

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

July 2011

Volume 11 – Issue 7

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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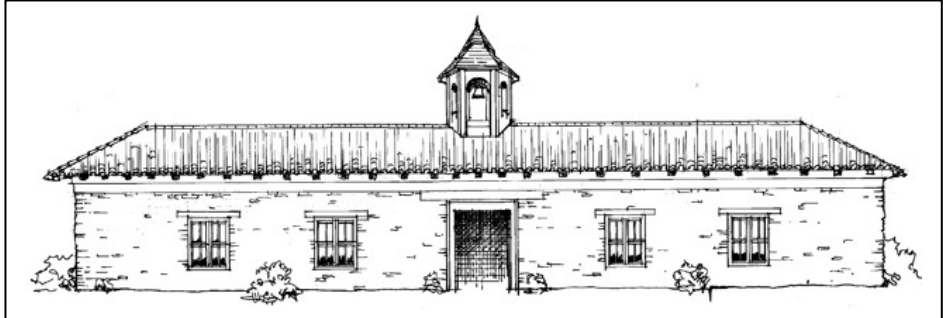
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Many early Ranchos started with haciendas much like the one in this illustration, and then were expanded as the needs of the occupant families grew and changed.

Save the Date of July 16

TVHS July Tour Event to Focus on 2 Area Ranchos

(Compiled from brochure literature and Internet information)

Rancho Buena Vista

Rancho Buena Vista is a fine example of a well preserved adobe from the fabled era of land grant ranchos. The hacienda is a single-story adobe brick structure in the Monterey style, set on a two-foot thick cobblestone foundation.

The original land grant of 1,184 acres was issued in 1845 by Governor Pio Pico to Felipe Subria, a Luiseno Indian and Christian convert. He later deeded it to his daughter Maria La Garcia Dunn (thus the "D" brand). The Dunns eventually lost it to Jesus Machado to satisfy a debt. When Jesus was killed in Mexico, his son inherited the rancho. He in turn lost it in a bank foreclosure, and in 1860 the title went to Lorenzo Soto, a prominent Los Angeles businessman and politician, who "struck it rich" gold prospecting. After Soto's death, his wife married Thomas Alvarado and they sold the Rancho to Cave Johnson Coutts for \$3,000 in 1866.

Over the years ownership of the adobe transferred from Coutts' through a couple of generations of his descendants. Eventually in 1920 F.J. Knight purchased the property. The Knights spent a great deal of money to refurbish the adobe, and when Harry Pollard, a movie producer and his wife, Marguerita Fischer Pollard, a popular silent screen star, saw the rancho, they loved it. The Pollards spent in excess of \$150,000 to renovate it into "the most beautiful home in San Diego County." During the Pollard's ownership from 1931 to 1951, a landscape architect named Arthur Fields took great pride in the orchards and gardens, making it a beautiful retreat for the film stars from Hollywood. Joan Crawford of movie fame was a frequent visitor, and gave

(Continued on Page 2)

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, July 16 --

Society tour of 2 Ranchos that have been well preserved and are open to the public. Tour specifics are detailed elsewhere in this issue. Join us for a wonderful look at 2 early California haciendas.

Monday, July 25 –

Monthly Meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Darell Farnbach will do a presentation on "Ranching California Style".

Monday, August 22 –

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Jennifer Albin, Archivist at The National Archives in Riverside will give presentation about the facility and what is available for viewing.

Monday, September 26 –

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Bonnie Martland will give an overview of the Civil War.

Monday, October 24 –

Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Steve Clugston will present "Temecula's Civil War: The Showalter Affair".

Membership Activity

New Member

Dr. Thomas Long

Renewals

Patricia Lallou

Dr. Leeland & Helen Lovaas

Naomi Woods

Area Ranchos Tour (Continued from Page 1)

the Pollards the magnolia tree which stands today in the main courtyard.

In 1951 when Mrs. Pollard sold the Rancho to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Ried of Las Vegas for a summer home. He was a partner of the Golden Nugget Casino and paid \$85,000 for the remaining eight acres. They made many upgrades to the adobe and used it as a summer home for six years.

In 1957 Dr. and Mrs. Walter Weil purchased the Rancho. He was an ophthalmologist from Toluca Lake. They furnished the Adobe with a collection of antique European furniture and paintings.

The Weil's sold to Rudd and Sally Schoeffel in 1972 who lived in the home and then in 1989 the City of Vista acquired the Rancho.

Rancho Guajome

Rancho Guajome was also a Mexican land grant from Governor Pío Pico to Andrés and José Manuel, two Mission Indians. The name comes from the Luiseño Indian word meaning "frog pond". The grant was south of San Luis Rey River and Rancho Monserate and north of Rancho Buena Vista.

The brothers sold the land to Abel Stearns. Stearns held onto the land for a few years before giving it to his sister-in-law, Ysidora Bandini, as a wedding gift when she married Lieutenant Cave Johnson Coutts in 1851. Stearns was married to Ysidora Bandini's sister, Arcadia.

