

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

November 2019
Volume 19 Issue 11

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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A Publication of the

Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593

www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



TVHS 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting Saturday, November 16

5:30 p.m. At Assistance League
Reservations Required

Steve Williamson to present
"The Life and Career of Erle Stanley Gardner"

Don't Miss This Event

*For many years the
Temecula Valley Museum held an annual*

Erle Stanley Gardner Mystery Writing Contest

*In 2009 TVHS member Julie Gilbert wrote
an entry for the "Adult Mystery Writing"
division and won 2nd Place.*

*It seems timely and fun to share with fellow
TVHS members her award winning entry.*



Julie Gilbert

The Case of an . . .

AMATEUR AFFAIR

By Julie Gilbert

Seated at her favorite table in the Swing Inn, Kay glanced up from her book to see the waitress standing expectantly at her table.

"More coffee?" the girl asked, squinting at the book in Kay's hand. "*The Purloined Passport*," she read out loud. "Any good?"

"Yes – if you love mysteries like I do," Kay laughed.

"Didn't that author also write *Fatal* something-or-other?"

"*Fatal Feline*. Yeah, she's written lots of mysteries." And I've read every single one of them, Kay added silently. *The Clandestine Clockmaker, The Merry Mortician, The Nearsighted Nudist*, to name a few. The author wrote at least one book a year, each with an alliterative title, featuring private eye Felicity Ames. One of them had even been set in Old West Temecula: *The Caroling Cowboy*. Truth was, Kay had been hooked on mysteries since childhood, when her dad had made reading Perry Mason novels to her, a nightly bedtime ritual growing up in San Diego. As an adult living in Temecula, she loved

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Amateur Affair . . .

knowing that Erle Stanley Gardner had authored the beloved series at his Paisano Ranch just a few miles down the road from where she sat. For that matter, legend had it that Gardner had frequented the Swing Inn himself -- one reason why it was Kay's preferred breakfast spot. Just then, a man entered the restaurant and settled at the table next to hers. Despite herself, Kay couldn't help but stare. Well over six feet, a blue pullover sweater, well-cut jeans and cowboy boots highlighted his muscular frame. He glanced over and she immediately looked away, feeling the heat rise in her cheeks. What had gotten into her? She'd seen azure blue eyes before. Let Felicity Ames study the handsome strangers of the world. Kay Landers had more practical matters to ponder -- such as the errands she had to run this morning.

Angling her chair to avoid further eye contact with Blue Eyes, she pulled out her list. Post office, dry cleaner, house wares store to exchange a potato ricer...

Five minutes later, behind her, Blue Eyes' phone rang. "Mac? Yeah. Is everything all set?"

Kay tried to ignore him, but she couldn't help overhearing.

"Are you sure we have everything we need? As much as I've thought about this and planned it, I can't help having a few regrets. Getting rid of Bonnie Lee after all these years is harder than I thought it would be. I've had a lot of good years with her."

Kay choked on her coffee, almost blowing it across the table. Bonnie Lee? Getting rid of her? My God, she thought. This is just like *Rambling Romeo*. The man's planning a murder! She strained to hear more.

"Yeah, that's true. I'm sure I'll forget about her before long. You haven't seen the new model yet, have you? She's gorgeous."

Unbelievable. The woman wasn't even dead yet, and he already had a replacement!

"Yeah. Okay. I'm on my way. See you soon." He rose from the table.

Kay's heart raced. What should she do? As Blue Eyes passed her, she made her decision. She'd follow him.

Exiting the restaurant, he crossed the street and walked about a block down the boardwalk, with Kay hanging back just enough to avoid detection. She could see a rolled up newspaper bulging from under his arm. No doubt it concealed the murder weapon!

