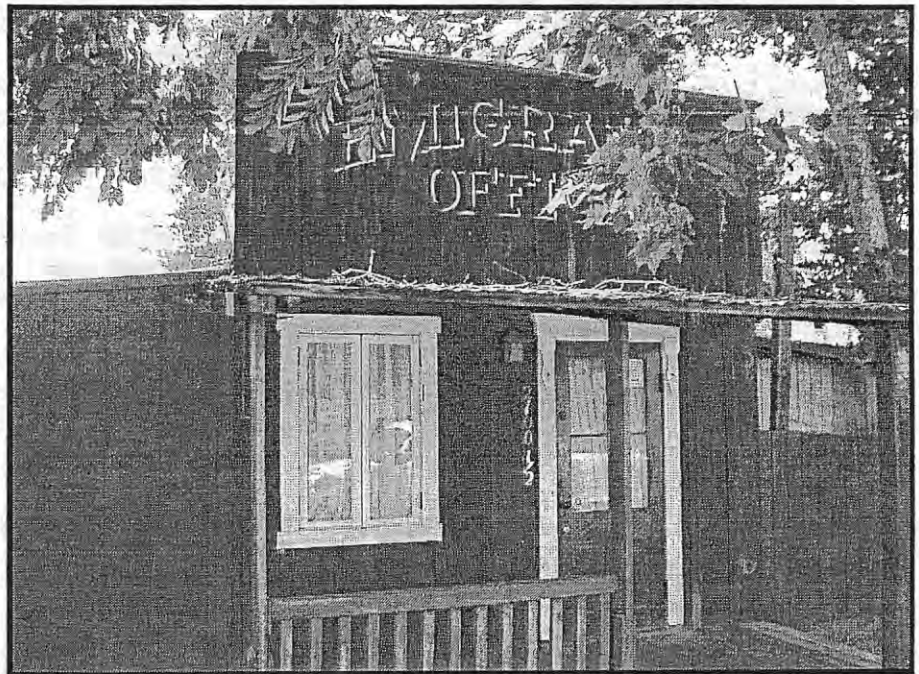
Lena Seemand had been scheduled to speak at our August meeting. Unfortunately the serious illness of her only brother necessitates her being in Oregon with him most of the summer. Jimmy Moore will be our August speaker. Jimmy will tell about all the committee meetings and planning needed to formally make Temecula a city. Jimmy was involved in all this planning. After Temecula became a city Peg Moore, Jimmy's wife was a member of the first city council. This will be a very interesting meeting. If anyone has suggestions for speakers at our monthly meetings please call Audrey Cilurzo 304 3666 . The history of Temecula is precious and we need to preserve it for our families

Plaques and Brochures Committee

By Pam Grender

11,000 more Historic Old Town Brochures are currently on order. The guides have been distributed throughout Old Town, the Library, City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce. Recently, Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook agreed to give them out. Hotels and restaurants in Temecula are also happy to receive them. If anyone would like to help distribute brochures, please see me.

On order, also, are two bronze plaques. One will commemorate the former airport once located west of I-15 and north of Rancho California Road. We hope to install the plaque close to where the landing field was located. The other plaque will identify the Old Immigrant Office near the Hotel Temecula. We will try to find the true age and history of this building.



Get To Know Your Board Members

Bill McBurney

William James McBurney was born in Hemet California on May 8, 1928 at the hospital at the NW corner of Florida and an Jacinto attended by Dr. Clark.

School was at Hemet Elementary through the 4th grade then at Hyatt for the 5th and 6th thence to Winchester Elementary to complete 8th grade. Perris High gave him the first two years of secondary education then graduation from Fallbrook High in 1946.

Bill was greatly interested in photography and set out to work with a portrait photographer which didn't work out. He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy asking to become a Photographers Mate. Instead, he was sent to Aviation Electronics Technicians Mate School. One day after completing the first half of the school he was called into the office and informed that he had been selected for Officer training and was to leave the next morning for prep school.

The Navy was trying out a new program to get officers with a liberal education to augment the Engineering-educated Academy Graduates so Bill went off to the University of Washington in Seattle. The Holloway Plan provided tuition, books and \$50.00 per month. Bill washed stacks of dishes and served hundreds of cafeteria customers for 3 meals per day so he could live on the amount provided. Girls dating Bill had to be satisfied with a 5 cent cup of coffee and scintillating conversation because he was too broke to offer anything more. His parents had bought a small Motel with a Mom & Pop restaurant attached in Santa Margarita CA (near San Luis Obispo). They had no spare money at the time.



Bill was an excellent hitch-hiker and managed to get enough rides to make the 1,000 mile trip in 35 hours or less which was about the same as Greyhound would have taken. Highway 99 through Oregon was still 2 lanes of switchbacks for mile after mile where logging trucks with heavy loads crept along in low gear, it used to take 8 to 10 hours to get across the state when 4 to 5 hours is enough on I-5 today.

