

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Newsletter

August 2005 Vol 5 Issue 8

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President's Corner

The Moores missed all of the good summertime activities in Temecula during June and the first half of July. While the Historical Society was engaged in the Flea Market at the Museum, the Pechanga Powwow and the July 4th Parade, we were doing our obligatory family visit to Peg's mother in Bloomington, Indiana and my brother and sister in Arkansas. (Maybe we know when to get out of town.) However, we did manage to gain some historical insights on the trip. While passing through Kansas City, Missouri I visited the Jazz Museum and participated in the Annual Jazz Lover's Pub Crawl, where I had a chance to listen to some of Kansas City's best in nine of their historic jazz pubs. What a pleasure to see where Count Basie and many others had their start in the 18th and Vine area.

We attended Indiana University's Mini-University, a weeklong series of two-hour classes taught by some of their best professors. Most of the courses we took were on either music or current events, however, I did have the opportunity to tour the Kinsey Institute Museum on campus – a bit different from the Temecula Valley Museum.

Following our visit to Indiana, we attend an Elderhostel at Penn State University, which covered the history of Dixieland very well. From there we visited relatives in the Fort Smith, Arkansas

area. Fort Smith was the crossing point of the Butterfield Stage from Arkansas into Indian Territory on its way to California.

We drove the entire 5,870 miles without incident and are really happy to be back home.

Elections of Society Board members are coming up soon. If you would like to serve on the Board, please contact our secretary, Eve Craig at 951- 699-9872.

Jimmy Moore

Pechanga's 10th Annual Powwow

by Loretta Barnett,
2005 Powwow Chairperson

Thanks to the following people and businesses, we had a successful fundraiser selling ice-cold bottled water and soda at the Powwow: Norman Pico and Ramona Greene for giving us the opportunity, and to Eve Craig for making contacts;

For setting up and manning the booth: Darell Farnbach, Malcolm Barnett, Eve Craig, Sandy & Rhine Helzer, Paul & Kathi Price, Sis Herron, Barbara and Erin Diamond;

For donating soda, water and ice: Stater Bros., Ralphs & Savon Drugs on Hwy. 79 South; Albertsons & Vons on Rancho California Rd.; Audrey & Vincent Cilurzo, Maggi & Steven Allen, Paul & Kathi Price, Eve Craig, Bill Harker and Loretta and Malcolm Barnett.

Our thanks to Malcolm and Loretta Barnett for their persistence in interviewing old-timers and for sharing the stories they glean.

As the Barnetts were leaving Walt Cooper's graveside service this past June, a family member handed the following letter to them that Walt had written in January 2004.

Loretta says, "Walt, a true pioneer of the valley, passed from this life on April 26, 2005 at the age of 94. Thanks, Walt, for the memories."

Ranching

By Walt Cooper

I will try to describe my time at the Pauba Ranch. I had a job there for five months. Louie Roripaugh hired me in September of 1928. My first job was to plow the big field near McSweeney's. I think it was about 160 acres. By the time I got through plowing it was time to hook onto drills. There were six 12-foot drills pulled by six mules hooked together abreast.

We got up at four a.m. in the dark after the barn buck had fed the teams. Harry Helms hauled the seed grain to the field. The temperature was very low that December and the ground was frozen solid so the drills would leave the seed on top of the ground. We would have to wait until ten a.m. to start. No wood was around for making a fire, so we stood around freezing. I was so stupid that I had only a Levi jumper like the cowboys wore. It didn't have any blanket lining, either.

After planting was done, we started plowing for the next year's crops. After that I quit the ranch and went to work for Maurie Stoner, a hay farmer. He raised oat hay on 400 acres and sold it to a man in San Juan Capistrano who raised thoroughbred horses for racing. I think he would sell the two-year-old colts to people who would race them. They were pretty high priced.

After the fields were plowed for the next year's crops I was out of a job until planting time in November.

In those days the buyers hauled hay with big hard rubber tires on trucks and trailers, usually driving Sterlings or Fageols with chain drives, which were slow, but carried twenty tons or more.

While I worked there a man got a job driving mules. Harry Helms knew which mules were the meanest ones. So I roped them and Harry and I held them while Tom Evans put halters on them. Tom hitched up six mules to a double disc. He was a muleskinner all right, and those mules were so tired before night that they were gentle. Tom Evans was a skinner who was able to break any of them.

