

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

September 2014

Volume 14 – Issue 9

*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 Fiesta, 1890

Reprinted from the San Diego Union Archives

All are invited to attend the bull fight and grand feast at Temecula, San Diego County, August 23. The bulls are furnished by Mr. Hamilton of Cajutilla [sic]. There will also be horse racing and Indian dancers. Louis Wolf (Junior). (August 16, 1890)

### **The Worship of Bacchus**

*Why Father Ubach Declines to Attend the Indian Fiesta near Temecula*

The fiesta of the Luiseno Indians now on the Pitchanga [sic] reservation, five miles east of Temecula station, will occur tomorrow and Tuesday so far as the games, horse races and bull-fighting are concerned, but Rev. Father Ubach has sent word that he will not be there, as he learns the feast “will be more for the worship of Bacchus than for God.” He was duly informed several days ago that great preparations had been made for the celebration of the feast of the Indians’ patron saint, San Luis Rey, which included a number of brush houses erected by Captain Juan Chiquito just off the reservation, to be rented to white men who were prepared to sell liquor and run gambling tables. Father Ubach sent word back that he should decline to celebrate mass and christen the children under these circumstances, as he had warned the generals and captains two years ago that unless order and right conduct could be maintained he should consistently decline to serve them. After the Indians shall have recovered from their revels and fire-water, he proposes to go up and hold services for them as a number of children are to be baptized. (August 28, 1890)

Researcher’s Note: Bacchus in Roman mythology is the god of wine.

### **The Fiesta**

*At Temecula was a Howling Success in the True Sense*

Jack Dodge, Tom Storey, Hi Alden and Charles Hard returned on Tuesday night from Temecula, where they went to witness the Indian fiesta. Jack says that about 300 people were in attendance, mostly Indians and politicians. By the way, from all reports that come by private wire and carrier pigeon, the back country is alive with politicians, who are beating paths through the wheat fields and

**(Continued on Page 2)**

# Calendar Of Events

**Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**6 p.m.**

Carol Fitzpatrick presents:  
*The Life of Meriwether Lewis  
and His Controversial Death*

**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Joan Sparkman presents:  
*My perspective on Temecula  
Past, Present and Future*

**Saturday, November 1**

The Annual Dinner at the  
Temecula Civic Center  
Celebrating the City of  
Temecula's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday!  
Jim Moore presents:  
*Temecula: The Drive to  
Cityhood*  
(More details to follow)

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**Thank you for  
renewing your membership:**

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Robert & Elaine Culverhouse

Elaine Eshom

Steven Williamson

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**Monthly Meetings Held at  
The Little Temecula History  
Center**

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

## **Fiesta** (Continued from Page 1)

mountain passes, and the rural population, who have heard so much about new transcontinental lines, think these office hunters are railroad engineers on a hunt for the most practical route to the East. The fiesta turned out to be more of a "drunkesia" than anything else, with a few lines of "gamble-esta" mixed in. (August 4, 1890)

### **As to the Fiesta**

*A Letter from One who was at the Temecula Gathering*

To the Union: About two weeks ago you published an article giving Father Ubach's reason for not celebrating the feast of San Luis Rey with the Indians at Temecula.

The article stated that the Indians at Temecula, under the direction of their Captain Juan Chiquito had erected brush houses just off the reservation to be used as gambling and drinking dens. I have no doubt that the good Padre believed this to be true, for I believe him to be a just and good man, one who would not willfully wrong anyone, much less those of a race who have suffered enough of wrongs at the hands of white men.

The Catholic priesthood has labored long and faithfully to elevate this people to a higher plane of civilization and I do not believe Father Ubach intended to misrepresent them, but for once the good Padre was mistaken.

I am the teacher of the band of Indians to which your article referred and was at that time spending my vacation in San Diego.

A few months ago I organized a temperance society among the people I have in charge.

One Captain and about fifty of the young and middle-aged men of the tribe have joined the society and signed the temperance pledge. I have not known of one of them breaking it.

When I read the article in your paper referring to them I hastened back to the reservation and got there just as the feast was breaking up.

While on my way I stopped at Temecula station and there learned the facts of the case, and give them as they were given to me by reliable white men who were present in an official capacity during the whole time the feast was being held.

Mrs. Ramona Wolf, a lady of wealth and social standing, owns and occupies a large ranch which joins our reservation. Some time ago she promised our Indians she would give them a feast, and she chose this especial occasion (San Luis Rey day) on which to fulfill her promise. The gentleman said: "It is true there were much drinking and some gambling, but not among the Indians. They could have had liquor if they had wanted it, but they would not drink it. There were very few of them who engaged at all in gambling."

## Murrieta News 100 years ago

September 5, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

Harvey Sykes and wife of Olive are camping and hunting in the Santa Rosa Mountains near town. He made his brother and family a visit and stopped over night with his daughter, Hale, at the Fountain house.

Mr. and Mrs. Madison have another boy. Mr. Madison is building an addition to his house for his son.