The Holloway Plan required the student Midshipmen to take an 8-week cruise on active ships each summer. Bill's first cruise in 1948 was on the cruiser Springfield (CL-66) where the budding officers went to Hawaii which still only had the Royal Hawaiian and the Moana Hotels on Waikiki. The high point of the cruise was the sinking of the battleship Nevada (BB-36) which had been a target of the A-Bomb tests at Bikini and was so radioactive that it had to be disposed of. We pounded her with 5", 6" 8" and even 16" inch shells from the Iowa all afternoon with very little effect. Finally when all the ammunition allocated to the exercise had been expended it was sunk with aerial torpedoes.

The next cruise was on the East coast and indoctrinated the Midshipmen in Amphibious warfare at Norfolk VA and Aviation at Pensacola Fl. Bill decided that Naval Aviation was the way to go and indicated that preference through the chain of command.

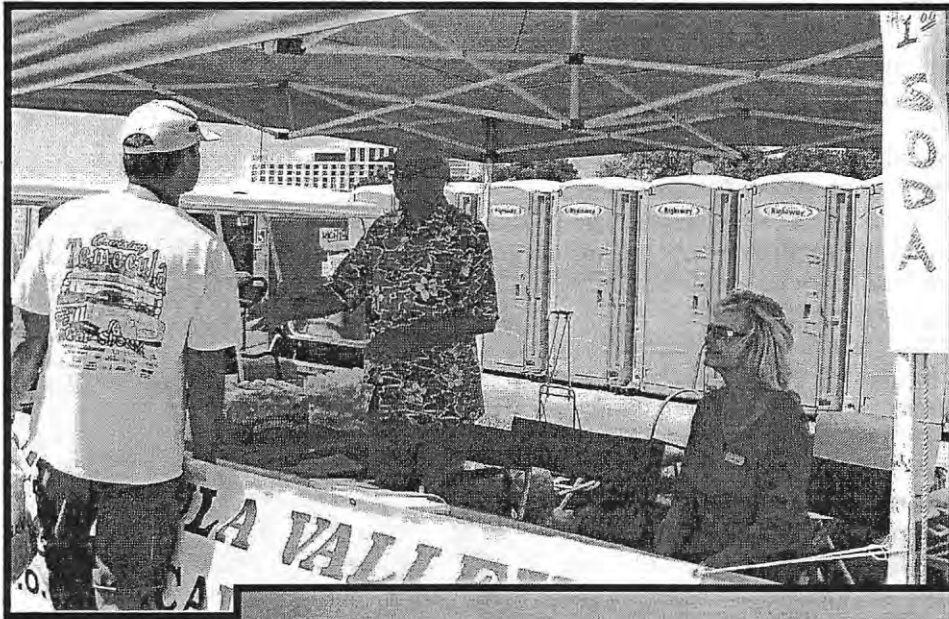
The final cruise in the summer of 1950 was aboard the USS Philippine Sea (CV-47) to become indoctrinated in life aboard a "bird farm". In the third week of the cruise, the Korean War started and the Philippine Sea was ordered to load up stores and an air group and steam full-speed to the war zone. There were no orders for the 40 Midshipmen aboard until about 2 hours before sailing on the 4th of July weekend. They were packed and ready to go but the ship's company was busy loading for war. Rumors were rampant that the Midshipmen would be given their Commissions and used to fill the depleted ranks of the Officer complement aboard. Finally official orders arrived setting the Midshipmen ashore at North Island Naval Air Station San Diego.

Upon graduation from University of Washington, Bill was Commissioned Ensign USN and assigned to the USS Princeton (CV-37) a sister ship of the Philippine Sea. The theory was that aviation officers should have some ship's company time before becoming aviators. Bill was told he would be ordered to flight school as soon as he had 2 years of shipboard duty behind him. The ship trained a new air group off San Diego then proceeded to the East coast of Korea for duty. The Princeton made 3 eight month cruises as Bill progressed through the various gunnery department assignments of 1st 2nd and 3rd division officer and assistant 1st Lt. He served watches in Combat Information Center, the Mk.37 Gun Director and as officer of the deck.

After eating breakfast with air group buddies then learning that they had been shot down before lunch, Bill withdrew his application to become an aviator and volunteered for Explosive Ordnance Disposal School so he could qualify for hazardous duty pay.

In 1954 after the Korean truce took effect Bill was sent to Explosive Ordnance Disposal School where he became a Salvage Diving Officer as well as EOD Officer. He trained in all the latest diving apparatus except mixed gas for deep dives. Bill was first in his EOD class so he was chosen to be in the first Special Weapons Disposal (atomic bombs) class and given his first Top Secret security clearance.

Paul Price and Barbara Tobin at the TVHS booth at the POW WOW



Paul Honberger and family at the July meeting where he was our speaker.



Darell and Rebecca Faranbach in the July 4th Parade.

Bill met his wife, Alice at a grange dance in Atascadero while on leave from the Princeton in 1952 after the first deployment to Korea. It was an old time dance where they played mostly two-steps waltzes and square dances. Alice and Bill had the supper dance together and when the drawing came for a free steak dinner for two, she won it! She invited Bill for the dinner and then he went back to the ship and didn't write for the next 8 months. She was still there when he returned after the second and third tours and they had several dates each time.

