

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

April 2020  
Volume 20 Issue 4

*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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*From left in the photo are: Al Rubio, President of the Board of TVCC; Marie Waldron, California House of Representatives; Emily Falappino, TVCC CEO; a representative from the California Senate; Darell, Rebecca, James Stewart, Temecula Mayor; a representative from Ken Calvert, US House of Representatives; and Chuck Washington, Riverside County Supervisor. Each dignitary gave a commemorative trophy, certificate, plaque or proclamation.*

### At TVCC Annual Gala Event

## Darell & Rebecca Farnbach Win Citizen of the Year Award

On Leap Year Day, Darell and Rebecca Farnbach went to the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce 54th Annual Gala Awards Banquet knowing they were nominated among 12 others for the Citizen of the Year Award, but did not imagine they would receive the amount of recognition and honor that was given them.

Marie Waldron, Assemblywoman of the 75th District of the California Legislature presented an Assembly Resolution, and Ken Calvert on behalf of the 42nd Congressional District presented a Certificate of Congressional Honor.

TVHS recently joined the TVCC and finds the award to Darell and Rebecca as not only an affirmation to the value of the couple's historic preservation efforts, but also a recognition of the importance of saving historic places for future generations.

*Well deserved recognition.*

**\* President's Message on Page 3 \***



*The Stonehouse as it appeared in recent photo. Located near the “tee box” of one of the holes on the “Stonehouse Course” it is frequently visited by golfers during their play. It is kept secured when not in use.*

### Site of Historic Stonehouse

# Temecula Creek Inn Property Purchased by Pechanga

The recently announced purchase of the Temecula Creek Inn and Golf Resort by the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians has generated a renewed interest in the history of both the Temecula Creek Inn property and the old Stonehouse located a few yards off of one of the holes at the golf course. It seems appropriate to publish a brief compilation of what is known about the property.

In the mid-1880s Patrick Quinn came to the area and purchased 240 acres from the Pauba Land Company that had prime granite on it, then embarked upon a business to harvest the rock and ship out of the area by train.

Built from local Temecula granite, the Stonehouse was built in the late 1800s and used by granite quarry workers as a bunkhouse and out of the weather haven. Temecula granite was loaded and taken on wagons to the Temecula train depot for shipment to places such as San Francisco to form curbstones along the Embarcadero on Market Street, and Orange County to create the foundation for the Orange County Courthouse.

It is believed that as a young man John L. Lewis prior to his days as president of the United Mine Workers worked for Patrick Quinn at the Temecula Granite Quarry, and may have stayed in the Stonehouse during his time in Temecula. Many people whose names are familiar to Temecula worked in and/or harvested granite in the area. Later during the Vail Ranch days of operation, it was used at times by cowboys from the ranch.

The golf course construction began in 1968, and was called the Rancho California Golf Resort. With limited play beginning in August, 1969, full operation began in early 1970, and was a \$1.5 million development. The project eventually included a two story clubhouse, 60 unit motel, driving range, practice putting greens, tennis courts and swimming pool. It was said to be the nicest hotel in the area when it opened. Many trees were already on the property, and were included in the design of the course layout along with existing water features.

In the 1980s the property was purchased by a new group, then renamed the Temecula Creek Inn and Golf Resort. About that time a third 9 holes were added and was known as the Stonehouse Course, with the Stonehouse located some 20 yards north of the tee box on the course’s par 3, 165-yard eighth hole. Although the Stonehouse is usually secured, it is always a place that golfers visit during their play. The Stonehouse is a solid reminder of Temecula’s storied past and heritage.

## **\* President's Message \*** **To Members and Friends of TVHS**

By Shari Crall

We are living through an historic time! The march of Co-VID 19 around the world has made us all gasp to catch our breath and reassess. The changes during the week of March 14th were breathtaking, as those who were lucky began working from home, while many others were furloughed or worse, as businesses everywhere closed. Others, like grocery store workers, first responders and medical professionals began overtime shifts.

If you are like me, I turn right to historic days in journals or media, to see what was said then -- April 15th for the sinking of the Titanic, December 7th for the attack on Pearl Harbor. So let's take a chance to document in some fashion, what our lives look like now. You may become some future historians' primary source! My family has a rolling email where we are documenting changes in our lives around the country, professions and age groups. Our TVHS Facebook page will be asking questions to stimulate responses. I am writing in my journal.

You might think about what has changed for you in employment, the way you shop and eat, what has surprised you the most, what do you wish you had bought when you had the chance, what would you have done differently if you could have seen into the future, what are you worried about, what has been the best part, what did you have to cancel, and what are you doing during your time at home?

This is one of those before and after defining moments. Please take care and follow precautions. We want you and yours to be safe and we worry about those who are facing very difficult challenges either in their health or well-being.

Reach out! We remain a robust community and can be there for one another. When we can come together again we will reschedule our ribbon cutting and presentations. We have had a record number of folks request to join our Facebook page. If your interest in Temecula history has been piqued, you might want to mine our website, at [www.temeculahistory.org](http://www.temeculahistory.org), which is rich with information.

Hoping we will all remain well and can look back at this giant pause button as the time we caught up with what had become a too fast paced way of living.

