

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

July 2013

Volume 13 – Issue 7

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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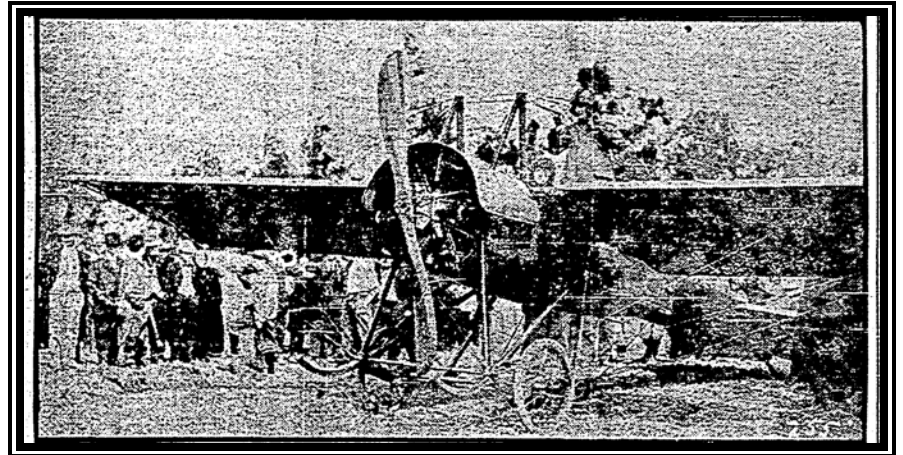
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The Deperdussin Monoplane in San Diego

Source: March 22, 1913 San Diego Union

Aviator Pioneers Passed This Way Part 2

By Jeffery G. Harmon

Local officials had told Bonney to follow the railroad tracks to Hemet. The tracks traveled northeast to Perris and then split east towards Winchester and Hemet. Because of strong wind currents, Bonney became distracted and missed his right turn. His plane continued traveling north into the city of Riverside.

Realizing that he was lost, Bonney decided to land the plane to get his bearings. He chose a recently plowed field near the intersection of North Almond and Strong Streets. When the plane first touched the ground it bounced, but the second time it touched, the wheels sank into the ground causing the plane to flip over its nose and land upside down.

Both passengers were secured in their seats. Bonney received a shoulder injury and Miss Stahl, who was pinned under the machine, had a sprained leg and a few bruises. The rudders and propeller were damaged and needed repairs. Meanwhile, at the Hemet Stock Farm, the ground crew and the estimated three thousand spectators waited for four hours before word was received about the crash.

The wings were removed from the plane and the engine was taken to the Glenwood Garage for repairs. The aviators lodged at the Glenwood Mission Inn until the work was finished.

On March 27th, Bonney and Miss Stahl attempted to lift off at the base of the Box Springs Grade. Crosswinds prohibited the plane from taking off. After two failed attempts, the plane was hauled to the top of the grade near the Santa Fe railroad crossing. It was then decided that Bonney would fly solo to Hemet because of the hazardous

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Calendar Of Events

Monday, July 22 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center
Jim Thomas presents:
"The Lewis & Clark Expedition"
His book, "Corps of Discovery" will be available for \$15 following the presentation

Monday, August 26 – 6 p.m.

TVHS monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center
Carol Fitzpatrick, a local Resident and a member of the Colonial Dames Society, will discuss her cousin, Meriwether Lewis

Saturday, July 13 - 10 a.m.

Temecula Valley Museum
A Walking Tour of Old Town Temecula

Friday, July 19 – 6:00 p.m.

Temecula Valley Museum
"A Night at the Museum"
Temecula's pioneers come to life on this special night. Then watch the movie, "A Night at the Museum" in Sam Hicks Memorial Park. Event is in conjunction with the City of Temecula's *Moonlight Movies in the Park*

Temecula Valley Museum Exhibition

"A Walk through Teméeku"
An Exclusive Pechanga Exhibit

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS:

Community Little Book
Don & Julie Gilbert
Mission Oaks Bank

Aviators (Continued from Page 1)

conditions. Miss Stahl traveled to Hemet by automobile.

