

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

October 2013

Volume 13 – Issue 10

*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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A Publication of the  
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Auld Valley, September 14, 2013  
(Photo by Jeffery Harmon)

## **Auld Valley Harvest, 1908 Part 1**

**By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach and Jeffery G. Harmon**

Most of us who live in the Temecula area focus on real estate and tourism and we are unfamiliar with the agricultural economy that once dominated the area. About a century ago things looked a lot different around here.

We also tend to think any crop could grow easily in this microclimate so blessed by sunshine by day and cooling ocean breezes at night with just enough rainfall. After reading some 1908 newspaper articles, we see it wasn't so easy.

A review of the newspaper articles shows that farmers in Auld Valley had reasons for concern. The area in focus is now covered by the man-made Lake Skinner. The valley extended beyond the edges of today's lake into the surrounding wildlife refuge.

George Auld, Sr. owned the western part of the valley. L.L. "Doc" Roripaugh and Tommy Rawson owned the eastern part. While most of the surrounding area was dry, the Auld Valley had an ample water supply from Tualota Creek, which ran year round, and the adjoining Rawson and Middle Creeks.

After planting in the spring, the ranchers watched and weeded and prayed for bountiful harvests. Enemies to the crops included fire and pestilence.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

# Calendar Of Events

## **Monday, October 28 – 6 p.m.**

TVHS monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center  
Anne Miller will present:  
"When the 'Right' Trail Goes The Wrong Way: Resolving conflicts in Historical Research."  
Copies of her book, "The Southern Emigrant Trail Through Riverside County" will be available for purchase.

## **Saturday, November 9 – 5p.m.** Annual Dinner

## **December – No meeting**

## **Monday, January 27 – 6 p.m.**

Lynn Cude, Pam Grender and Bonnie Martland present:  
*Three Temecula Women: Ramona Wolf, Helen Hunt Jackson and Mary Jane Welty*

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### **Thank you For Renewing your Membership:**

Malcolm & Loretta Barnett  
Donald Coop  
Shari Crall  
Robert & Elaine Culverhouse  
Bill & Barbara Dosta  
Darell & Rebecca Farnbach  
Rhine & Sandy Helzer  
Roger Honberger  
Judy Knott  
Mahlon Lawton  
Jim & Dorothy Meyler  
Duane & Judy Preimsberger  
Jack Roripaugh  
Dale & Ann Silimperi  
Rosie Vanderhaak  
Donna Webster

## **Auld Valley** (Continued from Page 1)

*"Wednesday fire started in one of Rawson Brothers' big pastures, destroying 700 acres of good pasture. There was a strong wind and the men from the ranch had hard work to check it from running over 1700 acres. The origin of the fire is unknown."* (June 2, 1908, Riverside Independent Enterprise)

*"The squirrels are destroying the crops so badly this year that the ranchers are talking of asking the county to provide poison and help wage war to exterminate them."* (June 9, 1908, RIE)

*The squirrels have destroyed at least 125 sacks...."* (June 23, 1908, RIE)

Ranchers also had to keep animals from neighboring ranches from trampling down their crops. To keep their cattle from grazing into the Auld Valley, the Pauba Ranch employed a force of men to fence their northern boundary.

Preparation for harvesting began in June.

*"Mr. Rathers of the Hemet Warehouse Company was calling on the farmers last week. He sold several thousand grain bags while here."* (June 18, 1908, Riverside Daily Press)

By August of 1908, the grain had been headed, which means that the grain head had been separated from the stalk and stacked to dry, waiting for the stationary threshing outfits to arrive. However, the severe weather of the late summer threatened to ruin the remaining harvest season.

*"A severe electrical storm, accompanied by high wind, passed through the valley Friday noon. The wind did considerable damage, breaking limbs off trees and blowing down A. E. Buck's large harvester shed and completely overturned a wagon and large header bed of Auld Bros. About three-quarters of an inch of rain fell. The lightning struck in several places starting fires. This was the hottest day of the season, the thermometer registering 111 degrees."* (August 8, 1908, RIE)

*"Another electrical storm visited the valley Sunday morning. One and twenty hundredths inches of rain fell. It did the farmers great damage by spoiling hay, dry feed and straw, and also damaged the grain in the stack that is not yet threshed. The green feed is now showing but, of course, will soon die. Old residents say this has been the hottest and most unfavorable summer in some respects that they have ever known. Today is more pleasant and we anticipate cooler weather. . . Since the rain, several of the farmers have commenced plowing thereby expecting to get rid of the foul growth on their land."* (August 13, 1908, RIE)

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## Temecula Union School

### Class of 1960

June 16, 1960  
Lake Elsinore Valley Sun

Mr. Jack Liefer, president of the Board of Trustees, presented diplomas to seven eighth grade students during graduation exercise held June 9 in the Temecula Community Hall. Guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Barbara Provost, curriculum consultant from the office of the County Superintendent of Schools. Reading the class history was Michael Talley; class will, Joel Seay and class prophesy, Robert Farris. Presentation of the class gift was made by Dennis Koelling, accepted by Ruth Munoa, seventh grade student. Kathleen Stiles, principal, announced the recipient of the Junior American Citizenship award to Robert Leak. Students lauded for perfect attendance were, Sally LaChappa, Milonny LaChappa, Patrick LaChappa, Raul Noriega, Joe Murphy, Betty Murphy, Steven Brooks and Frances Santa Maria. Following the valedictory address given by Frances Wells, the girls' chorus under the direction of Mrs. Marion Strittatier, sang three selections. Graduating students are, Robert Farris, Dennis Koelling, Robert Leak, Joel Seay, Stephen Szikszay, Michael Talley, and Frances Wells.

