

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Volume 11 – Issue 2

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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Photo above is the 1926 Temecula Baseball Team with names listed on the back of Alex Escallier, Willie Arrow, Saturnino Calac, Ben Amago, Otto Hungary, Albert Golsh, Chas. McVicker, Chas. Escallier, Steve Connley & Elzie Freeman. Photo of the Champion 1921 team not available and if anyone knows where we might get a copy we'll publish at later date. Photo above courtesy of John Moramarco.

Temecula Area Team

1921 Riverside County Baseball League Champs

By Jeffery Harmon

On July 13, 1921, the Riverside County Baseball League was organized. The League consisted of eight communities: Temecula, Murrieta, Elsinore, Banning, Beaumont, Perris, San Jacinto, and Hemet (2 teams). The teams were playing for the silver cup, presented by A. G. Spalding and Son and the B. H. Dyas Company of Los Angeles. The games were held each Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Eight teams would play and the ninth team would sit out.

The Temecula Indians home diamond was at the Murrieta Hot Springs Resort. The team lineup was Ramez, Hogee, Cheeto, Calac, Sharpe, Art Escallier, Vetzle, Pete Calac, Tano. (LEVP, August 19, 1921) Tano was the star pitcher. Newman was the relief pitcher. Hogee was known as the heavy hitter for the team. Elizabeth Nienke, writer for the Lake Elsinore Valley Press newspaper, followed the Temecula Indians throughout the season.

When the teams would play out of town, friends, family and fans would follow. Elizabeth Nienke wrote, "The rooters and team

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P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593
951-302-9536
www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org

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Calendar Of Events

February 26 & 27 – Borrego Springs, Southern Trails Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association. To include tour of Warner's Ranch area including an archaeology excavation site.

Monday, February 28 – Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Steve Lech, will speak on the history of the formation of Riverside County. Plus brief update on National Historic Trail project for So. Emigrant Trail.

Monday, March 28 – Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Dr. Thomas Long, (TVHS Board Member), and history professor at Cal State San Bernardino will talk about the California Gold Rush.

Monday, April 25 – Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Murray Lee, Curator of Chinese American History at the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum will present "The Story of Ah Quin" patriarch and railroad labor broker within the S.D. Chinese community of the 1880's and beyond.

Monday, May 23 – Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Presentation on De Anza Trail history, and a video of the annual trail ride event conducted by the De Anza Caballeros.

County Baseball Champs 1921 (Continued from Page 1)

left early in the morning and made a jolly picnic day of it. The ladies of the crowd served a delicious lunch for the team and their friends at noon. At 2:30 the game began, which proved to be one of interest and ended in a score of 10-5 in Temecula's favor." (LEVP, September 9, 1921)

As the season progressed, a rivalry developed between Perris and Temecula. Perris had their star player, Jimmy Concannon, "the Great Carl Mays of the Perris ball team." On October 9, Perris and Temecula met at the Perris diamond. The home team was confident that they could win the game.

A Temecula baseball fan wrote, "*At the beginning of the game everything was pretty and everybody had a big smile on their face, but in the eighth inning everything turned wrong for the Perris team and the fans, and Gloom began to show up. The rooters slowed down and their automobile horns could not be heard anymore, but the Temecula fans kept up their good work . . . During the ninth inning the Perris fans turned their automobiles toward their homes as they knew they had no chance. After the game it was quite difficult to see any of their fans or ball players on the street.*" (LEVP, October 14, 1921)

The Temecula Indians continued to dominate the season. Bentley, Elsinore's pitcher, described the November 13th match against Temecula. "*The Elsinore Champions (I am not saying what kind of champions) tried to do things to the Temecula leaders but as usual found themselves receiving an unmerciful beating, before they realized the game was on. Albert Golch who was playing baseball when Elsinore was a young puddle, did the pitching for the opposition and had everything on the horsehide from hops to near beer, and yet he had a good kick. Our pitcher developed a wooden arm and was relieved by a quail hunter with a south paw, who spent the rest of the P M. hunting the plate. Two of our team was picked from the spectators. This cut the gate receipts seventy cents and improved the ball game less.*" (LEVP, November 18, 1921).

