

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

February 2017  
Volume 17 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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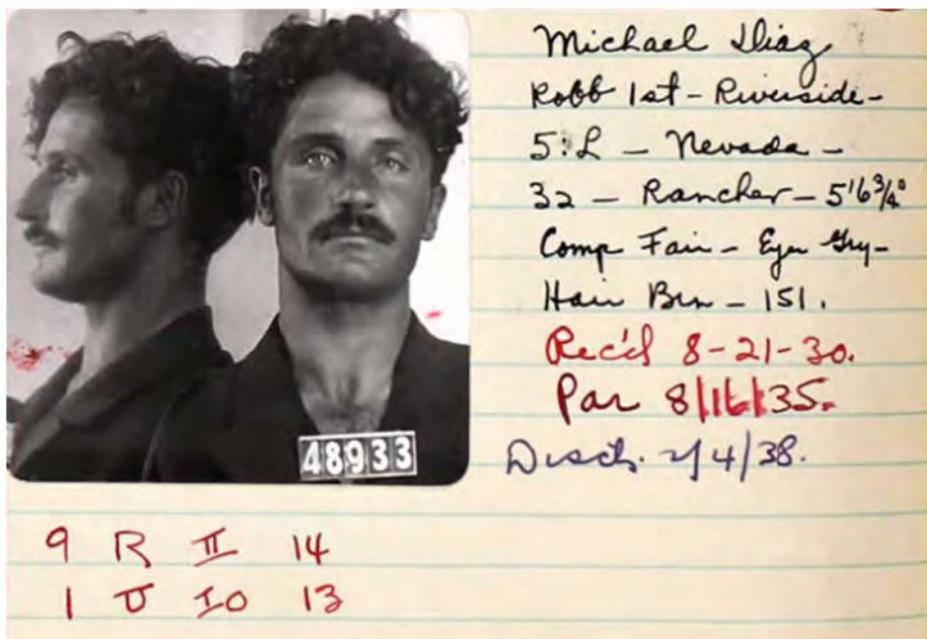
[www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org)



## Miguel Diaz: *Vail Cowboy, Storied Local Bank Robber, and POET*

Miguel Diaz is part of the legend and lore of Temecula's history. Most of us have heard the story recited about the Vail Ranch cowboy, who in a moment of bad judgment, decided to rob the Temecula National Bank for money to take flying lessons. Only to be quickly caught after a chase by locals, one of whom still had shaving cream on his face due to an interrupted session at the local barber shop.

In the October 2016 issue of this newsletter, Rebecca Farnbach wrote in an article "Sometimes there is more . . ." -- about the incredible and circuitous journey of a copy of a poem written by Miguel Diaz #48933, while in San Quentin. It turns out that Miguel had a clear love and appreciation for the desert, and wrote a lengthy poem about his feelings and observations of "The Desert". As part of that previous story, a few lines of his poem were printed. It now seems appropriate to reproduce the piece in its entirety in this issue. Enjoy "The Desert" beginning on the next page.



During some research months ago, Anne Miller discovered this copy of an index card from the San Quentin files. It notes specifics about #48933, and a clear picture of Miguel Diaz. (Note first name on card spelled Michael).

# THE DESERT

I have learned to love the desert, with its dry and battered face,  
With its mystery's and its silence, it's vast and open space.  
Its gold and purple sunsets, are my life's one great despair -  
To write on printed paper the scenes I have seen there.

Though I've thirsted, and I've sweated on your burning shifting sands,  
And we fought you to a showdown, with my own hard fighting hands.  
Though you've choked me with your dust, you taught me to be game,  
Though you've burnt me to a cinder, I love you just the same.

They talk about your death grip that it's worse than any hell;  
Cause they can't steal all your beauty, and your jewels they cannot sell,  
For the jewels that you have hidden upon your noble breast;  
Some men would give a fortune for your silence and your rest.

For the pictures you have painted and scattered round you bout,  
And the gold that you have hidden in your bosom strong and stout.  
For the secret of the treasures that they know in you abide;  
Old scarred and riven desert men have gamely fought and died.

I have seen you scorched and barren, not a living thing in sight,  
And I've seen you dressed in springtime, with flowers sweet and bright.  
I have eaten of the fruit that grows upon you fair,  
And I've filled my lungs to busting with your perfumed fragrant air.

