



Temecula Valley
Historical Society

Newsletter

July 2007 Vol 7 Issue 5

*****NEW MEETING PLACE*****

We meet at the historical Pujol School on Santiago Road on the first Friday of each month from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Plan to be there for a board meeting followed by an interesting speaker.

2007 OFFICERS

President	Barbara Tobin
Vice President	Leslie Karp
Secretary	Charlene Fink
Treasurer	Keith Johnson

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS

Eve Craig	Paul J. Price
Laura "Sis" Herron	Jack Roripaugh
Carol Marsden	Carol Strode
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Darell Farnbach

Historic Markers & Plaques
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Newsletter
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You won't want to miss our July speaker: Cliff Wyatt, a retired sergeant from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, will tell entertaining stories about law enforcement in the Temecula Valley during the 1960s - 1980s.

He will tell about the late Judge Hilliard, a colorful character in local history. You won't want to miss this informative program given by someone who witnessed law enforcement history first hand. Mark your calendars for this meeting on Friday, July 6th from noon to 2 p.m.

Society News

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to make reservations for the society's **Sixth Annual Heritage Luncheon** on July 18th at the historic Murrieta Hot Springs Resort, now the Calvary Chapel Bible College and Conference Center. Reservations will be accepted through July 15th. After lunch, Calvary Chapel's historian Carl Bentz will give a talk and a guided tour of the facility.

Speaking of events, by the time you receive this newsletter, the membership drive event planned by **Eve Craig**, called **An Elegant Picnic**, will be a delightful memory for those who attended and we hope we will have many new members as a result of it. **Eve and Leslie**

Karp sent 320 invitations to non-members in the community.

The show of over 600 visitors to the Jackass Mail event put on by the **Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaARRA)** on June 9th proved that people are interested in local history. **Darell Farnbach** wants to thank each person who helped and supported the celebration.

The support base for the bronze plaque at the **Wolf Monument** will soon be covered with an alligator coating. Thanks to **Roger Sannipoli** and his father, **Al Sannipoli**, who have put extensive effort into attaching the base to the large plaque. According to **Eve Craig**, committee chairperson for the Wolf Monument, "it looks wonderful". She says **Roger** is installing it with one of **Al's** best employees. Soon, they will attach the urn made by **Paul Price**.

Clarification

In last month's newsletter we did not mean to infer that **Jose Gonzalez** constructed the Pujol Schoolhouse. He was most likely involved with planning and fundraising for the school.



The past and present presidents of the Temecula Valley Historical Society take a moment to stand together to celebrate history at the Vail Ranch. Left to right: Charolette Fox, Barbara Tobin, Eve Craig and Jimmy Moore. Photo courtesy of Steven Allen.

Juan Murrieta, the King of Guacamole?

You may know that Juan Murrieta was a shepherd and not a bandit. Many folks confuse him with the unrelated bandit Joaquin Murieta, who didn't come from the same country or even spell his name the same. You also may know that when Murrieta came from Spain, he invested in real estate in Northern and Central California before coming to the Temecula Valley. But did you know that he introduced avocados to Southern California?

While researching information for the book *Images of America: Murrieta*, I found the surprising story when I "Google-d" his name. Up popped the 1936 annual report of the Californian Avocado Association, an issue dedicated to him, shortly after his death.

Juan Murrieta came to the Temecula Valley in 1873, when he and his brother Ezequiel bought Ranchos Temecula and Pauba with two partners. By 1882,

Ezequiel returned to Spain, and in 1884, Juan moved his family to Los Angeles. Juan became the first deputy sheriff in Los Angeles County. He and his wife Adele enjoyed horticulture and experimenting with plants.

Photographs of the Murrieta adobe show fruit trees in the foreground, proving their interest in horticulture while in the Temecula Valley.

Murrieta corresponded with a Senor Fuentes, a Welis Fargo station agent in Mexico, who sent him some avocados. From those seeds, his hybrids included the Murrieta Green, the Two-Pound Green, the Colorado, and others.

Dr. Thomas Murrieta of Whittier recalls the avocado trees at his grandparents' Los Angeles home. "One of the trees was two-stories tall. His avocados were delicious, buttery in taste and texture. Some of the fruit was so large, it took both hands to hold it."

This is consistent with the California Avocado Association's statement that Juan Murrieta was "one of the introducers and earliest growers of avocados in California".

Maybe we should set up an annual Guacamole Day celebration in honor of Juan Murrieta. How about on the Fourth of July? Red, white, blue and green... Or, maybe the Murrieta Firemen's Barbecue could start the tradition. — Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

What Juan may have known about Avocados:

- there is no such thing as a vine-ripened avocado, they do not ripen until after they are picked
- they are high in fat, but the healthy kind, mono-unsaturated and are cholesterol free
- they are related to cinnamon and sassafrass plants
- they have more potassium than a banana
- the Aztecs thought avocados had aphrodisiac properties

Guacamole Recipe

This recipe was generously shared by Carmen Mojado.

2 – 3 large avocados
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 – 2 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup salsa, fresh or canned
salt & pepper to taste
1 – 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Mash avocados and add the other ingredients. Serve with tortilla chips.

Temecula on Parade

A horse-drawn carriage will represent the Temecula Valley Historical Society in the annual 4th of July Parade on Front Street. The Farnbachs plan to walk in front of the carriage carrying the society banner and would like to invite others to dress in Western or historical costumes and to walk with them. Call Darell at 951-552-3516 for more information.