

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

June 2021
Volume 21 Issue 6

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 1950's vintage Studebaker with "torpedo nose" feature . . .

Early Wagon Builder

Studebaker, More Than Just a Different Car

If you mention the word *Studebaker* to most senior citizens it conjures up memories of those funny looking cars of the 1950's, you know the ones with the torpedo or bullet nose piece. Styling of Studebaker cars was never in the mainstream occupied by the Big-3 automakers, but they had a following.

Studebaker was more than an automobile manufacturer, in fact their company was founded in 1852 as a wagon maker, and supplier of iron pieces for wagons and carriages. The family's roots went back to Germany where they were foundry men and blacksmiths. After immigrating to America in the early 18th Century and initially settling in Pennsylvania, several members of the family soon went into blacksmithing and wagon making. Conestoga wagons made them well known as they then moved west to Ohio. John Clement Studebaker had five sons, the two oldest Henry and Clement joined together as the H & C Studebaker Wagon Company.

Another of the sons, John Mohler Studebaker headed to California in 1853 drawn to tales of gold. Upon his arrival John soon realized that all the good claims had been taken, and that the miners needed better tools and equipment. So he put his wagon making skills to work and began to build sturdy and durable wheelbarrows. When the gold rush receded, John took his profits and returned home five years later. He had accumulated a "small fortune" of \$8,000 and he became a partner in the Studebaker Wagon Corporation in South Bend, Indiana where operations were expanded and they began building wagons on a large scale. Studebaker wagons proved to be extremely durable, and Stu-

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Studebaker, More Than Just a Different Car

Studebaker Wagon Co. was able to obtain contracts to build wagons for the Union Army during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln's funeral carriage bore the brand of Studebaker, as did many of the prairie schooners that carted the pioneers across the dusty prairies of America.

By the time the United States was 100 years old, the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Co. was the largest producer of horse-drawn vehicles in the world. By then, brothers Peter and Jacob had also joined the company. In 1902 Studebaker entered the fledgling automobile market with an electric car but in 1904 shifted to gasoline motor driven autos.

As America entered into WWI Studebaker began turning out thousands of wagons, motor trucks, ambulances, tanker trucks and gun carriages. Studebaker's reputation for rugged vehicles was well earned. They continued to make horse-drawn vehicles until 1920.

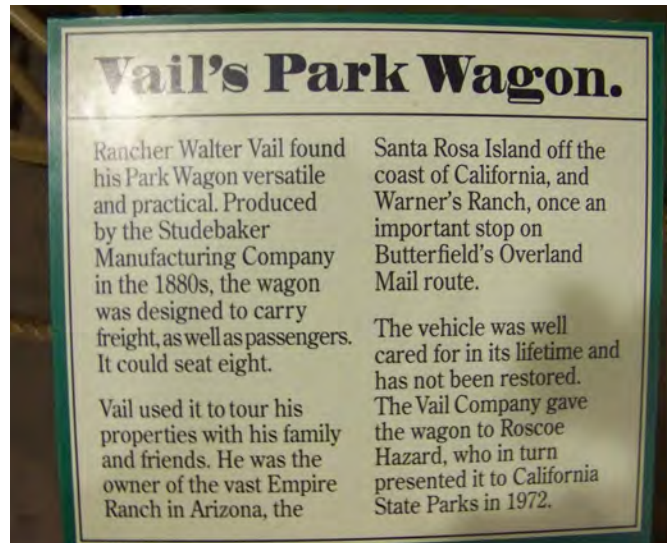
Studebaker survived the Great Depression even though at one point they were in receivership, then began to have strong auto sales in the late 1930's, interrupted by World War II. Once again the company quickly geared up for war production, and again its vehicles continued its reputation for reliability.

As might be expected Studebaker wagons found their way to Southern California and the Temecula Valley. One example is on display at the Seeley Stable's Stagecoaches and Freight Wagons Museum in Old Town San Diego. Built by Studebaker as a touring wagon for multiple passengers to sight-see an area. Thought to have been used on the Santa Rosa Island to tour friends and family around the Vail operations on the island.

A second example is part of the TVHS collection at the History Center. A number of years ago while Darell Farnbach, Rhine Helzer and Dick Fox were beginning the restoration work on an old wagon from Tony Tobin's collection it was discovered that the Studebaker name was stamped in some of the metal work in the axle area. The undercarriage of the wagon was in fairly good shape, but the upper wagon bed was rotted and needed replacing. As part of that restoration the wagon was converted into a "chuck wagon" consistent with the era and days of Vail ranching.



Finished restoration of Studebaker wagon, was converted into Chuck Wagon, now part of TVHS collection



Information label on Vail Park Wagon display at Seeley Stable's Museum in Old Town San Diego



Vail Park Wagon which can be seen at the Seeley Stable's Stagecoaches and Freight Wagons Museum in Old Town San Diego



Dick Fox and Rhine Helzer during restoration of Chuck Wagon

TVHS Announces Summer Evening Events Outdoors on Vail HQ Stage

The Temecula Valley Historical Society will treat the community to free historical entertainment at the Vail HQ Stage on Mondays this summer at **7:00 p.m.**

Please **bring your own lawn chairs** and join us for these presentations.

