

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Newsletter

June 2005 Vol 5 Issue 6

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www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org
Contact us at 951-501-9159

The Latest News on the Wolf Monument

By *Eve Craig*

Some of the close neighbors were very reluctant to have an open wrought iron fence in front of the Wolf Monument property, and were afraid the visibility of the monument would bring too much traffic.

The recent tornado was the best thing that ever happened. It completely leveled the solid wood fence across the front and most of the back fence. Our good friends at the Golden State Fence Company immediately installed a wrought iron fence across the front and repaired the back fence. Their donation made a huge difference and we extend our gratitude.

Meanwhile, thanks to Roger Sannipoli, holes were drilled in the marble column and stainless steel dowels were made. Roger, his brother Wagne, and Harvey Gaertner did a magnificent job of securing everything and touching up the finish on the marble. Now we are ready to attach the urn to the very top, completing the structure.

There is still a lot to do. Agnes Gaertner is donating the material for a path around the tomb for the Boy Scouts to lay edging. The sprinkler system is being installed, then holes must be dug for plants and trees. Soon the restoration will be complete and we can breathe a joyful sigh of relief.

President's Corner

For those of you who missed the Heritage Luncheon on May 11th, pity. Eve Craig and Audrey Cilurzo put on a magnificent program honoring the men who have been influential in the history of Temecula. Attendees were introduced to the Luiseno Indians by Paul Price, Ralph Love by Pam Grender, the Vail Ranchers by Darell Farnbach, Earl Stanley Gardner by Wendell Ott, Joe Winkels by Joe Winkels, Bill Harker by Bill Harker, the developers of Rancho California by Jeff Minkler and Dennis Chiniaeff, Dan Stephenson by Beverly Stephenson, Tony Ashman, Sam Hicks and Tony Tobin by John Hunneman. The program ended with a short history of Temecula's incorporation by your's truly. Highlights of the day included the presentation of the Roripaugh Foundation grant for the production of the DVDs that will show a tour of Old Town Temecula and the historic sites surrounding the area by Tisha Roripaugh and the introduction of Alan Cook of Group I Productions who will be producing the DVDs.

At the June meeting we will have a presentation by Linda Allen Bryant, the author of "I Cannot Tell A Lie", who is a direct descendant of George Washington. It will start a 1:00 P.M. on June 3rd at the Temecula Valley Library, following our regular Board meeting.

See you there, **Jimmy Moore**

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 "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 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 an 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

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.

Another Local Bear Story

From California Early Days by C. A. Sumner

Occasionally a bear would wander down from the mountains and get a meal off the green corn growing near the ranch house. On one occasion our neighbor, Juan Machado, told us that a bear had been down in his field the night before, so when darkness came, we made up a party and patrolled the field fully armed with guns loaded with buckshot and some with rifles. Juan Machado and an Indian cautiously crept through the field to discover the truant; when all of a sudden he let out a fearful yell, that the bear was there and had knocked him down. Over we went intent on slaughter, but alas the black bear proved to be a black cow that was asleep, until Machado stumbled on her. When she got up poor Juan had a hard fall.

Congratulations

Congratulations are due to board member Sis Herron who received a Melvin Jones Award, the highest award given by the Lions Club for outstanding service to the Southern California region. Sis serves our society more than some do at a fraction of her age. Most recently she served two days at an information booth for us at the CRC during Arts in the Country events. Congratulations, Sis!

Newsletter co-editor Rebecca Farnbach received an award for the "Finest Poem of 2004" from the San Diego Christian Writers Guild for her poem *The Song of Creation*. The guild is the largest Christian writers group in the US.

Correction: The Vail Ranch was sold to Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation (KACOR), Kaiser Industries and Macco Realty in 1964, not to San Francisco Savings Union as noted in the article about the Vail Ranches published in the May 2005 newsletter. Our apologies - Eve Craig & editors.

Historical Recipes Needed

Please send a historical recipe to a Senior Girl Scout who is working on her Gold Award, the equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle Award. She is producing a historical cookbook for her award project. The Historical Society will benefit financially from the sales of the cookbooks.

Please mail your recipes with your name, address, phone number and a brief story about each recipe to: Erin Diamond, 49945 Saginaw Ct., Aguanga, CA 92536.

Volunteers needed

The 2005 Pechanga PowWow

Please let call Loretta Barnett (951-676-7031) to volunteer to sell water & sodas or to help setup the booth. If several people volunteer, no one will have to stay more than a few hours.

We need helpers on:

Thursday, June 30 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for setup, Then, Friday, July 1 through Sunday, July 3 from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. each day.

It is interesting to attend the PowWow. An announcer describes the background of the dances. The different types of regalia worn by Native Americans representing groups across the US and Canada are absolutely beautiful. Vendors sell quality Indian wares and food. The fireworks will probably be at the end of the PowWow on July 3rd.

2005 4th of July Parade in Old Town Temecula

The Society is part of the Vail Centennial Entry in the 4th of July Parade. This is the closing event of the yearlong centennial celebration of the Vail Family's purchase of the four local ranchos. We would like to encourage members to walk or ride with us in the parade wearing historical or cowboy costumes.

Call Darell Farnbach (951-552-3516) to volunteer to participate in the parade.

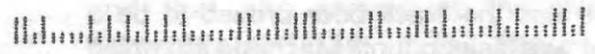


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TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tax exempt charitable & educational organization

Membership

Membership/Donation Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder	\$ 1,000.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$10,000.00

The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.

Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be designated or undesignated.

Checks payable to:

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Mail to:

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