

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

January 2018  
Volume 18 Issue 1

*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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## Invasion of Temecula

# “The Invaders”

By Rick Reiss

*“How does a nightmare begin? For David Vincent, architect, returning home from a business trip, it began at a few minutes past four on a lost Tuesday morning, looking for a shortcut that he never found. It began with a welcoming sign that gave hope of black coffee. It began with a closed, deserted diner and a man too long without sleep to continue his journey. In the weeks to come, David Vincent would go back to how it began many times.”*

So begins the Prologue of the premiere-pilot episode of the 1960s sci-fi TV series *The Invaders*, starring Roy Thinnes as David Vincent, in which much of this historic episode was filmed on location in Old Town Temecula in March 1966. The episode, titled “Beachhead”, serves as a convenient video time capsule of Temecula’s Old Town area as it was some five decades ago. “Beachhead” was broadcast for the first time on the ABC Network on January 10, 1967.

The fast paced TV series was the brainchild of TV creator Larry Cohen, who modeled the show on the very successful “man-on-the-run” TV series *The Fugitive* as well as inspirations from past Alfred Hitchcock films like *North By Northwest*, *The 39 Steps* and *Saboteur* as well as 1950s era sci-fi movies like *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Allegories to the Cold War era and Americans’ concerns about communism were also implied themes throughout the series. Cohen’s envisioned TV project was picked up and supported by the executive producer TV guru Quinn Martin, a prolific creator and producer of a line of successful television shows spanning from the 1950s to the early 1980s. Some of Quinn Martin’s other very notable television programs included *The Untouchables*, *The Fugitive*, *The F.B.I.*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *Barnaby Jones*, and *Cannon*.

In 1979 Quinn Martin opted to sell his famous Quinn Martin Productions to the Taft Broadcasting Company, though he remained in business as the head of Q.M. Communications. Martin then moved to nearby Rancho Santa Fe in North San Diego County where he spent his time as a adjunct professor of drama at Warren College of the University of California San Diego, and he served as president of both the La Jolla Playhouse and of the Del Mar Fair Board. Up until his death in 1987, Quinn Martin was still working on studio projects for Warner Brothers.

*The Invaders* series featured some common themes in many other Q.M. Production shows. The leading man is a moral agent, even heroic, and seeks to right injustice while moving from location to location with different supporting guest stars each week as a new episode is broadcast. The TV hero is typically a solitary figure, like *The Fugitive*’s Dr. Richard Kimble, *The Invaders*’ David Vincent, or the private detectives portrayed in *Barnaby Jones* and *Cannon*.

The heroic and noble lead characters from these Q.M. series were all essentially on a type of quest. In Eliot Ness’ case in *The Untouchables* it was a quest for carrying out justice against bootleggers and organized crime. In Rich-

# *Invasion of Temecula by “The Invaders”* (Continued from Page 1)

ard Kimble’s case in *The Fugitive* it was a quest for his innocence. In David Vincent’s case in *The Invaders* it was a quest for truth and exposure of an alien conspiracy.

Another hallmark of Q.M. television shows is the segmented format in which each show is presented. An episode is broken down into six parts ... a Prologue, Act I, Act II, Act III, Act IV, and an Epilogue. This format was part of Quinn Martin’s success in presenting these varying stories to his audience in an entertaining, organized, focused and fast paced style.

The practice of selecting and utilizing non-studio filming locales was a routine practice of Quinn Martin and his production team and explains how Old Town Temecula was chosen as a locale for the “Beachhead” episode. According to Q.M. Production Manager Howard Alston ...

*“We filmed all over Southern California from the desert to the sea. We shot each episode in seven days, and averaged five days on location and two at the studios. The various storylines took David Vincent to different parts of the country but we always found what we needed within two hours of Los Angeles. On many a weekend, I would drive all over to find locales that would duplicate our scripted locations.”*

Obviously, Howard Alston most likely stumbled into Old Town Temecula during one of his weekend drives and determined that the town was an ideal film locale for the fictional ghost town of “Kinney” in the “Beachhead” episode.

