

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

January 2023
Volume 23 Issue 1

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

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Temecula, CA 92593

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This is the photo that was on the cover of the 22nd Annual Meeting Program.

President's Year-End Report

22nd Annual Meeting Honors Darell & Rebecca Farnbach

By Dick Fox

This year's annual meeting marked the 22nd time we've met for such a forum. As was the case last year, we once again met in the ballroom of the Wilson Creek Winery, and shared a wonderful meal. The special program at this year's event was organized and presented by Bonnie Martland titled "This is Your Life" the Amazing Journey of Darell and Rebecca Farnbach. It was a wonderful presentation.

For those who may have attended a year ago will recall that when the President's gavel was passed to me I stated that 2022 was going to be the year of "National Registry". My last comment then was for all to "Think Registry" and wish us well. The committee consisting of Jim Sappington, Lisa Woodward, and Rebecca Farnbach submitted 3 drafts during the course of the year and each time it was returned with questions, comments or areas needing clarification. Finally in early December we have been notified by the State Historic Preservation Office that they are satisfied with the application and will forward to the State Historic Preservation Commission for review at their April 2023 meeting. If approved by this last step in the California State procedures, then it will be

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Page 1)

President's Year-End Report

22nd Annual Meeting Honors Farnbachs

forwarded to the nationally responsible department. It is our understanding that once forwarded to the “feds” it is a *fait accompli*.

Clearly we are excited about nearing the end of this long process, and will be making celebration plans in the coming weeks.

The society now has 124 members, and has recently completed the first step on a path of replacing or creating new, a number of our posters. A committee chaired by Bonnie Reed completed an initial new poster which can best be described as an introductory poster highlighting “who we are, and what we do”. Photos and brief descriptions of our many activities are the heart of this display.

During 2022 we hosted over 500 students to tour the History Center and the Vail HQ ranch site as part of their introduction to local history curriculum. We continue to have good attendance at the History Center on Sunday afternoons, and certainly keep busy at the Vail HQ. Our “antique and collectibles” store at the HQ is open on Tuesdays during the Farmer’s Market, and every Sunday afternoon. Many of you know about our little train that we operate when opened, and for many of the special events that are held during the year. The store under the leadership of Loretta Barnett, with able assistance from Bonnie Reed, Toni Benson, and Suzanne Dechert provides a nice flow of donation revenue. Our train and stagecoach rides also provided nice donations from 7,558 individual rides.

With the pandemic over we have resumed our in-person monthly presentations, and had a full program calendar during this past year. With the able assistance of Dale Garcia we continue to “broadcast” these presentations live on Facebook using their facilities. In checking on the statistics that they gather for the FB Live presentations we have been able to arrive at some interesting data.

Our average in-person count each month is 32 people in attendance, plus we have seen that each month we are averaging 15 people who are viewing the presentation as it is being broadcast. Additionally each presentation is available in the public area of our FB account, hence there is a substantial number of “views” of the presentation after the fact. Of interest is Facebook does not count someone unless they watch for more than 7 minutes, we have been averaging 267 views following the date of the presentation, so we clearly are reaching a wide audience.

Other significant accomplishments and events during 2022 included the ordering and delivery of a new “train engine” and “caboose” car. Bill Veale chaired

this activity and met the challenge of delivery trucks with no ability to lower the cars to the ground, so he creatively enlisted the help of Home Depot and their loading dock staff. We also had some major repairs to the History Center building sidewalk area caused by a tree root. This necessitated a “root prune”, installation of a root barrier, and new sidewalk. During this timeframe we also had some repairs to wooden siding and complete exterior painting of the HC. We also repaired and serviced the windmill at Vail HQ and got operational once again, and improved the covered shelter area behind the History Center where numerous vehicles need to be under cover from weather elements.

We purchased the Model A pickup truck from the Farnbachs, along with their significant donation of stated value. In July the Society had a special event at the HQ with the renaming of the stage on the center quad to now be named “The Farnbach Stage”, with an accompanying plaque of recognition. During this event a sign on the front area of the old barn now reads “Darell’s Garage”. The week following this event, the Vail HQ celebrated its 6th Anniversary since the Grand Opening.

For the second year our old Dodge vehicle which was previously Al Knott’s mobile blacksmith vehicle, won 1st place in the 1900-1929 original stock entries at the annual Temecula Rod Run. We also had one high school student qualify for a scholarship, as well as providing additional funds for previous recipient Marcus Zarinelli. Efforts are ongoing to improve the security of our store at the Vail HQ.

2022 has been a busy and eventful year which has only been achieved through the tireless efforts of many wonderful volunteers, and now we enter 2023 with a newly elected President Dave Wilson. Let’s all give a cheer to Dave and the entire board as we look forward to another successful year, especially one rewarded with the anticipated approval of our application for National Registry of Historic Places at the Wolf Store and Vail Ranch headquarters.



Antique and Collectibles store operated by our Society, and a source of donation revenues to support our operating needs. Tickets for train and stagecoach rides are sold here.

President's Message

January, 2023

Thank you to everyone who dedicated countless hours in 2022 nurturing significant growth of this vibrant, all-volunteer non-profit. Key was the operational continuity of The Little Temecula History Center, the Historical Society Antique Store, kid's train and stagecoach, plus critical oversight, preservation and maintenance of Society assets. All greatly enhanced our organization's public profile. The resulting revenue stream now offsets operating expenses and creates a critical foundation for future program and technological innovation, while funding altruistic efforts for community outreach.

Since Spring 2020, technology has proven crucial to this Society's ability to continue our mission unimpeded. Technology will become even more crucial moving forward. Monthly remote board meetings kept us engaged, active and effective, much of it under the steady, savvy leadership of Dick Fox as 2022 President. From everyone involved with the Historical Society, thank you for that Dick!

