

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

June 2022
Volume 22 Issue 6

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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A Challenge at times . . .

Getting Your Mail

We've all heard about how the Butterfield Stage route was established to deliver mail to towns and villages along a route. Many times mail destined for an area not on the path of the stage had to rely on their mail being picked up by a relay person, sometimes on horseback to bring the mail to their small area or ranch.

Many of us who grew up in larger cities remember seeing Postal Carriers walking their routes toting large leather bags and walking up to each front door of houses to deliver the mail, or perhaps a Parcel Post package.

Rural America has experienced a variety of mail delivery methods over the years, initially having to get into the nearest village, or town where families picked up their mail at a local Post Office. This evolved over time to having an individual box out by the road, then to "clusters of boxes" at an intersection of roads.

Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was a program the US Postal Service began in late 19th century much to the dismay of town merchants that were fearful that families would no longer make weekly visits to town to pick up their mail at the Post Office and shop while in the village or town.

With the advent of RFD, catalog sales companies started such as Sears, Montgomery Ward and others to address the needs of rural America. Products available by mail order ranged from pills to "cure" incontinence, to corsets and bib overalls, and even "kits" to build a small home.

The implementation of RFD was slow at times and varied in many areas. Temecula and Southwest Riverside County were no different than many others. At times utilizing a combination of all the earlier methods, and depending on the local Postmaster could include individual personal delivery.

Recently TVHS members Annie Borel and Judy Jones shared some

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Getting Your Mail

memories on the TVHS Facebook page regarding mail delivery and have indicated we could share their remembrances of mail and package delivery.

Annie Borel said, “The Auld Post Office area (of French Valley) was divided between Murrieta and Winchester when train delivered the mail to the Murrieta and Winchester Post Offices...The Murrieta Hot Springs area and beyond was Rural Route 2. The Auld Post Office was on Benton, and Pourroy Rds., so Benton Road became the division line between Murrieta and Winchester addresses. Funny some people don't understand that both Murrieta and Temecula were defined by the rancho boundaries, and French Valley butted up against the ranchos. Our mailman at the Auld Post Office, Mr. Surbaugh, would bring the mail from the Winchester train stop, and even occasionally bring visitors from the train, or stop at the Rienagans dairy across the street from the Auld Post Office for you in his travels if you asked him to.”

Judy Jones remembered, “It was the different Ranch's that determined many things back then. Mom was Postmaster in Temecula for 22 yrs, starting in '50/'51 to early '70's when she retired. No home mail delivery in the early days. Mr. Hewitt (brought each town their mail every morning, would go back to Elsinore with the outgoing mail in late afternoon). His day was done. Christmas Eve he'd bring down another mail run for mom and go home. No home mail delivery back in the beginning. He and Mom did this after their work was over because many people got presents through the mail (Sears/Montgomery Wards etc). At 5 o'clock after PO closed, I'd go with her driving out to the ranches, workers homes, family's on the Rez, to deliver any last packages in case they were Christmas gifts that didn't make it to the PO in the morning run . . . just the way it was back then, taught to think of helping and checking up on others, didn't think anything of it”

Interestingly enough in today's city residential areas we are seeing “cluster boxes” to service multiple family homes within an easy walk of your front door. Packages from many sources are delivered to your front door or porch for ease of pickup or theft.



An early mail delivery buggy like the one In TVHS collection.



Photo from an earlier school tour as students arrived by bus and are lining up in manageable sized groups for learning at various stations.

Recent Society Activities

During the months of April and May our dedicated volunteers provided part of the 3rd-grade instruction local history curriculum for students by giving tours of the Little Temecula History Center and Vail Headquarters and setting up learning stations. By the time we finish this season, we will have given tours to over 500 students.

An employee at the State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed our nomination of Vail HQ for National Historic Registry status and has requested more information that our Research and Preservation Committee is finalizing now.

Have you noticed the Little Temecula History Center is freshly painted and the trees are trimmed?

President's Message

June, 2022



Last month I wrote about our need for folks to step forward and help fill some open positions on our Board of Directors, as well as volunteer for a couple of our standing committees that need additional participation. We are still in need of that assistance.

However as you can see with the brief update of recent activities on Page 2 of this newsletter our steady and stalwart volunteers who help with the school groups have continued to come through like the champions they are all during the busy months of April and May. We always look forward to these enthusiastic learners.

It is indeed a joy to watch their faces when the impact of learning what ancestors endured on the long journey of life that is now part of the indelible history of that youngsters family genealogy.

Many parents who homeschool their children come by the History Center to inquire about individual family unit tours, or perhaps an organization of homeschoolers getting a group tour.

We have had family groups visit the History Center, and sometimes the little ones take to heart what they hear, and then literally set about to implement the use of facilities such as the "outhouse".

