



Temecula Valley  
Historical Society  
**Newsletter**

March 2008 Vol 8 Issue 3

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[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
Contact us at 951-553-9549, or  
P.O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593

**Looking Forward to Good Times  
As We Celebrate Yesteryears**

This Historical Society provides something of interest for everyone. If you are an armchair historian, you may enjoy perusing our Web site and reading our newsletter in the comfort of your own home or office. If you want to interact with experts, you can attend our meetings to hear presentations and ask questions. Or if you are a hiking enthusiast with a yen for hands-on experiences, we plan a new adventure each month.

YOU are welcome to join us on all of these adventures.

We meet at the historical Pujol Schoolhouse on Santiago Road at noon on the first Friday of each month. The board of directors holds a business meeting, followed by a historical presentation. All are welcome to attend:

**March 7** – Dr. Anne Miller on “Mapping the Southern Immigrant Trail Through Temecula”

**April 4** – Bill Martin of the Colony Cousins Genealogy group talking about their research on people buried in the Murrieta Cemetery

**May 2** – Gordon Johnson giving a reading from his latest book “Fast Cars and Frybread” about his observations of life on the Pala Reservation.

**June 6** – Harmon Johnson on the Magees of Temecula



A big thanks to Barbara Tobin and Pat Lallou for their planning and to Paul Price for leading a group of 28 adventurers to the Temeku Village Site, the old Temecula Quarry and the Spanish Mission Site, where we saw remnants of these important segments of Temecula's past. You won't want to miss the visit to the Dorland Retreat Center and Massacre Canyon planned for March 29.



### **A Good Book**

For a picture of what life was like in times past, I highly recommend "Little Heathen: Hard times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression" by Mildred Armstrong Kalish, published in 2007.

Although it was written from the point of view of an Iowan, her observations and experiences are typical of those everywhere during pre-modern times.

Kalish emphasizes how everyone in the family had a part in survival, even the youngest children. She tells how even the "Little Kids" knew how to capture, kill and skin rabbits.

My favorite passage is about the role of the Little Kids each year in preparing headcheese, a pork lunchmeat.

Four children were given a basin containing the freshly butchered head of a hog partially submerged in cold water. At their workstation under a shade tree, they undertook what she called "the truly repulsive part of the endeavor", scrubbing it clean with baking soda on washcloths and toothbrushes. They washed inside the ears, lips and even brushed the teeth.

When clean, adults carried it to cook in a caldron over an open wood fire that the Little Kids maintained. Kalish says they enjoyed the responsibility of keeping the fire going, as all children, she contends, are pyromaniacs at heart.

After thirty minutes the water was replaced with cool water from the windmill. Vegetables and seasonings were added to flavor it during the next three hours of boiling over the tended fire. The children didn't complain about all the labor involved, because they enjoyed the delectable fruits of their labors.

Kalish comments, "Can you see a five- to ten-year-old child of today turning to such a task?"

This is only one story in this wonderful book which is available online or by special order at major book retailers.

- Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

### **Do You Have a Story to Share?**

If you would like to share a comment or a story, please send it to Rebecca Farnbach, 41403 Bitter Creek Court, Temecula, CA 92591 or email it to me at [sunbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:sunbrook@hotmail.com).

### **Support from Local Media**

Check out Press Enterprise's online video of Hyatt School history at [www.pe.com](http://www.pe.com). Journalist Barbara McLean filmed it after reading the article in our February newsletter about the school. Thanks to Barbara and the Press Enterprise for their support in presenting historical stories.

Diane Simones editor of Neighbors Newspaper features historical articles each month. Watch for her free papers in local eateries.

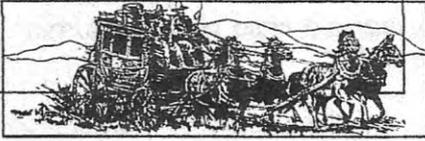
### **The Ramona Pageant**

Helen Hunt Jackson's story *Ramona* will be presented dramatically and with song and dance in the Ramona Bowl Amphitheater in Hemet from April 19 through May 3.

This is a fictional story based on real life experiences of Native Americans and California ranchers Jackson met in this area during her visits in the 1880s.

Tickets for this 85<sup>th</sup> season are available at [www.ramonabowl.com](http://www.ramonabowl.com) or by calling 951-658-3111. I recommend enhancing your experience by reserving a cowboy style deep-pit barbecue lunch to enjoy before the show.

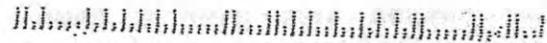
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*The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.  
Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.  
Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be designated or undesignated.*

**Checks payable to :**  
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