

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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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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Before 19th Amendment

History of Women's Suffrage in California

Compiled by Bonnie Martland

It is common knowledge that in 2020 we are celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution which in effect gave women in this country the right to vote. Actually, it said that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of a person's sex. What may not be such common knowledge is that some women in the United States had the right to vote before the ratification of the amendment. Fifteen states, all notably in the west, had granted women the right to vote before its passage. Wyoming was the first, in 1869 while still a territory. Full voting rights were also granted by Utah (1870), Washington (1883), Montana (1887) and Alaska (1913) while they were still territories. As states, Wyoming was again the first in 1890 to grant women the right to vote, Colorado in 1893, Utah in 1896, Idaho in 1896, and Washington in 1910. California, in 1911, would become the sixth state to grant women the right to vote.

Granting the vote to women had been a topic of conversation ever since Abigail Adams admonished her husband not to forget the ladies when forming our country's government. But it was not until a women's rights convention, held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, that the movement is said to really have gotten off the ground. In the ensuing half century supporters worked to educate the public about the importance of woman suffrage. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other suffrage pioneers held rallies, circulated petitions, lobbied Congress, and did whatever they could to advocate for the en-

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Women's Suffrage in California

franchisement of women. Across the nation suffrage organizations were organized. Some focused their attention on campaigns to enfranchise women at the national level, others focused on enfranchisement in individual states. Some took a moderate approach and others a more militant stand.

In California, according to historian Ronald Schafer, the women's suffrage movement began as early as the 1860s. In 1868 Laura de Force Gordon and Anna Dickinson gave a series of lectures advocating the vote for women. Gordon gave over one hundred speeches and her oratorical talent elicited much praise from Susan B. Anthony. Emily Pitt and Elizabeth T. Schneck organized the first Pacific Coast suffrage meeting in San Francisco in 1869. Elizabeth Cady Stanton also praised Elizabeth Schneck for her efforts, and their correspondence indicates a strong connection between California's suffrage leaders and suffrage organizations in the east. Schneck's organization gave financial aid to the National Woman Suffrage Association and Susan B. Anthony asked for the support of California suffragists for a bill that would have granted the vote to women in Washington D.C. In 1871 Stanton and Anthony took their only trip to California and drew large crowds wherever they spoke.

In 1870 Laura de Force Gordon founded the California Woman Suffrage Society. She worked with suffragist lawyer Clara Shortridge Foltz to pass the 1878 Woman Lawyer Bill allowing women to practice law in our state; and her suffragists distributed petitions in an unsuccessful attempt to have the words "white male" removed, and replaced by "person" on pertinent documents.

California held a referendum on women's suffrage in 1896. Suffragists worked diligently across the state waging an eight-month campaign for the cause. Ultimately, however, the majority of male voters rejected the idea and the amendment went down to defeat by a vote of ninety-eight to fifty-eight. Several powerful newspapers in the state opposed the idea of women's suffrage, and newspapers were the main source of publicity for the amendment. Opposition by some conservative organizations and party politicking did not help the cause. Some suffragists believed that men voted against the amendment on the premise that if women got the vote they would vote for temperance and ban the sale of alcohol.

In the wake of defeat of the 1896 amendment suffragists continued to persevere in their efforts to secure the vote for women. Before and after the turn of the century they published the *Yellow Ribbon* suffrage newsletter, held meetings, published articles, traveled the state, and lobbied politicians. Mary Simpson Perry, Mary McHenry Keith, Ellen Clark Sargent were prominent in these efforts. African American suffragist Naomi Anderson was active in the campaign for the 1869 amendment; and African Americans such as Lydia Flood Jackson, Hettie B. Tilghman and Willa Henry continued to be leaders in the movement. Latina suffragist, Maria Guadalupe Evangelina Lopez was a major campaign organizer and president of the College Equal Suffrage League. A translator for the movement, she was also the first to give a speech in Spanish in support of women's suffrage.

