

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

August 2014

Volume 14 – Issue 8

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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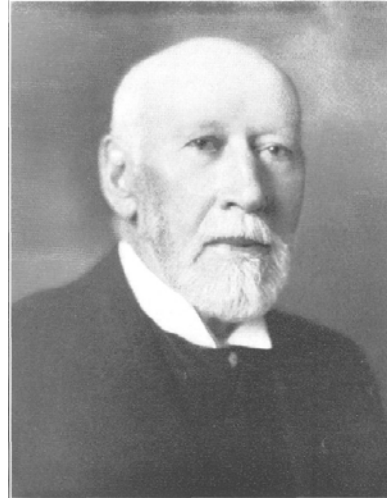
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Juan Murrietta [sic], Temecula Pioneer, Tells Riversiders of Early Days

(Reprint: May 14, 1930, Riverside Daily Press)

While the Ramona Pageant just now is picturing to thousands in the San Jacinto-Hemet Valley the scenes associated with the days when the Temeculas, the Sobobas and the Cahuillas were wont to assemble at sheep-shearing time, perhaps none of them are aware of the fact that there is still living the person who introduced the sheep-raising industry in the Temecula region of Riverside County.

The man who helped to make romantic atmosphere for Helen Hunt Jackson's fascinating story is now approaching his 90th year. He is Juan Murrietta whose home is in Van Nuys. By special appointment, S. C. Evans, in company with Miguel Estudillo, met old Juan in Los Angeles a few days ago and spent a most interesting season with him in listening to his reminiscences of the early sixties, particularly his recollections of life in the territory that was sliced off from San Diego County when Riverside County was formed.

Mr. Evans states that some very valuable historical material was secured from the interview. It was during Murrietta's sojourn at Temecula that the first white child was born in that region. This distinction belongs to Mrs. Ben Barnett, who resides at Temecula, and whose mother is still living there. It goes without saying that Mr. Evans will lose no time in comparing notes with this pioneer and securing from her more first-hand data of a historical nature, linked as that history is with the glamour of an older day in California.

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Calendar Of Events

SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday, August 25th – 6 p.m.

The monthly meeting will be held at the Temecula Civic Center's Conference Room. Shelby Castells will give a presentation on *The Archaeological Excavation of Nate Harrison's Cabin on Palomar Mountain*. Harrison was said to have been born a slave in the 1830s and spent a majority of his life on Palomar.

Monday, September 22 – 6 pm

Carol Fitzpatrick presents:
Meriwether Lewis

Welcome New Members:

Joe & Sue Diorio
Kent & Penelope Johnson
Bob & Suzie Kent
Mike & Shelley Leddy
George & Mary Ziegler

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Darlene Gilbert
Judy Hancock
Ron & Ann Woodward

Monthly Meetings Held at The Little Temecula History Center

The Red Barn next to
Kohl's Department Store
Kohl's address is
32085 Temecula Parkway

Murrietta (Continued from Page 1)

Murrietta's property was the Pauba rancho, now well known as a dairy range, owned and operated by Vail Brothers. He employed many Indians on this rancho in the days when roving bands from Sonora made their way from Mexico en route to the pueblo of Los Angeles.

These bands, Murrietta states, numbered from 15 to 20, all armed with long knives, much like the machete. They wore sandals and were clad in pants and shirts of white cotton. They took what food they needed from the ranches through which they passed.

Murrietta revealed his shrewdness by anticipating the needs of the marauders. Upon learning that a band was approaching, he would kill three or four sheep and hang up their carcasses at a distance from the ranch house. The band would cut off what meat they wanted and made no further trouble for the rancher. An Englishman who sought to prevent this practice on the part of the marauders promptly paid for his opposition with his life.

Murrietta recalls the travels of the Franciscan padres, who as late as the sixties were making their journeys along El Camino Real to visit the various missions, planted under the supervision of Fra Junipero Serra. Murrietta was accustomed to furnishing them with food, and at times the fathers would receive a horse at his hands.

The pioneer recalls vividly the events of St. John's Day, which was then observed with games which are seldom seen now. Among these was the burying of a rooster, with only the head left above ground. The efforts of the riders to extricate the fowl as they circled with their mounts were one of the exciting events of the day. The observances were held regularly in San Bernardino and Colton in the early days.

Murrietta left Spain at the age of 17, in company with two brothers, one of whom settled in Brazil and the other in Peru. In making his way to California, Murrietta states that he touched at England, thence sailed to the island of St. Thomas, thence to Valparaiso, sailing to San Francisco after crossing the Isthmus of Panama. His brothers later made their way to California, and the three took up property in the vicinity of Merced and San Luis Obispo.

