

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

October 2017  
Volume 17 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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*(Most citizens of Temecula and surrounding areas are aware that Erle Stanley Gardner lived in Temecula on a ranch complex with the Great Oak tree. The following is a "news release" from William Morrow & Company, Inc. book publishers in N.Y. released circa 1960, and provides an interesting glimpse of Erle Stanley Gardner and his life while a long-time resident of Temecula.)*

## Meet Erle Stanley Gardner . . .

For over twenty-five years, millions of people throughout the world have been avid readers of Erle Stanley Gardner. His most famous creation, Perry Mason, has starred in over sixty books and is currently winning millions of new admirers through an hour-long television program on CBS. Mason has had more words written about him than any other character in fiction today and perhaps his staunchest admirers are among the legal lights of the country.

There is another vast group of people who know Mr. Gardner as the prime mover behind the Court of Last Resort, a unique venture in the annals of criminal investigation.

Crime on the one hand and justice on the other have been Mr. Gardner's chief concerns – both private and professional – throughout his life, and in many respects his career parallels that of his most famous creation, Perry Mason. Like Mason, Erle Stanley Gardner was for many years a practicing attorney in California and, like Mason, Gardner's chief concern was always the protection of the underdog, and he delighted in rushing to the aid of the penniless. The parallel goes on to very simple things, for it's a tossup whether Mason or Gardner is the better judge of a thick, juicy steak.

As a writer, Mr. Gardner is the unchallenged dean of American mystery novelists. Over 121-million copies of his books have been sold in the United States and Canada alone and a vast audience awaits the frequent serialization

(Continued from Page 1)

# Meet Erle Stanley Gardner . . .

of Gardner's mysteries in *The Saturday Evening Post*. There is no way of estimating accurately the number of copies distributed of foreign editions of his work. According to records, he leads the field in foreign translations and Perry Mason has now appeared in Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, and a number of the Indian languages.

The statistics on Mr. Gardner's private life are fascinating, too. A confirmed Westerner (who was born in Massachusetts), he not only has four hideouts scattered over California, but an entourage of house trailers. He works constantly and is never far from a dictaphone. He keeps five secretaries busy fulltime on his books and articles and his private correspondence alone sometimes totals 20,000 words a day. Mr. Gardner's home base is the Rancho del Paisano, a rugged 3,000 acre tract near Temecula, California, where his guests (usually associates in radio or television, or book or magazine editors) find available the rugged pastimes of the outdoors – archery, horseback riding, astronomy, etc. Gardner generally gets up at dawn, works before breakfast, then waits till his guests and household have gone to bed before dictating the bulk of his work.

Mr. Gardner is intensely interested in the problems of prison conditions and prison reform, and he has traveled throughout this country and Europe studying the latest developments in scientific methods of detection. He has also delved deeply into forensic medicine, lie-detector work and criminal psychology, and was a prime mover behind the famous Court of Last Resort.