Proposition 4- Senate Constitutional Amendment No.8 granting California women the right to vote was proposed by the legislature and placed on the October 10, 1911 ballot. Suffragist Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first female lawyer in California, at age 62, had drafted a suffrage amendment to the state constitution which said, "Women citizens of this state who comply with elections laws and are twenty-one years old shall be entitled to vote in all elections." Proposition 4 used very similar language. In support of this amendment suffragists campaigned vigorously across the state. Ladies drove from small town to small town, sometimes in a jazzy blue convertible, attracting crowds to listen to their speeches. Over three million pages of literature and over ninety-thousand votes for women buttons were distributed across southern California alone. Men in minority communities were recruited to the polls. On election day ladies woke up at four in the morning and went to work distributing brochures near voting places, watching the polls to ensure all votes were counted, and even driving supportive men to cast their votes to be sure every vote would count. When returns came in from the cities the proposition was failing. In San Francisco, for instance, the vote to defeat was 62% to 38% and city newspapers declared the proposition dead. However, when Californians awoke the next morning, they found that returns from rural counties showed that the proposition would indeed be passed. It became law by the slim margin of 3,587 votes.

After the passage of Proposition 4, many California suffragists remained active in the campaign for women's suffrage at the national level; and Alice Park became head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association's congressional committee, working tirelessly towards the passage of a federal amendment granting women the right to vote.

A Postscript:

Proposition 4, did not give the right to vote to all California women. Native Americans were not able to vote until passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.



**Clara Shortridge Foltz,
First Female lawyer in California**

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

Hello out there!

Are you doing okay?

I ask everybody that question as the Co-VID 19 pandemic rolls on. I want to know if my favorite restaurants are clearing their rent and payrolls, and if the employees are feeling protected. I want to check in with folks at the stores that are open and with our health care workers. I want to ask my friends who have been furloughed or laid off. I want to be reassured, that yes, they are and will be okay. However, reality is, this is tough, one way or another.

As an historical society witnessing a major historical event, we are figuring out ways to adjust. Our Facebook page is alive with then and now pictures and stories. About 20 people a week are joining our page and we are excited to welcome more connections.

Our monthly presentations, held on the 4th Monday of every month, have moved online. We are all being pushed forward in our tech abilities, so we can keep in touch, keep in business, and keep in the know.

We hope you are okay! Remember, self-sufficiency is not doing things on your own but rather building a network to sustain you. We hope you will find the support and help you need. Let us know if you're okay.

—*Shari Crall, President*
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Scholarship Committee Update

We, as a society, will be presenting four \$1,000 scholarships to Temecula seniors this year. One of the criteria for the scholarships is that the awarded students plan to go into history or a history related field. There will be no formal ceremony this year where the scholarships will be presented to the students by donors. However, Temecula Dollars for Scholars will still make sure the proper procedures are followed for the students to receive their scholarships.

The scholarship committee members who were reading scholarship applications have responded and our selections have now been made and forwarded to our Temecula Dollars for Scholars representative. As usual, the applicants were most impressive. We have no names to attach to the recipients at this point as none are on the applications; but perhaps we can find out names, and divulge more about the students, once they have received their scholarships. I can say the scholarships went to students who attend Temecula Valley and Great Oak high schools and there are both male and female recipients.

Bonnie Martland, Chair, TVHS Scholarship Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, May 18 — 6:00 p.m. on the TVHS Facebook page click videos for a “Watch Party” featuring selected “Notable Men and Women of Temecula”. First Notable Man Señor José Estudillo (portrayed by Bill Veale), was the Father of twelve, an Amansador (horse trainer), rancher, and local politician. Next is E. Hale Curran (portrayed by Mindy Johnson). Mrs. Curran was a business woman who grew up in the well-known Fountain House Hotel. She was employed for many years at Guenther’s Murrieta Hot Springs Resort. She lived to be 99 years old.
**** Watch for videos through other on-line connections.****

Vail HQ Notes

In this season of closure of all non-essential businesses, the restaurants at Vail HQ are still open for takeout food. We encourage you to patronize them during this difficult time. We want them to stay in business. Please call in advance to learn their adjusted hours of operations. Some food businesses are operating for take out orders.

Also, Farmers Market will be open Tuesdays 9 - 1 unless it rains. Only the farmers will be selling as they are considered grocers. Please be aware of the restrictions of social distancing, wearing of masks, not handling food except items you intend to purchase, do not linger to visit and leave your pets at home.

The History Center, Antique Store and train are closed until bans are lifted.

Membership News

Welcome New Member:

Eve Cannella

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Toni Benson

Suzanne Dechert

Steve & Debbie Fitzgerald

Sara Hostetler

Kenneth & Mary Kay Lavezzari

John & Bonnie Martland

Barbara Mina

Dick & Evelyn Norris

Ken & Bonnie Reed

Scott & Lynne Sanders

Dale & Ann Silimperi

Barbara Tobin

Steve Williamson

100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

Issue of May 7, 1920

John Magee, who for the past year has been employed by Mac Machado at the store, left for San Diego Tuesday where he will work at a stone quarry.

