

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Volume 13 – Issue 3

*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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## The Blind Tiger of Temecula

By Jeffery G. Harmon

*“One of the most extensive blind tigers which has ever been operated in this section was raided Saturday evening by Constable Baird and another officer at Temecula.”* (November 24, 1908, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

At 7 p.m. on February 1, 1908, Horace Magee was sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1907 Temecula Christmas Eve murders of Constable Preston Van Buren Swanguen and Louis Escallier. After the trial, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors appointed Albert Banks constable to fill the vacancy.

After Magee’s conviction, Riverside County Sheriff Frank Wilson filed an arrest warrant for Joe Winkels on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Many felt Winkels was partially responsible for the events that occurred on that Christmas Eve. Winkels, proprietor of the Ramona Inn, had served Horace Magee the alcohol, which led to Magee’s drunken rampage at the Escallier pool hall. After the shooting, Winkels left town and went into hiding.

In March, Winkels was located in Arcadia and informed of the warrant. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, he appeared in the Riverside courts. He pleaded guilty for operating a “blind pig”, an illegal saloon, and paid a \$300 fine. He promised he was going to leave the country and never return, a promise he didn’t keep.

With Winkels saloon closed, and alcohol not flowing at the Escallier’s establishment, parched valley residents were in need of a new “watering hole”. Constable Albert Banks saw a lucrative opportunity to meet the public demand. It is not known where Banks’ illegal saloon was located. In November 1908, when Constable John Baird appeared with a search warrant, he found a large supply of liquor.

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# Calendar Of Events

## **Monday, March 25 – 6 p.m.**

**TVHS** monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center  
President Bonnie Martland will give a presentation titled, "Confederates, etc. in the Mail Pouch." She will share Southern California Southern leanings during the 1850s and 1860s

## **Monday, April 22 – 6 p.m.**

**TVHS** monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center  
Anne Miller will present "Unexpected Findings about Temecula's History." She will explain the new information she found while researching the Southern Emigrant Trail; some of which corrects old misperceptions about local history

## **Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition**

March 8 – April 28  
"Make it Hot (rod)  
Automotive Hollywood: A Tribute to Harley J. Earl

## **Thursday, March 21-7 p.m.**

Temecula Valley Museum Gallery Talks presents  
"How do you get a Hoop Skirt In the Outhouse?"  
Sharon Avery presents a fun Look at women in the American Victorian Era

## **Saturday, March 23 10 a.m.**

Temecula Valley Museum  
A Walking Tour of Old Town Temecula

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### **Welcome New Member:**

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Peggy Webb, Temecula

## **Tiger** (Continued from Page 1)

*"The room was stocked with all kinds of intoxicants. There were over four cases of whiskey, six barrels of beer and ten dozen gallons of wine among the goods found Banks was caught so easily that he gave up and came with Baird to Riverside."* (November 24, 1908, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

One newspaper reporter called Banks' saloon a "blind tiger" instead of a "blind pig". The slang, "blind pig" refers to a "bribed pig" or policeman who looks blindly at an illegal saloon. However, because Albert Banks was the law in town, an older slang term for an illegal saloon was used to describe his establishment, a "blind tiger".

The slang, "blind tiger" appeared around 1857 during the early history of the temperance movement. In some states, local laws were passed to prohibit the sale of alcohol. So a side show was created promoting a blind tiger. People would pay tickets to see the show. While they were waiting, they were served one complimentary drink. Of course, there was no live blind tiger, but maybe a stuffed animal. The customers didn't mind whether there was a show or not. As far as the law was concerned, the promoters were selling tickets not alcohol.

In court, Banks pleaded guilty before Judge Hall and paid a \$100 fine. He promised to ship the "wet goods" (liquor) back to the place from which he obtained them. Who supplied Banks' operation is unknown. His supply may have come from the bootlegging ring serving the Pala and Pechanga Indian reservations.

During the same month that Banks was arrested, six men were arrested on federal charges for selling liquor to the local Indians. The six bootleggers were, J.D. Salazar, Francisco Castillo, Manuel Largo, Francisco Alpanas, Manuel Fuentes, and Felipe Cazas of Temecula. They were tried in a federal court in Los Angeles and sentenced in March 1909.

J.D. Salazar, an old Civil War veteran was charged with twelve counts. Salazar's case results are unknown Francisco Castillo, charged with eight counts, was fined \$500, and sentenced to one year in the San Bernardino County jail. Felipe Cazas was fined \$100 and sentenced to four months in the Los Angeles County jail. Francisco Alpanas, accused of selling a jug of wine on the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation, was fined \$100 and served six months in jail. Manuel Fuentes was fined \$100, and served two months in jail. Finally, Manuel Largo, a Carlisle graduate, had his charges dropped and his case was dismissed.

After his arrest, Albert Banks was dismissed as the town constable. Deputy Sheriff Hugh McConville was appointed the new constable by petition of the local residents. With Banks' saloon closed, the thirsty customers needed to find another new watering hole. Fortunately for Temecula, some old haunts reopened for business once again.

