



Temecula Valley  
Historical Society  
**Newsletter**

October 2007 Vol 7 Issue 8

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
Bill McBurney	Norm Taylor

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Research & Development**  
Darell Farnbach

**Historic Markers & Plaques**  
Pam Grender

**Wolf Tomb Restoration**  
Eve Craig

**Public Relations**  
Carol Strode

**Membership**  
Bill Harker

**Youth Projects**  
Paul Price

**Planned Giving**  
Keith Johnson

**Newsletter**  
Rebecca Farnbach

**Historian**  
Kathi Price

**Web Site**  
Elaine Eshom

[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Society News**

At our meeting on September 7, **Whitney Wilkinson**, great-grandson of Walter Vail, brought artifacts, maps and photographs of Temecula and the Vail Ranch. He told about Temecula when the population was 1,700.

**Don Conibear** is giving the program on October 5. He will tell about his late father Ted Conibear, the sculptor of Bibleland, once a tourism draw to Temecula. If anyone knows how to get a hold of the men who posed for Conibear's Last Supper sculpture, or the children of the models, please invite them to come and we will photograph them in a re-creation pose.

The **Temecula Valley Genealogy Society** invites us to attend their Genealogy Fair on Monday, September 24, starting at 5:30 pm at the Temecula Library on Pauba Road. History groups represented include the DAR, antique photo reproduction specialists, historical costume artists, VaARRA and the Historical Society. It is free of charge and should be a fun and entertaining event.

The next evening at 7 pm. **Gordon Johnson**, author from Pala Reservation will be at the same location for a signing of his newest book.

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Dinner** meeting on Saturday, November 17. You will receive more details later.

*Have an idea for a program for an upcoming meeting? Contact Rebecca Farnbach at 951-699-5148 or [Sunbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:Sunbrook@hotmail.com).*

### The Story of Gustav Hindorff

Gustav Hindorff received a letter in Lewis, Iowa, from his former boss George Hind, offering him a job in Hind's new harness shop in Temecula. In 1883, Gustav, a Swedish native, and his wife Leanore and their two children boarded an immigrant train for Temecula. Before long, four of Leanore's sisters came, too.

Pioneer living was difficult at best for everyone, but Gustav faced some additional challenges. He had lost a leg at age seven, and, with great determination, he carved his own prosthesis from hardwood and fashioned a leather strap that went across his chest and over his shoulder to hold the artificial limb in place.

Gustav and Leanore filed on a homestead in Rainbow Valley, (right about where the truck weigh station is on the southbound Interstate 15). In May 1884 they were trying to move a house to the homestead when the rain was so heavy it flooded the Santa Fe tracks in the Santa Margarita Canyon.

The house, dismantled and loaded onto a wagon, and would have made fine progress, except for the poor roads and mud. Although the wagon was unable to get through, Gustav climbed the hill to Rainbow as often as possible to plant radishes, lettuce, carrots, squash and beans. Eventually the rain stopped, the roads dried and the Hindorffs moved the house to their homestead.

Around 1886, Mr. Hinds sold the Temecula Harness Shop to Gustav, who would walk the 13 miles down the Rainbow Grade on a Monday morning and return to the homestead on Saturday night. The Hindorffs didn't own a horse and buggy.

The Saddle and Harness Shop was in the location of the Temecula Bank. Old ledgers show he repaired shoes, constructed coffins, repaired clocks, and did miscellaneous carpentry work. One account shows he sewed a boy's finger back on after an accident.



Gustav played his fiddle for dances, sometimes making as much as five dollars a night, and he served as justice of the peace and registrar of voters.

To "prove up" a homestead, the Hindorffs had to plant fruit trees, put in crops and make improvements on the land. Before the improvements were made, Gustav died from tuberculosis, leaving his wife and three children. In 1899, Leanore took over the homestead, and made improvements required in order to keep the land. She eventually moved into Fallbrook.

Leanore's sister Alice Vaughn married merchant Macedonia "Mac" Machado and lived to be one of the matriarchs of the Old Temecula.

*Thanks to Margaret Ray and Teddie Driggs for supplying the information for this article.*

## Nominating Committee Report

The Board accepted the recommendations presented by committee chair Darell Farnbach, to:

- (1) increase the board from 12 to 13 members;
- (2) to replace three termed positions and add two more to a total of 13;
- (3) recommended a slate of officers, as follows;
- (4) make a bylaw change to eliminate the cost of printing and mailing ballots if there is an unchallenged officer nomination.

The nominations for new Board Members to fill expired terms of Barbara Tobin, Keith Johnson and Sis Herron are: Barbara Tobin, Bill Harker, Eugene Knott, Elaine Eshom and Pat Lallou.

The slate of officers is:

President – Barbara Tobin  
Vice President – Leslie Karp  
Treasurer – Bill Harker  
Secretary – Elaine Eschom

The president will appoint a Bylaw Committee to consider a change to eliminate printed ballots for uncontested board elections.

### Other News

Kathi Price has agreed to serve as Historian. When members have clippings or photographs for the society scrapbook, they may give them to Kathi at a meeting.

Please see the October *Country Review* magazine for an article on Temecula History.

Steve Lech's *Inland Chronicler* journal of Riverside and San Bernardino County history is available at [theinlandchronicler@earthlink.net](mailto:theinlandchronicler@earthlink.net).

VaRRA is preparing a history center in the red Implement Barn near Kohls on Highway 79 South. Rhine Helzer, Dick Fox and Darell Farnbach are usually working in the barn on Mondays and Wednesdays. Feel free to stop by to see what they are doing.

## Last Spring

I walked along a country road,  
The sweet grasses  
still dewy residue  
painted on my toes,  
the cool biosphere  
swirled and eddied  
around my head as I made my  
way – alone.

He saw me first –  
and stood silent, staring, wary.  
A large male coyote,  
glossy coated, in his prime,  
certain of himself, unafraid.

At fifty yards we mutually assessed,  
engaged our stares,  
made changes to our track.

Just a moment, a brief encounter,  
and it ended...  
He to ramble off through crowds of  
springtime growth  
and fields of flowering flora.

Today I walked this road.  
A tractor's scar and builder's tools  
had erased –  
his memory.

By Mike Ray, Murrieta, in the early 1980s when developers began to change the landscape around his home