At 3:00 p.m., Bonney landed his monoplane at the Hemet Stock Farm. On Friday, March 28th, Bonney performed a solo aviation exhibition for an estimated 3,000 spectators. Due to wind and engine concerns, Bonney did not have Miss Stahl fly with him during his performance.

The next day, the monoplane was scheduled to leave Hemet and land at Riverside's Chemawa Park at 10:00 a.m. Again because of ongoing repairs, Bonney did not reach Riverside until 3:00 p.m. Instead of Miss Stahl occupying the passenger seat, the Hemet and San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce sent an ostrich egg and a jar of preserved fancy Hemet peaches to be delivered to Riverside's Chamber.

After Riverside, a visit of several surrounding cities was planned, but a cracked propeller and engine problems, caused more delays. At 8:05 a.m. on April 5th, Bonney and Miss Stahl attempted to lift off from Jurupa Avenue bound for Pomona. The monoplane was about ten feet off the ground, when a strong crosswind caught it, and brought the plane crashing down into an embankment.

The aviators survived their second crash, but the monoplane did not. The final flight from Riverside to Los Angeles was cancelled. The pilot and his passenger boarded a train and returned to Los Angeles, vowing to one day return to Riverside and complete their flight. It took two days for the demolished plane to be hauled by a team of horses back to Dominguez Field.

After the historic flight, the pilot and the passenger went their separate ways. Margaret Stahl's name disappeared from the headlines, her fate is unknown. W. Leonard Bonney trained American pilots in New York during World War I. In the 1920s, Bonney invented a plane he dubbed, the Bonney Gull. On May 4, 1928, on its maiden flight, Bonney's plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Curtiss Field, Long Island, New York. He died a few hours later in a local hospital.

A century later, the sound of planes flying across the Temecula Valley is a daily occurrence. Few people glance skyward when a plane soars overhead. However, the pioneering spirit of W. Leonard Bonney and Margaret Stahl paved the way for future aviators who would continue to push the limits of man and machine. Their accomplishments in aviation should always be remembered.

Did you know Amelia Earhart visited March Air Field in 1932?

America's air queen, Amelia Earhart, stood in the "poop deck" at March Field headquarters this morning and witnessed an air review of 72 bombers and pursuit planes.

"The word thrilling has no place in aviation." Miss Earhart asserted. "Beautiful and wonderful are words that may be properly used when one stands and observes the perfect precision of the formations as they are maneuvered by the pilots."

(August 6, 1932, Riverside Daily Press)

Temecula Union School

Class of 1956

May 24, 1956
Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

Principal Charles Hall announced this week that Temecula Grammar School will close on Wednesday, June 13, and graduation exercises will be held that night at 8 o'clock in the auditorium.

Guest speaker will be County Superintendent of Schools Ray Johnson. The graduating class will give an old fashioned melodrama, "He Ain't Done Right by Nell." Special awards will also be presented.

Principal Hall will give a party at his home in honor of the graduating class on June 12. Graduates this year are Sally Evans, Rebecca Flores, Margaret Escallier, Stella Roniz, Nonie Roripaugh, Eugene Knott, Jesse Mora and Richard Gagnon.

The PTO, at its meeting Wednesday night, made plans for the graduation exercises and for a trip to the zoo for the primary and intermediate rooms. In June new officers will be elected.

June 14, 1956
Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

Wednesday night at Temecula Grammar School the eighth graders will bid farewell to

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Vail Ranch Status Report by Rebecca Farnbach

I'd like to thank each of you who have cheered the efforts of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association through the many years of starts and stops. While some would give up entirely, the history enthusiasts of Temecula Valley have continued to believe in our cause and to stand with us while we have suffered many disappointments.

Finally we are seeing long awaited results. The June meeting of the Temecula Valley Historical Society was held under the large mulberry tree between the cookhouse and the Wolf Store adobe. Attendees were treated to self-guided tours of the newly renovated adobe that had once been the center of the town of Temecula before commerce moved closer to the new railway in the new town site we now call Old Town Temecula. The Wolf Store is the oldest building in the Temecula Valley.