###

**We will communicate through  
Facebook and E-mail  
When our activities  
Begin again . . .**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOTICE

**All events at Vail HQ are canceled until further notice. If you are thinking about ordering takeout food, please remember our businesses at Vail HQ that are open — Vail Pizzeria,**

## Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve Docent Led Hike Dates

The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve has set a schedule for its education hiking and bird walk events in the coming months. Be sure to check with staff to confirm that hike of interest is still planned.

It would be helpful to RSVP via e-mail so they know who is coming and can notify you of any weather-related changes. Please RSVP to Beth Cobb at [smerdocenthikes@gmail.com](mailto:smerdocenthikes@gmail.com)

Below are the dates for the upcoming hikes:

- Saturday, April 4                      Bird Walk (So. Field Station)
- Saturday, April 11                     Highlands Hike
- Saturday, April 18                     Short Hike
- Saturday, May 16                       Gorge Hike

## ***Membership News***

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

***Myrna Bagge***

***Martin Dinsbacher***

***Rod & Charlene Fink***

***Julie Gilbert***

***Jerry & Darlene Gilbert***

***Nancy Mize***

***Peg Moore***

***Sally Myers***

***Gerry & Andrea Nicholas***

***Will & Claudia Perozzi***

***Michael & Carol Strobe***

***Karl Weiler***

***Daniel Wyncott***

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – April 1920

**April 2, 1920**

## **Indian Federation Holds Monthly Meeting- Beets are Being Thinned - Knott Improves Garage**

James E. Crew "spud king" of the Temecula district started to plant potatoes last week at the Pauba Ranch. He has a force of men at work and expects to plant about 200 acres. This section yields abundant crops of potatoes, beets, grain, corn and alfalfa and every year good crops are profitably harvested.

The Mission Indian Federation held its regular monthly meeting last week at the home of Antonio Trujillo. After the initiation of new members, followed a discussion of the future plans of the organization. Many very interesting points were discussed concerning the welfare of the Indians.

Tom Arviso, government farmer at the reservation, went to Riverside the last of the week to seek medical aid. For the past few months he has been suffering with a sore throat and eyes.

Charles McVicker, who a few weeks ago severed his connection with Ole E. Larsen in the pool hall, is now at Tripp Valley building a stone house, where in the near future he will go into the grocery business.

Mrs. William Friedemann, who was in Riverside at the hospital ill for nearly three weeks, came home the other day. She is much better but still unable to do anything. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery.

Vance Sands, at the election last Friday, was elected trustee, taking the place of William Friedemann, who has been trustee for the past three years.

Ernest Sweet, who has been clerking at the George A. Burnham & Son store for the past three years, resigned a short time ago and left with his family for Riverside where he went into the grocery business. Mr. Sweet was a very enterprising young man.

Alfred Knott last week had a force of men putting a cement floor in his garage. Mr. Knott is doing a good business being the only up-to-date garage in town.

Paul E. Clark, who is farming some of the land at the Cantarini ranch, has a force of Mexicans thinning beets. A few years past Mr. Clark was a large beet planter on the Pauba Ranch, but this season has moved to the Cantarini ranch north of town.

**April 9, 1920**

One of the gay social events of the past week was the April fool and hard time dance held at the dancing pavilion, given by the club members. Among the dancers were noticed many from Murrieta, Perris, Hemet, Elsinore and the surrounding vicinity. The music was furnished by a San Diego four-piece orchestra.

The first of the week Henry Gray had three trucks hauling and loading monumental stones from the stone quarry of Robert J. Magee, near Rainbow.

John B. Kelly a prosperous bee man has been busy taking care of his bees for the past week. He has been watching closely for new swarms and has taken from one to three swarms almost daily. Mr. Kelly says that the bees are doing fine this year, compared to last year.

B. Higgins of the Happy Valley Ranch came in town Saturday with a load of wood for the bank. Mr. Higgins is about the only rancher who has wood for sale now.

Joseph O. Freeman, foreman of the cowboys at the Pauba Ranch, has hired six men from Pala to shear sheep.

**April 23, 1920**

General R. H. Pratt, once superintendent of the Carlisle school in Pennsylvania, now making his home at San Diego, was at Pala a few days ago. The General was once interested in the Indian problem and for many years was working for bettering the condition and needs of the aborigine.

Mahlon Vail of Los Angeles has been at the Pauba Ranch the last week looking after interests.

John B. Kelly, one of the many successful beekeepers in this vicinity, for the past three weeks has been very busy looking after his bees. He has built a new honey house and is hopeful of a good season.

Albert F. Nienke, proprietor of the lumberyard, is the happy owner of a new Cleveland automobile.

L. Maruffo and his crew left for Santa Rosa Monday where they will bale hay.

**April 30, 1920**

The Mission Indian Federation held its monthly meeting at the Trujillo place the first of the week. A large number of the members were present. The secretary, A. R. Ashman, for reason unknown objected to writing the minutes of the preceding meeting. A long discussion followed, but it was left unsettled. Next were the questions concerning the land, water and the reports were discussed. Next month the Federation expects to send two members to the big meeting at Riverside.

Last Sunday the Temecula baseball team crossed bats with the Elsinore team at the Hot Springs ball park. Both teams were very nearly matched but superior playing and judgment won the game. Score: Temecula 8, Elsinore 7.

Victor Duque of Los Angeles, and who is interested in his father's ranch at San Felipe, came to town from the ranch with cattle, which were shipped Monday to Los Angeles.

In about two more weeks nearly all the farmers around here will start haying. Another light shower would help the grains very much.