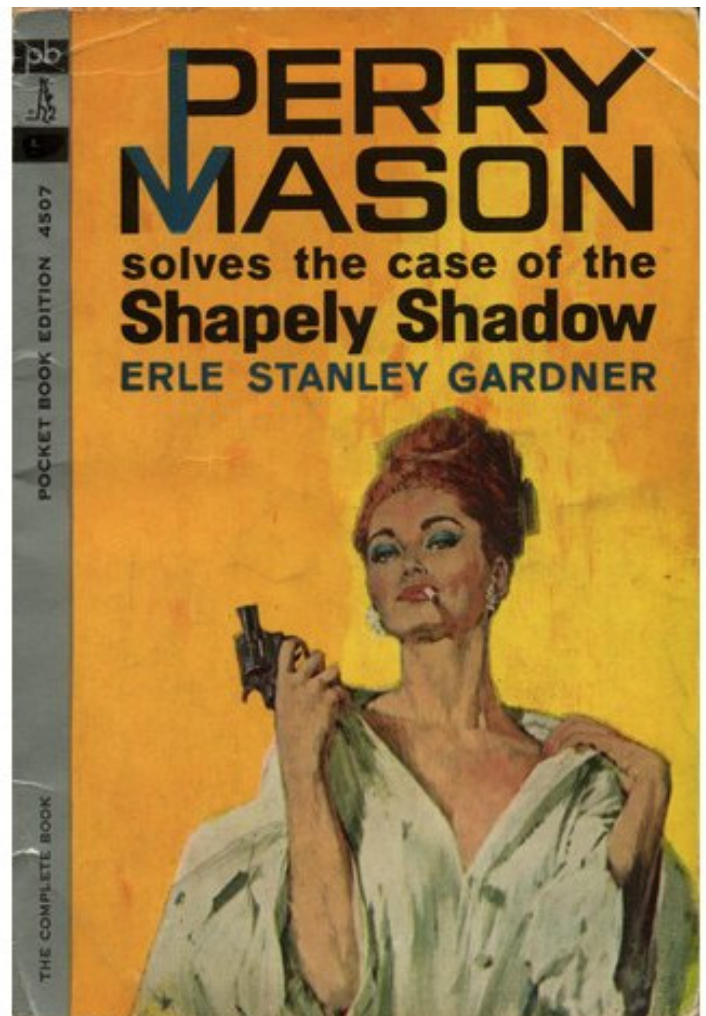
Gardner has talked widely on radio and television, and lectures extensively to law enforcement officers and bar associations. Recently he was asked to sit in on the founding of a civic group in Texas that is an outstanding example of what can happen when an informed citizenry takes action. There a group of businessmen was organized by John Ben Shep-

perd, attorney general, for the purpose of educating the public in its duties and responsibilities in the field of law enforcement. Gardner takes great pride in the achievements of these men. (He is also proud of the fact that he is duly appointed assistant attorney general of the State of Texas, an honorary citizen of the State, and a Texas Ranger.) Another Texan, in San Antonio, opened new law offices and named the conference room "The Perry Mason Room" which will contain, among other memorabilia, a complete collection of Perry Mason stories.

Today Gardner has no time to sit around analyzing his own success. He simply writes books that people like. Perry Mason is far and away the most popular fictional detective who ever trod the boards of a courthouse, but Gardner has also created some arresting private eyes – Bertha Cool and Donald Lam, whose adventures he recounts under the pseudonym, A.A. Fair – and, under his own name, the absorbing "D.A." series. He is a fine photographer, and has produced three excellent travel books with his own illustrations, Neighborhood Frontiers, The Land of Shorter Shadows, and Hunting the Desert Whale (1960). A new travel book, Hovering Over Baja, will be published by Morrow late in 1961.

Gardner's voluminous interests and enormous capacity for work have made him a unique figure both in literary and in legal circles. A few years ago, he wrote: "For me it's exciting to write mystery stories, and I have a wonderful time. Otherwise I would not have written them. If I ever get bored writing mysteries, I'll quit . . . I don't expect to get bored, however, and before too long I hope my hundredth mystery novel will be finished."

Gardner's 100<sup>th</sup> mystery, The Case of the Shapely Shadow, was published in 1960, and since then several more mysteries have appeared, with no sign of boredom on the part of either Mr. Gardner or his thousands of readers.



*The Case of the Shapely Shadow*, Erle Stanley Gardner's 100th mystery, and published in 1960.

# *ESG . . . a Measure of the Man*

*(Editor's Note: This is a copy of a response letter written by Erle Stanley Gardner to an admirer and fan, who had asked his opinion about her poetry. A carbon copy was in the files of Helene Seay, who was one of the secretaries on his staff from 1958-1965. The person's address has been eliminated, but the rest of the letter are Erle's words of advice and encouragement. I have tried to reproduce the letter as close to the original with no editing.)*

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Mrs. D. M. Murray  
Xxx Rochester  
Fall River, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Murray;

I am so darnned busy I have to ration my time and I can't write you in as much detail as I would like.

Your letter discloses a wonderful individual who is inclined to sell herself short, to discount her own qualifications and to dwell too much on the "failures" of the past.

