

# Temecula Valley Historical Society

## Newsletter

April 2005 Vol 5 Issue 4

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[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

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### **Apis Park Dedication**

By Pam Grender

There is a real satisfaction in knowing we have brought some history into the landscape of our modern world. At no time has that satisfaction been felt so deeply as it was, for me, the day of the dedication for the Pablo Apis Park. For all of those who wrote to the city, suggesting this fine commemoration for a man who had an important place in the history of our valley, I'm sure this feeling of accomplishment was shared.

For those of you who could not attend the ceremony, here is a brief review: On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, a crowd of around 100 people, quite a few of them members of our own Society, and many more of them descendants of Luiseno Indian Leader, Pablo Apis, gathered under sunny skies to celebrate the opening of the park. Herman Parker introduced city officials, who spoke briefly, and then he introduced Apis family member, John Gomez, who greeted everyone in the Luiseno language. His was a joy filled, thankful speech that spoke, not only of the past, but also of the future, when new generations, including those of the Apis family, will come to relax and play in this park. Hopefully, they will, at some point, stop to read the large, bronze plaque standing prominently at the park entrance and they will be reminded of the fine role model in a man named Pablo Apis.

### **President's Corner**

Kudos to Rebecca Farnbach and Bill Harker for the excellent job in getting the March Newsletter written and available for distribution so that you received your copy early in the month.

The Temecula Valley Historical Society is working with Alan Cook of Group I Productions to produce the two DVD's depicting Temecula History, funded by the Leo Roripaugh Foundation. Mr. Cook has agreed to match the Foundation's grant with a sponsorship of equal value. We will begin filming sometime this Spring. Malcolm Barnett has agreed to be our narrator for the Old Town Temecula DVD. Society Secretary Eve Craig and Research & Preservation Chairman, Darell Farnbach are working on the script for the DVD tour of outlying historical areas in the Temecula Valley.

Save the date of May 11 for the Annual Heritage Luncheon. Last year we honored women who were important in Temecula's history so this year we are giving the men who were instrumental in Temecula's development over the years an equal chance. The Luncheon is a good opportunity to mingle with other members of the Society, share nuggets from the past and have a good time. See you there!

Please tell your friends about the Society.

**Jimmy Moore**

## More on the Big Bear

*Editor's note: In last month's issue we ran a story about a giant Grizzly Bear that was shot and killed in the Temecula area, back in 1900. That story elicited the following response from member Robert Crane, an octogenarian of Murrieta. We have also printed a couple of quotations about Grizzly Bears in this area from Lester Reed's book Old-Timers of Southeastern California.*

Dear Editor,

In reading the March 2005 issue of the TVHS newsletter, I jumped on the big bear story. I hadn't heard it mentioned for a long, long time. I've known the story since I was a kid. I lived in the Roblar Flats area at the south end of the De Luz Mountains and heard tales from the people around Fallbrook who knew of and hunted the bear.

I heard about a Fallbrook doctor who went hunting the bear, but when he met up with it he decided he wasn't a match for it, so he returned home.

My dad used to tell about a time he went fishing down at the San Onofre Beach, he saw the men who killed the bear bringing it to the beach in a wagon to pour saltwater on it. I suppose the salt water would help preserve it.

Many years later, when my father was building a house for a man southeast of Fallbrook he was telling this man about seeing the last Grizzly killed in this part of the country. In response, the man told my dad that he was one of the hunters who took the bear to the beach. His name was Tedford. I don't know if he is still alive or not.

I also know of two more of the last Grizzlies killed in this area. One was killed in Lambs Canyon over by Beaumont. It killed a calf, so the owner set up a trap that would trigger a shotgun if the bear approached again.

He heard the shot in the middle of the night and in the morning he took his dog and went to look. The bear was gone, so he and his dog tracked it down. They found the badly wounded bear and killed it.

The other was killed up in Reed Valley by Sage, east of here. I don't remember the particulars on this one, but I believe it was killing cattle. I believe all three were killed after 1900.

Roping California Grizzlies used to be the top Sunday entertainment for the early Spaniards, so there must have been quite a few in the past.

The caballeros must have had some pretty good roping teams, too. Heeling a bear's hind foot is not like a cow's hoof.

Sincerely, Robert Crane

*Here is Lester Reed's account:*

Before William and Quitman [Reed] moved to their land claims, an old-time grizzly bear hunter mentioned the willow thicket as being so dense in growth that he did not want to follow a wounded grizzly into it. William and Quitman built a bear trap from logs and caught two of the bears. An old-timer who helped roll one of them (a large animal) up skids onto an ox wagon estimated him to weigh about twelve hundred pounds. This bear has been referred to as the Southern California Grizzly, and claimed by authority to have weighed more than 1400 pounds, measuring over seven feet in length, and standing well over three feet at the shoulders. As a very young boy, I remember hearing my parents mention the tracks or spoor of "Old-Club-Foot" being seen in the Palomar Mountain (Smith Mountain) area. It has been reported that the last one of this subspecies was seen in 1895. At that time I was only five years of age, so did not get to see one of these fine animals, or to see their tracks, or spoor, if that is a better word.

While we have the grizzly bear in mind, I wish to mention a little spring of water between Reed Valleys and Sage area that did for many years, and I hope still does, have the name of Bear Spring. The spring came by the name because one evening when Quitman Reed was riding by on the old Indian trail, a grizzly had just been at the water. Its droppings were still steaming, and the tracks indicated the animal had left in a hurry, evidently either seeing or hearing the man on horseback

**Twenty-Second Annual  
Riverside County History Day, 2005**

By Jimmy Moore

I was fortunate to be a judge for the Riverside County History Day Contest, sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education and the Riverside County Board of Education, held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Polytechnic High School in Riverside.