I've watched you in your glory at the first grey streaks of dawn,  
Roll out like distant thunder across the crimson morn.  
And the silence seems so dense you can cut it with a knife,  
Until the golden sun appears to waken all to life.

Where the dampness of the night forms into drops of dew,  
And a million sparkling diamonds are awaiting there for you.  
Old scarred and riven desert you have got me in your grip,  
From your golden cup of treasures, I want in peace to sip.

For you've drugged me with your beauty, your simplicity so grand,  
Your blue skies always smiling, old sage of "No man's Land."  
But to know your riches truly man must sweat upon your face,  
He must meet you with his bare hands to hold an honored place.

Tis the fight and bitter struggles that gamely hold me there,  
Through which I see your beauty, and your castles in the air.  
I've seen those distant cities no fairer to behold.  
All built with pure white marble and tipped with burnished gold.

(Continued on Page 3)

# THE DESERT . . . (Continued from Page 2)

I've watched them in the sunshine when at first they did arise,  
    Until the purple mantle erased them from the skies.  
I have seen upon your surface a lake of turquoise hue,  
    Filled with mountain waters so refreshing and so blue.

I've crawled upon your bosom with my bleeding hands and feet,  
    Lust to hear its' rippling music and drink its waters sweet.  
But you fooled me old man desert and in its' place instead,  
    Was the burning sands of hell, the lake had moved ahead.

It was just another joke that you had to play, I see,  
    You darned old ornery desert you almost conquered me.  
Still I wander o'er the sand dunes and marvel at their graces,  
    The beauty of their contour the smoothness of their faces.

And how they raise their head so proudly in the air;  
    While the wind with busy fingers marvels their wavy hair.  
How they're always just a primping a little here and there,  
    With the heavens for a mirror and a beauty that is rare.

I lay upon your cool face as the purple shadows fall,  
    And watch the golden sunset on nature's blue sky wall.  
The scenes of God's own glory and the scenes I love so well,  
    Each moment a different pattern I despair just how to tell.

Then the sand dunes start to whisper, so murmur and to sing,  
    Tis the song of burning sands a great and wondrous thing.  
When I hear that soft weird music my body starts to thrill,  
    Tis the music of the heaven sand, the voice of yonder hills.

Seems to me the music's pleading for something wild and fair,  
    Perhaps the rugged mountains and the desert's saying prayer.  
Then the mantle of the night spreads its' blanket thick and deep,  
    Until the friendly stars through the twilight, start to peep.

Did you ever lay and listen to the stories that they tell,  
    When the desert was a garden not the burning sands of hell.  
When the water ran in ditches like veins across its face,  
    And a nation thrived in splendor a copper colored race.

With palaces and gardens and fields alive and green,  
    Where love and sweet contentment with glory reigned supreme.  
Where they feasted and made merry and filled the air with song,  
    And the peels of their laughter arose the whole day long.

(Continued on Page 4)

# THE DESERT . . . (Continued from Page 3)

Where little children danced midst flowers upon its breast,  
And gorgeous birds of song lived happy land of care,  
In worshipping the flesh not the Spirit Great and Fair.  
Cause in their wine and plenty they forgot there was a God,  
And the scene was so appalling that he struck it with his rod.

When you hear the sands a singing 'tis the echo and the strain,  
Of music of a nation that lies buried 'neath the plain.  
So the stars they tell me stories of a world, long long ago,  
How a nation lived and perished on the burning sands I know.

And I listen to the mysteries that I'm eager for to hear,  
As I wander across the wasteland and the face I love so dear.  
You've put your brand upon me as only the desert can,  
You've stole my heart and soul as you have from many a man.

So I'll watch the sunset's glory, with the purple shadows blend;  
Till I pass beyond the shadows, in the valley, at the end.