At the end of the season, Perris and Temecula were tied for the league championship. A three game series was played to determine the winner. On November 27th, the first game was played at the Perris diamond. Most spectators expected to see the Temecula Indians easily defeat Perris. However, Perris came out swinging fast and hard. They scored fourteen runs and held Temecula at one run. "*It was the worst defeat of the season and came as a great surprise to the crowd. . .*" (LEVP, December 2, 1921)

On December 4, the two teams met at the Murrieta Hot Springs diamond. The Temecula Indians were on their home turf, but the Perris team was not deterred. Tano pitched a perfect game for Temecula with Perris only scoring two runs. Concannon, of Perris, didn't fair so well, with Temecula scoring five runs for the win. The third and final game would determine the championship.

Temecula and Perris once again crossed bats on December 11th. One of the largest county crowds descended on the Hemet diamond to witness the final game. Excitement was high as fans prepared to root for their favorite players. One reporter

President's Message

Welcome to our new members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society Board of Directors Bonnie Reed, Myra Masiel-Zamora and Dr. Thomas Long who joined the Board for January's meeting.

Our last regular business meeting of the Board was this past October, so we found we had a lot on our plates as we started 2011. End of the year reports, committee updates and a substantial docket of old and new business pressed us past our hour time frame, but quite a bit was accomplished.

Perhaps most importantly, major committees now have chairs and committees will be meeting to set goals for the upcoming year. Positions are still open for additional committee volunteers; and for a volunteer to serve as TVHS historian. Our next meeting will be February 28, at the Little Temecula History Center.

Bonnie Martland

Membership Activity New

Karen Drain

Renewals

Steve Lech

Gerhard & Marielouise Thyzel

Roger & Carole Honberger

Hedwig Roripaugh

Community Little Book

Donald & Doris Coop

Rod & Charlene Fink

John Martland

Norm & Betty Taylor

Dale Garcia

Rhine & Sandy Helzer

Jimmy & Peg Moore

Dick Fox

Mahlon Wilkinson Lawton

John Moramarco, Sr.

County Baseball Champs 1921 (Continued from Page 2) assessed the teams, "*The Indians are fast players, having played some splendid games. . . The Perris nine also have done good team work and are noted as 'heavy swatters'.*" (LEVP, December 9, 1921)

Perris fought hard, but was no match for the Temecula Indians. The final score was 10 to 3 in Temecula's favor. The Indians won the Riverside County Baseball League Championship. One reporter exclaimed, "*The husky redmen have the reputation of being fair square scrappers, and are being congratulated on having taken first place in the county baseball league.*" (LEVP, December 16, 1921)

The silver cup was brought back to Temecula and put on display at the G. A. Burnham and Son store. The 1921 championship gave the small cow town at the end of the railroad tracks something to brag about.

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From the Archives . . .

Lake Elsinore Valley Press, June 10, 1921

Death of Leopold Cantarini Shocks Young Man's Friends

Temecula, June 8, 1921 - The community was shocked Saturday morning by the sudden death of Leopold Cantarini, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Cantarini. Death came after a few hours struggle with double pneumonia. He was taken ill on Thursday and was not thought to be in any danger. He seemed to grow better but a change for the worst came very suddenly and he passed away at six o'clock Saturday morning before the doctor reached him. The body was taken to Riverside where the funeral services were held on Tuesday morning, June 7th, from the St. Francis de Sale Church, Father O'Reaga officiating. The body was laid to rest in the Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside, many friends gathering to pay last tribute. Besides a host of friends he leaves to mourn his loss his father and mother, three sisters, Mary, Angeline and Serena, and four brothers, Joe, El Vetsey, Johnnie and Dan.