Mrs. K. E. Sleeper and niece will visit in Olive next week and have some dental work done in Riverside before school begins.

September 15, 1914

Riverside Independent  
Enterprise

The telephone men have been busy around Murrieta a few days removing abandoned poles. These have been shipped to Elsinore where they will be used.

September 18, 1914

Riverside Daily Press

Mr. Seeberg, who has been making quite a success of putting down wells for the residents of the valley of late, is boring one deeper for W. J. Southard.

The Ladies Aid gave a tamale supper at the hall Thursday night. A short program was given, including a temperance song and lecture by the evangelist, which were much enjoyed by a good sized audience, including several Wildomar people.

## ***Fiesta*** (Continued from Page 2)

He said there were many white people there, and that there was a good deal of liquor drank by them.

I think, Mr. Editor, our Indians deserve much credit for doing so well under such, to them, trying circumstances. When white men came to their feasts bringing wine and whisky to them, the Indian must be brave indeed who can stand by his pledge and resist the temptation. There may have been Indians at the feast who drank liquor, but my informant, who is personally acquainted with each one of our little band, assures me that our Indians were not of the number.

White men who will stoop so low as to go among a peaceful tribe of Indians, taking as part of their necessary baggage, liquor and appliances for gambling ought to be put where they will find better and more useful employment.

Mary J. Platt

Pachango [sic] Reservation, Temecula, September 9

(September 18, 1890)

## **From the Archives**

Temecula – July 10: I wish to inform you that the report circulated throughout this section of the country that two men were killed here July 4 is not true. We had a big celebration here, but everything went off fine – smooth as a Riverside camp meeting.

Goodwin's big sorrel stallion coped the \$75 purse in the big free-for-all running race, beating the Riverside, Oceanside and horses from larger places.

J. Tripp's brown mare was the best saddle horse on the pike that day and won the \$30 purse.

The Temecula boys taught the Pala Indians how to play ball beating them by a score of 13 to 6. The Pala boys left with broken hearts and purses.

In the evening the big thing came off – the finest dance in the history of Temecula. Seventy-eight couples enjoyed themselves to their heart's content.

Sunday, July 24, J. Tripp's brown mares and Jimmie Freeman's three-year-old are going to run 400 yards for a purse of \$50.

Amos Kolb fell from the seat of a header bed he was driving, breaking his collar bone and three ribs. He is now confined to his bed.

J. N. Abel of Toronto, Canada, is visiting his old school chum, Hugh McConville of Temecula.

O. E. Tiffany, the Santa Fe agent is visiting his friends in his old home, Buffalo, N.Y.

Dr. C. Blackburn leaves some time this month for Hong Kong, China, to visit his brother, who is located in business there.

(July 12, 1905, Riverside Daily Press)

**Temecula News  
100 years ago**

September 15, 1914  
Riverside Independent  
Enterprise

Marriage Notice

Leon J. Servel, native of France, age 33 years resident of Temecula, and Clementine Nicholas, native of California, age 24 years, resident of Temecula

September 18, 1914  
Hemet News

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Blackmore (Auld Valley) attended the wedding of their cousin, Miss Clementine Nicholas, and Leon Servel at the home of the bride in Temecula on Wednesday. The bride and groom will farm on the Van Rodden place.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
The TVHS Annual  
Dinner fundraiser  
will be held on  
Saturday November  
1st at the Temecula  
Civic Center from  
5pm to 9pm.  
Details about the  
event will follow in  
the next few weeks.

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**President's Message by Dick Fox**

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What a great turnout for the Nate Harrison presentation. A number of folks who have never been to any of our presentations at TVHS, or Gallery talks at the Museum were in attendance. A number of them spoke to me and said "thank you" for bringing Nate's story to Temecula. So a combination of an interesting topic and some well placed "news releases" brought out folks who were intrigued.

Following our fundraising event for the Scholarship Fund, we'll have just a few weeks before our annual meeting and dinner on Saturday, November 1. The committee is currently working on selecting a caterer and menu, along with accumulating items for the silent auction.

More great monthly programs are on the way in both September and October so don't miss the opportunity to learn new aspects of our area history.

Dick Fox

**Further information on Nate Harrison**

Shelby Castells, the archaeologist who did the presentation on Nate Harrison for our August meeting, has provided some additional information on her topic for those who are interested. This website gives more details on the excavation of Harrison's cabin <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~histarch/publications.html>.

This website gives information about residents of Palomar Mountain with info on Harrison starting on page 14 <http://www.peterbrueggeman.com/palomarhistory/AsherMyPalomar.pdf>

Monthly Meetings are held at The Little Temecula History Center (next to Kohl's Department Store) on Temecula Pkwy/Redhawk Pkwy.

Please join us for a  
"Meet & Greet" time  
at 5:30 PM on  
Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
prior to the meeting  
at 6:00 PM.

We would like to get to know you.

**REFRESHMENTS**  
will be served!