

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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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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Black Arts, Printer's Devil and a Hellbox

By Dick Fox

(Compiled from multiple internet sources, and personal experiences)

The definition of a *Printer's devil* – an apprentice in a printing establishment who performed a number of tasks, such as mixing tubs of ink, fetching type, cleaning up after the *journeymen printers*, or attending to any other needed task. A number of famous men served as printers' devils in their youth, including Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, Warren Harding, and Lyndon Johnson.

The origin of the term *printer's devil* is not known with certainty. Many theories exist of the phrases origin, such as: *Printer's devil* may have come from the fact that areas of a printer's apprentices' skin inevitably would become stained black by the ink used in printing, and black was associated with the "black arts", the apprentice came to be know as a *devil*.

Another origin idea is tied to the fanciful belief among printers of old, that a special devil (the typographical personification of *Titivillus*) haunted every print shop, performing mischief such as inverting type, misspelling words or removing entire lines of completed work. The apprentice became a substitute source of blame and hence became a *printer's devil* by association.

Other theories include a tempest surrounding Gutenberg's business partner and his efforts at selling the early versions of Gutenberg's first printed Bible. Additionally a well known Venetian printer during the Renaissance was denounced by detractors for practicing the black arts (early printing was long associated with devilry) – his assistant was a young boy of African descent who was accused of being the embodiment of Satan and dubbed the *printer's devil*.

One possible contributing source comes from the fact that worn or broken type and lead materials were thrown into a *hellbox*, which the printer's devil had to take to the furnace for melting and recasting. The term *hellbox* was still in use when I started in the printing trade in the mid-1950's.

Occasionally people in these modern times get an opportunity to get up close and personal with the environment and equipment that was operated on a daily basis by our fore-fathers. Most recently our own Rebecca Farnbach had a chance to get ink on her fingers, smell the aromas of a hot pot of melted lead, and inhale the fragrance of solvents used to clean ink from type and presses.

(Continued on page 2)

**Thank You
Letter From
TVHS
Scholarship
Recipient**

Dear Mrs. Cude,

I am writing to you to thank you for the scholarship money you granted me back in April, I will be redeeming it soon and putting it to good use for books, supplies, and tuition for this next semester.

I just finished my first semester at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ, and it has been awesome.

I got a 4.0 this semester, which is even better than I did in high school, and I took English 105, Art Appreciation, a World Religions class, anthropology, and a class for my major, Geographic Science & Community Planning, where you do maps online and correlating projects.

Next semester I plan to take a seminar class to knock out a specific requirement, a water polo PE class, and 3 classes for my major: a community planning class, a world geography class, and a physical geography class, it's going to be fun!

Thank you very much again for your scholarship and support, and I hope your holiday season is very enjoyable and full of happiness.

Sincerely,

Reese Koltvet

(Continued from page 1)

On Saturday, October 4, 2014 Rebecca and Darell accompanied me as we attended the 6th Annual printer's Fair at the Printing Museum located in the City of Carson. Rebecca was able to participate in a demonstration operation of an old wooden framed printing press much like what was invented by Johann Gutenberg.

Rebecca learned how old printing ink was applied to a page of type with leather pads and ink made from fireplace soot and linseed oil – then as part of her hands-on experience had to lift the frisket to expose an area where precisely placed pins guide your eyes and hands to place a fresh piece of paper up against said pins which are secured on the tympan backing. Once the frisket is placed back over the fresh paper to help hold it in place, then the entire framed area has to be carefully lowered over the block of freshly inked type. Participants then had to crank on a handle which rolled the bed of the press back under the platen. With the framed type in position, it was time to pull hard on a long bar (also known as the Devil's Tail) which moves the platen (the pressure surface) against the back of the paper and down firmly upon the inked surface. Then the pressure is released on the long wooden lever, and the process reversed – moving the crank handle to reverse the “bed” out from under the platen area, which then allows for the opening of the frisket and removal of freshly printed image. Now the printer would be ready to start all over for another copy.

For those who have never had the opportunity to watch the multiple movements, turning pulleys, clanging levers, moving cams of a linotype machine are always in awe of “how does all of it work” – we were all able to observe the keyboarding of visitors names and completion of the “job” by watching as a completed line-of-type emerged from the machine. This is always fun, and enough to make one want to see another one done so that a different area of the machine can be observed.