Leopold Cantarini was born in Switzerland thirty three years ago and came to this region with his parents when but a tiny lad. He has been one of the valley's foremost ranchers, being in partnership with his brothers in cultivating vast areas of land. He was a man of pleasant personality, quiet, unassuming, a man of his word and always to be depended upon. No young man has a nobler record than Leopold and his death is felt keenly by all who knew him. He was noted for his strength and good health and when one so young and strong is taken so suddenly the shock is most severe. The grief stricken mother's life was despaired of for a time but she is gradually rallying. The heart felt sympathy of the entire community is extended to the stricken family.

April 29, 1907, Los Angeles Herald

Temecula Rancher Dies

Franklin H Cobb, for twenty years a prosperous rancher at Temecula, Riverside County, died suddenly Saturday afternoon at the home of W. W. Culver, 938 McGarry Street, Los Angeles. Mr. Cobb came to Los Angeles about two weeks ago, death being caused by valvular disease of the heart. The body will be taken today to Temecula, where the funeral will be held tomorrow.

Historic Route 395 Group Formed in Local Area

Historic Route 395 began with Indian trails and mission roads. Then stagecoaches thundered down its path. Early in the 20th century, the automobile came rambling through. Next came the paved Inland Route as part of the State Highway System.

It became known as, "The Three Flags Highway", traveling from Mexico to Canada. Finally it was realigned for military defense, and nicknamed "The Cannonball Highway".

In 2008, California State Legislation designated Route 395, an historic route from San Diego to the Oregon state line. Now the baton has been passed to the cities and communities along the route to celebrate this historic highway by installing state authorized signs along the route.

The Historic Route 395 Association has been formed to advise and encourage local organizations to become involved installing signs from San Diego to the Cajon Pass. Members have worked with city and county officials to have signs installed in Fallbrook, Rainbow and Temecula.

If your organization is interested in supporting the project of having these signs installed in your area, we can advise and assist you in this endeavor. Route Members are available to give presentations and/or lectures on Historic Highway 395 for your organization.

For more information contact Jeffery Harmon at jethrosire@yahoo.com.

Barnyard Poetry

(Editors Note: In December, 2000 our own Bill Harker published a booklet entitled "Barnyard Poetry". In it he recorded a number of poems he had written, and gave copies to all his children. Bill was kind enough to share his last copy for a quick read -- to pick out one or more that are appropriate to share with our readers.)

The Owl

*From his book of Barnyard Poetry
Penned By Billy Allen Harker*

Some say the owl is very wise
No doubt because of his big round eyes.
He doesn't seek his prey by day,
But would rather hunt at night
When he can hide in a great big tree
Completely out of sight.

He'll set up there and give nary a hoot
While watching on the ground his dinner scoot
Small rodents are his favorite choice
Like baby squirrels and full grown mice.
And baby kittens it's been said
To his chicks are often fed.

He eats it all both fur and meat
Even tails and the little feet.
But bones his stomach agitates
And it's just such things he regurgitates.
That's how you tell there's been an owl around
When you see such stuff all over the ground.

Although sometimes it's a pet he gets
It's hardly reason to fume and fret.
He's just doing his job as assigned by God
To help mother nature maintain her balance
And to keep our homes free of rats
As well as fearsome blood sucking bats.

So if by chance some fine day
You find yourself and an owl at bay,
Leave him alone and let him sleep
He's probably tired from an all night jaunt
Looking for a creepy place to haunt.

Temecula Public Cemetery Now Has A Cenotaph

The Temecula Public Cemetery now has a memorial wall known as a *cenotaph*. A *cenotaph* (noun, SEN-oh-taff) is a tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person or a group of persons whose remains are elsewhere. Citizens of Temecula can honor or memorialize a revered loved one who is or is not buried in the cemetery. For more information, cemetery staff can be reached at 951-699-1630.