Cave Johnson Coutts (1821–1874), was a native of Tennessee and was a nephew of Cave Johnson. Coutts graduated from West Point in 1843, and came to California in 1849 as a U.S Army lieutenant in the forces occupying California following the Mexican–American War. Coutts left the Army, and settled in the area. He married Ysidora Bandini, the daughter of Juan Bandini in 1851.

Coutts began buying property and developing political influence in the area. Coutts also eventually owned Rancho Buena Vista and Rancho Vallecitos de San Marcos. Having been appointed sub-agent for the San Luis Rey Indians in 1853, Coutts employed Indian labor to improve his many properties.

By the time the Coutts family settled on Rancho Guajome in 1853, Cave was prospering by supplying beef and leather to the Bay Area during the gold rush era. After Coutts's death in 1874, the Rancho was managed by his son, Cave Coutts, Jr. (1856–1943).

-- July 16th Rancho Tour Specifics --

On Saturday, July 16 TVHS has scheduled 2 tours. The first tour begins at **Buena Vista Adobe** in Vista at 10am. Cost \$4/adults and \$3/seniors. It is located at **640 Alta Vista Drive** and is across the street from the Vista Civic Center. Parking is available at the Civic Center. There will be plenty of time between tours for lunch on your own, then proceed to Rancho Guajome. The tour at **Rancho Guajome** is scheduled for 2pm and the cost is \$3/adults. It is located at **2210 N. Santa Fe Ave, Vista.**

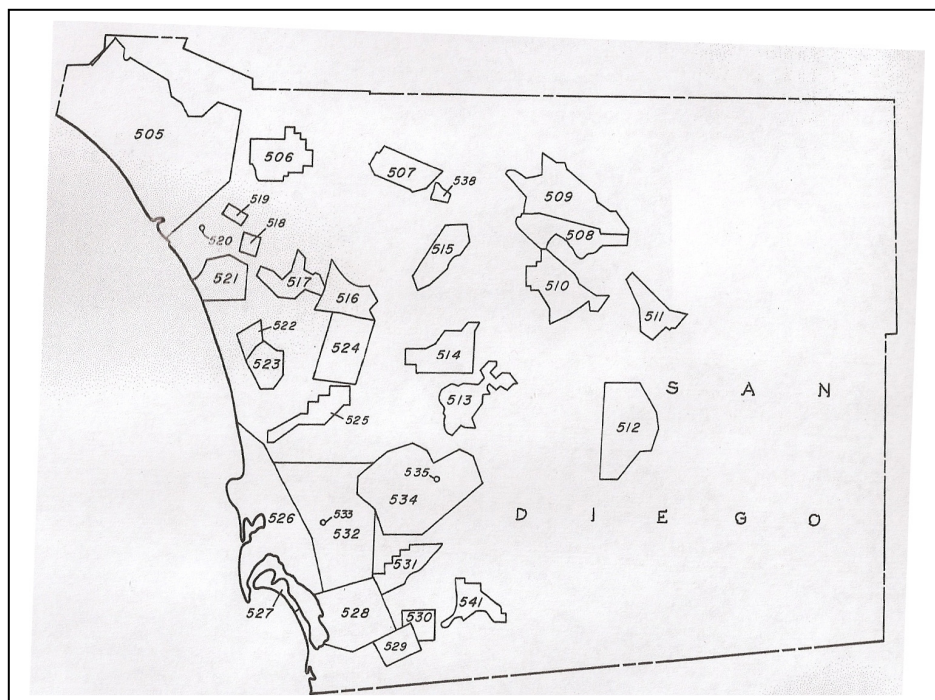
Both facilities are **NOT** wheelchair accessible. The adobes have several steps and uneven floors. They will accommodate people using walkers, just not wheelchairs. Further info contact Lisa Woodward at lwoodward@verizon.net or (951) 514-7406.

President's Message

At last month's meeting the Board of Directors of the Temecula Valley Historical Society voted unanimously in opposition to the proposed Liberty Quarry to be built just south of Temecula. A motion passed that I attend the June 22nd Riverside Planning Commission hearing and make a statement on behalf of the board. I arrived at 8:30 AM, to fill out my request to address the commission and get it in ahead of the crowd. I expected I'd have some wait time until I could speak, as expert testimony would be heard before public testimony could begin. My turn to speak came a few minutes before 10:00 that night. Had I realized I would have so many hours to wait, I don't know if I would have stayed, but I'm glad I did. It was a very emotionally charged day, but also a very interesting and informative day. The public hearing concluded after midnight.

I don't know the number in attendance, but the group was large. As one person after another spoke it became clear that most of these folks were knowledgeable and took their role as informed citizens seriously. Appropriate for this month in which we celebrate our nation's independence and democratic ideals, several speakers used the words of Thomas Jefferson to remind the commissioners that our government and, by implication, the commission "derives its just powers from the consent of the governed." It was also pointed out that, "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Only four people, as I recall, during the 15 hour hearing, spoke in support of the quarry. It was "self-evident," a speaker reiterated, that for Temeculans the pursuit of happiness meant no Liberty Quarry.