These programs will begin on **Monday, June 28** with Bonnie Martland & Karen Michaud presenting "Two Women Who Dared", depicting the stories of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont and Alice Paul who were Suffragists 100 years ago.



Please join us for this entertaining and enjoyable lineup of historical programs. Remember to bring your own lawn chairs, or blankets to sit on.

Food and beverages can be purchased from Vail HQ vendors for consumption during the programs.

For more information, please call Rebecca Farnbach at 951-775-6057.

Happy Anniversary to Us . . .

TVHS in its 20th Year

The Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS) was incorporated February 16, 2001 as a non-profit Public Benefit Corporation. In scanning through the newsletter of June 2001, which was quarterly at the start of the organization (Issue #2), I thought it might be fun to revisit and recap the contents of that early newsletter.

On Page One was a President's Comments column by Eve Craig noting community support, and that beginning that month they would have a meeting at noon the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room of the Temecula Library. Also on the same page was details of a planned "That's How it Was . . . BAR-B-QUE" to be held at Margarita Park, with historic skills being demonstrated and entertainment with vintage singers and a chorus.

The Board consisted of:

Eve Craig	President
Darell Farnbach	1 st Vice President
Martha Minkler	2 nd Vice President, Advisory
Pam Grender	Recording Secretary
Bill Harker	Vice President/CFO/Treasurer
Raul Herrera	Vice President Assistant Treasurer
Carol Marsden	Corresponding Secretary
Charolette Fox	Corresponding Secretary
Bruce Singer	Director at Large
Keith Johnson	Director at Large
Ben Masiel	Director at Large

On a more somber note was a feature titled "In Fond Memory" noting the passing of Tony Tobin on Sunday, May 20, 2001.

Reports included the initial meeting of the Research and Preservation committee chaired by Darell Farnbach to work towards restoration of the Wolf Tomb, and their contact of known heirs of Louis Wolf to include the receipt of written permission to enter the property. The Development Committee chaired by Charolette Fox noted their initial efforts to identify projects and potential sources for "grants" to provide funding support.



On **Monday, July 5**, Gerry Nicholas will portray O.T. Hackett who brought the mail by stagecoach to Temecula for several decades and stayed the night at the hotel in the Wolf Store that is now the Press Espresso Coffee Shop.

On **Monday, July 12**, Bill Veale will tell what it was like to be a Vail cowboy and will teach some roping tricks.

Monday, July 19 Bonnie Martland will depict Mary Jane Welty. Mary Jane was the proprietor of Hotel Temecula in Old Town.



On **Monday, July 26** Mark Belnap will give a presentation on Presidential Buttons.

President's Message

June, 2021



The Historical Society is coming back with a bang! I am so pleased to announce that not only will our June 28th presentation on women suffragists be held IN PERSON, but in addition, every Monday night, from June 28th through August 30th, the Historical Society will host a live presentation at the Vail Ranch Headquarters outside stage. Bring your own chairs, sit however far apart you would like, and join us!

Our Notable Men and Women, as well as other presenters, will be sharing local historical stories at 7 pm each Monday night. To stay consistent and to wait for the heat of the day to cool off, the Society's monthly presentations will move from 6pm to 7pm. A full schedule is here in the newsletter.

I want to acknowledge the years of work by our program scheduler, Rebecca Farnbach, and leader of the Notable Men and Women, Lynn Cude, as well as all the presenters themselves, that as they say in baseball, gave us a deep enough bench to put such programming together.

We have an active and engaged society and I feel privileged to work with such wonderful people. If you would like to volunteer out at Vail Ranch HQ in the store, with our stagecoach or train rides, or at the Little Temecula History Center, please email us at info@temeculahistory.org or give one of us a call. It's fun and as our world continues to get safer, it will be good to be with one another again!

— *Shari*

Membership News

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:
Penelope & Terry Lebow

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING:
Rod & Charlene Fink
Claudia & William Perozzi

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Tuesday, June 1** — Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmer's Market at Vail HQ. Come get fresh veggies, tamales, empanadas, and artisan craft items.
- Friday, June 4** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Herrkooled Inland Empire VW car meet.
- Saturday, June 5** — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Swap+Shop, it's a community swap meet and yard sale! Booth space available, make application thru Vail HQ / Events Website.
- Sunday, June 6** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Sunday Funday Event with activities and vendors.
- Friday, June 11** — 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Outdoor Movie Night. "Love and Monsters"(PG13) Bring cushions.
- Sunday, June 13** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Event with activities and vendors.
- Wednesday, June 16** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Temecula Valley High School Soccer Team banquet
- Friday, June 18** — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Herrkooled Inland Empire VW car meet.
- Sunday, June 20** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, "Father's Day" event with activities and vendors.
- Friday, June 25** — 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starlight Bazaar With vendors and activities.
- Saturday, June 26** — Thistle & Sage 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Event, vendors and activities.
- Sunday, June 27** — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Event with activities and vendors.
- Monday, June 28** — 7 p.m. TVHS invites all to Vail HQ for an outdoor presentation by Bonnie Martland and Karen Michaud titled "Two Women Who Dared", depicting the stories of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont and Alice Paul who were Suffragists 100 years ago.