The TV series *The Invaders* ran for only two years, 1967-1968 for a total of 43 episodes. Some attribute the ending of the series in 1968 to Larry Cohen’s early departure from the series and to a decline in viewership due to changes in the storyline in which David Vincent was no longer the solitary “man on the run” but became part of larger, organized fight against the alien conspiracy.

In “Beachhead” writer Anthony Wilson’s script serves to turn the lead character’s life upside down and then to propel him into a paranoid quest for truth. The protagonist, David Vincent, is isolated by a conspiracy directed by the alien invaders. Vincent’s sense of isolation and paranoia is further exacerbated by an uninterested, bureaucratic and even conspiratorial civil society and police department. This bleak scenario leads Vincent to the virtual ghost town of “Kinney” California, which was in reality the locale of Old Town Temecula where the production team filmed on site in March 1966.

The producers Quinn Martin and Alan Armer had hoped to premiere the pilot episode “Beachhead” as a 90 minute run premiere. With commercials and station breaks this could have filled in a two-hour time slot. The executives at ABC balked at this idea, so the 90 minutes was edited down to accommodate commercials and then fill the 8:30 – 9:30 pm time slot.

Producer Alan Armer had wistfully said that in its original form the pilot constituted *The Invaders’* finest and subtlest effort. In 1969 The Museum of Modern Art screened the unedited “Beachhead” but unfortunately it has not been seen since. Subsequent VHS and DVD releases have not restored the pilot to its full 90 minutes. The whereabouts of the complete pilot films are unknown.

## **According to Q.M. Producer Alan Armer ...**

*“When we finished putting all the pieces together, the pilot episode (“Beachhead”) was 90 minutes, and it was marvelous. It was believable, involving, masterfully written by Anthony Wilson, and beautifully directed by Joseph Sargent. Good directors (like Joe) extract the most from every scene. They look for human values and in realizing the potential of that scene, it becomes longer. My agent told me it was the best pilot he had ever seen. Unfortunately, we had to edit it down to 60 minutes. Quinn implored the network to broadcast it in the longer format, but they couldn’t do it due to commercial commitments.”*

One is left to wonder how many additional scenes of Old Town Temecula may have been part of this original 90-minute version. Yet there remains a special 60 minute extended version of “Beachhead” that can be seen as a bonus feature in the released DVD series of *The Invaders*. This is an additional ten minutes longer than the original January 10, 1967 broadcast episode of “Beachhead.” The 60-minute extended episode includes some of the missing story and scenes as well as a noteworthy film camera pan out of Old Town Temecula in the end credits.

The scenes of Old Town Temecula, i.e., the town of “Kinney”, feature several iconic and well known landmarks in the “Beachhead” episode. These scenes include the old bank building on Front Street, the Hotel Palomar on Front Street, the “Merc” on Main Street, the Welty Hotel on Main Street, and portions of the old Murrieta Creek Bridge. All of these landmarks are shown in *The Invaders* episode as they existed in March 1966. Most evident in the TV series’ scenes are the lack of sidewalks, the old



Circa 1966 – Screenshot “Beachhead”; Q.M. Productions

# Invasion of Temecula by “The Invaders”

(Continued from Page 2)

style power line poles lining the street, and the contrast in commercial development that is so obvious when experiencing contemporary Old Town Temecula today.

A comparison of some of the still shots of the fictional town of “Kinney” (i.e., Old Town Temecula) and current photos show stark contrasts between the Old Town of 50 years ago and the Old Town of today. Contemporary commercial and public improvements have since transformed the Old Town Temecula of 1966, then seen as an ideal filming locale for a spooky uninhabited ghost town, into the vibrant shopping and entertainment district that it is today.

Interestingly, *The Invaders*’ star Roy Thinnes had a couple recollections about the filming production in Old Town Temecula in 1966. Mr. Thinnes has noted that the production team requested that the residents in the Old Town area keep their windows and doors shut and curtains and blinds completely closed to give the town a creepy and abandoned quality. The residents happily complied.

