

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

September 2011

Volume 11 – Issue 9

*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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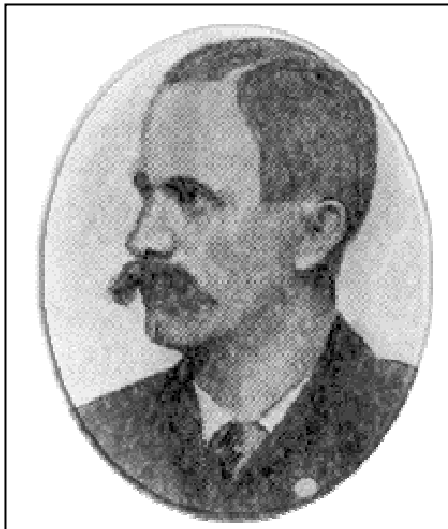
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*Fred Swope, 1<sup>st</sup> Sheriff  
1893 - 1895*



*W. B. Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sheriff  
1895 - 1899*

### Area Law Enforcement Snapshot

## **Brief History of the First 50+ years of Riverside County Sheriff's Department**

**By Duane Preimsberger**

California's 58 Counties began to evolve beginning with statehood in 1850 when the 27 original Counties were formed. At the southern end of the State, San Diego was gigantic, encompassing almost 20% of California with territory north toward Mariposa. It included the areas now known as San Bernardino and Riverside. San Bernardino County was created in 1853 and the area encompassing today's Riverside was then within the two saintly territories. As early as 1890, rumblings were heard, proposing the creation of a new county that would take area from both San Diego and San Bernardino.

Opposition was swift, some declared that a new County would degrade the State and others indicated that the proposal would denigrate the Saints for which San Diego and San Bernardino were named. An unsuccessful attempt to create Riverside County was made in 1891 but the measure failed. In early 1893, the matter was re-introduced and this time Sacramento passed it unanimously, much to delight of the new County's citizens.

Law and order in this vast, 7208 square mile new county had been the responsibility of the Sheriff of San Diego and that task now became the responsibility of the new County. Elections for the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, District Attorney and other key Officers were held and on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1893, Fred W. Swope of San Jacinto was elected Sheriff. He was sworn in and began his term on June 5<sup>th</sup> of that year.

Although Riverside County now had a Sheriff, he lacked both an office and a staff. The Board of Supervisors had rented space in the Arlington Hotel in downtown Riverside and that's where Sheriff Swope and his three newly appointed Deputies initiated the work of the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. Eight days later, the very first prisoner arrested was turned over to the

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# Calendar Of Events

**Friday, September 9** – 10 a.m.  
Special Tour of the National Archives Facility in Perris. Group size limited to 15, contact Lisa Woodward at 951-514-7406 for Reservations.

**Monday, September 26** –  
Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 – 8 p.m. Bonnie Martland will give an overview of the Civil War.

**Monday, October 3** – 6 – 8 pm  
Open House at Temecula Valley Genealogical Society annual event to be held at Civic Center Community Room. Meet various groups with history & heritage specialities. Learn about special trips of interest in all areas.

**Monday, October 24** –  
Monthly meeting at Little Temecula History Center, 6 – 8 p.m. Steve Clugston will present "Temecula's Civil War: The Showalter Affair".

**Saturday, November 12** –  
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. *Mark your Calendars* -- TVHS Annual Meeting & Dinner to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Planned to be at Pechanga's Eagles Nest. Cost \$25. Raffle & silent auction to be available. RSVP information at later date.

**Weekend, Nov. 19 & 20** –  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Anniversary Event at the Historic Vail Ranch. Re-enactment of the discovery and arrest of the Showalter Secessionist Party in November 1861. Displays, costumed soldiers, camps, & demonstrations.

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## **Membership Activity Renewals**

Rod & Dee Reynolds  
Elaine Eshom

## History of Sheriff's

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Sheriff and his staff and although they didn't have a jail, they booked the prisoner into the Riverside City Jail, utilizing a fee system to cover the costs.

In 1894, rumors swept through the new County intimating that perhaps Sheriff Swope had badly managed his budget and had wrongly spent some of the \$2169.05 for care of prisoners and the \$3058.68 expended for employee salaries. The November elections of that year saw William E. Johnson winning the race for Sheriff, 1605 votes to Fred Swope's 1404. Work continued in the Sheriff's Office under the new administration and most of the focus was on the jailing of prisoners.

In 1904, the Office of the Sheriff was moved to a newly constructed facility adjacent County Courthouse. In 1907 prisoners booked into the Riverside County Jail were now photographed and a brief description of their crime accompanied their picture beginning the first "Mug" books.

Early Riverside County Deputies weren't often bothered by crazed animals but that changed on April 15, 1908 when Deputy Henry Nelson was heading for lunch near the Mission Inn when a huge elephant, belonging to a circus, came out of the Mission Inn terrorizing pedestrians and pursued by a very panicked animal trainer. The trainer noticed that Deputy Nelson was packing a revolver and he asked to borrow the weapon. An instant later the trainer fired a single shot into the elephant's neck discouraging it from chasing anymore pedestrians. Fortunately only one local resident died as a result of the pachyderm's escape from captivity.