**Happy Father's Day to
All the DAD's
Sunday, June 20**

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – June 1921

Issue of June 10, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

Temecula, June 8, 1921 – The community was shocked Saturday morning by the sudden death of Leopold Cantarini, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Cantarini. Death came after a few hours struggle with double pneumonia. He was taken ill on Thursday and was not thought to be in any danger. He seemed to grow better but a change for the worst came very suddenly and he passed away at six o'clock Saturday morning before the doctor reached him. The body was taken to Riverside where the funeral services were held on Tuesday morning, June 7th, from the St. Francis de Sale Church, Father O'Reaga officiating. The body was laid to rest in the Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside, many friends gathering to pay last tribute. Besides a host of friends he leaves to mourn his loss his father and mother, three sisters, Mary, Angeline and Serena, and four brothers, Joe, El Vetsey, Johnnie and Dan. Leopold Cantarini was born in Switzerland thirty three years ago and came to this region with his parents when but a tiny lad. He has been one of the valley's foremost ranchers, being in partnership with his brothers in cultivating vast areas of land. He was a man of pleasant personality, quiet, unassuming, a man of his word and always to be depended upon. No young man has a nobler record than Leopold and his death is felt keenly by all who knew him. He was noted for his strength and good health and when one so young and strong is taken so suddenly the shock is most severe. The grief stricken mother's life was despaired of for a time but she is gradually rallying. The heart felt sympathy of the entire community is extended to the stricken family.

Mrs. Cleotta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Greenfield, who had the misfortune to break her arm in an automobile accident a week ago, was able to be taken to her home in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Haynes moved back to their home in Temecula on Thursday. They have lived in San Jacinto for several months. The community is glad to welcome them back.

Mr. and Mrs. Beemis have received a very interesting letter from Dr. and Mrs. Frome, who are now in Orville, Washington, for a few weeks. Dr. Frome will be remembered as being the dentist who spent several weeks last winter in Temecula at his work. They are making a trip by auto from Temecula to British Columbia doing dental work as they go along. While in Temecula Dr. Frome had a trailer of "house on wheels" built which consists of a bedroom containing two beds. When these beds are folded a good sized sitting room is in evidence and when folded up again the room is a dining room and kitchen all complete for eating and cooking, with an ice box, gas stove and electric lights. The house is a clever piece of architecture and furnishes a unique way of traveling. There are four in the party, Dr. and Mrs. Frome, their boy

and a friend, Mr. McKenzie. They went thru California over the Sierras, Shasta and Siskiyou and experienced no trouble whatever. Dr. Frome praises the California roads highly but cannot do quite so much for Oregon. Dr. and Mrs. Frome expect to winter in Temecula again this year.

Issue of June 17, 1921

By Miss Elizabeth Nienke

Temecula, June 15 – Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Kelly are spending the week in Oceanside fishing and taking a much needed rest. Mr. M.L. Royal, of Rainbow, is taking care of the Kelly home in their absence.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Walters and daughter, Peggy, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith and little daughter, motored to Snow Creek Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and family remained for the week. Mr. Smith is having his vacation from duties in the Temecula meat market.

The Temecula baseball nine played the Murrieta team at the Hot Springs Sunday. The score was in Temecula's favor, 10 to 1.

Mr. Hunsacker is putting down a well on the Machado property on the west side of town. Mr. and Mrs. Machado intend to make other improvements on this property in the near future.

Issue of June 24, 1921

By Elizabeth Nienke

Temecula, June 22 – The Pala Mission will be the center of attraction on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, when a two-day celebration will be held. The people of Pala, under Father Purtill, the Indian missionary, have been working out plans for this affair for some time and promise many interesting features. On Saturday there will be a barbecue under capable supervision and the large amusement hall just completed, furnishes an ideal place for dancing. Games of various kinds, races, exhibitions of old time Indian dances have been arranged and of special interest will be an address by the celebrated J.S. McGroarty, of the Mission Play, and concert music by the Sherman Institute band. The plans for Sunday are just as interesting. The roads leading to Pala are in good condition. The new amusement hall is to be opened for the first time. It is hoped that money can soon be raised to lift the debt from the building and to enable the committee to install a lighting system and furnish it properly. Anyone wishing to assist may communicate with the Rev. J.R. Purtill, of Pala.

Banning Defeats Temecula at Hot Springs, 3-2.

The Boy Scout troop met at the grammar school Sunday for their regular drill and exercises. Five of the boys have qualified as tenderfoot scouts and are as follows: Barney Roripaugh, Ralph Barnett, Bruce Clogston, Louie Roripaugh and Harold Clogston. These boys plan to leave July 7th for the week at the Boy Scout camp at Idyllwild.