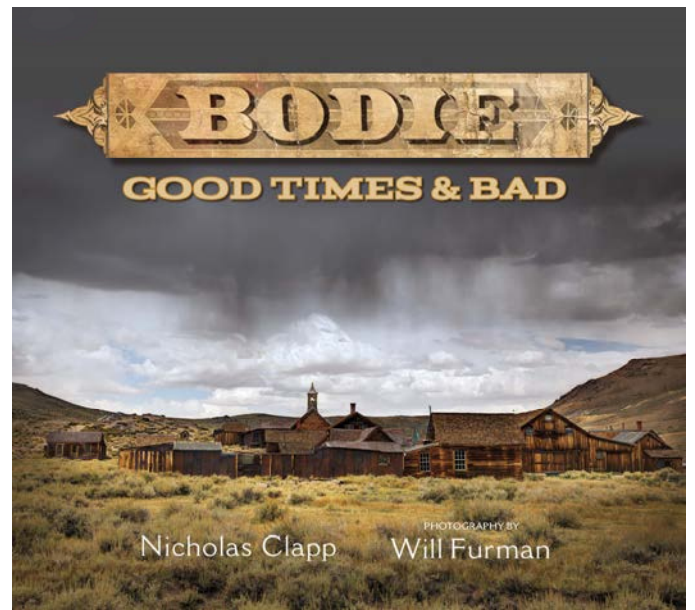
Roy Thinnes also mentioned that in the middle of their production schedule in Temecula, a helicopter with a messenger from the network was dispatched and landed in Old Town Temecula to deliver the news that *The Invaders* had been green-lighted for the 1967 season by ABC.

Coincidentally, Temecula has a couple other Hollywood sci-fi connections to it. Sci-fi and B-movie king Roger Corman produced 1974’s *Big Bad Mama* that starred actress Angie Dickinson and Star Trek’s William Shatner in a Prohibition gangster themed film. The Old Town bank building on Front Street was used as a locale for a bank robbery scene. In addition a 1994 episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* utilized Temecula Wine Country as a filming locale in the episode “All Good Things ...”.

Other lesser known films and TV series have been filmed on location in Temecula, but the “Beachhead” episode of *The Invaders* remains the one work that shows off the most of Temecula, even if it was some 50 years ago. Yet with all of the changes that have occurred in Temecula since the premiere of “Beachhead” there is a lot of untapped potential for future film and video projects here. Temecula awaits, and beckons the call.

—  
**“There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.”**

—Will Rogers



## Book Review

### **Bodie: Good Times & Bad**

Author Nicholas Clapp

Photographer Will Furman

#### **Book Review by Jeffery Harmon**

Nicholas Clapp’s book, “Bodie: Good Times & Bad”, is not a dime novel narrative spinning fanciful tales of murderous gunmen and tragic saloon girls in this Wild West gold mining town. Instead Clapp weaves a tapestry of the American lives, both criminals and citizens that broke ground at Bodie, building homes and creating a modest living. Clapp shares memorable community moments such as snowball fights, a 4th of July celebration, and the townsfolk’s excursion to the foothills of the Sequoia Mountains. Clapp demonstrates that the American spirit continued to forge ahead as fortunes rose and fell in Bodie.

Photographer Will Furman uses a unique technique that he calls, “inside out”. His images challenge one’s perspective by capturing a reflective scene within a scene. The photos command one to go beyond the stereotypical viewpoints of a ghost town, and to reflect on the lives of those that once called Bodie home.

Clapp and Furman’s collaboration is a pleasant journey. It will tug at the heart, beckoning adventurers to visit Bodie State Historic Park, to step into the shoes of the past, and to listen for the echoes of yesteryear. For those that enjoy tales of the American West or for those searching for a travel destination, I recommend Nicholas Clapp’s book, “Bodie: Good Times & Bad”.

Bodie State Historic Park is located in Northern California off of Highway 395.



Check it out . . .

## New Plaque in Old Town Honors Livery Stable

On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society presented Craig and Christy Puma, owners of The Bank restaurant, with a plaque to honor the Livery Station that once stood at the location of their business.