When I started writing we had the almost unlimited market of the wood pulp magazines. Today, whether we like it or not, magazines are at a low ebb. The present magazines can hardly support the really first-class short story writers who are in existence today. This is a sad situation as far as writing is concerned; or perhaps I should say, as far as breaking in is concerned.

Don't ever, ever, ever destroy anything you have written. Don't ever think of yourself as a failure or deprecate anything you have ever done in trying to express yourself.

Unless I am a darnned poor judge of character, your writing has broadened your horizon, enabled you to develop a worth-while philosophy, and if you could only get over your sense of frustration because of missed opportunities you could probably start selling somewhere.

You're bucking a market which is pretty hard to crack.

Start writing for the religious magazines. Study the trade magazines. Start looking at the merchandising problems of your local merchants. See how they have solved those problems where they have solved them. Try articles for the trade magazines and you stand a chance.

Poetry is just about the hardest stuff in the world to market. Your poem about the chocolate box is a merchantable poem. Some magazine is going to buy that when you have changed the last two verses. Because of your thinking, you end on a note of futility. Get a new viewpoint. Show that the chocolate box holds treasures far beyond diamonds or worldly wealth, the treasures of love. Then show the inspiration that your grandmother has given to others; the love that has been of help to those who needed help; a guiding beacon to those who needed the constructive force of love in their lives. Show that the old chocolate box is a reflection of grandma's life and that her success in life, in her own quiet way, has been more outstanding than that of the biggest millionaire in industry.

Then after you have finished that poem look at your own life in that way. Quit selling yourself short. Quit thinking about lost opportunities and about the past. Start thinking about the present and the future.

Write to the National Writers Club, 1819 Gilpin Street, Denver 2, Colorado and ask them to send you literature. Quit thinking about your education being "forty years too late." Remember that you will never again in all your life be as young as you are today. Go to it and stay with it.

I'm returning your poems. Do something with that grandmother poem and start sending it to the better paying markets first. Start with the Saturday Evening Post. The chances are about one in a thousand, but you are going to start out now taking chances, thinking constructively, and being a winner. Wrap up your thoughts of failure and throw them out the window.

All my best,  
Yours,

ESG:hs

# Notable Women of Temecula

## Ramona Wolf

Ramona Wolf, a Chumash Indian woman, was born in Santa Barbara, California, but lived most of her life in the Temecula Valley. Ramona and her husband, Louis, had eight children; six sons and two daughters. The Wolfs owned and operated the Wolf Store Adobe that is still standing along the "Southern Emigrant Trail". The store was in the perfect location for travelers who were passing through the area, as well as for the 200 or so residents living here in the Valley at that time. Louis built rooms along both sides of their store for travelers and stagecoach drivers who wished to spend the night. During this time, the Wolf Store served as the community's main gathering place. Louis and Ramona befriended a famous author, Helen Hunt Jackson, who stayed with the Wolfs several times. Mrs. Jackson later wrote the novel entitled "Ramona", a fictional book based on real events. Come and meet Ramona Wolf (portrayed by Lynn Cudé) on Sunday, March 4th, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. at the Red Barn (next to Kohl's on Redhawk Pkwy/Wolf Store Rd.). Free admission.



Lynn Cudé portrays Ramona Wolf

## Ghost Tour of Old Town to Raise \$\$ for Scholarships

The Temecula Valley Historical Society is sponsoring a very special Old Town walking tour on Wednesday evening October 11<sup>th</sup>. October is the month for goblins, ghosts and scary tales. Historic Temecula has a few ghostly inhabitants in residence. Come learn some history and local lore from Dale Garcia of Temecula Candlelight Tours.

No one should go through October without hearing a few good ghost stories and no one tells the stories of Temecula's history better than Dale, a member of the Board of Directors of the Temecula Valley Museum and a member of the Temecula Valley Historical Society. The tour will begin at the fountain in front of Temecula City Hall promptly at 7p.m. **RESERVE YOUR SPOT EARLY** as the group will be limited to 40 participants. The cost is ten dollars with all proceeds going to the Temecula Valley Historical Society scholarship fund. RSVP to Bonnie Martland, scholarship chairman at: [bonnie@azteche.com](mailto:bonnie@azteche.com).

