

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

June 2013

Volume 13 – Issue 6

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
951-303-6860
www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Aviators W. Leonard Bonney and Margaret Stahl
(Source: March 24, 1913, San Diego Union)

Aviator Pioneers Passed This Way Part 1

By Jeffery G. Harmon

“The purring motor of the unique, bug-like machine roused the city and hundreds, who had never seen an aeroplane [sic] before, ran out to gaze in wonder at the comet-like course of the flyer, with its trail of vapor streaming after it as it circled the city and flew out over the lake.”

(March 28, 1913, Lake Elsinore Valley Press)

In the early morning on March 25, 1913, an airplane entered the Temecula Valley from the south. Two aviators, Pilot W. Leonard Bonney, and passenger, Margaret Stahl, soared over Temecula in a Deperdussin Monoplane, as they followed the Santa Rosa Mountain range northward to the city of Elsinore. Though their moment was fleeting, they had introduced the Age of Aviation to Southwest Riverside County.

W. Leonard Bonney, trained by Orville Wright in 1910, received the 47th pilot's license in America. He flew two years for the Wright Exhibition Team. By 1913, he was an instructor for the Sloane Aeroplane Company's flight school at Dominguez Field near Los Angeles.

Margaret Stahl was born in Hamburg, Germany. She settled with her parents in Jersey City, New Jersey. She had a passion for airplanes. Her father agreed to purchase her a plane after she received her pilot's license. She traveled to Los Angeles and enrolled at Dominguez Field. Her first flight was with Pilot Guy Gilpatric when he broke the altitude record at 5,009 feet above Los Angeles.

On March 23, 1913, at 1:30 p.m., W. Leonard Bonney, age 28, and Miss Margaret Stahl, age 20, lifted off from Cudahy City, near Los Angeles, on an estimated 400-mile circuit around Southern California. The

(Continued on Page 2)

Calendar Of Events

Monday, June 24 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at
The Historic Wolf Store Adobe!!
5:30 Refreshments and Music
6:00 "The History of the Adobe"
By Darell & Rebecca Farnbach
Come be a part of this historic
gathering!!!

Monday, July 22 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at Little
Temecula History Center
Dick Thomas presents:
"The Lewis & Clark Expedition"

Saturday, June 15

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Temecula Valley Museum
Bazaar in the Park

Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition

Opening June 23
"A Walk through Teméeku"
An Exclusive Pechanga Exhibit

Thursday, June 20 - 6:30 p.m.

Temecula Public Library
Presents "The History of
Temecula Wine County"
By Steve Williamson.

Welcome New Members:

Steven Williamson

Thank you For Renewing your Membership:

William Culver
Martin Disenbacher
Rod & Charlene Fink
Dan Funderburk
Sarah Macedo
Ray & Rosemary Smith
Gene & Barbara Tobin
Donald & Esther Trunnell
Ronald & Judith Turco

Aviators (Continued from Page 1)

reliability of the French manufactured 60-horse-powered, single engine, Deperdussin Monoplane. The plane had proven its value during the Balkan War and was adopted by the French government.

On the ground were, Arnold Kruckman, the company's general manager, four mechanics, and several military observers with vehicles to follow the monoplane. Mrs. Margaret Callahan took the train to San Diego to be present for the landing and acted as Miss Stahl's chaperon on the ground during the entire journey. The weather bureaus of Los Angeles and San Diego provided special reports on atmospheric conditions.

At 2:38 p.m., the monoplane landed in Oceanside. After a half hour rest, the plane left Oceanside at 3:16 p.m. and headed south for San Diego. The monoplane was scheduled to land at National Avenue and Sixteenth Street in National City.

To mark the landing, a white sheet was spread on the ground and tar fires were lit so that Bonney could locate the landing site. All would have gone according to schedule, except a brush fire had started south of the landing area. Confused, Bonney flew over National Avenue and landed his plane in a field near the second fire.

The rough landing broke two of the monoplane's skids. The anxious crowd, fearing the worst, went in search of the aviators. The pilot and the passenger were found without a scratch. Despite the mishap, Margaret Stahl set a new record for the longest continental flight by a woman. The estimated distance was 120 miles with airtime being 1 hour 48 minutes.

Asked if she felt any fear, Miss Stahl replied, "No, I did not feel any fear at anytime. Really it is quite safe. I did not feel cold either, for I was dressed warmly, although the wind did bother my eyes. You know, I am trying to do without my goggles and want to make my flights so that I will not have to depend upon them." (March 24, 1913, San Diego Union)

When asked about his record flight W. Leonard Bonney stated:

"My arms are aching from warping that steering wheel," he said. "The trip from Los Angeles was about as strenuous as any flight I ever made. . . We were buffeted from side to side by violent, fitful gusts of which I can give no explanation, but which caused me to work at a tremendous tension nearly all of the time." (March 24, 1913, San Diego Union)

The repairs caused a day's delay in the flight schedule. A stop in Fallbrook was cancelled. In Elsinore, thousands of residents and visitors scanned the Monday afternoon sky in vain. After four hours and no communication from San Diego, the crowd dispersed.

Around 8:15 a.m. on March 25th, Bonney and Miss Stahl lifted off from the Curtis Aviation Camp on North Island in San Diego and headed north to Elsinore. The 100-mile trip took an estimated two hours and fifteen minutes to complete.