A livery stable was needed in a town where there was a train stop so a traveler could rent a horse and wagon to take him to his destination, much like we rent a car when we arrive in an airport today. But unlike the car rental business, a livery stable also took care of horses and wagons or buggies when a traveler left for a trip, charging a daily fee to feed and lodge the horse.

The Southern California Railroad established a depot in Temecula in 1882 across the Main Street bridge near what later became Pujol Street. Hugh McConville opened the livery at the corner of Main and Front Streets around 1888. It was a two-story building where animals and conveyances were stored downstairs near the blacksmith's work area and social events took place in a room upstairs.

As reliance on horses gave way to automobiles, the livery changed with the times too. When telephone wires reached Temecula, the switchboard was placed in the livery stable where it was manned day and night.

The livery stable was a gathering place to find out what was going on around town. On chilly days old men sat around the potbellied stove sharing yarns of the past while they waited to hear tidbits of current gossip. The room would empty when the train came because everyone wanted to see who came in on the train.

It was a big loss the day when the wood stove exploded and damaged the building beyond repair. The First National Bank of Temecula was constructed in the location of the livery stable in 1913.

The plaque reads:

*Former Site of the Temecula Livery Stable, Built by Hugh McConville around 1890. In 1909, the 50 X 100-foot building was called the Palace Livery Stable, with Frank Hall as proprietor. There were 25 stalls containing "stylish and speedy rigs" and two automobiles with twenty-horsepower engines. For a time, the town's only switchboard also was located here. The building was badly damaged in a woodstove explosion and was razed in 1912. Temecula Valley Historical Society, Installed 2017.*

**Photo top left** — Presenting the plaque to Craig Puma, were Rebecca Farnbach & Bob Kent, Plaque Committee.  
— Photo by Roger Cudé.



## Beyond Words:

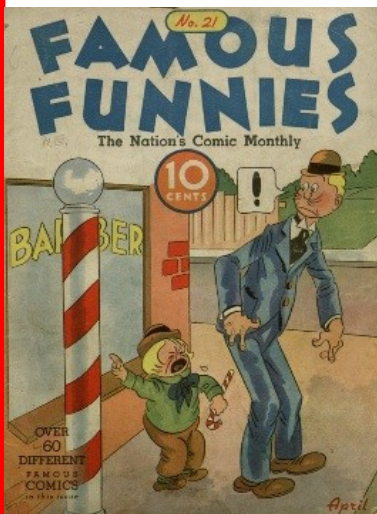
### Visual Narratives from the Block Book to the Graphic Novel

*Beyond Words; Visual Narratives from the Block Book to the Graphic Novel* is the current Gallery Exhibit on display at the Temecula Valley Museum through Sunday, January 21, 2018.

We often think of the comic strip as a rather recent invention, but the history of sequential graphic narrative begins with the history of art itself. *Beyond Words* picks up this thread toward the end of the Middle Ages, when early book printers in the West used carved wooden

blocks to stamp words and images onto the page.

In conjunction with the exhibit, on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6 pm**, the Temecula Valley Museum will offer a lecture from lifelong printer Dick Fox. Mr. Fox will explore the history and evolution of block printing, review important milestones and discuss the methods of transferring words and/or images to print for enjoyment and education.





### A Special Event

## About Annie Bergman With Music Prelude

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., please join us at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn) to hear the story of Annie Mendenhall Bergman.

Mindy Johnson of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, will present the life of Annie, who was born on Palomar Mountain and lived much of her life in the Aguanga area. During her 102 years of life, Annie was a wife, mother, store owner, post-mistress, ranch owner, community supporter, traveler, and good friend to many.

As part of the Notable Women of Temecula Living History series, Mindy will tell you about Annie and what life was like in this area from the early to the latter part of the 20th century.

Preceding the performance Anne Miller and David Elliott will sing and play some Bluegrass Music on guitar, banjo and dobro. You don't want to miss this program, so come early and see some of the latest changes to exhibits at the History Center. The family of Helene Seay has donated and loaned objects collected by Helene and her son Joel. A special display case has been set up for the items to be seen.