*(Dedicated to Death Valley and Mojave Desert of California,  
By Michael Diaz. #48933, San Quentin.)*

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## \*\*\* Membership News \*\*\*

*Welcome New Members*

**Beth Cobb  
Craig Owens**

**Thank you for renewing your membership:  
Rod Reynolds**

### February Gallery Exhibit "Vibrant Bounty" at Museum

A colorful new exhibit, "Vibrant Bounty" will be on display during February at the Temecula Valley Museum. This exhibit will close March 16. See various works of art from the Shaanxi Region of rural China. These pieces reveal a national spirit that celebrates the farmer's unity amidst the immensity of nature by depicting scenes of labor within lavish pastoral settings.

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## ***County History Symposium Scheduled in March at Historic Hemet Theater***

The Riverside County History Symposium will be at the Historic Hemet Theater beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 4.

The \$30 registration includes four informative presentations, breakfast and lunch. There are registration forms for the symposium at the Little Temecula History Center and also at [www.RivCoHistorySymposium.weebly.com](http://www.RivCoHistorySymposium.weebly.com).

Our own Bob Kent will give a presentation on Luther Menifee Wilson and the Menifee Mining District.

# Our Thanks

The Temecula Valley Historical Society would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to the Society's annual fundraising dinner. Proceeds from this dinner go to supporting the historical preservation and documentation of Temecula's rich past. In addition, a major portion of the proceeds go to funding college scholarships for graduating seniors in Temecula and Murrieta who will be pursuing history related majors in college.

We encourage our members to patronize these businesses in recognition of their donations.

## BUSINESS DONORS

a la Minute Ice Cream  
Augies Coffee  
California Chamber Orchestra  
Cheflavor  
Costco  
Engle Farms  
Gayton Family Farm  
Granny's Attic & Grandpa's Attic  
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Salon 29  
Sizzler  
Temecula Creek Inn Golf Course  
Temecula Farmers Market  
Temecula Lavender Co.  
Temecula Olive Oil Co.  
Temecula Valley Cheese Co.  
Twin Oaks Golf Course  
Vail Headquarters Farmer's Market  
Vail Headquarters Vendors  
Vail Ranch Restoration Association  
Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards  
Winchester Western Saddlery

## Special TVHS Group Tour of Murrieta Equestrian Center

The Murrieta Valley Historical Society has arranged with the Murrieta Parks and Recreation to provide a tour for members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society of the Murrieta Equestrian Center on Saturday, February 18th, from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a working horse ranch, one of the few remaining in this area. We will be touring five one-story historical buildings on the property. Members of the Murrieta Valley Historical Society will provide refreshments. This tour is free. We will meet at the Red Barn at 9:15 a.m. to carpool. We will leave the Red Barn at 9:30 a.m. to drive together to the Murrieta Equestrian Center. Call Phil Washum ASAP at (951) 201-0020 to confirm.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Every Sunday** — Sunday Funday at the Vail Headquarters — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rides, demonstrations & activities. Consider volunteering. Don't forget Tuesday's Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday, February 11, 2017** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Temecula Valley Museum will offer a Chinese Folk Art craft event, where visitors can make their very own folk art piece inspired by the Chinese Folk Art Exhibit in the Gallery. Light Chinese refreshments.

**Saturday, February 18, 2017** — 10 a.m. TVHS tour of the Murrieta Equestrian Center. For additional information see article bottom left of this page.

**Monday, February 27, 2017** — 6:00 p.m. monthly program with presentation by Roger Cudé about the preparations that were made for outfitting and provisioning the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Board meeting to follow, public always welcome.

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017** — 1:30 p.m. Lynn Cudé as Ramona Wolf; and Mindy Johnson, as Amada Kauffman (Maria Apis' daughter), will be performing as part of National Women's History Month. This Notable Women of Temecula presentation will be held at the Ronald H. Roberts Temecula Public Library, will last one hour and is open to the public.

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017** — 10 a.m. TVHS will take A 1-1/2 hour docent led, slow-paced tour of the Riverside Mission Inn. Tour fee is \$11 per person. Meet at the Red Barn at 9 a.m. and we will carpool. Lunch is on your own at any of the local restaurants. A sign-up sheet will be at the Feb. 27th meeting. Or call Phil Washum at (951) 201-0020.

**Monday, March 27, 2017** — 6:00 p.m. monthly presentation & program by Dr. Anne Miller "Maria's Story: A Young Woman in Temecula in the Mid-1800s" about the life of Maria Apis. Regular board meeting to follow, public always welcome.