One time Louie fired the cook, so Tom and his wife took over. They only lasted one day. We had very poor food that day. For instance, we were served raisin pie with a crust so thick it would have been good to use as half soles for shoes and the raisins would have been good as shotgun shells. Most every ranch fed workers real good food.

When I was a cowboy on the Santa Margarita a man and wife from San Juan Capistrano were the cooks and the cowboys sure had good food. This ranch had 200,000 acres with five cow camps.

In the spring of 1929 we branded 10,000 calves. The brand was for Ted O'Neil, the owner. Our wages were fifty dollars a month.

The best thing I did in my life was to join Local 12 Operating Engineers Union. The wages were \$1.45 per hour in 1953. By 1973 I retired on \$818 per month. One year before I retired we were paid \$12 an hour.

The newsletter editors apologize to Dr. Miller and to our readers for inadvertently omitting the ending paragraph from this article when we printed it in our June issue. Because many readers archive our newsletters for later reference, we are reprinting the entire article.

Helen Hunt Jackson and Temecula

By Anne J. Miller, Ph.D.

Helen Hunt Jackson's writings about the conditions of the Indians in southern California are widely known and her novel *Ramona* has been read by millions since it was published in 1884. Several years before Jackson became interested in the California Mission Indians, she had been involved in Indian rights after the removal of the Ponca Indians from their land in the Dakota Territory. Her book *Century of Dishonor*, which dealt with the government's handling of some U.S. Indian tribes, was published in 1881. In spite of the fact that Jackson is so well known, there are some myths about Jackson's work and her connections to Temecula.

One myth is that Jackson spent a lot of time in Temecula and another is that she actually wrote *Ramona* while staying in Temecula. In addition to Jackson's numerous published writings, she also kept a journal in which she made notes almost daily about where she was and who she saw. She lived in Colorado Springs and traveled extensively. She rarely stayed anywhere for more than a day or two during her travels. She visited almost all the Indian villages in southern California. She also wrote numerous letters to friends and family. Using those unpublished sources, it is relatively easy to determine Jackson's "itinerary" over the years and see that she did not really spend a lot of time in Temecula.

Jackson's diaries (as they are called) are in Special Collections at Colorado College's Tuft Library in Colorado Springs. Jackson arrived in Los Angeles in December 1881. She spent time with Antonio and Mariana Coronel who would become good friends. She spent some time in Santa Barbara and then went by ship to San Diego. From there she visited many southern California Indian villages accompanied by Father Ubach. Her diary mentions that on March 20, 1882 she went to the "end of the track on the Southern California R.R." and that she "slept at Temecula - Wolfes." On the 21st she drove to see the Indians "with Mrs. Wolfe." In the afternoon of the 21st, she went on to Riverside. Apparently she only spent one night in Temecula at that time.

Jackson returned to Los Angeles to meet Henry Sandham who would draw the illustrations for her writings as he accompanied her when she returned to this part of southern California. On April 26th she went from Potrero to Temecula and then to San Luis [Rey] in the afternoon of the same day. After a day in San Luis Rey she went to San Juan Capistrano. This schedule meant that she would have spent part of a day in Temecula, but perhaps did not stay overnight.

In Jackson's diary for 1883, she noted that she left San Diego for Temecula early on April 30th and that she arrived at the Wolf ranch in Temecula at 11:30. In the afternoon, she was at the Pechanga Reservation, which had been established less than a year

earlier in July 1882. The next day she went to Pala. On May 3rd Jackson returned from Pala to Temecula. The following day she returned to Los Angeles. It appears that during this visit to the area, Jackson spent two nights in Temecula.

With information acquired from her relatively short visits to California, her previous experiences in Indian reform, and her extensive correspondence and interviews, Jackson was prepared to write another book. She chose to write a novel which she hoped would lead to Indian reform and would be more widely read than her "*Century of Dishonor*." It took Jackson about three months to write *Ramona* during which time she lived in a hotel in New York City. She started writing on December 1, 1883 and finished in March of 1884. A few months later while in her Colorado Springs home, she fell and fractured her leg. In November 1884, she returned to Los Angeles hoping her health would improve, but her condition deteriorated. Later she moved again to San Francisco where she died of cancer in August 1885.