Open to the public at no cost.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, January 10** — Gerry Nicholas as Notable Man of Temecula, O.T. Hackett, will be performing at the Mary Phillips Senior Center at 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 11** — 6:00 p.m. at Temecula Valley Museum, Gallery Talk by Dick Fox as part of exhibit “Beyond Words”, about Block Printing & use of Graphics in narratives. See article on Page 4.

**Now thru January 17** — New Gallery exhibit opens at Temecula Valley Museum titled “Beyond Words . . .” which examines visual narratives from the block book to graphic novels. See story on Page 4 about exhibit.

**Monday, January 15** — 6:00 p.m. Monthly TVHS Board of Directors meeting, separate from program.

**Saturday, January 20** — 9 a.m. to Noon So. California Congress of History will meet at the History Center (Red Barn). All welcome to attend. It would be appreciated if some members could stay to give tours to guests following their meeting. Let Rebecca know if you can help.

**Monday, January 22** — Monthly TVHS program 6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet with refreshments, at 5:30. Gerry Nicholas will introduce us to O.T. Hackett a legendary area stage driver who regularly laid over and stayed the night at the Old Wolf Store hotel.

**Sunday, February 4** — 2:30 p.m. at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn), Mindy Johnson will present Annie Mendenhall Bergman, an influential woman who was born on Palomar Mountain and lived the remainder of her life in Aguanga. Annie and her husband owned a ranch consisting of thousands of acres of land in the valley.

**Tuesday, February 20** — Bonnie Martland as Mary Jane Welty, and Mindy Johnson presenting Maria Apis, will Perform at the Community Room, Murrieta Public Library at 10:45 a.m. Guests are welcome.

**Sunday, March 4** — 2:30 p.m. at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn), Lynn Cudé will present Ramona Wolf, who with her husband, Louis, operated the Wolf Store adobe (still standing today at Vail HQ).

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Thank you for renewing your membership:*

Kathleen Casas

Betty Condren

Mary Corona

Tracy Frick

Dale Garcia

Rod & Dee Reynolds



# Spotlight on Members — Featuring — Rick Reiss

Born in Monrovia California, Temecula Valley Historical Society member Rick Reiss grew up as the son of LAPD detectives in the Agoura-Calabasas area of Los Angeles County. After graduating high school, Rick served in the US Navy from 1983-1989. During most of his hitch in the Navy he was attached as an engineering crewman onboard the USS Robison DDG 12, a Charles Adams Class guided missile destroyer.

Rick deployed with his ship three times to the far Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. Each WestPac deployment saw Rick and his ship engaged in national security operations monitoring the then war between Iraq and Iran while ensuring the free access of international shipping lanes. As a young man and a sailor, Rick quickly developed a great appreciation and sense of gratitude for America as he was able to witness and experience many countries and different cultures where freedom, prosperity and basic human rights were often little or non-existent.

After leaving the Navy, Rick embarked on a 25-year career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons working as a HVAC Foreman, as a Project Manager, and serving in a variety of roles such as tactical team member, hostage negotiation team, institution property officer, and as a Command Center planner. While working full time for the prison bureau, Rick also studied and graduated from San Diego State University with a B.S. in criminal justice. In his job managing a variety of projects for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Rick became a sort of "unofficial" historian for his correctional facility in San Diego as he maintained and developed an expertise of the archives of prison blueprints, schematics, security project files, records, and lots of other items that reflected the changes in corrections philosophy and policy through America's contemporary history.

Rick married his wife Vicky in 1988 and they have two children, a daughter and son, both of whom are attending college. The Reiss family moved to Temecula in 2000. For several years during the mid-2000s, Rick wrote as a regular op-ed columnist for the local newspaper *The Californian*. Since retiring Rick has spent a considerable amount of time in The Philippines, providing support to his wife's family as her retired parents reside there permanently. For many years Rick has also been active with local civic clubs and with the Friends of Ronald Reagan Sports Park.