While this building is ready for tenant-specific completion, Arteco, the owner of the property and the historic construction company, is now beginning renovation work in the cookhouse, bunkhouse and office/machinery barn. These renovations will take several months before tenants may lease the buildings.

The County of Riverside and the State of California have designated the property as an historic district. Paperwork has been completed to register it as a National Historic Landmark. The site plan is for the marking of the Southern Emigrant Trail, a.k.a. the Butterfield Stage Trail, through the property and to set up a hay wagon stage and have live blacksmith demonstrations in an open-air kiosk.

The buildings will house commercial enterprises like restaurants that will entice families to come and linger, similar to the experience visitors enjoy in Old Town San Diego.

At times our hope for the renovation of the buildings seemed as far away as a dream, but it is happening now and you may need to pinch us so we know we aren't dreaming.

Thanks to all of you who share our dream. It's happening!



The Vail Ranch Restoration Association Board of Directors
The Wolf Store Celebration, June 24, 2013

(Continued from Page 3)

grammar school days. The program will start at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium and consist of a play, "He Ain't Done Right by Nell," by eighth grade; introduction of play by Eugene Knott; choral reading selection, Mrs. Stiles' third, fourth and fifth grades; Songs We Like, Mrs. Bacon's first and second grades.

Dr. Ray Johnson will be speaker of the evening, giving the invocation and address to the graduating class. The program will include Class Will by Eugene Knott; Class History by Jesse Mora; Prophecy by Sally Evans; Presentation of Gift to School and Journalism awards.

Valedictorian is Richard Gagnon. Awarding of diplomas will be by Russell Vail, president of the board of trustees. Mrs. Annie Knott will present the processional, "Pomp and Circumstance," and the processional, "Priests' March." Graduates are: Sally Evans, Rebecca Flores, Margaret Escallier, Stella Romiz, Nonie Roripaugh, Eugene Knott, Jesse Mora and Richard Gagnon.

Please join us for a
"Meet & Greet" time
at 5:30 PM on
Monday, July 22nd, prior
to the meeting at 6:00 PM.
We would like to get to
know you.
REFRESHMENTS
will be served!

President's Message *by Bonnie Martland*

Dear TVHS Members and Friends,

The Fourth of July brings to my mind a ceremony I attended on Memorial Day. It was a tribute to American Veterans presented by the Murrieta Boy Scouts at the Veterans' Memorial at the Duck Pond in Temecula. The young men gave a moving presentation about the holiday with recitations and music. As each member spoke, the audience understood how meaningful the ceremony was to all in attendance. The scout masters and the parents had imparted to these young men the significance of the day as a celebration and remembrance of what generations of veterans had sacrificed so that we all could be standing at the Duck Pond that beautiful afternoon.

The ceremony struck me as particularly meaningful as I was sitting on the grass and taking in this small town American scene. There were young families with toddlers and strollers, older couples, and attendees in a variety of military caps denoting past service.

At a service earlier that day, where patriotic standards were sung, someone commented that the young people didn't know the words. It was implied that the patriotic values, traditions, and knowledge possessed by us older folk were not being passed along to our youth. Yet the ceremony at the pond was a testament to the mentors who had taken the interest and time to pass along their knowledge to these young scouts.

As we commemorate our national Independence Day, as Benjamin Franklin noted, we should, with celebrations and illuminations, don't neglect the opportunity to pass along the story of our country's Founding Fathers. Talk about their courage and commitment to providing future generations a country based on the principles of freedom and democracy. Pass on the message that freedom is not free, nor is it the work of the founding generation alone. There are many ways to serve, and all generations have contributed to the making of America. The knowledge we share is the core of our culture, individually and collectively it is the story of all of us, it is the story of America.

Sing, celebrate and enjoy our Independence Day. At the closing of the ceremony, the scouts took up their instruments and played "taps" in remembrance of those now at rest who left us the legacy of America. It wouldn't be a bad idea for us to end our day with them in our thoughts as well.

Have a wonderful Fourth of July!!!