### — Member News —

#### *Welcome New Members*

John & Irene Kelsey

*Thank you for renewing your membership:*

Sue Blanch

Robert & Elaine Culverhouse

Dale & Colleen Garcia

Patricia Jennings

Mindy Johnson

Mary Lavezzari

Gerry & Andrea Nicholas

# Save the Date TVHS Annual Dinner

## Advance Reservations Required by October 30th

For those of you who receive this Newsletter by email as an attachment, you will also find a separate attachment as an Invitation to our Annual Dinner. Please print it out, complete the information and mail it with your check on or before October 30, 2017 to TVHS, P. O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593-0157. If you have any problem printing the Invitation, call Roger at (951) 695-0517. For those of you who receive a printed copy in the mail of the Newsletter, there will also be enclosed a copy of the Invitation to the Annual Dinner.

The dinner will be from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Assistance League located at 28720 Via Montezuma in Temecula.

The price of \$40 per person includes dinner and the evening's program.

Chuck Gunderson will present: "*The Beatles 1964 North American Tour*", a riveting 45-minute multi-media presentation about the Beatles. Chuck is the country's leading expert on the Beatles three North American concert tours. He is a well-known speaker on the Beatles, and we are thrilled to have him present our program this year.

The dinner will be catered by New Life Culinary Creations. The Buffet-style dinner includes an appetizer, mixed green salad, chicken tarragon, orzo rice pilaf, seasonal vegetable, a dinner roll, and of course, CAKE for dessert. Drinks include water, lemonade, ice tea or coffee. Wine will be available for a donation.

There will be incredible gifts to bid on in our silent auction. Many local businesses and TVHS members have generously donated items for the gift baskets that will be handed to the lucky people whose winning tickets are drawn.

To make the evening more fun, look in the back of your closet at home and find a 1960's outfit to wear! Seating is limited to 80 guests. We will begin advertising the dinner to the public on October 15th, so please be sure to send in your Dinner Reservation now. All paid reservations must be received by October 30th. You don't want to miss this event!

Questions: call Cheryl Cady at 760-822-2543 or email: [ccbissi63@gmail.com](mailto:ccbissi63@gmail.com).

## Notable Men of Temecula

Steve Clugston has agreed to head up the Notable Men of Temecula, and performances will begin in January 2018.

If you are interested in being part of "Living History" as an historical figure from this area, please contact Steve by email at [steveclugston@yahoo.com](mailto:steveclugston@yahoo.com) or call him at (951) 235-3608.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Every Sunday** — Sunday Funday at Vail Headquarters 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rides, activities, & demonstrations. Consider volunteering. Also don't forget the Tuesday's Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Now through November 12** — Gallery exhibit Temecula Valley Museum, *Eternally Yours* showcasing the art of Lisa Cabrera and her colorful presentation of the traditions of *Dia de la Muertos*.

**Entire month of October** — Haunted Carriage Rides on Friday and Saturday evenings. Also *Sinister Valley Haunted House* available on weekends 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 11** — 7:00 p.m. Ghost Tour of Old Town. Cost \$10/person. Reservations required. RSVP to Bonnie Martland at [bonnie@azteche.com](mailto:bonnie@azteche.com). Meet at the Fountain in front of City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 18** — 5-7 p.m. Informal get together at Vail HQ. Purchase pizza or sandwich & join us at picnic tables to chat.

**Thursday, October 19** — 2:00 p.m. at the Harveston Chateau, Elaine Eshom will portray Freda Knott.

**Monday, October 23** — Monthly TVHS program. 5:30 p.m. Meet & Greet with refreshments. At 6:00 p.m. Linda Barcelona will present "*Abigail Adams*". Regular monthly board meeting to follow, visitors are welcome to attend this monthly business meeting.