Another myth is that Jackson's *Ramona* is the true story of one family in the Temecula area. As Phillips has noted, Jackson's novel depicts events from a broad range of years, from the 1850s to the 1870s. Like many novelists, Jackson combined many of her personal experiences and things she had heard about to create the people and situations in *Ramona*. As a novelist, she had no requirement to be sure that everything was factually correct. Therefore, one should not assume that all the events in *Ramona* actually happened in Temecula.

References:

Jackson, Helen Hunt. *The Indian Reform Letters of Helen Hunt Jackson, 1879-1885*. Edited by Valerie Sherer Mathes. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998.

Phillips, Kate. *Helen Hunt Jackson: A Literary Life*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2004.

This is all I think is worth telling. I was married twice, first to Jessie Sheld and then to Leona Rains. Jessie gave me a daughter who I live close to now. Jessie and Leona are both gone. One time Leona said, "I don't see how two ornery old people like you and Jessie could have such a wonderful daughter."

See these websites:

www.tvhs.homestead.com/frontpage.html and
www.vailranch.org

TEMECULA GRANITE

By Bill Harker

For two years, during 1905 and 1906, Jack Roripaugh, with a team and wagon, hauled three five-ton blocks of granite a day from the quarries south of Temecula to the rail station near what is now Pujol Street. Most of the stones he hauled were destined for curbs used in the modernization of Market Street and the Embarcadero in San Francisco. They had been masterfully cut and haped into three- to twelve-foot-long, eighteen-inch-high, and six-inch-wide slabs by the stone cutters working in the quarries and weighed from fifteen hundred pounds to a ton. Others were used for the steps on the Riverside County Court House. A few pieces of these old curbstones, some of which were curved, can be seen today at the corner of Front and Main Streets in front of the Bank of Mexican Food Restaurant in Old Town Temecula.

The granite was harvested by drilling and dynamiting large blocks from the imbedded stone slabs that lay on, or just below, the ground surface. Experienced stonecutters then set about cutting up the large blocks into smaller pieces and shaping the granite into the desired configurations. It was a noisy and dangerous operation to say the least.

The well-known Stone House up among the oak trees above the Temecula Creek Inn and Golf Course was used as a mess house to feed workers and sometimes provide an overnight place for them to bed down.

During the 1890s and early 1900s, the going wages were two dollars per day of back-breaking work.

During the 1920s, John L. Lewis worked in the quarries and later became president of the CIO labor union. The demise of the granite quarries came about with the development of cement and concrete. But products of the Temecula granite quarries live on throughout the State.

FIRST HOUSE? Contributed by B. Harker

Where and by whom was the first house built by Caucasians in Riverside County?

Excavations at old Temeku, just south of present Old Town Temecula proved the existence of early Spanish structures there. When these houses were built is not known, but it is known that among them was a granary in which to store grain for Mission San Luis Rey. Peak production of grain in Temecula Valley's mission days was in 1817-18.

It is therefore logical to presume that the Spanish structures at Temecula, believed to have included a chapel and a residence for the mayordomo, were built about, or before 1818, which would date them as precedent to the Serrano home in Temescal Canyon which was built in 1824.

Perhaps, in the absence of proof, it would be more accurate to say that the Serrano home was the first private dwelling built in Riverside County.

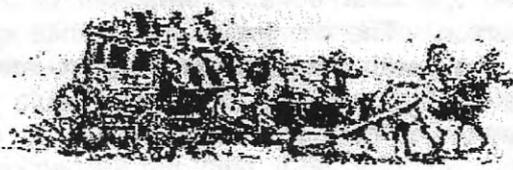
Source, The High Country, Issue No. 5

Cookbook

Erin Diamond says she still has room for more old-time recipes in the cookbook she is doing for the Historical Society as a Senior Girl Scout project. Please send them to her at: 49945 Saginaw Ct., Aguanga, CA 92536.

Vail Ranch Centennial Festivities

The yearlong centennial of the Vail Family purchase of the four Mexican Ranchos came to a close with the Temecula 4th of July Parade. The five-part entry representing the Historical Society, VaARRA, the Museum, Library and other groups won first place in the equestrian driven division. Thanks to all who participated.

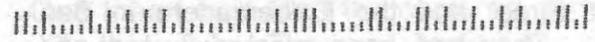


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