



Temecula Valley
Historical Society
Newsletter

December 2007 Vol 7 Issue 10

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.
Please join us!

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 Fambach

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 Fambach

Historian
Kathi Price

Web Site
Elaine Eshom

www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

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The Temecula Valley Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors Wish you and yours a Happy Holiday Season filled with moments to remember.

Presidents Corner

This has been a very exciting year for me. I have learned a lot about our precious history and the importance of preserving it for future generations. Unless we all become actively involved in the process of preservation we will certainly lose what we have. It is our job as members of the society to help educate the public in the importance of our local history.

As a society we have accomplished several things during the past year. Thanks to Darell Fambach's leadership one stagecoach has been restored and plans are in progress for restoration of another. Pam Grender has again been responsible for placing several more plaques at historic sites in Old Town. The restoration of Wolf's Tomb has been completed thanks to Eve Craig's team of volunteers! We were able to add approximately 30 new members to the society through the "Elegant Picnic" membership drive. Paul Price took over the production of our DVD which was previewed during our Annual Dinner on November 16. He has also had several speaking *(continued inside)*

Mark your calendars for the first meeting in 2008 on January 4 with the business meeting at noon at the Pujol School, followed by a tour of VaARRA's History Center next to Kohls.

engagements promoting our history. We applied for two grants, and were notified last month that we have been accepted for one and are waiting to hear on the other one. These funds help with the costs of the Plaques and Brochure program, maintenance of the Tomb and the distribution of the DVD to area schools.

During our Annual Dinner we introduced our Officers and Directors for 2008: Barbara Tobin, President; Leslie Karp, Vice President; Elaine Eschom, Secretary; and Bill Harker, Treasurer. Returning Directors are Eve Craig, our Immediate Past President, Bill McBurney, Jack Roripaugh, Carol Strode, Charlene Fink and Norm Taylor. I would like to thank Outgoing Directors Sis Herron and Keith Johnson for their longtime service. I would also like to thank Carol Marsden for her service. She has resigned because of illness. Please keep Carol in your thoughts and prayers. We welcome New Directors Eugene Knott, Pat Lallou and Dick Fox, who each bring experience to our board.

I am looking forward to serving you for another year as your President. Again, my goal is to increase our membership and continue to educate the public in our rich area history.

Barbara Tobin

To the right Malcolm Barnett, June Roripaugh Tull, Jack Roripaugh, Chuck McSweeney and others pose with their former teacher Nida Ashman Thompson last fall.

Research & Preservation Committee

Collection of history books, photos and other items for Historical Society archives as continued this year.

The Historical Society received another first place award for our entry in the 4th of July Parade in Old Town.

The highlight of the June 9th Jackass Mail Celebration was the debut of the stagecoach restored by a joint effort of the Historical Society and VaARRA.

We have done research and made presentations at Temecula City Council meetings on behalf of historical properties, in particular, the former Machado Store in Old Town. We attended the Temecula Union School Reunion and have interviewed longtime residents, collecting stories and photographs.

We are currently meeting with the City of Temecula and other historians to mark the route of the Southern Emigrant Trail through our valley.

Darell Farnbach, Chair



Plaque Committee

The installation of the beautiful new bronze plaque on the newly restored Pujol Schoolhouse completes a total of twenty-five plaques bearing our Historical Society's name. The new plaque contains more accurate information than a former plaque put up many years ago, which will remain inside the building.

The Old Town Tour Guide is in its fifth printing, with 15,000 copies currently being distributed on a weekly basis, throughout Old Town, also at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and in hotels and restaurants in the area. Thousands of these guides have gone into the hands of our local residents and tourists. Each printing has had to be revised with added information and, I believe, with each printing, it has also improved a little. Some time ago Phil Brigandi was kind enough to proofread one of the issues. I quickly made the changes and additions he suggested. I can honestly say the information in the brochure now is the most accurate possible at this time.

The City will be letting us know soon if any grant money will be designated for plaques and brochures this year. This was the sixth grant I applied for to help finance this project.

Over the last six years, I have had so much fun representing the Historical Society while working with wonderful people out in the community, hearing their stories and helping them commemorate their properties. I have honestly seen this project as a bridge between our group and our city.

As a volunteer, six years is a long time to be in charge of anything, and

I have decided to step down as chairperson and have talked with Dick Fox who has agreed to take over as Chair of this project. Elaine Eshom has also agreed to help find sources of income to keep this work going. I promised Dick I would help him tie up any loose strings if he desires.