## TVHS Meetings

Regular programs of the Temecula Valley Historical Society begin at 6 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn) next to Kohl's on Wolf Store Road.

### -- Meet & Greet --

Prior to every TVHS monthly program, please join us for a "Meet & Greet" time at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments. We'd like to get to know you.

“He passed this way . . . “

## *Malcolm Barnett*

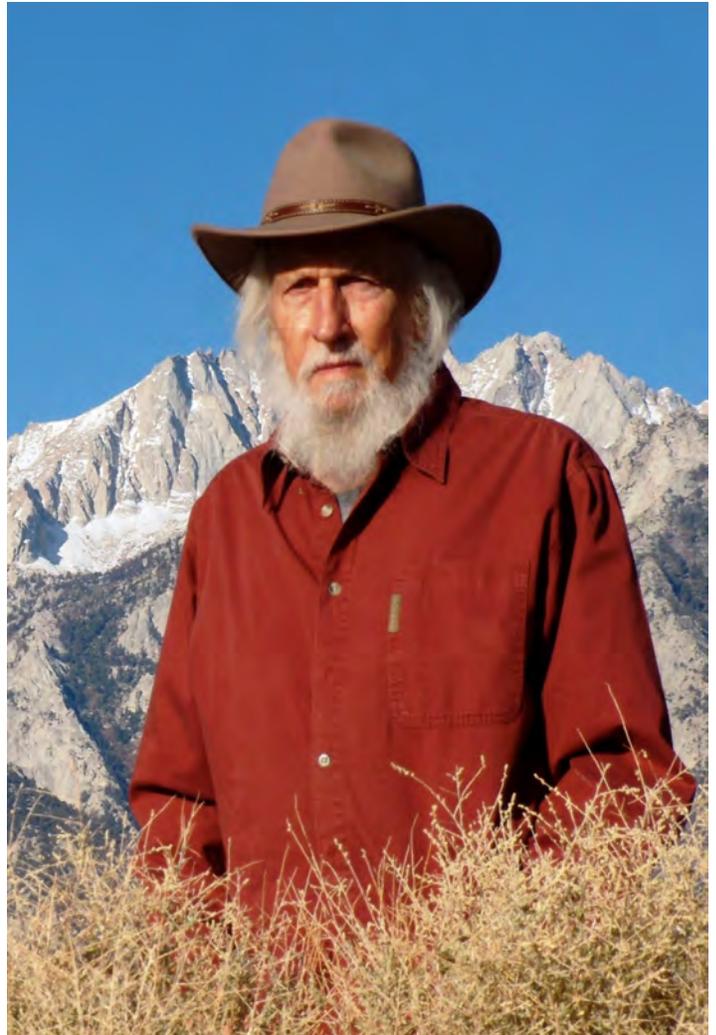
February 7, 1934 — January 19, 2017

Malcolm Barnett passed away on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> after a prolonged battle with cancer. He lived in Murrieta during his early years, when his father was the bookkeeper at Guenther’s Murrieta Hot Springs. Later Malcolm worked a variety of part-time jobs at the Hot Springs including bus boy, & lifeguard.

On Malcolm’s first day of school in the first grade, a boy 6 years older than he gave Malcolm a ride to school on his bicycle. That young man was Johnny Munoa, he and Malcolm became lifelong friends. Ironically, Johnny Munoa passed away the same day as Malcolm.

The house that Malcolm’s great-grandfather Jose Gonzalez built, is now the historic centerpiece of Adobe Plaza on Jefferson Avenue. Another great-grandfather, Eli Barnett, was on the board of directors of the Temecula Bank, which is now a Mexican restaurant.

After Malcolm retired from the San Diego Fire Department, he and his wife Loretta moved to Temecula where they engaged in restoring the Pujol Schoolhouse where Malcolm’s grandmother Ysabel Barnett attended. Both he and Loretta also became board members of VaRRA, the Temecula Valley Historical Society, and active members of the Old Town Temecula Gunfighters. Malcolm provided much of the information for the “Images of America” books that Loretta co-authored on the history of Temecula and Murrieta.



Malcolm with his beloved Sierra Mountains behind.

