



Temecula Valley  
Historical Society

**Newsletter**

May 2008 Vol 8 Issue 5

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[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
Contact us at 951-553-9549, or  
P.O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593

**Going Green**

Please contact our President at [barbara.tobin2@verizon.net](mailto:barbara.tobin2@verizon.net) with your email addresses so we can send you newsletters and other notices electronically.

**DVDs**

The Superintendent of the Temecula Valley Unified Schools has approved distribution of our history DVDs to the schools. We plan to deliver a DVD to each school before the end of this school year. We are proud to provide these for their use for local history curriculum.

**Save the Date**

Please reserve Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for another Historical Society hike. Paul Price will guide the outing to the Motte Rim Rock Reserve at the old Penny Ranch mentioned in *Indian Rock Art* by Dr. Gerald Smith and *Fading Images* by Steve Freers. It will be a real treat to see the Native American rock art. No place in western Riverside County has so many well-preserved pictographs. You will also see village features of pre-European Luiseños.

Come prepared for climbing and for hot temperatures. Wear hiking shoes (not sandals), a long shirt and pants and bring a hat. Bring your lunch, water and snacks.

Contact Barbara Tobin (see email address above) to reserve a place, as only a limited number of participants will be allowed.



A photograph of Edna and Carl Swanguen from an undated article in an issue of the Rancho California News; the original caption stated Edna was the second of four telephone generations. Her mother Lizzy Hall opened the first restaurant in Temecula in 1915, which housed Temecula's telephone switchboard.

#### **From an Old Newspaper: Four Generations of Switchboard Operators**

"Can't rightly recall when telephones first came to Temecula," pondered Carl Swanguen when asked about the story that's told about Edna, his wife, and her bout with the telephone switchboard that made her move out of her bedroom as additional stations were added. Sources state that the first telephone was located in the livery stable but the switchboard operator's headquarters were located in the building that now is the Greyhound Bus Depot.

"There were only a few phones at that time," said Edna. "One was at Al Knott's blacksmith shop, another at Burnham's grocery store and one at Friedeman's Meat Market – and, oh, yes, they did have one at the Vail Ranch. I believe it's still there." (The old wooden telephone, with the number of rings for other parties printed on an aging sheet of brownish paper tacked to the front of the phone, is still at the old ranch house.)

Contradictory stories estimate the installation date of telephones in Temecula somewhere between 1900 and 1920.

Lizzy Hall, Edna's mother, was the first switchboard operator in Temecula and maintained the telephone service in the back room of her restaurant (the first public eating place in town), until she moved to Los Angeles in 1937.

"I remember back when Lizzy first opened up in 1915. She'd put out bowls of food – all you could eat for 35 cents." Carl said, "and when the bowls went dry, she'd fill 'em up again. I guess the biggest business she did was when the trains stopped here and the cattlemen would come in from the Pauba Ranch. Must have been 60 or 70 of 'em at a clip – had a lot of cowhands in those days. Saturday night it was always packed to overflowin' in town.

"The Inland Stage Lines used to stop here 'til the 40s and the drivers used to come behind the counter and help Edna and I. We took over the restaurant from Lizzy when she went to the city. We finally closed the restaurant on Christmas Eve of 1954 as the work was so much that we couldn't spend Christmas with our kids. Edna didn't want to. She said, 'What are the border patrol men going to do for food?' But I told her they'd survive – there was more eatin' places in town now."

The old switchboard telephone service continued until November of 1961 when General Telephone Company installed a modern relay box next to Hwy. 395. The end of an era for the old wooden telephone but not for the Swanguen family. Their daughter, Betty Stanck, and her daughter, Diane, of Temecula, commute daily to Elsinore where they work for General Telephone. Almost 70 years and four generations have been offered to Temecula residents by the female members of the Swanguen family.

## **SAVE THE DATES!!**

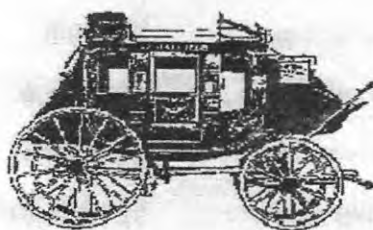
VAIL RANCH RESTORATION ASSOCIATION  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR CELEBRATION

**AT THE HISTORIC VAIL RANCH HEADQUARTERS**

(NEXT TO KOHL'S ON HWY. 79 SOUTH)

**SATURDAY JUNE 21ST & SUNDAY JUNE 22ND**

STARTING AT 10 A.M. EACH DAY



**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
BUTTERFIELD STAGE**

PLUS

**GRAND OPENING OF THE  
NEW HISTORY CENTER**

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

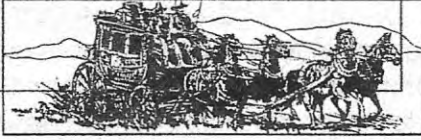
**HISTORICAL DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS**

Members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society are invited to commemorate the historic arrival of the Butterfield Stage to Temecula in 1858 and to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Little Temecula History Center. To volunteer to help at this event, or for more information, call Darell Farnbach at 951-552-3516.

Temecula Valley Historical Society  
PO Box 157  
Temecula, CA 92593

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**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
A tax exempt charitable & educational organization

**Membership**

*Membership/Donation categories:*

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$ 10,000.00

*The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.  
Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.  
Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be designated or undesignated.*

**Checks payable to :**  
Temecula Valley Historical Society

**Mail to:**  
PO Box 157  
Temecula, CA 92593-0157