During 1909 Riverside County and City were preparing for the visit of President William Howard Taft who was out campaigning for congressmen who were supportive of his efforts. The President who was a very large man would be staying at the Mission Inn and to accommodate his girth a special chair was built for his visit. It is still on display in the hotel's lobby. The President was not particularly well liked by the press and they provided him with a disparaging nickname, "Billy Boy." Concurrent with the visit of the President, the Riverside Sheriff's Office had its hands full with the now famous search for the murderer, "Willie Boy." At the time, a few folks sometimes confused Billy and Willie!

While the President, "Billy Boy," sat comfortably in his oversized chair, 28 year old Willie Boy got his rear-end in a jam. He'd fallen in love with 16 year old Carlota Boniface, the daughter of William Mike Boniface or "Old Mike" a local tribal elder who had forbidden allowing the two lovers to marry because they were cousins. After they eloped, Old Mike searched for and found the two and at some point after their return Willie Boy shot to death Old Mike and then fled with Carlota.

Willie Boy knew the desert and where the water holes were and for 12 days he and Carlota avoided capture by the heavily armed posse that was searching for them while covering some 600 miles. Willie Boy left Carlota in what he thought was a safe spot as he attempted to distract the posse by engaging them in a gunfight, he winged a couple of them as well as a couple of horses.

A posse man spotted Carlota who was wearing Willie Boy's jacket and mistook her for him, Carlota died from a gunshot wound in the back. A rumor spread that she'd been killed by Willie Boy and for years, until an autopsy confirmed that she'd been shot at long range, that was the "official" story.

The posse tracked Willie Boy to Ruby Mountain where according to the Posse-men they shot Willie Boy dead and cremated his remains. Indian friends and relatives of Willie Boy tell a different ending, according to them, he escaped and lived for many years in Nevada dying of tuberculosis. Pick the ending you like best?

Change and growth came slowly to the new Sheriff's Office. In 1912  
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*Dr. Anne Miller Presents*

## **The Story of María Antonia Apis**

On Monday, September 12 at 6 p.m. in the Temecula City Hall Conference Center, Anne J. Miller, Ph.D. will present the life story of María Antonia Apis, a young Luiseño Indian woman who lived in Temecula in the mid-1800s. María, born in 1830, lived during a rather turbulent time in California's history. As a young mother, María saw hundreds of people coming to California through Temecula along the Southern Emigrant Trail. She experienced such things as the Temecula Massacre, the death of a husband, and a difficult divorce. Anne's presentation demonstrates the importance of combining both genealogical and historical resources for a better understanding of people.

Many in our community know that Anne is a licensed psychologist as well as a professional genealogist and historian. She has made multiple presentations to the Temecula Valley Historical Society, and has published in both historical and genealogical journals. Guests are welcome at this presentation given at a meeting of the Temecula Valley Genealogical Society.

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## **Wendell Ott Retires**

Wendell Ott came to Temecula as the first manager of the Temecula Valley Museum. Starting in 1999 shortly before it was opened by the City of Temecula, Wendell took on the responsibility of hiring a part-time staff, overseeing the completion of permanent display installation, and generally initiating strategies to implement over the coming years.

Wendell's easy smile will certainly be missed by all, he plans to do a little traveling, bird watching, as well as teach some art classes to keep himself busy. We all wish Wendell the best.

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## **History of Sheriff's**

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Civil Service rules began to apply to County employees and Town Marshals became part of the Sheriff's responsibilities.

1918 and the increase in motor vehicle traffic initiated the first Riverside County Motor-traffic Officer who patrolled the County roads, streets and by-ways looking for and citing errant drivers. A few years later, with the advent of Prohibition in 1920 the motor officers also began looking for rum-runners.

The Sheriff's jailing responsibilities continued to increase with a slow but steady growth in population and in an effort to operate a fiscally sound jail the first road camp at Gilman Springs was planned in 1924. A year later inmates were housed at the camp and began building Foothill Road near the city limit of San Jacinto. The camp project was soon shown to be a cost savings to Riverside County and much less costly than building a new County Jail.

By 1927, there were several new items being seen in the Sheriff's budget and in that year, for the first time, there was an item allotting \$3000 for automobiles. Another advancement was the initiation of the first sub-station at Indio in 1929. Three years later in 1932, the Sheriff's Office began to experience the woes from the Great Depression and salaries were reduced. The Sheriff's salary went from \$4,000 annually to \$3,441 and Deputies were reduced to \$1600.00 from the previous \$1800.

Things slowly began to recover and in 1937 both the Riverside and San Bernardino Sheriff's Offices joined forces to begin the operation of a one way radio system that permitted calls to be dispatched to patrol cars. 500 watt KSBC began broadcasting; Deputies in the field still had to use telephone to confirm their receipt of the messages. It was an amazing step forward and well recognized as a technological advance. By 1940, patrol cars in Riverside County Sheriff's Office ended in joint operation with San Bernardino County and Riverside Deputies began two way communications with 500 Watt KQSG through a series of repeater sites.

