

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

October 2018  
Volume 18 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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|-----------------------|------------------|
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*Monument at Ronald Reagan Sports Park*

### He Left Footprints and Shadows

# Ronald Reagan Passed This Way

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born into a poor family in Tampico, Illinois in February 1911. Shortly after finishing college in 1932 where he majored in economics and sociology, he worked as a sports announcer on several radio stations, but soon found his way west and became a noted film & television personality as well as an early labor union leader with the Screen Actors Guild, where he was instrumental in rooting out unsavory influences. However, before his death Reagan had been both Governor of California (1967-1975), and 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (1981-1989).

As a boy he was given the nickname of “Dutch” by his father due to his “fat little Dutchman” appearance and “Dutchboy” haircut. Later following his portrayal of George Gipp in the 1940 film *Knute Rockne, All American* he acquired the lifelong nickname of “The Gipper”. As President he became known as the “Great Communicator” and for “Reaganomics” which resulted from his views on supply-side economics.

In spite of the many nicknames, he never forgot his humble roots. As a child his family lived in an apartment above the neighborhood store. Later

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# Ronald Reagan Passed This Way

while residing in the White House he was quoted as saying “here I am again living above the store”.

While Governor of California the Reagans left their footprints in the area when they bought 771 acres near what is now Santa Rosa Plateau. He had come to know the area through an old friend, Bill Wilson who lived on a ranch in the area. Reagan did come to visit his acquisition and was quoted as indicating a desire to put a fence around the holdings, but later sold the land, choosing instead to build his retirement ranch near Santa Barbara.

President Ronald Reagan cast a positive and upbeat shadow upon Temecula when on March 3, 1983, in a speech before the United States Olympic Committee, he paid tribute to the nation’s can-do spirit, specifically citing the volunteers and donors of Temecula. He said: “There are similar stories right here in California, the folks in a rather small town, Temecula. They got together and built themselves a sports park, held fundraising barbecues and dinners. And those that didn’t have money, volunteered the time and energy. And now the young people of that community have baseball diamonds for Little League and other sports events, just due to what’s traditional Americanism.”

This first class monument in Temecula was made possible through the efforts of the Friends of Ronald Reagan Sports Park, a still active local Temecula area non-profit organization. They raised the money, communicated their design vision to the artist and the City of Temecula. As part of the installation and dedication of the monument, the name of the park was officially changed to the Ronald Reagan Sports Park. If you haven’t seen the monument up close, it is worth the time and effort to visit.

*At right — Close up of Reagan statue honoring volunteerism. His quote is etched into the black marble backdrop.*



## — Selected Ronald Reagan Quotes —

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”

“Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”

“Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.”

“If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

“When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat.”

“We must reject the idea that every time a law’s broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.”

“The most terrifying words in the English language are: I’m from the government and I’m here to help.”

“Some people wonder all their lives if they’ve made a difference. The Marines don’t have that problem.”

“The problem is not that people are taxed too little, the problem is that government spends too much.”

# Spotlight on Members — Featuring — Bonnie Martland

The oldest of six children, Bonnie was born in Trenton, New Jersey in 1946. Prior to her dad accepting a job with Hughes Aircraft when she was seven and moving to California, her family lived in the village of Crosswicks in a large colonial farmhouse shared by both sets of grandparents. Bonnie's mom was raised as a Quaker and the local Quaker meeting house still has a cannon ball in the wall from the Revolutionary War. After arriving in California, her family lived a few years in the San Fernando Valley before moving to Orange County. She graduated from Garden Grove High School in 1964, and Fullerton Junior College in 1966. Every summer the family of eight, and at least one dog, would pile into a station wagon for a vacation. Her Dad would hitch up the Airstream and they'd travel eastward, back to New Jersey; each year taking a different route, camping and visiting state and national parks. They eventually hit all 48 contiguous states plus parts of Canada and Mexico. Bonnie developed a love of country, a love of history and enjoyed sketching the places they visited. Her parents encouraged the interest in history and art, and even allowed her to paint murals on the living room walls! During high school Bonnie worked at Disneyland on holiday vacations along with another Garden Grove High classmate, Steve Martin.

