

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

April 2015

Volume 12 – Issue 4

*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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## WHITE LINES ALONG THE HIGHWAYS

by Duane Preimsberger

Along the road between the towns of Temecula and Hemet are miles of white lines painted down the middle of the highway separating traffic traveling east and west. These lines are replicated throughout California and across the continent. The lines draw little attention as drivers negotiating the routes look at them as dividers between lanes and opposing traffic. No one stops and asks, “How did these lines get here, who had the idea to do this?” Therein lies the story and it is an interesting and unusual tale of a dedicated woman who thought she could do something to improve the safety of motorists on our highways, and she did!

The California Federation of Women’s Clubs published a book in 1991 called, “A Bouquet of Memories,” and within its covers is the story of the white line down the middle of the road and how it came into existence. In the fall of 1917, Dr. June A. W. Mc Carroll, a physician in the Coachella Valley, was driving her Model-T Ford along one of the 15 foot wide paved roads near Indio when she met a truck traveling in the opposite direction, the truck was loaded with cargo that made it about 10 feet wide. Although necessary, the soft sand shoulder was not an inviting place for Dr. McCarroll to be forced to drive on in order to avoid a collision with the truck. After the episode the good doctor decided to try and do something about eliminating what was a nerve wracking, white knuckle experience.

She began expressing an idea about painting central road lines to anyone who would listen; speaking to Chambers of Commerce, civic groups, local politicians and governmental agencies. Unfortunately, she didn’t get a lot of support for her idea; some thought that there weren’t enough cars or trucks on the roads to bother about it and still others thought the expense of painting a white line down the middle of all of the state roadways was too costly. Dr. Mc Carroll was so sure of her idea that she opted to try out the idea in a active manner. Dr. Mc Carroll got down on her hands and knees, paint bucket and paint brush in hand and painted a mile long, 4-inch- wide, white stripe down the middle of what was then Highway 99 near the town of Brawley.

Her efforts were applauded by the local residents who now had an accurate idea of where the center of the roadway was and the good Doctor

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was lauded for her efforts by many.

Even after doing that, Dr. Mc Carroll was frustrated by the lack of concern that emanated from the all-male audience to which she had been speaking so she opted to go in another direction. After five years of getting nowhere she decided to pursue her idea with women's groups.

Her first attempt was with the Women's Club of Indio, of which she was a member. She made a presentation to them based upon a recent doubling the width of a local highway.

Area truckers had explained to her that the edge of the older surface showed up plainly and aided them significantly in their efforts to determine where the center of the road was. As a result, her group agreed to support the white line idea and unanimously endorsed her proposal.

Soon, Dr. Mc Carroll carried the resolution to the various levels of women's clubs within the State and garnered complete agreement. The State Federation of Women's Clubs offered their support to Dr. Mc Carroll, developing their own resolution and endorsement for the white line proposal.

Finally, in 1924 after working tenaciously for seven years, Dr. Mc Carroll saw her great idea come to fruition with the California Highway Commission agreeing to paint white lines down the center of state highways. The concept became well accepted and before long other entities; cities and counties, states and nations were painting white lines down the middle of their roadways. Acclaim for a wonderful idea was slow in coming and it wasn't until 1999 that the vision of Dr. June A. W. Mc Carroll and the efforts of the State Federation of Women's Clubs were recognized by Cal-Trans as the first state-wide road safety program in California's highway history. Today, a small portion of Interstate 10 in the Coachella Valley is designated as the Doctor June Mc Carroll Memorial Freeway in honor of her distinguished efforts.

A dedicated and determined lady with a good idea wouldn't give-up and as a result of her pursuit of a concept, countless lives have been spared. Today, highways in California and across the Nation are safer because of her personal commitment to doing what needed to be done. Now if we could only assure that all drivers would recognize and comply with those white lines along the highways, Dr. Mc Carroll's dream would come true!

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## BOURIS RANCH TOUR

A TVHS tour is scheduled for Friday, April 17th, at the Bouris Ranch in Menifee. The tour begins at 10 am and lasts until 12 noon. There is no charge for TVHS members!

The Ranch has many antiques and old farm equipment. Our Docent, Betty Bouris, is the owner.

Anyone wanting to carpool should meet at the History Center (red barn) parking lot around 9:15 am on April 17th.

The address of the Bouris Ranch is 33751 Zeiders Road, Menifee.

If you plan to join the tour, PLEASE RSVP to Phil Washum at [pcwashum@verizon.net](mailto:pcwashum@verizon.net) or call Phil at (951) 201-0020 by Wednesday, April 15th.

### Anyone for a HARDTACK snack?

3 cups flour, 1 cup water, 2 teaspoons salt  
Place water & salt in mixing bowl and slowly add flour while stirring constantly until mixed thru, and mixture becomes too thick to stir, at which point enough flour has been added. Knead dough & roll out to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into 3x3 inch squares. poke 4 rows of 4 holes into each cracker with a large nail or skewer stick. Lay crackers on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Turn crackers over and bake for another 30 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Once baked they are very hard and will last a very long time as long as they are kept dry. Soak them in liquid (usually coffee) or fry them in animal fat to soften before eating.