As he reached The Jerky House he glanced back, but Kay quickly turned to check out the window of the nearest store, Doc's Traders -- a

ruse Felicity often used when trailing suspects. Another half block down, he got into a parked Ford truck and started the engine. Kay sprinted to her own car, thankfully close by, and pulled out behind him onto Front Street going north. Within a few minutes he turned east onto Rancho California Road, and before long they were passing through the vineyards. Could he have Bonnie Lee stashed somewhere on the property of one of the wineries?

Apparently not. Rancho California Road became Warren, and still the truck drove on. When he came to the junction with Borel Road, he stayed to the right and continued on Warren, with Kay two cars behind. Up ahead she saw a sign: "Lake Skinner Park". Could this be his destination?

They entered the park and kept driving. Kay had never been to Lake Skinner, but there appeared to be nothing much ahead but the lake itself. Finally, Blue Eyes slowed as the road curved and Kay spied a marina at the shoreline, with several boats bobbing in the water.

Kay's heart pounded. The marina? So that was it. Mac must be holding Bonnie Lee hostage on a boat!

Idling in the distance, Kay saw Blue Eyes park the truck in the marina lot, then get out and disappear around the corner of an outbuilding near the docks. Quickly she followed suit, parking her compact and running to follow. Catching up to the spot where he'd disappeared, she saw nothing but another building closer down to the marina. Cautiously she slowed, and inched forward on silent feet.

"Looking for me?" Blue Eyes asked, stepping out from around the corner of the building.

"Eek!" Kay screamed. "I...I..." she stammered, looking around for someone who might help. But aside from a few ducks, the area was deserted.

Mustering all her courage, she drew to her full 5'5" height and thrust her chin defiantly. "I know who you are, and I know what you're doing. And you're not going to get away with it!"

"And just what is it I'm not going to get away with?" he asked, taking a step towards her.

"Back off, bucko!" she shrieked.

Quickly she unlatched her handbag and rummaged for a weapon. Seizing the only thing at hand, she wielded it menacingly in front of her. "I've got a potato ricer, and I'm not afraid to use it!"

"So I see." He pressed his lips together, his mouth appearing to twitch at one side. "Miss, you've obviously gone to a lot of trouble to follow me, but I think somehow there's been a misunderstanding."

"Ha! You'd like me to think so, wouldn't you? But the jig's up! I overheard everything you said to your accomplice, Mac, at the restaurant. Next time you're planning a murder, don't use your cell phone to do it."



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(Continued from Page 2)

Amateur Affair . . .

“Murder?!”

“Oh, don’t play innocent with me. Where is she?”

Kay cupped her hands to her mouth and screamed desperately in the direction of the boats. “Bonnie Lee! Bonnie Lee! Can you hear me?”

“Miss, I don’t think she’s going to answer you,” Blue Eyes said.

“No doubt. Mac probably has her gagged!”

Meaning to run, Kay took a step backward, and collided with another man – one wearing a clerical collar.

“Oh, thank God!” she blurted, grabbing his arm.

“You’ve got to help me, Father! This man is planning to murder his wife! If you don’t believe me, just look in that newspaper. He’s got a gun in it!”

A startled expression crossed the priest’s face, quickly followed by one of amusement. “Chris? I didn’t even know you were married.”

Blue Eyes, a.k.a. Chris, laughed. “Miss, allow me to introduce you to Mac. And if you’ll step this way, there’s someone else I’d like you to meet. I think it will clear everything up.”

Kay looked from one man to the other, slowly lowering the ricer. Chris took her arm and led her down a ramp to a boat dock.

“Here you go,” he said. “Meet Bonnie Lee.” He pointed towards a sleek powerboat rocking gently on the water.

Following the direction of his finger, Kay gasped. Emblazoned across the back of the boat in gold lettering were the words “*Bonnie Lee*”.

“A boat?” Kay croaked.

“Right. By the way, I’m Chris Sullivan, and this is my friend, Father James MacDonald. Or “Mac”, as he’s known when he’s holding hostages. And you are...?”

“Absolutely mortified,” Kay whispered.