Bonnie served in the United States Army from 1966 – 1969. Entering as a private with basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and some additional training at Fort Benning, Georgia. During basic training she applied for Officer Candidate School, following an interview received notice of acceptance. So then it was back to Fort McClellan for six months OCS training, then off to Department of Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. While there she met her future husband, John, who was at the base attending Adjutant General School. During her three years of service she primarily worked in officer recruitment, particularly working with nurses so badly needed during the Viet Nam War.

After leaving the service, John accepted a teaching job in La Habra. Bonnie returned to school, where she earned a B.A. in Journalism and History at California State University, Long Beach, and a Secondary Teaching Credential. After student teaching eleventh grade history at her alma mater, she taught four years in Torrance and began working on a M.A. in History before accepting a teaching position in Temecula in 1979. Taking graduate classes at California State University, Fullerton, University of California, Irvine, University of California, Riverside, University of California, Berkeley Extension and Chapman University she earned, additionally, an Elementary Teaching Credential, certification in the Visual Arts, and an M.A. in Educational Administration.

She wrote the first Visual Arts Curriculum Guide for the Temecula Valley Unified School District, served as a mentor teacher, served on district and regional Visual and Performing Arts Committees, taught for the University of Phoenix and served as President of the Temecula Teachers Association, as did husband John, and in 1996 Bonnie was the TVUSD teacher of the year. Bonnie and John's 3 children have blessed them with seven grandchildren, ages 3- 26. Their oldest grandson just got married in September. Also part of their family is a seven-month old golden retriever puppy and a gray and silver tabby cat.

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**Bonnie & "Abe" at Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg in Nov.**

## Spotlight on Members — Featuring — Bonnie Martland

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Bonnie enjoys reading history books, playing the flute, and painting, and particularly likes working in acrylic, ink and watercolor and has recently had exhibits at Temecula City Hall, Temecula Valley Museum and Grace Mellman Library. She will be exhibiting at the library in December and the Merc in January. She also enjoys researching and writing about the Civil War, local history and family genealogy. Bonnie's 95-year-old mother is her mentor, and has written a book a year for the past eight years.

Bonnie is currently taking piano lessons, and she and John recently got season passes for Disneyland... two bucket list items! Bonnie also finds time to participate in TVHS Notable Women of Temecula as Mary Jane Welty and Elena Coutts Dear. She is a past president of TVHS and as a board member has most recently been chairing the Scholarship Committee and writing articles on local history for the *Valley News*. Bonnie belongs to a number of local organizations; and currently serves on the board of directors for the Temecula Valley Historical Society, Temecula Valley Museum, and Murrieta Educational Foundation for the Arts.

### \* Notable Women of Temecula \* Presentations Scheduled

Beginning In January 2019, the Notable Women of Temecula will be performing at the Little Temecula History Center on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month at 2:30 p.m. Mark your calendar. The programs are open to the public. Presentations already scheduled are:

**Sunday, January 6th**, Lynn Cudé will be portraying Ramona Wolf, the wife of Louis Wolf, who owned the Wolf Store Adobe. That building is still standing today at the Vail Ranch Headquarters. Come to hear the fascinating story of Ramona's life here in the late 1800's.

**Sunday, February 3rd**, Elaine Eshom will present Freda Knott who was a well-known Teacher, Librarian and School Board Trustee. This 15-minute presentation will be followed by Mindy Johnson, recounting the life of Maria Apis, a Luiseno Indian woman who inherited the Little Temecula Rancho.

**Sunday, March 3rd**, Bonnie Martland will portray Elena Coutts Dear, a descendant of a prominent Californio family, who lived both at the Rancho Guajome Adobe, and later at Rancho Santa Rosa.