Bonnie Martland



From "Historical Atlas of California" (1974 -- Univ. of Oklahoma Press)

Mexican Land Grants -- San Diego County

Grant	Name	Acres
521	Agua Hedionda	13,311
518	Buena Vista	2,288
535	Canada de los Coches	28
513	Canada de San Vicente y Mesa del Padre Barrona	13,316
534	El Cajon	48,800
538	Cuca or El Potrero	2,174
512	Cuyamaca	35,501
515	Guejito	13,299
519	Guajome	2,219
513	Jamacha	8,881
541	Jamul	8,926
522	Los Encenitos	4,431
525	Los Penasquitos	8,486
533	Mission San Diego	22
532	Ex-Mission San Diego	58,875
520	Ex-Mission San Luis Rey	53
506	Monserate	13,323
528	La Nacion	26,632
530	Otay (Dominguez)	4,437
529	Otay (Estudillo)	6,658
507	Pauma	13,310
516	Rincon del Diablo	12,654
524	San Bernardo (Snook)	17,763
527	San Diego, Island of	4,185
523	San Dieguito	8,825
509	San Jose del Valle	26,689
510	Santa Ysabel	17,719
505	Santa Margarita y Las Flores	133,441
514	Valle de Pamo or Santa Maria	17,709
511	Valle de San Felipe	9,972
508	Valle de San Jose (Portilla)	17,634
517	Vallecitos de San Marcos	8,975

Editor: Highlighted in **bold** above are both Buena Vista and Guajome, note by the acreage total that they were both very small grants, especially when compared to Santa Margarita y Las Flores (where Camp Pendleton is today) at 133,441 acres.

Out of the Archives

Area Barn Fires Costly To Locals

*(Lake Elsinore Valley Press,
January 14, 1921)*

By Olive Miller

Saturday evening about 5 o'clock the large barn owned by George Lambert took fire in some unknown manner and in just a short time was all in flames as a north wind was blowing. Eight or ten tons of hay, 50 chickens and \$100 worth of machinery, besides the barn were his loss, at least \$1000. Vernon James lost between 24 and 50 tons of hay, which was insured. A. J. Sykes lost 175 tons of hay, insured, and 25 tons of rent hay for the Pauba ranch. The wind carried the fire to the barns and shed of the Fountain House and only by strenuous efforts of the citizens was the hotel and tank house saved. Mrs. K. E. Sleeper's loss is about \$2500. She wishes to thank everyone who worked so hard to save her home and helped in the readjustment and caring for the furniture.

At 5 o'clock Monday morning the Holiness church was discovered to be on fire. As a high wind was blowing, it soon destroyed the building and but for the timely sprinkle of rain that end of town might have burned, as the wind blew the burning shingles all over the block. No one knows the origin of the fire. The Holiness people wish their friends to know that they will hold services in the cottage across the street by the guild hall until they can rebuild. The fire coming so soon after the one Saturday evening looks as though the fire bug has come to Murrieta.

Out of the Archives

Pauba Ranch Has New 300-HP Power Plant

(From the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, February 8, 1924)

The Southern Sierra Power Company has recently installed a new sub-station on the Vail Brothers Pauba Ranch, three miles south of Temecula, capable of developing 300 horse-power, which will be used for domestic purposes and in the operation of the 5 pumping plants on the ranch. The largest well flows 225 inches of water.

In addition to the many beef cattle now ranging on the 95,000 acre Pauba ranch, 120 head of fine dairy cows are kept, the milk being shipped by truck to Los Angeles for retail trade. The herd is cared for by strictly up-to-date methods, and is subjected to the monthly tests made by Mark Butterfield for the Riverside County Testing association.

Mahlon Vail, one of the owners and manager, states that E.D. McSweeney, who holds a lease on 1200 acres of the irrigated lands within the ranch boundaries, is fast establishing a reputation as a grower of seed potatoes, a crop of over 40,000 sacks of the White Rose variety being harvested last year, most of which was sold as certified seed under the Shamrock brand.



1st Annual

Historic Route 395 Fun Run Big Success

By Jeffery Harmon

The 1st Annual Historic Route 395 Fun Run & Car Rally took place on June 25, 2011. Route Member, Jeffery Harmon led the Northern Run from Perris and Route Member, Steve Varner led the Southern Run from Escondido. Route Member, Tom Casey coordinated the event at Fallbrook.

Around 60 cars participated in the day's event. Attendees listened to live music from Rock Mountain and enjoyed lunch from Trupiano's Italian Bistro. Julie Reeder and the Village News were gracious for hosting the event.

In Murrieta, participants were happily surprised to see several groups of Highway 395 fans waving American flags and holding up banners that read, "We Love 395". Drivers honked and waved at the spectators as they drove through the historic downtown district.

Attendees remarked that the event was a great success and they are looking forward to next year. The City of Perris has already asked to sponsor and host the next event! The Association would like to thank everyone that was involved in making this a successful and memorable event. We would also like to thank all the car owners that participated in the Fun Runs.

Special Thanks to Jimmy Moore and Bonnie Martland for selling souvenir signs and hosting our information booth. We wish to give a big thank you to the Temecula Valley Historical Society for posting our newsletter and event on your website. Thank you for your continued support!