

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Volume 13 – Issue 5

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.

2013 Officers

President Bonnie Martland
Vice President Dick Fox
Secretary Elaine Culverhouse
Treasurer Roger Cudé
Past President Jimmy Moore

Directors

Darell Farnbach Lynn Cudé
Bonnie Reed Lisa Woodward
Thomas Long
Jeffery Harmon
Myra Masiel-Zamora

Committee Chairs

Research & Preservation

Darell Farnbach

Public Relations

Dick Fox

Membership

Lynn Cude

Program Speakers

Rebecca Farnbach

Projects

Jimmy Moore

Events/Education

Lisa Woodward

Historian

Thomas Long

A Publication of the
Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593
951-303-6860
www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



The hotel is the white building on the right. (ca. 1907)

The Wolf/Temecula/Escallier Hotel

By Jeffery G. Harmon

Rosa's Cantina is located at the intersection of Main and Old Town Front Street, on the northeast corner. The restaurant and the adjoining parking lot encompass Lots 1, 2 and 3 Block 20 in the Historic Temecula business district. This property has a rich history that began with an early successful businessman named Louis Wolf.

When the town of Temecula was laid out along the newly established railroad, Louis Wolf recognized that times were changing. For years, Wolf's ranch, near present day Temecula Parkway, was the economic center for the valley, but soon businesses would be established near the Temecula Depot along Main Street. On November 16, 1883, Louis Wolf invested in the new town of Temecula.

"Edward H. Mason to Louis Wolf. Lots 1 and 2 block 20, town of Temecula. Consideration \$200 and Lots 29 and 30 block 19, Consideration \$100.

J.A. Clayton et al to Louis Wolf. Lots 31 and 32 block 19, town of Temecula. Consideration \$200. " (November 21, 1883, San Diego Union)

Louis Wolf's plans were to operate a hotel, a general store, and possibly construct a new residence in the town of Temecula. To raise more capital for his businesses, he went into partnership with Macedonio Machado in February 1884. Machado invested \$5,000, establishing the Wolf & Machado Company.

(Continued on Page 2)

Calendar Of Events

Monday, May 20 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center
Steve Williamson will present
"Erle Stanley Gardner and the Harry Oaks Trial"

Monday, June 24 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center
To be announced

Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition

May 4 – June 16
"Temecula History – A Third Grade Perspective"
Winners and Honorable Mentions
Of the Third Grade History Contest

Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition

Coming in June
"A Walk through Temeeku"
An Exclusive Pechanga Exhibit
More details to come!

Welcome New Members:

Sara Hostetler
Linda Fry

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS:

Louise Roripaugh Beesley
Terry Bracci
Garth & Janice Bricker
Dick & Evelyn Norris
Norm & Betty Taylor
Gera Thole
Karl Weiler

Hotel (Continued from Page 1)

A newspaper article reported a flood occurred that same month showing that the Wolf Hotel and General Store had been established in the new town of Temecula.

"Louis Wolf's store here did not suffer, it being a little higher than the hotel, but his old place in the other valley came very near being swept away. The river was washed out within a few feet of the stables." (February 27, 1884, San Diego Union)

Thomas Rhodes planned to lease the Wolf Hotel for sixty days beginning in June 1884, but in August, the Rhodes family left Temecula and resettled in Poway. Evidence suggests that the Wolf Hotel was located on Lots 1 and 2 Block 20 and not at Wolf's older location in the Pauba Valley. No evidence has been found that Machado invested in Wolf's hotel business.

On July 24, 1884, James A. Clayton, Cornelius G. Harrison and Mercedes de Pujol sold to Louis Wolf Lot 3 and 4 Block 20 for \$100. At the same time, Wolf sold Machado half interest in Lot 3 and 4 for \$50. (San Diego Union)

A theory for this purchase may have been that Wolf and Machado planned to expand the hotel onto the adjoining properties. However, Wolf and Machado sold Lots 3 & 4 Block 20 to Peter Mouren for \$218 in February 1885. The \$118 increase in value may suggest that there were some improvements made on Lot 3, but Lot 4 had remained undeveloped. Another theory suggests that the increase in value was pure profit and Lot 3 was never developed.