— Tour On Your Own —

### *Adobe Home Tour will be March Event in Escondido*

The Sixth Annual Adobe Home Tour will be held on Sunday, March 19 from 11 am to 4 pm. This event will be a benefit for the Escondido History Center. Three adobe homes in Escondido, and two in Poway will be on the tour. Cost will be \$25 each, or \$20 each with a group of five or more. For more information refer to [adobehometour.com](http://adobehometour.com) or contact Gretchen Pelletier at 619-733-4977.

### **Got Pictures?**

Our newest member, J. Craig Owens of Glendale, is writing a book that features the Palomar Hotel. He would like to know if any of our members have old time memories of the hotel or any photos of the interior of the hotel or the people associated with it. Please contact him at [jcraigowens@gmail.com](mailto:jcraigowens@gmail.com) or 626-241-4906 if you can help him with this. You just may have the tidbit of information that will answer some of his questions.

# -- 100 Years Ago --

(From the Lake Elsinore Valley Press —  
Temecula Gossip Column)

February, 1917

Rev. J. J. Burri announced last Sunday that work would begin Wednesday on the new Catholic Church in Temecula. It will be a frame building 26 X 36 feet. The addition will consist of a sanctuary 12 X 12 feet and a vestry 10 X 12 feet. B. J. Smith of Elsinore will be superintendent of building and it is hoped the building will be finished in time to be dedicated on St. Patrick's Day. Jean Laborde of Perris will furnish the granite for the altar seven feet wide. The tabernacle will be seven feet wide and eight feet high and of 3 1/2 feet depth. The church will have an open ceiling showing the framework of the roof constructed of finished lumber suitably stained and polished. The building and furnishings will cost about \$12,000.

Carl Swanguen was taken to the hospital at Riverside Sunday evening accompanied by his wife and mother. Carl had an attack of appendicitis. An operation was performed Sunday night. All his friends hope that he will get well.

Frank Magee left for Cahuilla the first of the week to do some work on his mining claims.

Mr. and Mrs. Machado, proprietors of the Mission Store, spent Sunday at the beach at Oceanside.

Eli E. Barnett shipped a carload of fine hogs to Old's packinghouse at San Bernardino.

Last Sunday the Temecula baseball team crossed bats with the Pala baseball team. Pala was coming with colors flying with their new pitcher, Albert Golsh under cover. At 2:30 o'clock the game started with Golsh in the box. He was hit good and hard and was knocked out in the sixth inning and his brother put in, but it was the same thing, a merry-go-round. Elvetzi A. Cantarini pitched the first half of the game and the last half was pitched by Cal Waggoner for Temecula. Both men were in fine trim and pitched fine ball and the Pala bunch could not even strike a foul. The game ended with the score of 9 to 5 in favor of Temecula.

Mrs. Frank Hall is taking care of Carl Swanguen's ranch, the owner having been taken to the hospital at Riverside two weeks ago.

Mac Machado's store is receiving a new coat of paint. A carload of lumber arrived for the building of the new church and is being hauled by Juan Munoa.

# President's Message

Happy February!

As we progress with plans to make 2017 the most enjoyable and productive year of the society's history, I want to invite each of you to be as involved as you would like to be. As you see on the front page, we have a lot of committees that make things happen. Let us know you would like to be part of the action by sending an email. Not all volunteers spend time at historical locations interacting with visitors. Many work from their home offices doing research or making phone calls. Others supply goodies for our meetings. Whatever your comfort zone, we have a place for you.

During the past month I have given a couple of presentations to groups on writing memoirs. Everyone can articulate legacies. Some do journaling or write in a diary. Others give a chronology of their lives, while some revisit specific memories in detail and put it all on paper. If you are not a writer, print the important photos you take and write on them so your offspring will know about the people and events that are important to you.

In this month of Valentines, I encourage sending some loving thoughts toward those who have gone before us. Think about writing a line or two about them to share with your family.

I send this message with my heart-filled thanks to each of you for the roles you perform to make our society successful.

*Rebecca Farubach*



The Newsletter Editor is in need of stories, poems, feature ideas for future issues of the TVHS Newsletter. E-mail your stories and ideas to [Fox\\_R@verizon.net](mailto:Fox_R@verizon.net)