The late 1930's and early 1940's brought other innovations, challenges and opportunities to the Department; the first formal training classes began as a precursor to a Sheriff's Academy; an underground pistol range was completed for use by Indio sub-station personnel. In 1941 Riverside County went on a war footing as the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and soon Deputies were attending Civilian Protection classes put on by the War Department. They began a 7 day work-week with time off by permission only! In 1943, Sheriff's Office top executives formed a corporation to develop and operate a Training Center for the use by the Sheriff's Department for firearms and other needed training. The facility was completed and operational in early 1948.

In 1951 a major first occurred in the Department as Dorothy Jones was promoted from Matron to the position of the Department's first female Deputy Sheriff and assigned to the Juvenile and Crime Prevention Division. The following year, Sheriff Carl Rayburn who had been elected for six four-year terms retired after completing half of his sixth term in 1952.

Today, over 118 years from its Beginnings the Riverside County Sheriff's Department proudly and Professionally serves the two and one-half million residents who live within its jurisdiction. The agency is recognized as a leader and innovator in California and National law enforcement circles. The first fifty years helped to build a base for this well-deserved reputation.



## Temecula to Celebrate Its Civil War Event

In November of this year there will be another 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of a piece of Temecula's history. This time it will coincide with the anniversary of Temecula's Civil War event known as "The Showalter Affair". The Vail Ranch Restoration Association will be the sponsor and host for this two-day celebration, to be held at the Historic Vail Ranch Headquarters property and the Little Temecula History Center. Mark your calendars for November 19 & 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to historic Civil War camps complete with costumed soldiers, there will be costumed civilians, displays, demonstrations, a sutler and a re-enactment of the discovery and arrest of the Showalter Secessionist Party as it happened in 1861. The event coordinator is Steve Clugston who can be reached at 951-235-3608 or [steveclugston@yahoo.com](mailto:steveclugston@yahoo.com).

*(Editors Note: A story written by Duane Preimsberger about this Civil War event was featured in the June 2010 TVHS Newsletter).*



*In Memoriam*  
**Helen Evadne Craig**  
**2/11/1923 – 7/30/2011**  
*TVHS 1<sup>st</sup> President*

## President's Message

Eve Craig, a founder and first president of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, passed away on July 30. Eve was a feisty, go-getter of a lady who knew how to get things done and how to get others involved in getting them done as well. She cared deeply about history and the arts and for pursuing what she thought was the right thing to do.

Restoring the Wolf Tomb was something Eve thought was the right thing to do, and she took up the project with a passion. She cajoled, pressured, persuaded and convinced donors to give of their time and money to complete the restoration. This was before my time in TVHS, but the stories of Eve's determination to get this historic monument refurbished are legendary. I understand it was difficult to say no to Eve, and we are grateful.

Eve's health had prevented her from attending most TVHS functions for the past few years. Until recently, however, I would see her once a month when her son-in-law brought her to the beauty salon where our cut and color appointments overlapped. She always arrived with an armrest wave and a smile. Her wheelchair did not prevent her from dressing to the nines and wearing her makeup and jewelry beautifully. She had the aura of the cultured lady that she was and, rather than the beauty parlor, could just as easily have been attending a concert or gallery showing.

Indeed the arts were a love of hers, so perhaps it is fitting that my favorite memory of Eve has a cultural connection. Three years ago the Historical Society sponsored a tour of Aimee Semple McPherson's hilltop castle in Lake Elsinore. McPherson, an evangelist and media icon of the 1920s and 1930s, built a Moorish Revival mansion overlooking the lake. As we toured the castle we were all engaged in looking at the paintings, the architectural details, or the grand view – when we were startled from our reveries. A magnificent introductory cord and we turned to see Eve, out of her wheel chair, playing like a concert pianist at Aimee's grand piano. We were transfixed, enthralled and brought to tears. As she was looking down, I don't know if Eve realized how much she had mesmerized us all. But it was a special moment from a very special lady.

*Bonnie Martland*

### Our Founding President

## Eve Craig Passes Away

A memorial service was held for "Eve" Craig on Saturday, August 20, at Rancho Community Church in Temecula. Eve's interment was a private family service held a few days earlier at Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Helen Evadne Craig (known as "Eve" to her friends), passed away at her home on Saturday, July 30, 2011. She was an accomplished and talented pianist and composer, and had received a Bachelor of Music degree from Pomona College.

Before moving to Temecula in 1989 she had been involved in many arts related projects in Los Angeles, serving in various capacities with the L.A. Municipal Art Gallery Associates, Hollywood Bowl Patroness Committee, L.A. Civic Light Opera Associates, and managing volunteers raising money for the L.A. Music Center & Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Moving to Temecula at age 66 provided Eve with a new palate of opportunities to support the arts and her community as a whole, including being the first president of the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

Other activities included involvement with the Arts Council, the Temecula Valley Film Festival, organizing the communities talented young people to provide weekly music before City Council meetings.

Eve will certainly be missed in Temecula, while we also remember her wonderful smile.