Bonney said, "The trip from San Diego to this city was one of the most dangerous I have ever made. The air currents which came through the draws and circled the mountains tossed the machine around like a cork in water. We had to attain a height of nearly 1500 feet above land in places, though coming up this valley we came down to 750 feet and flew over this city 600 feet above you." (March 28, 1913, Lake Elsinore Valley Press)

Bonney and Stahl landed in Elsinore at 9:45 a.m. The plane was

(Continued on Page 3)

Temecula Union School

Class of 1955

June 16, 1955
Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

Temecula Grammar School's graduation exercises were opened Friday night by Gwen Freeman who gave the welcome and introduced the cast of the play "Wilbur's Wild Night," given by the graduating class. Mrs. Bacon's primary class sang "Skip to My Lou" and Mrs. Stiles' intermediate class sang a medley of songs. Nancy Hicks played several piano numbers. "Pomp and Circumstance" was played by Mrs. Malverne Ferguson as the eight graduates marched to the stage, the four girls wearing pastel ballerina length dresses and the boys wearing suits. George Snideman presented a reading "A Beginning." Angelina Laborin gave "A New Experience," Susie Salas read the class history, Raymond Rodriguez gave the class prophecy and Nancy Hicks the class will. On behalf of the graduating class George Beck presented the school with a clock as a farewell gift. Principal Glenn Teague presented the class to the guests and to the president of the school board, Nathan Vail, who gave the address and presented diplomas.

(Continued on Page 4)

Aviators (Continued from Page 2)

parked in front of the Lakeview Inn and the aviators sampled the sulphur baths. After lunch, an exhibition was given over the lake.

The government officials had requested to see the monoplane perform over a body of water. Lake Elsinore, the largest fresh water lake in Southern California, was the perfect location for the aviation exhibition. It was also believed that if the plane fell in the lake during the flight, the pilot would not be injured.

Then at 12:30 p.m. the monoplane soared once more over the lake and then headed east towards Hemet.

(To be Continued)



Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
Proudly Presents:

"A Walk through Teméeku"

At the Temecula Valley Museum

Gallery Show Opens Friday, June 21

Thursday, June 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Reception and Gallery Talk on
"The Making of 'A Walk through Teméeku'"

Announcing "Dining to Donate" TVHS Event

When: Thursday June 27, 2013, from 11AM to 9PM

Where: Applebee's Restaurant 32175 Temecula Parkway, Temecula CA
92592.

Important Information: Applebee's will donate a portion of the cost of each meal to the TVHS. A flyer will be emailed to members, posted on the website and on Facebook. The participant needs to complete the information requested on the flyer, and give it to the cashier on June 27. The cashier at Applebee's will also have a limited supply of the flyers.

(Continued from Page 3)

Receiving diplomas were George W. Beck, Gwendolyn Hope Freeman, Nancy Jean Hicks, Angelina Laborin, Alfred Frank Navarro, Raymond Frederick Rodriguez, Blanche Lucille Salas, and George Dean Snideman. Four of the class of eight started together in first grade at Temecula. They are Susie Salas, Gwen Freeman, Alfred Navarro and Raymond Rodriguez.

Later in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hotchkiss opened their home to the graduates and their friends for dancing, exchanging congratulations and displaying the newly-won diplomas.

The house was gaily decorated with paper streamers and colored lights and balloons. Assisting the hostess in serving ice cream sundaes were Mrs. Verne Otto, Mrs. Cleo Liefer and Mrs. Irene White.

Please join us for a "Meet & Greet" time at 5:30 PM on Monday, June 24th, prior to the meeting at 6:00 PM at the Wolf Store.

We would like to get to know you.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!



President's Message

Dear TVHS Members and Friends,

As history buffs, I'm sure you are all familiar with the phrase, in reference to old buildings; "if these walls could talk." At the Temecula Valley Historical Society meeting on the 24th of this month some of the oldest walls in the Temecula Valley will be speaking to us. We will be holding our meeting at the Wolf Store Adobe at the old Vail Ranch Headquarters complex. (The other side of Kohl's from the Red Barn.) It has probably been 100 years, at the least, since the old adobe welcomed a good size group of guests; so this will be a very special occasion indeed!

Mayor Naggar in his recent State of the City Address spoke about the progress of the city and the contributions of non-profit groups and volunteers to the city's success. The Vail Ranch Headquarters site, including the Wolf Store Adobe, attests to that. Set along the Southern Immigrant Trail and a wagon road established by the Mormon Battalion in the 1846, Mormon volunteers recently made the ranch headquarters a family day weekend project. The Vail Ranch Restoration Association serves as guardians and caretakers of the property. Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, student interns, and citizen volunteers are among those who have volunteered time and effort to preserving this integral part of Temecula Valley history.

Walking around the restoration site with Darell Farnbach a couple of weeks back, he retrieved and handed me a square nail from the debris. Later, I stepped gingerly over the new floor rebar to touch the adobe's old cool rough interior walls. I found that these two little incidents seemed to dissolve time and brought the 19th century very close; strange how a touch can jump centuries.

Historians have recently discovered some unexpected and interesting material about the Wolf Store Adobe, and contractors are finding the building providing them some surprises too. It seems, indeed, that old walls can talk. Come and see what the old walls will say to you...

Sincerely,
Bonnie Martland

Grand Opening Celebration

Warner-Carillo Ranch House

June 1st 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

A caravan will be leaving the Red Barn in Temecula at 10:00 a.m.

For more information on the caravan
contact Roger Cudé at 951-695-0517

For More information visit: <http://sohosandiego.org/>