**Friday, October 27** — 6 -10 p.m. "*Starlight Bizarre*" at Vail Headquarters this will be final Starlight Bazaar of the 2017 season. Halloween activities, Haunted House, Spooky Characters roaming the grounds, Halloween Themed market, food truck, car show, Halloween photo Booth, Circus performers. Free admission. Under the stars live music, Haunted Carriage rides available for \$5. Shops open.

**Saturday, October 28** — Noon to 5 p.m. Halloween Jamboree, free trick or treating, costume parade, free Kid's crafts, pumpkin patch, games, lots of spooky Activities and photo ops. Haunted Carriage rides \$5.

**Tuesday, October 31** — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. "*The Legend Of Vail Hollow*" Haunted Carriage rides.

**Sunday, November 5** — 2:30 p.m. at the Red Barn, meet Jean Bethell, secretary to Erle Stanley Gardner who wrote the Perry Mason series and who also lived in Temecula. Free admission to the 30 minute program.

**Thursday, November 16** — 2:00 p.m. at the Harveston Chateau, Pam Grender will portray the author, Helen Hunt Jackson.

**Friday, November 17** — 5 :30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for our Annual Meeting and Gala Dinner at the Assistance League. The program for the evening is "*Some Fun Tonight*", which will be given by guest speaker Chuck Gunderson, who is the country's leading expert on the Beatles' North American concert tours. Advance reservations required.

# Spotlight on Members – Featuring – Jeffery Harmon

Jeffery Harmon is the president of the Murrieta Valley Historical Society and a current board member for Temecula. He is also a founding member of the Historic Route 395 Association.

He was born and raised in Torrance, California. He was never taught the local history of his hometown. California's history was all about the gold rush. Yet he recalls fondly the school field trips to the La Brea Tar Pits, or the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. As he continued to study history, his love for it grew deeper.

His family vacations took him to national and state parks, ghost towns or small town museums. When his grandfather bought 300 acres in Mariposa, California, Jeffery would explore the land searching for artifacts from the gold mining era.

The Harmon family moved to Temecula in 1987. Jeffery attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma for two years. In 1995 Jeffery and Michelle were married and settled in Murrieta, California. At the time, he made a living delivering pizzas and managing several Domino's Pizza stores.

It was at his cousin's wedding that he learned that his cousin had become a history teacher. Knowing that he couldn't afford to return to college, Jeffery became a docent for the Temecula Valley Museum and the recording secretary for the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

"I thought I had seen it all and done it all in California and I was ready to move to another state, but when I started studying local history, a whole new California was revealed."

It was during his time at the museum, that he researched and produced an exhibit on the history of Highway 395. During this time he proposed the installation of signs along the historic route. Many years later he was thrilled to see 395 signs installed in Temecula and Murrieta. In 2010, he and a few others formed the Historic Route 395 Association. Today through many donations, there are now over 140 signs in Southern California.

Jeffery and Michelle were blessed with twins, J.T. and Alexis. Jeffery has driven his family to many museums and historic places over the years, sharing his love for history. Currently his children are freshman at Murrieta Valley High School and are members of the school's marching band.

After fourteen years in the restaurant industry and three in a grocery store, Jeffery decided to complete his



**Jeffery Harmon**

college education. He attended Azusa Pacific University's Murrieta branch and received his degree. He became a substitute teacher for the Lake Elsinore Unified School District and then received a two and a half year full time teaching contract teaching Language Arts and Social Studies at a middle school.

Today, Jeffery has transferred to the Murrieta school district and is in hope of finding another classroom. Meanwhile, he continues to educate people about the area's local history. He researches and writes articles about local subjects and conducts public presentations.

"Many of us are transplants, but if we learn the local history, we develop strong new roots, and a pride in a place we now call home."

# 100 Years Ago . . .

*(Selected from the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column, October, 1917)*

## Issue of October 5, 1917

Philip Cazas, one of the trustees of the valley school is doing the hauling of the lumber for the new school building.

Eli E. Barnett went to Los Angeles Wednesday to buy himself an auto. He returned the next day driving a seven passenger Cadillac.

Richard Escallier, a very prominent young man is employed by the Santa Fe as assistant to the agent, Mr. Scott.