— Dick Fox

— Membership News —

New Members, Welcome

Helen Jeong

Ryan and Nellie Kleinvachter

Diane and Jeff Lawrence

Renewing Members, Thanks for your support

Arlie Bergman

Terry Bracci

J.D. Chinaeff

Suzanne Dechert

Betsy and Ralph Domanski

Tom Frew

Wendy Lesovsky

John and Bonnie Martland

Gerry and Andrea Nicholas

Claudia and William Perozzi

Barbara Phillips

Bonnie and Ken Reed

Nathan Russell Vail III

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Every Tuesday** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vail HQ Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.
- Wednesday, June 1** — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reliance Church event. Music on stage.
- Friday, June 3** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. LIVE music every Friday evening on stage at Vail HQ from May to August. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to set up and enjoy.
- Saturday, June 4** — Time TBD Musical performances by the talented students at the School of Rock.
- Sunday, June 5** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.
- Friday, June 10** — 6 to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series. Live music. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, relax.
- Saturday, June 11** — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thistle and Sage Vegan Market. Vegan friendly vendors and food, other family activities.
- Sunday, June 12** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.
- Friday, June 17** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series, live music. Bring lawn chairs & blankets.
- Saturday, June 18** — Wellness Market presented by Grazing Theory.
- Sunday, June 19** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment, and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.
- Friday, June 24** — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Summer Concert Series, live music. Bring lawn chairs & blankets.
- Saturday, June 25** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Customer Appreciation movie night hosted by Mogul Real Estate. 100+ invited guests expected.
- Sunday, June 26** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday Family fun, entertainment and vendor market. Antique store open and rides on train or stagecoach available for kids.
- Monday, June 27** — 6 p.m. monthly history presentation, IN-PERSON at Little Temecula History Center (red barn next to Kohl's). Steve Lech will present a program called Desert Denizens, featuring some of the many characters who lived in the back country east of Temecula in days gone by, such as miners, philosophers, eccentrics, and humorists., all played a role in the desert.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — June 1922

June 1, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Friedemann, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett, and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands motored to Perris last Wednesday evening to attend the O.E.S. chapter seven. Candidates were initiated and a very pretty program was given afterwards.

Mrs. Charles Kelly, sister of Henry and Harvey Gray passed away Tuesday morning at San Diego. The body was shipped to El Centro for interment.

A prominent passenger agent of the Santa Fe announced a week or so ago that his company intended to build a railroad from Blythe through the Imperial Valley to Warner Hot Springs, thence to Temecula and Fallbrook. This is the answer to the Santa Fe's enormous land and water project in the Warner Hot Springs district. The land purchased outright by the railroad company together with the expense of impounding and distributing such a tremendous amount of irrigation water, runs the figures far into the millions. When the dam is completed fifteen thousand acres will be subdivided into small tracts with ample irrigating water for each tract.

Five cars of mules were received last week and driven to the Warner's dam now under construction. Mrs. Vern Spivey's parents Mr. and Mrs. Welsch of Rushville, Indiana, arrived Tuesday and are planning to spend the summer here. Vern Spivey has erected a radio station at his home and now expects to be able to hear concerts every evening.

June 7, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Joe Welty has been quite ill but is much improved at this time.

Mrs. W.M. Friedemann cut her hand quite seriously last Thursday.

Mrs. A. Knott, Mrs. Vern Spivey and Mrs. Spivey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Welsh of Rushville, Indiana, motored to Oceanside Saturday. They stopped at Oak Park grove and had lunch with Murrieta picnickers.

Mr. Cunningham, traveling freight and passenger agent for the Santa Fe was calling on the business men of the city last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oloff Erickerson and family of Elsinore and Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann picnicked at Oak Grove Sunday.

June 16, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Friedemann and son, Billie, attended the ballgame at Elsinore Sunday afternoon and stayed for the picture show in the evening.

W.H. Haynes spent several days in Los Angeles last week with his nephew from Boston, who was attending the Rotary Club convention there.

The Temecula Valley Lumber Co. received a car

of shingles and a car of lumber from Washington; also two cars of cement, Monday.

Eight Southern Sierras men from Riverside are registered at the hotel and are here to place the poles for electricity for the Pauba ranch. No doubt Temecula will have electricity in the near future. A car of poles was received for the Southern Sierras Power Co., Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Corgan have as their guests, Miss Madeline Corgan and Miss Johnny Johnson, of San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walters and daughter, Peggy, spent the weekend fishing at Oceanside.

Lynn Smith and family left Sunday for Cuyamaca Lake and Boulder Creek, where they will camp and fish for two weeks. The Thomas Haverty Company, of Los Angeles, has an excavator working on the Pauba ranch, digging irrigation ditches.

June 23, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. James Chrisman of Los Angeles are visiting at the home of Mr. Dan Cantarini. Mrs. Chrisman is an old school chum of Mrs. Cantarini. Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. James Chrisman and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cantarini motored to San Jacinto Sunday to see an old school chum of Mrs. Chrisman and Mrs. Cantarini. They all picnicked in the mountains near San Jacinto.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips who are spending the summer here with their daughter, Mrs. Vern Spivey, spent several days last week camping and fishing along the beach north of Oceanside.

June 30, 1922

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. Birge of San Bernardino, Freddie Kelsey of Escondido, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bemis are enjoying two weeks vacation camping at Quemaca.

Walter W. Schiffer of Stockton was registered at the hotel the first of the week. He was here trying to buy potatoes for northern points.

Miss Bessie Escallier returned Sunday from Spokane, Washington, where she has been visiting her sister for over a year.

The first car of cement for the Warner dam was received Tuesday. Henry Gray has the contract to haul it from here to the dam.

Vail Bros. shipped a car of honey to San Francisco last Thursday.

Chester Barton loaded his first car of potatoes Monday. He is expecting between thirty-five and forty-five hundred sacks for the market this year. These potatoes were grown without irrigation and are of the finest quality.

Mr. F.H. Hall has opened an ice cream parlor in the Ramona Inn and is now ready to serve the public.

Mr. Schaschabeck of San Bernardino is relieving Ed Bemis while he is on his vacation.