By the end of 1884, the hotel was no longer referred to as Wolf's Hotel. In December 1884, Louis Wolf leased the Temecula Hotel "to J. Escallier and J. Gentillion for a period of five years at a monthly rate of \$40." (December 2, 1884, San Diego Union) For reasons unknown, Escallier only leased the hotel for several months.

James Banks purchased the Temecula Hotel in May 1885.

"The hotel at this place has changed hands. Mr. J. Banks is the new proprietor and is fitting it up in first-class style. There are now fourteen boarders and more to come." (May 6, 1885, San Diego Union)

Two years later, on September 12, 1887 Louis Wolf died. Ramona Wolf and William Veal, executors of Louis Wolf's estate, filed suit in court against James Banks to recover money due on a promissory note. The note may have been for the purchase of the hotel. The court ruled in Wolf's favor and Banks was ordered to pay \$503.32 to the estate. (November 3, 1887, San Diego Union)

Eventually, James Banks sold the Temecula Hotel to Peter Mouren in July 1890 for \$500. Mouren expanded the hotel onto Lot 3 Block 20, which he had bought in 1885. Mouren's Lot 4 Block 20 remained undeveloped until Mouren sold the property to Jean Nicholas in May 1903 for \$100.

After operating the hotel for five years, Peter Mouren sold the Temecula Hotel to Edward H. Harbolt in January 1896 for \$2,500. (January 8, 1896, Riverside Daily Press) Harbolt operated the hotel for

Temecula Union School

Class of 1954

Temecula School Graduates its Largest Class

June 17, 1954

Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

A record will be broken this year in the number of graduates completing the eighth grade at Temecula Elementary School. Thirteen students, the largest number ever to graduate here, will receive diplomas from Russell Vail, president of the school board, in ceremonies to be held tomorrow (Friday) night at the schoolhouse.

Principal Glenn Teague will present the class in a one-act comedy, "Life o' the Party." Gwendolyn Roddy's first and second graders will present a medley of folk songs and Kathleen Stiles' intermediate room students will present the 23rd Psalm in choric verse. Class history will be given by Ralph Friedemann, the class will be by James Knott, the class prophecy by Meredith Temple. John Snideman will give a talk, "Hitch Your Wagon to a Star." And June Gruner's talk will be entitled "Two Stars to Steer By."

Members of the graduating class are Ora Mae Cozine, Marie Fisher, Donna Freeman, Ralph Friedemann, June Gruner, Fred Guenther, Larry Johnson, James Knott, John More, Rosale [sic] Ramirez, Anne Rodriguez, John Snideman and Meredith Temple.

Hotel (Continued from Page 2)

six months and then leased the hotel to Andrew Jackson Pickle.

"The Temecula Hotel has changed hands. Mr. Pickle now has it in charge. He is having a good trade and runs a first-class house." (September 9, 1896, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

Andrew Pickle left the Temecula Hotel in 1898 and purchased the Fashion Livery stable in Perris. Edward Harbolt continued leasing the property. It was soon announced that the hotel was to be leased to Preston Swanguen and Dave Warren.

"Pres. Swanguen rented the Temecula Hotel of Ed Harbolt for a year, and is at present running a saloon in the front part of the hotel and rented the remainder to Dave Warren for hotel purposes." (May 18, 1898 Riverside Independent Enterprise)

A few months later, a serious accident occurred at the Temecula Hotel. In August 1898, Dave's son, Charles Warren, was smoking a cigarette, when a spark fell on a bag of loose gunpowder. Three Warren children and one child of John W. Carr were injured in the blast. Two of the Warren children suffered facial burns, but fortunately there were no fatalities.

Machado filed suit against Edward Harbolt in September 1898 to take possession of the Temecula Hotel. To thwart Machado's plans, Mrs. Harbolt, Jacque Escallier, and August Nicholas traveled to Riverside to quickly transfer ownership of the hotel.

On October 5, it was announced that Jacque Escallier had purchased the Temecula Hotel. Actually, Harbolt sold the hotel to August E. Nicholas for \$500. Nicholas provided the financing, but Escallier ran the hotel. It is unknown how long Escallier had the hotel, but at some point, Nicholas sold the property to Benjamin Norton.