**Sunday, April 7th**, Mindy Johnson, will present Annie Mendenhall Bergman, a well-known business owner, rancher, postmaster, and world traveler who lived most of her life in Aguanga.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday, Oct 5** — Every Friday and Saturday evening in October there will be "Headless Horseman" Carriage Rides at Vail Headquarters from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 7** — Sunday Fundays at Vail HQ each Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. Demonstrations, vendors, music, rides on train and stagecoach. Family fun free. First Sundays Mompreneurs are vendors with their home-based business products. Also be sure to visit the VaRRRA folks in the Water Building antique store.

**Monday, Oct. 8** — 6:30 p.m. Open House Temecula Valley Genealogical Society. Community Room Temecula City Hall. Multiple organizations participating with displays and information.

**Wednesday, Oct. 10** — Ghost Tour of Old Town, led by Dale Garcia. \$15 per person (fundraiser \$\$ go to TVHS Scholarship Fund). Meet at Old Town Fountain in Front of City Hall 7 p.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 18** — Tour of Camp Pendleton, Chapel, Historic ranch house, munitions depot & Los Flores adobe. RSVP to Phil Washum by Oct. 8 info needed on all who are attending. Meet at Red Barn 8:30 a.m. for carpooling and specific gate entry instructions.

**Monday, Oct. 22** — 6:00 p.m. monthly program of the Temecula Valley Historical Society to be held at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn), Dr. Anne Miller will present: "Measuring Land in the 1800s."

**Friday, Oct. 26** — 5 pm to 10 pm. Last Friday in October "Starlight Bizarre" at Vail HQ. Halloween trick or Treating and games for kids. Night markets with vendors, live music, carriage rides, and entertainers.

**\*\* Mark your calendar \*\***

**TVHS Annual Dinner Saturday, November 17th  
at the Assistance League  
See below, more info to follow.**

### Donations Needed for Annual Dinner

**TVHS is seeking donations of event tickets, goods, services, or destinations, to be auctioned or raffled at our Annual Dinner on 11/17/18. Funds raised go to restore and preserve Temecula's historic past and fund college scholarships. New items of value are sought, i.e. balloon ride tickets, golf, hotel vouchers, gift certificates or items from local merchants. Items will be combined to create baskets worth a minimum of \$50. Auction and raffle items have been a staple of TVHS' ability to fund projects preserving Temecula's wonderful history. To donate, please contact Shari Crall at 951-323-6509 or [sscrall@gmail.com](mailto:sscrall@gmail.com).**

**Request donations be received by October 15.**



You are cordially invited to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of the:  
**Temecula Valley Historical Society**

Saturday, November 17, 2018 from 5:30 pm until 9:30 pm  
 at the **Assistance League of Temecula**  
 28720 Via Montezuma, Temecula, CA 92590  
 The price of \$40 per person includes dinner and the evening's program.

**Our invited speaker is JEFF MINKLER, presenting on  
 "RANCHO CALIFORNIA: THE KAISER ROLE"**

Jeff's career with Kaiser Aetna brought him to Temecula at age 30, when the town's population was just 1000 people. He will share the inside story of the vision and efforts creating modern day Temecula after Kaiser's 1964 purchase of the 64,000 acre Vail Ranch.

Introduction of the 2019 Board of Directors and Officers  
 Silent Auction and Opportunity Drawings with new & unique items  
 Social Hour at 5:30 - Appetizers at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm – Program Presentation at 7:30 pm  
 A portion of the dinner proceeds will go to the TVHS Scholarship Program

Please complete the form below and return it with your check  
**RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018.**

**TVHS Annual Dinner Reservation**

Saturday, November 17, 2018 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**Menu:** A buffet dinner featuring appetizers of assorted Bruschetta, a mixed green salad with dressing, an entrée of Rosemary Chicken with lemon butter sauce, roasted potatoes, sautéed zucchini and mushrooms, with croissants & butter. Drinks include: iced water & coffee. Wine will be available. Delicious cakes will be served for dessert.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend but will assist with a donation for TVHS scholarships. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The cost is \$40 per person (Guests are welcome!). Seating limited to 80 people.  
 Make checks payable to: **TVHS** (checks must be received by November 1<sup>st</sup>) Tickets will be held at the door.