

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

December 2008

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It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.

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Temecula Valley Historical Society

P.O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593

951-553-9549

www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Special Bulletin !

The January TVHS Monthly meeting will be held at the Pujol Schoolhouse on Friday, Jan. 9th from NOON to 2 p.m.

Then beginning in February we will change to Evening Meetings, the Second Monday each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Pujol Schoolhouse

Check the “Calendar of Events” on Back Page for Programs

Touring with Norm

Who was J.B. Charbonneau ?

By Norm Taylor

Near the North entrance to Old Town Temecula is the Sam Hicks Monument Park. Within the park sits a huge granite monument with the names of many, we old timers of Temecula are familiar with. But there is one name that seems very unfamiliar to most, which I enjoy talking about, and after relating it, the audience is always pleased to have heard it and very much surprised. That name is J.B. Charbonneau.

The years are 1804 – 1806, and the President of the United States was Thomas Jefferson. President Jefferson wanted someone to explore for future trade routes from Missouri to the great Pacific coast. He authorized the expedition and appointed two Army officers, Captain Meriwether Lewis and 2nd Lieutenant William Clark to head what was called the “Corps of Discovery”, which consisted of about 34 soldiers and hired men. In the area of North Dakota along the Missouri River a man wanted to join the expedition but there was someone else he wanted to take along, and it was his pregnant wife. The man’s name was Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Canadian fur trapper. His wife’s name was Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian. Clark agreed that they could

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Remember !
Beginning in
February 2009
TVHS Meetings
Will Be Held
2nd Monday
Each Month
6 to 8 p.m.
Pujol Schoolhouse

Membership Activity

New

David & Karen Strauss
Bonnie Martland

Renewals

Emily Gerstbacher
Paul & Kathi Price
Irene Hotchkiss
Rick Bouchard
Dick Birdsall

join the expedition. Not long after the two joined the expedition, Sacagawea gave birth to a baby boy on February 11, 1805. The baby's name was Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, everyone called him "Pomp".

Having Sacagawea to accompany the expedition was one of the best moves Lewis and Clark made. Sacagawea could speak several Indian dialects, knew what wild food to eat, and which were poison. She treated the injured the Indian way, and when they came across hostile Indians, they knew this was not a war party because Sacagawea was carrying her baby in a papoose. The National Geographic magazine stated at one time that Sacagawea carried her baby on horseback, boat, and walked for about 5,000 miles. This young Indian girl was only 15 years old.

Upon returning to St. Louis, Toussaint Charbonneau and Sacagawea agreed to leave their son, "J.B. Charbonneau" in the care of Clark to educate him. Toussaint went upon his way again trapping in the north. Sacagawea history tells us that she did give birth once again, to a girl. Sacagawea died when she was 28 years old.

During the time Clark was raising "J.B.", a well educated man and an explorer from Germany befriended the young man. The German was Duke Paul Wilhelm of Wurtemberg. He asked Clark if he could take "J.B." back to Germany for more education. Clark agreed, and J.B. returned when he was about 27 years old, and a very well educated young man. For several years he was a trapper and scout on many expeditions, and during this time heard tales about California. During the middle 1800's the west was building up, but was badly in need of roads for wagons, stagecoaches, and supplies. The Temecula Valley being one of those areas. The President at the time wanted roads built through the desert. The Mormon Army Battalion of 500 volunteers along with about 23 women, helped to build and improve these roads on their way to California where they were to participate in the Mexican-American War. One of the people who scouted and surveyed along with these Army men was J.B. Charbonneau. There were hardships along the way and the total of men and women who actually arrived in this area was fewer than had started.

While Jean Baptiste Charbonneau was in the Temecula Valley area on November 24, 1847 he took office as an alcalde (a public administrator and judge), at the San Luis Rey Mission. Jean Baptiste died at a stagecoach stop on May 16, 1866 in Danner, Oregon. I ask the people to whom I'm giving the talk, if they have ever seen J.B. Charbonneau and his mother. Most say no, and then I ask if they have ever seen the first baby to appear on a U.S. coin along with it's mother, Sacagawea. The coin is what we all call our gold dollar, and most of us do not use it, or we just keep it for our grandkids. Well that baby on the dollar came to our Temecula Valley. There are two documents written by Jean Baptiste Charbonneau in 1848 while at the San Luis Rey Mission, that today are in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives.

*"Money will buy a fine dog, but only
kindness will make him wag his tail."*

Presidents Message

This has been a very exciting two years for me. I am stepping down and handing the gavel to Jimmy Moore, your new President. Jimmy will be a fine leader and with our help will continue the process of educating the public and preserving our precious history.

Looking back on the last two years we have accomplished quite a lot. The Wolf's Tomb restoration was completed thanks to Eve Craig's leadership and her team of volunteers. Darell Farnbach and his team of volunteers restored a stagecoach. The plaques and brochure committee has continued keeping the community informed with brochures. And thanks to the hard work of Paul Price (producer of our DVD) "Early BOOM TOWN Temecula" was completed and distributed to the Temecula Valley School District for use by the third grade students in their study of the community. The private schools were also provided copies for their students.

We have also taken several field trips this past year including the ancient Temeku Village Interpretive Tour, Rim Rock Interpretive Tour, and the Camp Pendleton Tour all organized by Paul Price.

I am looking forward, as your immediate past president, to helping Jimmy in any way I can in promoting our rich history.

Barbara Tobin

Christmas Past in Temecula

Contributed by Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Thanks to Nellie Flores Escallier and a reporter who interviewed her in 1989, we have a glimpse into life in Temecula during the first half of the last century. Nellie moved to Temecula in 1916 at the age of 8 and eloped with Fernando Escallier ten years later. Here is what she said about her memories of celebrating Christmas in Temecula:

"Christmases were different when I was a young girl. We didn't have a lot of presents and things. My father worked at the Vail Ranch, picking potatoes out in the field. He would kill a turkey and we would have dinner on Christmas, but I don't remember getting gifts or anything. My father would go out and cut down a tree on the reservation and we would put popcorn and things on it to decorated it.

"My husband's father had been shot and killed in town on a Christmas Eve many years before, so it was just his mother. There were five Escallier bothers and they all married girls from the reservation. Most of them lived in town, but we didn't really get together much. All of them had big families and we celebrated the holidays at our own houses.

"When my kids were small, we still didn't have a lot of money for presents. The believed in Santa Claus then – now you can't fool kids with that stuff. My children wouldn't sleep on Christmas Eve because they knew Santa was coming. Even though they never got a lot, they were excited. There weren't really any stores in town, so we went to Elsinore to shop and go the show. I always made Christmas dinner and I bought my groceries at Burnham's, which used to be right down the street here. There were only three shops in Temecula at that time. On Christmas Eve, the children and I would walk down here.

"Now that my kids are grown, we trade off having Christmas at my house or their houses. I have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and I play a little bit with them. I like the toy cars that go around very fast. When I was a girl we just played tag or hide and go seek."

Two Wolves

One evening a Native American elder told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

"The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The wise old Indian simply replied, "The one you feed."

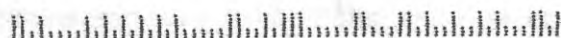


Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593

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Calendar of Events

Friday, January 9 -

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse Noon to 2 p.m.
Dr. Anne Miller speaking on "The Mormon Battalion Coming Through Temecula in 1847."

Monday, February 9 -

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse -- 6 to 8 p.m.
With a visit from American Presidents.

Monday, March 9 -

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse - 6 to 8 p.m.
Audrey Cilurzo will speak on "How Prohibition Changed the Palate of America."

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