Benjamin and Cynthia Norton operated the Temecula Hotel for several years. Then in April 1904, they sold the hotel to Louis Escallier and his partner, August Servel, for a \$1,000. In December 1904, Servel sold his half interest to Hypolite Escallier for \$500. A year later, Hypolite sold his half interest to Louis Escallier in December 1905. It is believed that by this time, the Temecula Hotel began to be referred to as the Escallier Hotel.

Louis Escallier continued to operate the hotel and saloon for two more years. In 1907, Albert Degoumois, a Frenchman, operated a billiards room inside the hotel. It was in this room on December 24, 1907 that Horace Magee shot and killed Louis Escallier and Constable Preston Swanguen during a confrontation. After Louis' death, his brother, Pete Escallier, continued operating the business.

The fate of the hotel is unknown. It may have caught fire, or it may have been razed. In 1989, construction began on Rosa's Cantina and business returned to the location.

Today a plaque has been installed on the restaurant's patio wall commemorating the history of the Escallier Hotel. It is hoped that this article will shed new insight into the rich and colorful history of this early Temecula hotel.

(Continued on Page 4)

PAINTINGS DONATED

TVHS purchased two of Roy Morrissey's paintings, one a self portrait, and the other a portrait of Ralph Love. On April 9th, at the monthly Temecula City Council meeting, President Bonnie Martland, Darell Farnbach and a member of the Morrissey Family Trust, presented the two paintings to the City. Ralph Love and Roy Morrissey's portraits will be hung in city hall in honor of their artistic contributions of preserving and promoting Temecula's rich history and natural beauty.

Dear Temecula Historical Society, City Council members and people of Temecula, Roy Morrissey was a dear friend of our father and mother. This portrait was a labor of love by Roy. I speak for my family when I say "we are humbled and so appreciative to the Historical Society for this honor you have given in our father's memory. Having it "Grace" a wall of the Temecula City Hall is very special to us. Again thank you to all of you who give so much.

Evelyn Norris

Please join us for a "Meet & Greet" time at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 20th, prior to the meeting at 6:00 PM. We would like to get to know you. REFRESHMENTS will be served!

Hotel (Continued from Page 3)

Researcher's Note: It is important to note that newspaper archives were the primary source for this article. Future research in San Diego and Riverside city archives may offer new information in telling the history of this property.

President's Message by Bonnie Martland

Dear Temecula Valley Historical Society Members,

It was noted at our last business meeting that though our membership is growing, most committee positions are filled by members of the Board of Directors. We would love to see more non-board members join us! There are a number of ways we could use your help and support that do not require a large or long term commitment.

At the present we would like to have a volunteer or two to check with Old Town merchants and make sure they are adequately supplied with Old Town Walking Tour brochures. If you would be willing to provide some goodies for our pre-meeting social time or be a carpool driver for a windshield excursion please let me know. You can go to our website contact page to leave a message or call me at 951-303-6860. If there is no answer, you may contact me by email at: bonnie@azteche.com. Also, the Projects Committee will need some help with updating and expanding the historical plaques project.

May is a month to commemorate, honor and remember those who have done so much for us in the past, and those who continue to do so much for us now. May 12th is Mother's Day, May 18th is Armed Forces Day and May 27th is Memorial Day... and my mother's will be celebrating her 90th birthday!

May is also the month of "Congratulations!" for graduates and early spring weddings; we will be attending both. Enjoy the May flowers and remember, in May our meeting date is May 22nd in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Thank a veteran or active military, and give moms a hug.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Martland

Upcoming Excursion

A TVHS Tour will be held on Saturday, June 1st, celebrating the restoration of the Warner-Carrillo Ranch House near Warner Springs.

There will be stage coach rides, a root beer chuck wagon, live music, and a California-style barbeque.

There is a \$5.00 admission to the Ranch and an additional charge for food and drinks. We can carpool.

Please meet at the Little Temecula History Center at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Roger Cudé if you plan to join us.

(951) 695-0517