In those days it was not uncommon, Murrietta states, to see elk in the Kern County district in herds which would require a full hour to pass. Many deer could be seen in these herds. The arrival of the pot-hunter of later days spelled destruction for these animals.

From the San Luis Obispo ranch Murrietta drove sheep in bands of 1500 to the Temecula country, where good ranges were available at that time. Sheep-shearing time became a real event in the life of the Indian tribes round about.

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Murrieta News 100 years ago

August 7, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

The Ladies Aid will have a pie social on the parsonage grounds on Friday night of this week, when pie of different kinds will be served, also coffee and ice tea.

Glen D. Wight of Riverside and Miss Ethel Fensom of Los Angeles are the teachers for the coming year at Murrieta.

Dio Hunter had a runaway with a four-horse team on Tuesday, caused by a freight train. He was loading grain into a car.

Died, in Murrieta, July 24, F. Rodriguez, one of the oldest citizens. He was buried in the Murrieta cemetery Sunday, July 26. He left a wife, four daughters, all married, and two sons, who very much appreciate the assistance, kindness and sympathy of the people in time of their great sorrow.

August 21, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

School begins September 7th unless postponed on account of the improvement under way. A concrete tank house and 3000 gallon tank, a septic tank, etc. are under construction.

Married in Orange, Cal., August 3, 1914, Arlie E. Miller of Murrieta and Miss Orpha L. Chesley of Santa Ana.

Murrieta (Continued from Page 2)

Mr. Evans states that Murrieta's mind is clear and his recollection of the early days vivid. A man who has lived in the California sunshine for most of his life, he is still in good health and in full possession of his faculties.

Researcher's Notes: For a more detailed account on the life of Juan Murrieta, see TVHS Newsletter March 2009 Vol. 9 Issue 3.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday,

September 6th

The Temecula Valley Historical Society's
Scholarship Fundraiser

Members and guests are invited to the
Historic Casa Loma, built by Mahlon Vail.
The evening includes dinner, live music and
tours of the home.

Scholarships are for high school students who are pursuing
history related careers.

More information will be sent in the next few weeks



Casa Loma

Special Location Announcement:

The Monthly Meeting
Will be held at
The Temecula Civic
Center's Conference
Room

Please join us for a
"Meet & Greet" time
at 5:30 PM on
Monday, August 25th,
prior to the meeting
at 6:00 PM.

We would like to get to
know you.
REFRESHMENTS
will be served!

TVHS ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, November 1st

In honor of the
City of Temecula's
25th Birthday,
Jimmy Moore will share
A reflective history on
Temecula Cityhood.
Please watch for more
information to come.

President's Message by Dick Fox

We have some busy months ahead. A fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund is in the planning stages – stay tuned for more info. Also our Annual Meeting is planned for Saturday, November 1, 2014 and will be held at the Community Room at Temecula City Hall. Jimmy Moore will provide the program this year which will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the creation of Temecula as an official city, and the long road to secure its long-standing name.

At this very moment a Nominating Committee is beginning the work of looking at possible candidates to fill 2 board positions that will be “termed out” -- and vacant at the end of the year. So if any of our TVHS Newsletter readers and members would like to expand your help to the society by serving on the board, please let your wishes be known to Jimmy Moore or Roger Cudé.

Don't forget that our regularly scheduled August meeting on Monday August 25 – will be held in the Community Room at the Temecula City Hall. A nice air conditioned facility -- to hear a wonderful presentation on the archaeological dig that was done at the site of Nate Harrison's homestead on Mt. Palomar. This will be an extraordinary opportunity to learn of the results of that excavation.

Dick Fox

75 Years Ago

Resident of County for 65 Years Dies

Reprint: May 30, 1939, Riverside Daily Press

Death came Sunday to Angelo Cantarini, resident of Riverside County for approximately 65 years, at his home in Pigeon Pass where he had been living alone for some time.

An Italian Swiss, Mr. Cantarini was born near Locarno, Switzerland, 84 years ago. He came to San Francisco as a young man and in approximately 1874 settled in Temecula where he married Rose Verdugo, a full-blooded Temecula Indian. She died in 1900.

Mr. Cantarini is remembered by the few old pioneers of the county, who are still living as a sheep rancher with extensive holdings in the Temecula district. Some 35 years ago he moved to a Moreno Valley ranch. He had been ill about two months before his death.

Survivors of Mr. Cantarini include the following children: Charles Cantarini and Mrs. Madeline Denny, Moreno; Mrs. Margaret Vial, Santa Ana; Mrs. Mary Ashman and Mrs. Elsie McSweeney, Temecula; Pete Cantarini of Glenn, and John Cantarini, Brawley.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 9 a.m. from the Temecula Catholic Church with E. H. Preston funeral directors of Riverside, in charge.