

Temecula Valley
Historical Society

Newsletter

August 2007 Vol 7 Issue 6

*****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" Heron	Jack Roripaugh
Carol Marsden	Carol Strode
Bill McBurney	Norm Taylor

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Research & Development
Darell Farnbach
Historic Markers & Plaques
Pam Greder

Wolf Tomb Restoration
Eve Craig

Public Relations
Bill Harker

Membership
Bill Harker

Youth Projects
Paul Price

Planned Giving
Keith Johnson

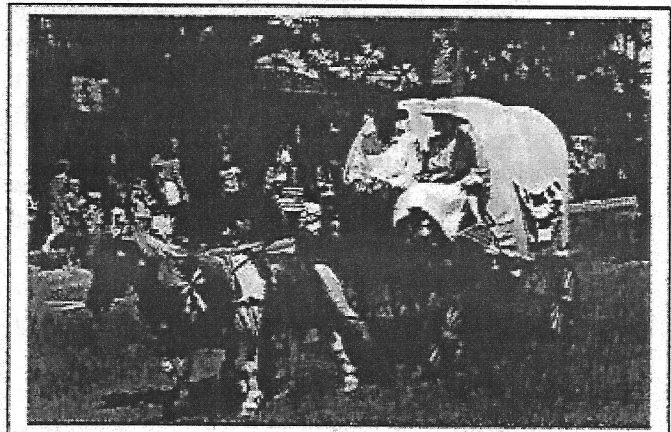
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Above, Larry and Nancy Strahm drive two miniature horses as part of the society's First Prize in Equestrian Driven entry in Temecula's Fourth of July Parade. President Barbara Tobin and past president Eve Craig followed in a horse drawn carriage. Thanks to Darell Farnbach for putting together another winning entry. Photo by Steven Allen.

Speakers for August & September Meetings

The society will hear about the formation and early challenges of the Rancho California Water District. Gene Tobin and Gene Knott, two of the first men to work for the local water district, will share their memories at the meeting on Friday, August 3rd.

Don Connibear, son of the artist who sculpted Bibleland, a former Temecula landmark, is tentatively scheduled to speak at the September 7th meeting.

Society Notes

By direction of the society board, President Barbara Tobin has drafted a letter to ask for removal of the misleading sign identifying the Dalton Building on Fifth Street as a historical building. She states that it is the responsibility of the society to identify historical buildings with plaques, and suggests the sign on the Dalton Building should indicate it is a replica of an historical building.

A record number of people attended the July meeting to hear Cliff Wyatt talk about his experiences patrolling in the Temecula Valley while serving in the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in the 1970s.



People lined up for food, above, prepared as part of the program at the Elegant Picnic last month. Over thirty new members joined as a result of the enjoyable event that included ballet, vocal music, Shakespeare, and, of course, a history lesson. Paul Price spoke about local historical sites of interest. Thanks to Eve Craig and Leslie Karp for planning the successful event.
Photo by Steven Allen



Society members, above, listen to Karl Bentz, historian for Calvary Bible College, during the tour of the campus, the former Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs Resort, following the Heritage Luncheon. Bentz, a contractor, told about items found during renovation.

Photo by Darell Farnbach

They Passed this Way

Bob Taylor and Robert Roripaugh passed into eternity during the last month. For many years Bob Taylor welcomed visitors to Old Town Temecula with his wife Bea. Bob was famous for his good humor, white beard and denim bib overalls. He was a history enthusiast and loved Temecula.

Robert Roripaugh worked on the Pauba Ranch portion of the Vail Ranch and on the Vail's Santa Rosa Island. He shared some of his memories and photographs in *Images of America: Temecula*.

These two men helped to preserve Temecula history and will be missed.

Reflections on the Anniversary of Ralph Love's 100th Birthday

By Evelyn Love Norris,
on behalf of all the Love Children,
including Marian, Corwyn and Lee

April 18th has always been a special day for me. It was the day our father Ralph Love, the renowned Temecula artist, was born in Los Angeles in 1907. This year on his birthday, memories of my dad crowded the day.

Late in the day I thought of having dinner at Bailey's Front Street Café, where Dad's "Art Shack" formerly stood. That was where he painted and where he greeted the people who stopped by.

My husband Dick and I hurried the forty miles from our home to beat the setting sun on our way to Temecula. After enjoying our dinner, we toasted in front of the plaque placed by the Temecula Valley Historical Society honoring my dad and the Art Shack that once stood there.

I was invigorated by the trip to Temecula, the town that Dad loved, and I visualized his day-to-day life on Front Street.

Dick and I thought of something at the same moment and left Baileys to cross to the old Swing Inn Café for dessert. We sat at the old counter where Dad always sat. We ordered pie and coffee, as we shared our memories with the waitress about Ralph Love, the artist and his Art Shack, telling her about his afternoon pie and coffee "pick-up" at the Swing Inn. It was a wonderful, nostalgic day.

Later, I learned a possible reason why he loved Temecula. When I read the article by Anne Miller and Michelle Norris in the Spring edition of the *High Country* describing the physical characteristics of voters registered in the Temecula area in 1892, I saw a Love listed and it jogged my memory.

In 1989, while we traveled the old Winchester Road through the town of Winchester, Dad pointed across a field and across a valley. He said his parents had stopped in a covered wagon and stayed there, while his older brothers worked in construction for a while in San Diego. Dad was born in Los Angeles 15 years later.

The article listed a William A. Love from Kentucky, a farmer with light skin, blue eyes and dark hair. My Grandfather Love went by "Arthur" and was a farmer from Kentucky. My dad had blue eyes, as did at least three of his brothers and two sisters.

We may never know for sure if my father, Ralph Love, who loved Temecula, was influenced by his own father living and voting in the area of Temecula and Murrieta in 1882. But, Temecula always felt like home to him and its landscapes beckoned him to paint them in their best forms and colors.

We want to thank the Temecula Valley Historical Society for commemorating his life with the plaque at Baileys. And we want to thank the Temecula Valley Museum for keeping the memories of our father alive by publishing *The High Country*.

We love Temecula, too!