Rick had the opportunity in 2015 to relive some of his old Navy days as he was hired as a TV "extra" for the television series *The Last Ship* in which he found himself back at the San Diego Navy base onboard a new destroyer for on location filming. Rick has found the time in his retirement to become more involved with his passion for history through the Temecula Valley Historical Society. He recently conducted a presentation at Vail HQ about the 1960s era sci-fi TV series *The Invaders*, and its unique connection to Old Town Temecula. Rick looks forward to participating in more TVHS programs and activities in the future.

**Photo at right** — Rick Reiss taken at the Veterans' Museum in Balboa Park.





# Images from Annual Dinner

*(Selected from multiple sources by Roger Cudé and Cheryl Cady — November, 2017)*



How many tickets would you like?



Beatles items in silent auction



Enjoying visiting time and snacks waiting for dinner



Shari Crall introducing speaker Chuck Gunderson



Linda Robles and Suzanne Dechert as guests arrive



Working the raffle and auction

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Nancy Barrick - Realtor Consultant

[realtor.com/realestateagents/Nancy-Barrick\\_\\_\\_3109244](https://www.realtor.com/realestateagents/Nancy-Barrick___3109244)

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[beachplumkitchen.com](https://www.beachplumkitchen.com)

Beacon Home

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Bea's Classic Jewelry

Bella Allure Salon | Boutique

[bellaalluresalon.com](https://www.bellaalluresalon.com)

Bottled Treasures

California Chamber Orchestra

[calchamberorchestra.org](https://www.calchamberorchestra.org)

Cheflavor

[cheflavor.com](https://www.cheflavor.com)

Collective Scents

[collectivescents.com](https://www.collectivescents.com)

Curry Vineyards & Winery

41946 5<sup>th</sup> St, Temecula

Donna the Bag Lady

[superpages.com/bp/murrieta-ca/donna-the-bag-lady-L2651446094.htm](https://www.superpages.com/bp/murrieta-ca/donna-the-bag-lady-L2651446094.htm)

Gazette 665

[gazette665.com](https://www.gazette665.com)

Grandpa's Antique Depot

[grandpasantiquedepot.com](https://www.grandpasantiquedepot.com)

Hunter's Handcrafts

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Juice It Up

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My Farmers Markets

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Nectar Clothing

[nectarclothing.com](https://www.nectarclothing.com)

Nothing Bundt Cakes

[nothingbundtcakes.com](https://www.nothingbundtcakes.com)

Old Town Records

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Old Town Spice & Tea Merchants

[spiceandteamerchants.com](https://www.spiceandteamerchants.com)

Old Town Temecula Community Theater

[tickets.temeculatheater.org](https://www.tickets.temeculatheater.org)

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Salon 29 | Laura Vargas

[salon29.com](http://salon29.com)

Temecula Clay

[temeculaclay.com](http://temeculaclay.com)

Temecula Hotel

[thehoteltemecula.com](http://thehoteltemecula.com)

Temecula Lavender Co.

[temeculalavenderco.com](http://temeculalavenderco.com)

Temecula Olive Oil Co.

[temeculaoliveoil.com](http://temeculaoliveoil.com)

Temecula Presents

[temecula.gov/561/temecula-presents](http://temecula.gov/561/temecula-presents)

Temecula Valley Genealogical Society

[tvgs.net](http://tvgs.net)

Temecula Valley Museum

[temeculavalleymuseum.org](http://temeculavalleymuseum.org)

Terri's Treasures

Top Dollar Gold Exchange

[topdollargoldexchange.com](http://topdollargoldexchange.com)

Twin Oaks Golf Course

[jcgolf.com](http://jcgolf.com)/book-twin-oaks/

Unforgettable Moments

[unforgettablemomentseventrentals.com](http://unforgettablemomentseventrentals.com)

Vail Headquarters Farmer's Market

[vailfarmersmarket.com](http://vailfarmersmarket.com)

Vail Ranch Restoration Association

[vailranch.org](http://vailranch.org)

Visit Temecula Valley

[visitemeculavalley.com](http://visitemeculavalley.com)

Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards

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