Paul E. Clark returned home from Santa Ana Monday noon. Mr. Clark had gone there to hire help for his beet fields.

Mr. Wickard of Murrieta a soldier boy of Uncle Sam, who is stationed at Long Beach, was a business visitor in town Saturday.

George T. Hall is the first Liberty soldier boy to leave for Camp Lewis from here. His many friends wish him good luck.

Juan Munoa has started to thresh his bean crop and expects good results.

Albert Banks and Tom Arviso went one day last week to Smith mountain deer hunting. They brought down a big buck in two days hunting.

Charles Clogston has started to top beets. He has a force of Mexicans doing the work. Mr. Clogston thinks that he will do fairly well this year, but expects to do better next year.

Last Thursday a big fire started between here and Fallbrook, right down the Temecula canyon. It came up the mountain south of town but did no damage. The only one who was in danger of having some damage was R. G. Fernald, who has his bees by the mountainside. But the fire died out before it got to his place.

George D. Pettrie, fireman on the Santa Fe, has just returned from his months' vacation. Most of his vacation he and other friends spent in the northern part of California and most of the time they were hunting for big game.

Roy S. Roripaugh, John E. Roripaugh, and Charles Roripaugh went last week on a deer hunt. They tramped all over the Cahuilla Mountains for almost ten days, but were very unlucky. They saw plenty of tracks, but no deer and returned home the last of the week empty.

Archie Dean Nicolas of New Port Beach is temporarily employed at the Valley Garage until Mrs. Catherine B. Fernald proprietor, finds one that she can employ for a long time. Mrs. Fernald has plenty of work for a good mechanic, but she is unable to find one because help is very scarce.

A.J. Troeger of Santa Monica who for the past year has been employed at the Murrieta Hot Springs was in town Wednesday evening visiting friends. About three years ago Mr. Troeger came in town from his home at Santa Monica. He did some good work around town. Mr.

Troeger is a carpenter by trade and last year he secured work at the springs and has been there since.

James E. Crew who plants spuds at the Pauba Ranch arrived from Los Angeles the first of the week and is hard at work with his crop. Mr. Crew was ill at Los Angeles for the past three months. He is almost well now, but a little week yet. Nevertheless he is looking after the spud business.

Mr. Singletaire, contractor and road builder in the northern part of California, was in town Monday transacting business. Mr. Singletaire is one of the Liberty soldiers who leave this week for Camp Lewis. He worked here during the building of the highway from the county line in Riverside three years ago.

## Issue of October 12, 1917

Albert Banks had the misfortune of losing a very valuable horse. The cause of the death is unknown.

Mrs. John W. Carr who for the past two months has been at her daughter's home at Sacramento, her daughter being under the weather but since she is well again so Mrs. Carr returned home the last of the week.

The Misses Edith Hall and Irene Carpenter arrived from Los Angeles Saturday night and were guests at Mrs. Hall's over Sunday. The two young ladies are attending school in Los Angeles. Miss Ethel is a daughter of Mrs. Lizzie M. Hall.

We have learned through a letter to a friend from Camp Lewis, American Lake, Washington that George T. Hall is getting along fine. George left here about two weeks ago with the Liberty soldier boys.

A large number of people around here visited the fair at Riverside and all say it was grand.

Doran & Daley, road builders and contractors are now building the Pala grade. They had two of their men in town the first of the week hauling hay, which was bought of Mac Machado.

Paul E. Clark is now hauling and shipping sugar beets. He has a large force of Mexicans doing the work. A few weeks ago he had suspended the work on account of help being so scarce.

Pat Speziali made a business trip to Riverside the last of the week going around by Winchester and returning the same day by way of Elsinore.

Elvetzi A. Cantarini assistant cashier at the bank went to Riverside one day last week on business interests.

Alex J. Escallier was at the fair at Riverside Friday and reports it being very interesting.

Mrs. Albert Banks returned home the last of the week from Escondido where she spent two weeks with her daughter Mrs. J. C. Rodriguez.

The new school building in the valley is nearly completed. In about two weeks more school sessions will be held in the new building and the old building will be torn down.