## Auld Valley (Continued from Page 2)

Ranchers needed to hire men to sew the tops of the grain bags to prevent spillage. If he harvested hay, he hired balers who worked with baling wire. He also needed to hire a cook to feed the hard-working crew.

Another problem of the season arose when thirteen horses belonging to Arthur Buck's outfit became ill. Buck believed that the horses had eaten hay containing wild peas. After the horses recovered, Buck's crew moved south into Long Valley, harvesting for W. L. Matthews in the Hyatt District.

There were health challenges for the people working the harvest too. The blowing dust and chaff may have contributed to W.L. Matthews' severe asthma attack reported in the paper. Charles Eldred fell off the hay baler derrick and severely wrenched his back.

By mid-August threshing outfits entered the Auld Valley.

*"Burfiend & Co.'s thresher is busy threshing grain in the valley. There is still a month's threshing to be done."* (August 21, 1908, Riverside Daily Press)

Joe Thompson's thresher machine also came to the valley. His crew threshed for the Aulds, Garringers, Smohls and Pourroys. Frank Morgan continued baling hay for the Auld brothers, and William Newport. Mrs. Gehla, who was visiting from Kansas, was hired to cook for Morgan's crew. Frank Morgan purchased a gramophone to entertain his baling crew each evening. During this time, W. L. Matthews tragically lost a horse in an accident on the Buck harvester. The outfit worked until the first week of September.

In spite of fires, storms and squirrels, a good account of their crop production was published.

*"A. E. Buck, W. L. Matthews and G. H. Baisley were in San Jacinto from Auld Monday. Mr. Buck is one of the extensive grain ranchers of that section and has just finished harvesting his crop having a forty-four day run with his combined harvester. Mr. Buck threshed one field of barley of fifty-five acres that yielded 567 sacks and as the grain was green when threshed it is believed that at least fifty sacks were lost in separating. This is the best yield of grain that has come to the attention of your correspondent this season."* (September 3, 1908, RDP)

**Announcing  
The Annual  
Membership Dinner**

November 9<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m. at

The Pechanga Hotel in the  
Eagle's Nest

Guest Speaker:

Pechanga Tribal Member &  
TVHS Board Member  
Myra Masiel-Zamora

Presents:

“The Analysis of the 'Éxva  
Teméeku Archaeological  
Collection: The Origin  
Place of Temecula's  
First People.”

Tickets for the event are \$35 a  
person and attendees will have  
the option of choosing prime  
rib, grilled salmon, or grilled  
chicken. A no-host bar will  
open at 5pm and dinner will be  
served at 6:30 p.m.

Lots of wonderful items have  
been donated for the silent  
auction and opportunity  
drawing, including a golf  
package for Journey and night  
at Pechanga hotel, wine,  
jewelry, artwork and  
4 tickets to Disneyland.

We are still accepting items and  
anything, used or new, would  
be much appreciated.

To donate,

please contact Lisa Woodward  
at [lwoodward@verizon.net](mailto:lwoodward@verizon.net) or  
(951) 514-7406. Invitations for  
the dinner will be sent to  
members via email, if you  
would prefer a hard  
copy, please contact Lisa.  
The Society's officers and  
board members for 2014  
will also be announced.

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*President's Message by Bonnie Martland*

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Dear Members and Friends,

There is a grand old lady in Temecula who I have thought about nearly every day since I have been President of the Board. She has looked out onto the happenings in our valley for over 100 years. She still sits there with grace and charm, but like all of us getting on in years, may need a little cosmetic surgery... Unlike me, however, she has not a crack to be seen! Her redwood bones are doing great compared to my underpinnings. Recently a few of us in the Historical Society got to sit and talk with the two gracious sisters who own the hotel, a repository of Temecula History. The ladies had grown up in the hotel with parents who had inquiring and adventurous natures and a love of the historic legacy of this valley, as do they.

As we sat at the little kitchen table that uniquely Temecula afternoon breeze wafted in through the screen doors through the Rainbow gap, up the little rise from the Murrieta Creek and into the kitchen. I could imagine the sounds of the California Southern as it pulled to a stop at the Temecula Depot across the creek; and the rolling wood and shaking of livery as wagons and buggies ambled by. A lovely wisteria vine, said to have been planted by Mary Jane Welty, whose husband built the hotel, has been blooming for decades outside the kitchen door. The breeze also lofts in through the hallways upstairs freshening rooms and stirring memories of Old Town's earliest residents and visitors.

Sitting at the little kitchen table looking through to the large glass windows of the living room, the warm late afternoon sunlight illuminated a space that has seen much of Temecula's past. The onetime public dining room with the large white framed windows drew me in. I'm visual, as most of you know, and the room invoked scenes, again, of times past. Though they lingered, they were joined by holographic figures of people visiting and enjoying each other's company inside and on the grounds of this grand lady once again. Questions about the past, small talk, and sounds of congeniality sifted just under reality.

The hotel is being relisted and I'm not sure just what her future will bring. We all know Temecula is fortunate to have such a treasure, a connection to Old Town's beginning decade. Hopefully, as Temecula evolves, her past will be embraced by her future. As a city and community we need to ensure this grand lady is part of that future and transform those figures into three-dimensions.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Martland