“Well, Miss Mortified, you might be interested to know that Mac here is the director of a home for needy children in the valley and I’m donating “*Bonnie Lee*” to them. Oh. And for the record? I’m not packing.” With a flourish, Chris opened the newspaper, and a small leather-bound book dropped to the ground.

“A Dayplanner?” Kay groaned. “Now I wish you did have a gun, so I could use it to shoot myself.”

The men laughed.

“Look, my name is Kay Landers and this might be hard to believe, but I’m ordinarily very normal!”

“I don’t know about that,” Chris answered. “I think you’re one of the most unusual women I’ve ever met. How about telling me more about your life away from crime sleuthing over dinner tonight, aboard my new boat? I haven’t even decided what to name her yet, but I’m considering *Absolutely Mortified*.”

Kay shook her head and laughed. “I’d like that very much.”

“Great. But, Kay, just one thing?”

“Yes?”

“Don’t bring any kitchen utensils.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On-going thru November 10 — Special Exhibit entitled “*Painters of the Valley*” at the Temecula Valley Museum, featuring Temecula Valley Artists such as Ralph Love and Leverne Parker. Museum open daily 10 to 4. Closed Mondays.

Friday, November 1st — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. HerrKooled VW car monthly meet at Vail HQ.

Friday, November 1st — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Temecula Fright Farm Haunted at Back Alley Escape at Vail HQ. This is the last night of the Haunted House.

Tuesday, November 5th — 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Temecula Valley Museum. Free to public, RSVP appreciated. See story Page 4.

Saturday, November 9th — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vintage Soul . . . From Vintage to Vinyl. Shop the aesthetics Of 1960s-1990s fashion + home décor at Vail HQ.

Sunday, November 10th — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday vendor market by Synergy Social Social at Vail HQ.

Friday, November 15th — 10 a.m. at Temecula Valley Museum, new exhibit “Sisterhood Celebrated” to honor 25th Anniversary of City of Temecula’s Sisterhood with Daisen, Japan. Will showcase beautiful pieces of art gifted to Temecula by Daisen.

Saturday, November 16th — 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thistle and Sage Vegan Market at Vail HQ.

Saturday, November 16th — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ephemera art show presented by Hey Grrrl Collective. At Vail HQ.

Saturday, November 16th — 5:30 p.m. Annual Dinner Meeting of the Temecula Valley Historical Society. Reservations required. See Page 6.

Sunday, November 17th — Early “Poker Drive” event. Then return at 4 p.m. for music & fun. at Vail HQ.

Wednesday, November 20th — 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cookhouse Vail HQ, “*Paint & Sip*”. Create favorite Beetlejuice design. Charity event for Our Nicholas Foundation’s Autism & The Arts Initiative.

Saturday, November 23rd — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Holiday Movie family friendly event. At Vail HQ.

Sunday, November 24th — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday vendor market by Synergy Social Social at Vail HQ.

Saturday, November 30th — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Small Business Bazaar. Holiday shopping opportunities at this years event. At Vail HQ.

Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve New Docent Led Hike Dates

The Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve has set a schedule for its education hiking and bird walk events in the coming months.

It would be helpful to RSVP via e-mail so they know who is coming and can notify you of any weather-related changes. Please RSVP to Beth Cobb at smerdocenthikes@gmail.com

Below are the dates for the upcoming hikes:

- Sunday, October 27 Gorge Hike
- Saturday, November 2 Highlands Hike
- Saturday, November 16 Bird Walk (South Field Sta.)
- Saturday, November 23 Short Hike
- Sunday, December 8 Chaparral Hike
- Saturday, December 14 Gorge Hike

Membership News

Welcome New Members:

Farmers Market Mgt. Co. Inc.
Michael & Leslee McNeff

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Kathleen Casas
Rob & Elaine Eshom
Dave & Tracy Frick
Patricia Jennings
Kent & Penelope Johnson
Mike & Shelley Leddy
Wendy Lesovsky
Vernette Mackley
Bonnie Reed
Mary Lou Reid & John Celentano



Temecula Valley Museum 20th Anniversary Celebration

On Tuesday, November 5, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. the Temecula Valley Museum will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. The event is free and open to the public. Although RSVP reservations were requested please call to confirm.