Although it was an early morning drive to Riverside, judging just one of the six categories of events made me realize that the younger generation has talents that I do not recollect having at that age. The six categories are:

1. 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Posters (California Only)
2. Documentary
3. Exhibits
4. Individual Paper
5. Performance
6. Websites (California Only)

For each of the categories except the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Posters, there is a Junior Division (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and a Senior Division (9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

The Posters and Websites candidates can only advance to the State competition, the rest having an opportunity to go on to the National History Day contest. The California State History Day is scheduled to be held in San Diego May 5-8. The theme of this year's contest is *Communications in History: Key To Understanding*.

Several months ago several members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society, along with a group of teachers and other community leaders, judged the local History Contest held at the Temecula Valley Unified School District to select the local winners who advanced to the Riverside County competition. The local winners who appeared in the Riverside competition were:

Amanda Knecht - *The Opening of Communication for the Blind Due to the Invention of Braille*

Jenny Koenig - *Minstrel Shows: Communicating Hatred*

Christianne Karefa-Johnson & Gabriella Karefa-Johnson - *Communicating Peace: Protest Songs of the 1960s*

Andrew Harootian, Greg Merrill, Bradley Post, & Cody Ramaeklers - *Navajo Code Talkers: Secret Communication that Helped Win a War*

Terry Amador - *Broken Indian Treaties: The Consequences of Communicating Lies*

Sameera Salari - *Cuneiform: Ancient Written Communication*

Ross Mowrey & Paul Rossi - *The Vietnam War: How the Media's Communication Affected the Outcome of the War*

Bradley Gloriani & Anthena Reyes - *The Power of a Voice: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Campaign for Change*

All of the local contestants were Middle School students. There were no entries in the Senior Division.

The quality of the students' product at both the local level and at the Riverside County History Day contest indicated a great deal of research into their topic using both primary and secondary resources. They were judged on their ability to analyze the significance of their topic in relation to the social/political/economic events of the time.

In addition to preparing an interesting, factual program, there were stringent rules on the content and conduct of these entries. For example, the Presentation contestants had five minutes to prepare their props, without outside help, ten minutes to make their presentations, and five minutes to clear the stage. Following their presentation, each contestant was then interviewed by the judges to ensure they had a complete knowledge and understanding of their subject. Unfortunately, none of the local students were selected for advancement to the State contest.

Watch future Newsletters to learn of opportunities to participate as a judge in next year's History Day competition. You will enjoy it.

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## **Building Bridges**

Pam Grender

When I first agreed, back in 2001, to be a Historical Society Board member, I had no idea I would be involved in the task of building bridges. I soon learned, however, as Plaque Committee Chair, that bridges were exactly what were needed. Not the traditional kind built of wood or steel, but rather those made with materials such as inquiring minds, listening ears, patient hearts and occasionally, even courage. These are the tools for building relationships that help connect people to other times, places and especially to one another. I feel our committee has succeeded in building those types of bridges through our twenty new bronze plaques and through the publication of *The Old Town Tour Guide*.

We need to thank Dr. David M. Elliott and Dr. Anne J. Miller for their generous gift of \$1000 toward the Pablo Apis plaque, and to Anne for her research on the Apis family. Thanks are also due to Roger Sanapoli who took on the challenging job of installing the handsome new plaque on the brick patio wall of the Bailey's Restaurant.

Word of the plaque commemorating the old Art Shack reached Ralph Love's daughter, Evelyn Norris, who attended our March board meeting.

Evelyn accompanied Eve Craig and me for lunch, where she gave us more interesting information about her talented father. We hope to enlist Evelyn as a speaker at one of our meetings.

We will be printing another 15,000 copies of the *Old Town Tour Guides* to be available the first of April. Any one wishing to contribute \$200 or more will be listed as a contributor for this printing.

*Sandy Wilkinson says there used to be a big bear trap in the Tenaja Mesa area of the Santa Rosa Rancho.*

## **News about the Warner Ranch Adobe**

Charolette Fox reports on the renovation of the 1858 Vincenta Carrillo adobe in Warner Springs that society members toured during a bus trip in 2003.

The renovation project started when Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) added the adobe to their Most Endangered list in 2000, calling it the "most important unprotected historic site in San Diego County." It is on the National Registry for historic places.

An anonymous donor gave \$75,000, and Vista Irrigation District, which owns the property, contributed another \$75,000. San Diego County Supervisor Bill Horn and County Historian Dr. Lynne Christenson have raised more than \$300,000 additionally for the project. The funds have been used to complete stabilization of the adobe and for initial restoration of the house and timber frame barn.

A team of architects, engineers and archeologists are working on the renovation. They need twice the funds already on hand to complete the restoration and to open it as an historical interpretive center.

### **Upcoming Events**

April 7, 7 p.m. – Temecula Valley Museum  
Panel discussion about changes in the Temecula Valley beginning in 1964

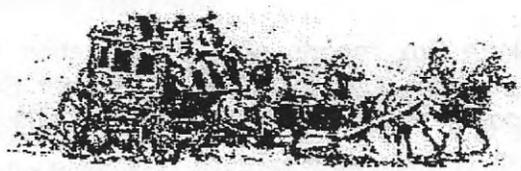
April 9 thru 30 – Ramona Pageant, Hemet

May 11 – Historical Society Luncheon

May 14, 15 Western Days in Old Town Temecula

June 26 – possible date for a society barbecue at the Historic Vail Ranch Site

Stop by the museum to see the Vail Ranch Exhibit before it ends on April 30.



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