## Temecula Union School

### Class of 1952

June 5, 1952  
Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

Thursday was an important day in the lives of eight young graduates who sat on a flower-banked platform at Temecula School. An overflowing crowd of parents and friends, approximately 175, crowded into the school auditorium to enjoy the program planned by the class and teachers and to wish them luck. The primary grade taught by Miss Ardell Knott sang a song story that introduced the "Basket House." In an entertaining and hilarious comedy the graduating class presented "Wilbur Minds the Baby" with Stanley Hilton playing Wilbur; Chester (the Baby), David Barnett; Mr. Maxwell, Carl Marsell; Mrs. Maxwell, Anna More; Connie Maxwell, Louise Roripaugh; Betty Lou, Marilyn Kitch; Janice, Vernetta Knott; Mrs. Pierce was played by Carmen Navarro. This class is to be congratulated on this play. With the six girls in pastel sun dresses and the two boys in suits, Frank Gibson, athletic director of Riverside County elementary schools, addressed the class and presented the diplomas. The salutatory address was given by Louise Roripaugh and valedictory by

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## **Tiger** (Continued from Page 2)

It is unknown when Joe Winkels and Pete Escallier, Louis' brother, began serving liquor again. However, on February 8, 1909 Constable Baird, armed with a search warrant, investigated the Winkels and Escallier establishments. Liquor was found and both men were arrested and taken to Riverside. On February 20<sup>th</sup> Pete Escallier pleaded guilty and paid a \$200 fine. Winkels' case results are unknown.

Albert Banks may have once again tried to establish a saloon after the February arrests, but the law was keeping a close eye on Temecula. In March, Albert Banks was once again arrested on liquor charges. This time the case was not conclusive and on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Albert Banks' case was dismissed.

Whether the Temecula saloons were called "blind pigs" or "blind tigers", one fact remained; no law or law officer could stop proprietors from pouring illegal liquor to demanding customers. The lucrative enterprise would continue to entice people through the years despite the consequences.

### TVHS Volunteer Positions Currently Open Project Committee Chairman and Committee Members

#### **TVHS Projects Committee**

##### Mission Statement

The projects committee is to recommend to the TVHS board specific projects, assist in developing plans to achieve completion, and identify possible sources of revenue to cover expenses. Projects committee is also charged with the responsibility of managing and reporting on existing projects approved by the Board of Directors.

##### Progress Reporting to the Board of Directors by Chair

The committee chair should be prepared to give an oral progress report at each monthly meeting, and written reports on large projects as may be required. Detail record keeping and reports are especially helpful as part of assisting TVHS with accounting for and audit trail of revenues and expenses of projects.

##### On-going Existing Projects

To continue to sell small Historic Route 395 signs through multiple outlets and events, and evaluate the need for purchasing and adding signs to the existing inventory.

##### Future Projects

There is an existing need to establish a list of recommended projects for TVHS to undertake, both near-term and longer-term. There is also an immediate need to make recommendation(s) for 2013 projects to consider.

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David Barnett. The class history was read by Marilyn Kitch and the "class will" was read by Vernetta Knott. Special awards presented by Miss Ashman went to David Barnett, John Snideman, Donnie Freeman, Louise Roripaugh, Vernetta Knott, Stanley Hilton, Marilyn Kitch, and Tommy Smithson for scholastic magazines. Also special awards were presented to Richie Marsell, David Barnett, Jimmy Kitch, Stanley Hilton and Carl Marsell for athletics. Merle Harbach introduced Mr. Gibson. Graduating were David Barnett, Marilyn Kitch, Vernetta Knott, Carl Marsell, Anna More, Carmen Navarro, Wilhelmina Navarro, and Louise Roripaugh. The PTO sponsored a dance afterward with music by Dick Otto and band with refreshments.

Join us  
at the History Center  
at 5:30 p.m. prior to the  
monthly meeting for a  
"Meet & Greet".  
Enjoy cake and coffee  
with us.  
We'd like to get to know  
you!



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## *President's Message by Bonnie Martland*

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*"Any man can make history, only a great man can write it."*

Oscar Wilde

An **Irish** quote for March

I have several invitations to extend to you for the upcoming weeks. On March 23, the Temecula Valley Historical Society is sponsoring a day motor trip through the historic back country along the Old Southern Immigrant Trail route through Warner Springs and out to San Ysabel and back. There will be some lovely historic spots to visit along the way, as I am sure will be noted elsewhere in the newsletter.

On April 6, Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS), The Temecula Valley Museum, and the Vail Ranch Restoration Association will be sponsoring and hosting a Temecula History Challenge and checkpoint at the 2013 Reality Rally. All the proceeds will go to benefit Michelle's Place to help patients, and families, dealing with breast cancer. We had great fun participating last year. If you are looking for a wonderful way to spend a Saturday for the benefit of others, we would love to have you join us as a history challenge volunteer.

TVHS, VaRRA, and the Morrissey Family will be donating two Roy Morrissey paintings to the City of Temecula on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Members of the City Council will be accepting the donation on the city's behalf at the 7 p.m. City Council meeting. The late Roy Morrissey's self-portrait, and his painting of Ralph Love, are being donated as a tribute to two of Temecula's most prominent artists. With their work, they have left us a wonderful legacy of an earlier time in our valley.

We would love to have you join us at these upcoming events.

Personally, I would also like to extend an invitation for you to attend our monthly speaker's presentation on March 25, titled "Confederates, etc. in the Mail Pouch." We will have some goodies and social time starting at 5:30 p.m. Then, at 6 p.m., I'll start steaming open the mail and peeking into diaries and dispatches to see what we can learn about Southern California and her Southern leanings in the late 1850's and 1860's.

### **Upcoming Excursion**

**Saturday, March 23rd**– Meet at 10:30 a.m.  
at the Little Temecula History Center  
Warner/Carillo Adobe  
A Day Caravan Driving Tour into the Back Country  
Free to Attend (Bring your own Car)  
For more information contact  
Darell Farnbach at  
(951) 552-3516