After completion of EOD School, Bill was assigned as Executive officer on the USS Excel (MSO-439) which was being built in New Orleans LA and as EOD officer for MINERON 9. While waiting for the ship to be commissioned, Bill learned to fly light aircraft at a local field.

When the Excel was assigned to Long Beach CA, Bill bought a Piper PA 11 plane and continued to court Alice by flying to San Luis Obispo on weekends.

In January, 1957 they were married and Bill went to Albuquerque NM for full nuclear training in all aspects of our stockpile then assigned to NAD Oahu as the nuclear expert and custodian of all Navy Special Weapons that were not deployed on ships or submarines. One notable job was when the Air Force needed an H-Bomb installed in a missile warhead for a test. Bill led the team that accomplished the job. When the 4 megaton device was exploded at a 50 mile altitude it proved that radiation ruins communications over about half the Earth for several hours. Bill received a commendation letter for his part in the exercise but it was classified and could not be part of his record!

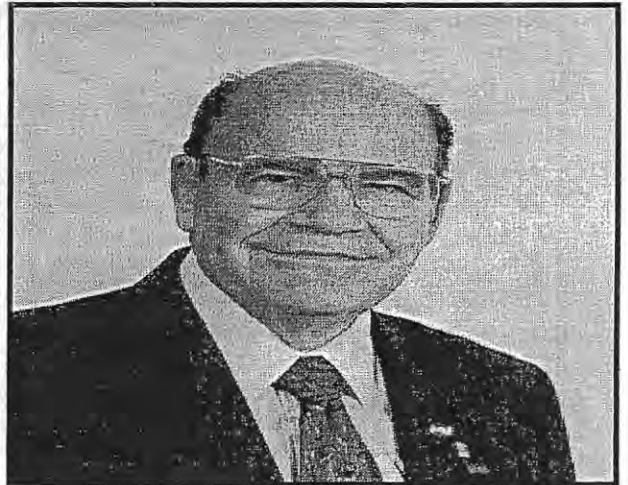
After sea duty on USS Ammen (DD-527) and USS Mispillion (AO-105) and a stint at Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey CA. Bill was assigned to White Sands Missile Range in Southern New Mexico. It was May of 1965 when he arrived to be the Navy liaison officer to the National Range operated by the Army. As Army Officers were sent to Vietnam without relief, Bill assumed their duties until he was reporting directly to the General on the operation of the range which Bill had re-organized to skip all the bureaucratic paperwork that had developed. Bill received the Legion of Merit Medal from the Army and commendations from the Navy, Air Force and NASA for his outstanding work. NASA commended him for support of Gemini and Apollo Space missions. Bill oversaw the firing of more than 100 missiles from Green River Utah to the Range 400 miles away in which tests were made on re-entry bodies for ICBMs.

Bill's final duty was as Weapons Officer on the USS Providence (CLG-6) which was a sister to the Springfield on which his first Midshipman cruise was taken 20 years before. Since the Terrier Missile system was obsolete, Bill was given the opportunity to fire 30 missiles during his tenure. – A real forth of July! Bill had the best trained missile crew in the fleet. The Chiefs had been Seamen on the Providence 14 years before and had rotated ashore then back to the Providence throughout their careers. One CPO was so proficient in knowing what was going on inside the guidance radar that when it failed with a missile in flight, he had the right tube in his hand and replaced it in about 10 seconds so the missile continued to the target as if nothing had happened.

Upon retirement from the Navy in 1970, Bill and Alice bought a Baskin-Robbins ice cream store in Edmonds WA which they sold in 1974. Bill then entered commercial real estate where he was very successful selling over 30 million in apartment properties in 5 years. With his net worth soaring, Bill decided to get really rich by developing 5 acres of land into 92 Condominiums. He picked 1981 to build the project and was shot down by the prime rate that caused him to pay as much as 24% interest plus the failure of the bank that had made the builder's loan. Needless to say, it was a colossal failure although the condos have an excellent reputation.

Ethanol was the buzzword in 1983 so Bill joined a group that was trying to get investors in plants to make ethanol. Bill invented a way to make an additive to baked goods that would boost the fiber and protein content of breadstuffs. He joined with a food scientist, Dr. Barbara Rasco, at the University of Washington to publish the nutritional attributes and to patent the process. Everything was going great, the cereal made from the product was selling fine as was the pancake mix and bread mix when the company promoter was found to have embezzled \$300,000 of the 2 million that had been raised to start up the plant. When all the blame and shouting was over they had to fold the company. Bill then entered residential real estate in Lynnwood WA where he was quite active in the Snohomish board of Realtors®. He received awards every year as a model Realtor®.

After suffering a heart attack and prostate cancer the cold weather in western Washington was getting bothersome. Bill and Alice decided to move to the Four Seasons development in Murrieta where they now reside. Bill loves to teach children to read and has volunteered at Winchester Elementary School as a reading tutor. Bill and Alice are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year.



Temecula Valley Historical Society
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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$ 10,000.00

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