The number of antique pieces of printing equipment in operation that day was a sight to behold, and one that all should experience. The International Printing Museum always has its Printer's Fair in early October, but they are also opened to the public on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. This museum is a worthwhile visit for anyone who has respect for the invention and importance of the printed word in our history. For more information check out their website at www.printmuseum.org. This will provide pertinent information such as address, hours of operation and descriptions of their extensive and world class collection.

Happy New Year!

2015 TVHS Upcoming Events

January 26 -- TVHS Monthly Meeting Program, Steve Clugston will present, "The Mexican American War at Our Doorstep".

February 23 -- TVHS Monthly Meeting Program, Robert Larson presents, "Men's Grandiose Schemes and Their Downfall".

March 23 -- TVHS Monthly Meeting Program, Karl Weiler shares his view of "What Really Happened at Ellis Island".

Monthly Meetings are held at 6:00 P.M. at The Little Temecula History Center - The Red Barn (next to Kohl's Department Store) on Temecula Pkwy/ Redhawk Pkwy.

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Gary and Eileen Penovich

TEMECULA MUSEUM NEWS RELEASE

If you have ever wondered about the names etched on the face of the huge granite monument featured in Sam Hicks Monument Park located on the corner of Moreno Road and Mercedes Street, you now have the opportunity to satisfy your curiosity.

The "They Passed This Way . . ." monument is the subject of a book just published by the Temecula Valley Museum in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Temecula. *Pioneers Etched in Stone* is a collection of brief biographies of the individuals whose names grace the four sides of the 15-ton monolith. Each of the individuals immortalized in granite played a role in the rich history of the Temecula Valley; many have streets named in their honor.

Written by museum staff writer Steve Williamson, the book chronicles that part of Temecula history which begins with the arrival of the Spanish missionaries and ends with the creation of the Vail Cattle Ranch which dominated the Temecula Valley for the first half of the 20th century. It is filled with photographs and illustrations which add interest and clarity to the biographical sketches. The biographies are grouped by category and arranged in chronological order.

A detailed description of the historical context precedes each group of biographies. Together they provide the reader with a clear understanding of the slow evolution of Temecula from a peaceful Indian village to a vast cattle empire.

The book is currently available in the Museum gift shop while supplies last.

February TVHS Newsletter

Anyone having articles to be included in the February newsletter should submit them to me by January 29th.

Judy Preimsberger, editor
email: pberger30@verizon.net

President 's Message

Snow! WOW, what a way to close out 2014 and greet the New Year. Did this snow storm meet or exceed any like storms from the past? Maybe we set a new "historic" benchmark?

As we ramp up for our 2015 activities - we do so greeting onto the board, long-time TVHS member Rebecca Farnbach, and we also have returning to the board Myra Masiel-Zamora. Many thanks and kudos to both Jimmy Moore and Darell Farnbach who were "termed out" on the board at the end of 2014.

We also begin the New Year as owners of a new EZ-UP pop-up canopy for use during our outdoor events. No need to "borrow" what is available from others. We will have it on display at our next monthly meeting, Monday, January 26 at 6 p.m. See you then.

Dick Fox

MEET AND GREET

Please join us for a "Meet & Greet"
time at 5:30 PM on
Monday, January 26th,
prior to the meeting at the Little Temecula
History Center at 6:00 PM.

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

They Passed This Way

by Rebecca Farnbach

Jack Roripaugh was one of the last of the old timers who lived in Temecula all his life except for a couple of years for military service. His grandfather, also named Jack, drove wagon loads of granite from the quarry to load into train cars in Temecula and later was the Vail Ranch foreman during most of the 1930s. The younger Jack's dad Leo did ranching on a spread of land from the present day Margarita Road to French Valley through the two Roripaugh housing tracts and along Murrieta Hot Springs Road across from the hot springs property. Jack's Uncle Louie was ranch foreman for the Vail Company from 1939 until the ranch was sold in 1964. Jack was a farmer and loved Temecula. He contributed many photographs for the "Images of America: Temecula" book, including several aerial photos he took while flying his own plane.

John Culbertson was one of the giants of the Temecula Wine Country. He was a premier winemaker and was considered one of the best champagne maker's in America. He and his wife Martha founded Culbertson Winery which is now the Thornton Winery. He and Martha helped to put the Temecula Wine Country on the map when they flew in Air Force One to Tokyo for a presidential trade mission. Their wine was served for two state dinners at the White House in 1986 and was the official wine of the American Orient Express train. He lived a life of adventure from serving as an ensign in the Navy and as an explosives ordnance disposal officer, then as a diver in the offshore oil industry and as a driver in the Baja 500.

*They may be gone but memories
of Jack and John are etched on our
hearts.*