John Nicolas, a prosperous farmer of Alamos, went through town with his cattle to his other ranch near Pala.

It was a good game last Sunday between Temecula and Elsinore, but the Temecula club failed to bring home the bacon. A large crowd followed the team expecting to see them win. Manager Sands says he is satisfied with the result of the game. It was a good game, superior playing and better judgment winning. At the end of the game the score stood 3 to 2 in favor of Elsinore.

H. DeLay of Los Angeles was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Mac Machado the latter part of the week coming here in his airplane. While here he gave Mr. and Mrs. Machado an air ride.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap, who for the past few weeks had rooms at the Temecula hotel, last week moved to the Pauba Ranch where Mr. Dunlap is employed.

Issue of May 14, 1920

Hugh McConville and son Alvin of Los Angeles arrived in town Saturday evening and are stopping at the Welty Hotel. Mr. McConville was at one time in business here. Now he is engaged in the realty business in Los Angeles.

Last week for two nights this part of the valley experience frosty weather for so late in the year. Some damage was done to the potato crop of James E. Crew at the Pauba Ranch and to some of the fruit on the other ranches.

Mac Machado, who has a black granite quarry five miles south of town, leased it to the firm of DeLay of Los Angeles. It is believed that this granite is some of the finest in the state. It takes a fine polish. The firm expects to begin work in the very near future.

Yesterday word was received from Mary Salazar at Lakeside of being seriously ill, and her father, Tom Salazar, left on the afternoon stage for Lakeside to be with her through her illness.

Issue of May 21, 1920

Temecula Bank Offers Safety

The Institution has installed modern appliances rendering vault burglar proof- Conditions are good in that section - Bank enjoying splendid business.

Edward Greenfield, cashier of the First National Bank of Temecula recently conducted a representative of the PRESS through the banking rooms and vaults of that strong and growing institution. Particular attention was directed to a new device installed in the vault entrance, known as "Yeggman's Surprise." rendering the burglarizing of the vaults impossible.

Greenfield stated that conditions in the Temecula section are better than in any other part of the state. There has been no damage by frost and the wheat and barley are holding

up and filling out splendidly; and old residents say that this is going to be the most prosperous year agriculturally of any for thirty years.

"Several ranchers," said the banker, "are meeting the scarcity of labor by buying harvesters, which will do the work of several men, and they will undoubtedly get through the season unhampered by reason of insufficient farm help."

Elsewhere in this issue appears the statement of condition of the First National Bank of Temecula as made to the Controller at the close of business on May 4th. It shows the bank in sound condition, inspiring the confidence of all depositors.

The bank is considering the installation of additional safe deposit boxes, there now being only one unrented box. With the additional protection offered to safe deposit box renters there is no longer necessity of Temecula people going out of town for safe deposit protection.

Other News

John W. Carmichael of the Pauba Ranch brought home a bride last week. Ray Carmichael and wife motored to Riverside Saturday to meet them.

Miss Ethel Burnham is expected to return home some day this week from Calexico, where she has been visiting her cousin, Mrs. Joseph M. Kolb, for the past three weeks.

The Misses Welty have leased the Hotel Temecula to F. Lamarque of Los Angeles for one year. Miss Tillie Welty and her mother and father will remain in Temecula. It is whispered around town that Miss Hattie is about to embark on the sea of matrimony.

Issue of May 28, 1920

The ball game played last Sunday afternoon at Murrieta Hot Springs between Elsinore and Temecula was won by Elsinore, the score being 9-2. The Temecula team was handicapped, one of their best men being unable to play and two or three other good players being unavoidably absent.

The dance held at Temecula last Saturday night was very well attended. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sweet and Miss Francis Powell of Riverside. Miss Powell was spending the weekend at Mrs. William Friedemann's.

The Temecula ball team will play the March Field Aviators at Murrieta Hot Springs Sunday. The Aviators have a fast team and a rattling good game is promised.

Stars Win Again -- In a good game of the national sport at the Murrieta Hot Springs diamond last Sunday, the Elsinore American Legion Stars defeated the Temecula Indian team 10 to 2. No game will be played by the Stars sadly because of it being Memorial Day.