Join with the staff in sharing “birthday cake” to celebrate 20 years of service to the community. As always you might have time to check out the latest exhibits status and learn of other activities.

The Temecula Valley Museum is located in Sam Hicks Monument Park, 28314 Mercedes St., Temecula, 951-694-6450.

Regional History Event

San Pasqual Battle Re-enactment Set

The California State Parks and the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association proudly present San Pasqual Battle Day 2019. This wonderful event will be held Sunday, December 1st from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 15808 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA, which is 1.5 miles east of the San Diego Safari Park on State Highway 78.

This annual family friendly, and free San Diego North County event focuses on the interpretation and commemoration of the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual, the bloodiest battle fought in California during the Mexican-American War. This year the event will feature enhanced living history activities that will transport visitors to the battlefield as it was 173 years ago.

Visitors will have the opportunity experience life as a new recruit touring a 19th century military encampment, while catching the aroma of period food being prepared for hungry troops. Listen to the “battle story” told through the eyes of a Dragoon and a Californio soldier. Also you’ll be able to watch the cannon crew fire a twelve-pound Mountain Howitzer.

This is a great opportunity for area residents to learn the complete story of this historic battle that took place in our area during the Mexican-American War.



Period correct demonstrations with Mountain Howitzers and soldiers on horseback will be available.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – November 1919

Issue of November 7, 1919

William Friedemann recently purchased a new Dodge, which will be used in connection with the meat market. It is much better than the old car, which was used.

Last Sunday afternoon word was received here that Soters Amago was killed near the Agua Tibia Ranch. While rounding a curve he met a rig coming up and Amago lost control of his car and went over the bank, which is about a 7 hundred feet high. It is believed that he died instantly, the remains being taken to La Jolla where his parents live. He leaves a mother, three sisters, and two brothers.

Frank Camacho, who was working at the Pauba Ranch, last week quit and now is employed by B. B. Higgins, who is road master of the Pala grade, San Diego County.

The dance last Saturday night was a great success. The large dancing hall was crowded to the very limit. For these dances the best of music is always engaged and everybody is always welcome to attend these dances.

Jacques Escallier, who a few weeks ago had a stroke of paralysis and was taken to the Hot Springs, was brought home a few days ago. He is getting better very slowly.

Recently we learned that Tom Scott is likely to leave Temecula at an early date. Tom came here from Alessandro where had been employed as agent for the Santa Fe railroad company for eleven years and was transferred to the station at Temecula where he served as agent and operator for one year and then resigned to take a job as time-keeper at the Pauba Ranch for the Vail company, where he worked for two years. He also held the position of assistant cashier at the First National Bank of Temecula, for the past two years. It is quite likely that Tom will seek employment in other fields. He has filed an application for a position at the Ramona Inn to serve cigars tobaccos and soft drinks. Tom Scott is a good old soul and wherever he goes he makes friends.

Issue of November 14, 1919

Frank Ramos, who was a sailor in the recent world war, went to Riverside Tuesday morning to take part in the parade.

Hookey, the barber, who for the past year has faithfully trimmed and shaved his fellow man's hair and beards, left for Los Angeles the first of the week where he will spend most of his vacation.

Tom Arviso who was government farmer at the Pechanga reservation and who is now at Pala doing some work was in town Saturday and Sunday calling on friends.

Owing to the cold weather the moving picture shows are now held at the bank hall instead of at the dancing pavilion.

Frank A. Burnham is a happy man because the other day he bought a new Ford touring car.