### May TVHS Newsletter

Anyone having items to be included in the May newsletter should submit them to me by April 28th.

Judy Preimsberger, editor  
email: [pberger30@verizon.net](mailto:pberger30@verizon.net)

## TVHS UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 20 & 27th**, Rancho  
Elementary Third Grade  
Students will visit the Little  
Temecula History Center from  
9:30am - 12:30pm;  
volunteers are welcome.  
Please contact Rebecca  
Farnbach, 951- 699- 5148  
if you can help.

**April 27th, 6:00 Pm.**  
Dale Garcia will speak at the  
monthly society meeting on  
"The Violent Side of Temecula  
History."

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome new Member:  
Carolyn Cron

Thank you for renewing your  
membership:

Terry Bracci  
Roger & Lynn Cudé  
Suzanne Dechert  
David Elliott & Anne Miller  
Rod & Charlene Fink  
Richard & Charolette Fox  
Jerry & Darlene Gilbert  
Ken & Mary Lavezzari  
Dick & Evelyn Norris  
William & Claudia Perozzi  
Ray & Rosemary Smith  
David Strauss & family  
Norm and Betty Taylor  
Gerhard & Mia Thyzel  
Gene & Barbara Tobin  
Donald & Esther Trunnell  
Ronald & Judith Turco  
Bob & Julie Ulrey  
Peggy Webb  
Karl & Jan Weiler

# President 's Message

Once in a while something falls into your lap at the perfect moment in time. Recently the society was contacted by Jody & Robert Porter regarding a donation they wanted to make to TVHS.

It seems that over 40 years ago Robert inherited a cast iron school bell when his grandmother died. It was originally from Texas, and as Robert and Jody moved, the bell went with them.

In retirement, another planned relocation approached. Downsizing dictated that it was time to leave the bell in the loving care of others.

This cast bell from years gone by, will soon find a new purpose in life and become a "ranch bell" as part of the major restoration / rehabilitation of the Vail Ranch Headquarters site.

We appreciate and respect this wonderful donation, and are honored to be the new guardians of this piece of American history.

*Dick Fox*

**TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS** are held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Little Temecula History Center (red barn next to Kohl's) on Redhawk Pkwy/Temecula Pkwy at 6:00 pm.

Please join us for a Meet & Greet time at 5:30 pm, including refreshments.

We would like to get to know you.

**Thank You Letter From a 2014  
TVHS Scholarship Recipient:  
Emily Simpson**

"So far, my college experience (at UCR) has been great. I am taking classes I really enjoy, my roommate is great, and I meet lots of new people and learn new things every day.

Last quarter, I took three classes: Biological Anthropology, Introduction to British Literature and Introduction to Philosophy.

This quarter I am taking four classes: Archaeology, Medieval Art History, Beginning Sculpture +3D Design, and the History of Native American Indians.

Last quarter was my first Anthropology class which I loved; it was so interesting learning about the beginning of human culture and how we transformed into what our society is like today.

This quarter, my favorite class is History of Native Americans, which although it is an emotional rollercoaster as we learn about their history, I have also learned things about Riverside's past. Did you know that there was a boarding school in Riverside in the 1900's?

When I'm not in class or studying, my friends and I like to go eat and watch movies or explore Riverside by walking down to what is called the University Village."

**STAGECOACH RULES FOR PASSENGERS**

Many stagecoaches running through the primitive areas of the west, including Los Angeles County, in the mid and late 1800's adopted rules to assist their passengers enjoy a more pleasant trip. The rules were frequently posted in the stagecoach stations and sometimes to the ceiling of the coach itself.

1. Abstinance from liquor is desired in our coaches. However, if you must imbibe, share the bottle and don't overlook the driver. To do otherwise makes you appear mean spirited and selfish.
2. If ladies are present, gentlemen are urged to forego the smoking of cigars and pipes as the odor of same is repugnant to the weaker sex. Chewing tobacco is permitted, if you spit with the wind, not against it.
3. Gentlemen passengers must refrain from the use of rough language in the presence of ladies and children. This rule does not apply to the driver whose team may not be able to understand genteel language.
4. Robes are provided for your comfort during cold or wet weather. Hogging robes will not be tolerated. The offender will be obliged to ride outside with the driver.
5. Snoring is disgusting. When you sleep, sleep quietly.
6. Do not use your fellow passenger's shoulder for a pillow. He or she may not understand and friction could result.
7. Firearms may be kept on your person for use in emergencies. Do not discharge them for pleasure, or shoot at wild animals along the roadsides. The noise riles the horses.
8. In the event of a runaway, remain calm and try to stay in your seat. Jumping from the coach may kill you or leave you injured and at the mercy of the elements, coyotes and highwaymen.
9. Topics to be avoided in conversation include those that have to do with religion, politics and above all, stagecoach robbery and accidents.

Gentlemen guilty of unchivalrous behavior toward lady passengers will be put off the stage. It can be a long, dangerous walk back to the last station. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Info from "Little Known Tales in California History,"  
by Alton Pryor