Pam Grender, Chair

Wolf's Monument Committee

A tribute to one of Temecula's founding fathers has been completed. In April of 2001 work was started to restore the 20,000-pound Wolf Monument, which required a house moving company to hoist it from its sunken position in the ground with two hydraulic lifts and rebar, and to stabilize it with railroad ties as it was raised above the ground, and concrete was poured to surround the base of it. After realignment of bricks on the sarcophagus and re-stuccoing the exterior, the original marble column was miraculously found and donated by the Querrys, who had safeguarded it for a number of years, and an ornamental urn or finial was secured to the top by Roger Sannipoli and Paul J. Price. Astro turf and walkways of decomposed granite were set and, as a finishing touch, a beautiful plaque with Louis Wolf's portrait on it and the names of major donors was erected by Darell Farnbach and Rhine Helzer. From Pechanga Parkway, this site is west on Loma Linda Road and right on Maguey Court, a cul de sac. For protection, the wrought iron gates are kept locked. Visitors may call 951-699-9872 to arrange to enter.

Remember to take your camera, if you wish.

Eve Craig, Chair

Youth Projects Committee

Education/Teaching/Speaking

Engagements for 2007:

January 19 - Rupert Costo Library of American Indian University of California, Riverside

February 5th - Grace Mellman Library Guest Speaker – Luiseño Culture

April 14th - U.S. Overland Mail 150th Year Anniversary – Assisted, Temecula Valley Museum

May 5th - Grace Mellman Library – Fred Scurlock Historic Exhibit

June 9th - Jackass Mail 150th Anniversary

All Day Speaker and Demonstrator of Native American culture and games.

June 10th - Guest Speaker for 11th Annual Intertribal Powwow - San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians

June 24th - Feature Speaker for the Site Tour of Historic Temecula, Ronald Reagan Amphitheatre Sports Park

June 25th - Grace Mellman Library Guest Speaker – Destruction of Paleo Sites Riverside County

July 12th - Gallery Talk Guest Speaker – Glen Travis Rock Art, Temecula Valley Museum

August 3rd thru August 31st - Oceanside City's Main Library – Major Luiseño Exhibit, Created the exhibits and supplied the artifacts and photos.

August 14th - Field Docent and Ranger Training – Perris Lake State Park

September 18th - Museum Talk and Train Docents – Temecula Valley Museum

September 2007 - Installed the urn on Wolf's Tomb with Roger Sannipoli, Created and fabricated said urn.

November 16th - Annual Members Dinner and Installation of Officers, Premier (Main) Feature: "Early Boom Town Temecula", Wrote, produced, directed, and completed the 30-minute historical video (DVD)

November and December 2007 - Other speaking engagements

Present - Working on marketing plan and future video concepts

Paul J. Price, Chair

Speaker and Newsletter Committees

I chaired two committees this year, and want to thank members who have helped me. I appreciate your suggestions for speakers, as programs entice new members to come and make a reason for the general membership to attend our meetings. I want to express my appreciation to those of you who have submitted materials for the newsletter. I want to thank Barbara & Gene Tobin, Bill Harker, Dick Fox and Darell Farnbach for proofreading the newsletters before they go out. A huge thank you goes to Barbara and her team who take the newsletters to the printers, fold them and prepare them for mailing.

Since taking leadership in the Speakers Committee, programs have included Eugene Knott & Gene Tobin on the formation of the first local water district, Johnny Munoa about his childhood in Temecula Valley, Bergmans on their family history in Aguanga, Cliff Wyatt law enforcement in the 1970s, Don Connibear on Bibleland, and

Whitney Wilkinson on growing up as a Vail in Temecula. Many interesting programs are scheduled for 2008.

I have produced ten newsletters since taking the Newsletter Chair position in March. I have covered Society news and added a history lesson to each, presented in biographies, letters written by old-timers, and historical stories and recipes compiled by Myra Gonsalves. I hope members have enjoyed the newsletters as much as I have enjoyed putting them together. I believe the newsletters are valuable tools to attract new members and to maintain membership in our society.

Rebecca Farnbach, Chair



Louie Chawa, Cook at Vail Ranch



Valley Oaks Mobile Home Park,
Fallbrook, October 31, 2007

To Fallbrook:

After the Santa Anas 2007

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Satan's breath
seared the land,
the embers smolder
as flames diminish
in morning mists
indistinguishable
from the smoky air.

We cough, and the
trees dig their toes
a little deeper
to seek nourishment.

Our eyes burn from
flying grit and ash,
an excuse for the tears
that streak our cheeks.

Our momentary despair
is replaced with hope
and unspoken resolve
"We shall rebuild"
echoes on faces
surveying their losses.

As a tree forever carries the scar
of a season of wildfires,
so each person is marked
by the unexpected,
the horrific winds and flames
of the 2007 Firestorm.