The Vail Company has at the Pauba Ranch a large force of men building cement pipes, which in the near future will be laid in different parts of the ranch for irrigation purposes. When the work is completed it will be a great improvement for the ranch and much credit for the Vail Company.

Ed Greenfield, cashier at the First National bank, returned home last Wednesday from Los Angeles where he had gone a few weeks ago for medical treatment. He underwent an operation, which was successfully performed. Mr. Greenfield is looking well and in a few days will resume his duties at the bank.

George Hall returned to the Pauba Ranch Friday evening from Imperial, where he went last week, taking care of a trainload of cattle belonging to the Vail Company.

James O. Freeman, Liney D. Helm and Luis Cazas left the first of the week for the mountains beyond Santa Rosa, where Freeman and Helm have their cattle. They are going to move them to other pastures.

Issue of November 21, 1919

Henry Gray, owner of the trucks that are hauling rock from the Pala mines, returned from San Diego the other day, where he had gone a few days ago with a truck load of rock and grain.

Henry Magee, who a year ago was appointed superintendent at the Pauba Ranch, recently resigned his position to attend his own ranch. Mr. Magee's services at the ranch were unsurpassed and many of his friends are sorry that he has severed his connection with the Pauba Ranch.

P. E. Dyek of Los Angeles, who has been cashier at the bank in the absence of Mr. Greenfield, left for Los Angeles the last of the week as Mr. Greenfield has resumed his duties as cashier.

Pat Speziali is now fixed to drill wells recently having had his well drilling rig fixed. He has started his first well at the place of Ventura Arviso and has already half a dozen wells to drill right here in town.

November 28, 1919

Mr. Sands, who was an operator at Perris for the Santa Fe is station agent here. He came here when Mr. Palmer was taken sick.

For the past week Albert Banks has been at Long Valley repairing his barn and farm implements and getting ready to start seeding.

Last week the ambulance from Pomona brought the remains of Camilia Trujillo, who died there last year a victim of the influenza. Interment was made at the Pechanga cemetery.



TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 157
Temecula CA 92593-0157

You are cordially invited to the 18th Annual Dinner of the:

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 5:30 pm until 9:30 pm

at the Assistance League of Temecula

28720 Via Montezuma, Temecula, CA 92590

The price of \$40 per person includes dinner and the evening's program.

**Our invited speaker is STEVE WILLIAMSON, presenting:
"The Life & Career of ERLE STANLEY GARDNER"**

Steve will talk about Erle Stanley Gardner, local resident & author of the Perry Mason novels. At the time of his death in 1970, he was the best-selling American author of all time. He was friends with Mahlon Vail and other notable Temecula residents of his day.

Introduction of the 2020 Board of Directors and Officers

Silent Auction and Opportunity Drawings with new & unique items

Social Hour at 5:30 p.m. - President's Remarks at 6:00 p.m. - Appetizers at 6:15 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. - Program Presentation at 7:30 p.m.

A portion of the dinner proceeds go to the TVHS Scholarship Program

Please complete the form below and return it with your check

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2019.

TVHS Annual Dinner Reservation

Saturday, November 16, 2019 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Menu: A buffet dinner featuring appetizers of assorted Bruschetta, a mixed green salad with dressing, an entrée of Rosemary Chicken with lemon butter sauce, roasted potatoes, sautéed zucchini and mushrooms, with croissants & butter. Drinks include: iced water & coffee. Wine will be available. Delicious cakes will be served for dessert.

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Additional Name(s): _____

Number attending: _____ Total: \$ _____

I cannot attend but will assist with a donation for TVHS scholarships. \$ _____

The cost is \$40 per person (Guests are welcome!).

Seating is limited to 80 people.

Make checks payable to: **TVHS** (checks must be received by November 1st)

Please mail form and check to: **TVHS, P.O. Box 157, Temecula, CA 92593-0157**

You may also pay through our website using PayPal or a credit card at: www.temeculahistory.org