2023 will see The Wolf Store inch closer to National Historic status. How do we honor and celebrate that designation?

Once certified, visitors from all points of the globe will be common. This will be a remarkable triumph and potential PR coup. Now, well in advance of this designation, the current analysis of wiring the Headquarters and History Center and the limitless possibilities that creates should be expanded to include a review and refresh of all public relations and social media/online strategies. What logical, effective upgrades and solutions should be implemented in a timely fashion ensuring we are 'hitting our stride' when the designation celebration ultimately commences?

The more user friendly and sophisticated the Temecula Valley Historical Society facilities and resources become in communicating the fascinating story about our unique corner of the world, expanded participation and volunteerism from the local populace will naturally follow. Case in point – a special welcome is in order to new volunteers joining us to assist with our 2023 student tours. You will be GREATLY appreciated!

Lots to consider. Lots to accomplish.

Happy New Year everyone!

— *Dave Wilson*

EVENTS CALENDAR

Every Tuesday — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vail HQ Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.

Monday, January 23 — 6 p.m. Monthly presentation Laura Zayats and other members of the Temecula Valley Prospectors Club will give us a history of mining in California with a hands-on demonstration of various techniques..

Friday, January 27 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Starlight Bazaar . Family fun.

Sunday, January 29 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday. Family fun, entertainment.



She Passed This Way . . .

Ruth Atkins Well Known Lake Elsinore Historian

In early December it was announced that long-time resident and local Lake Elsinore historian had passed away. She had just recently been presented and honored as Woman of the Year. Ruth passed away peacefully at her home. She will be missed by all. She was not one for a lot of fuss but she was a powerful force in her town. Her passion for Lake Elsinore and the surrounding region was well known and her commitment to the history of the area was unmatched. She was the keeper of all things Lake Elsinore in more ways than one. As a researcher, historian, political activist and mentor to many, she was a valuable resource. She leaves everyone with a greater awareness of our past on which to build our future.

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – January 1923

January 5, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

John Z. Barnett, well known in and around Temecula, passed away at the French hospital in Los Angeles Thursday December 28th, at the age of 79 years and six months. He had only been ill for a short time and the end came sooner than had been anticipated by physicians. The deceased was a native of Illinois and came to California in 1861, where he devoted most of his time to prospecting in the mountains, making Los Angeles his home when not traveling throughout the state. "Uncle Barney", as he was lovingly called by his many friends, will always be remembered for his kind and benevolent spirit. He was a member of the Masonic lodge of Elsinore for many years and the team from the Board of Masonic Relief of Los Angeles conducted the funeral services, the ceremony being very impressive. He is survived by a brother, E. E. Barnett, of Temecula, and sister, Mrs. Huger, of Ventura. Interment was made in the Masonic cemetery at Glendale.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bemis and nephew, Fred, of San Bernardino, and Mrs. Helwich of Escondido, were guests of their mother, Mrs. John Welty, for the New Year holidays.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Dunlap, December 22nd, at the Riverside Community Hospital, a six and one half pound girl. The little miss has been given the name Phillis.

C.E. Ceouse, driver for the Fritz stage to Los Angeles, is on a few days' vacation.

Reginald Attache has returned from a tour throughout the east. He was with an all-star Indian football team and reports that out of fourteen games, they lost three.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Smith were initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star at Elsinore Monday evening.

Arthur Escallier, who was home for the Christmas holidays, has returned to college at Corvallis, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann, and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands attended Eastern Star chapter at Elsinore Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Vail had a large number of friends from Los Angeles as their weekend guests.

E.E. Barnett, A.B. Barnett and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roripaugh attended the funeral of John Z. Barnett at Glendale Saturday.

C.S. Cunningham, traveling freight agent and F. Rice, traveling passenger agent for the Santa Fe, were business visitors here last Thursday.

Messrs. Ad Holt, Jr. and C.J. Baunders of Pueblo, Colorado, are registered at the hotel and expect to make their future home in this valley.

A. Knott was a Los Angeles visitor several days the first of the week. Mrs. A. Knott has as her guests, her great uncle, V. Parker, of Iowa.

January 19, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

A large number of young folks motored to Auld last Wednesday evening to charivari Joe Cantarini and bride. Old fashioned games were played until a late hour, when the bride served delicious light refreshments. Everyone went home wishing someone would get married real often.

Two gentlemen who were on their way to San Diego were seriously, if not fatally injured a few days ago when their machine hit the hole which has been in the middle of the highway at the north approach of the Temecula river bridge for quite a while, and turned over several times, injuring both. Surely there is something the citizens and taxpayers of this community can do to have the highway repaired, as it has been dangerous since the heavy rains of last winter. Some places there are gullies three feet deep at the side of the highway, and if someone were to get off the road it would cause a bad wreck. In fact it seems as if we in the back country are forgotten when it comes to divide the highway appropriation. Let's wake up and see what we can do to prevent such occurrences.

Mr. Lunt, county physical training director, was a visitor at the school last Tuesday.

Mahlon Vail and Gene McSweeney attended a conference concerning a new freight truck line between Temecula and Los Angeles, at Elsinore last Thursday.

Mr. White, representing the Pacific Demurrage Bureau, was a business visitor here last Thursday.

The Pioneer Truck Co. of San Diego, who had the contract of excavating the dirt at the Warner dam, has shipped this week 120 mules and 30 wagons to several other camps.

E.W. Hansen, E.E. Barnett, A.B. Barnett, Lynn Smith, W.M. Friedemann, A. Escallier, V.B. Sands and Bill Mernaugh attended the Masonic lodge last Thursday.

January 26, 1923

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Mr. and Mrs. A. Knott had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stagers and baby of Carlsbad and J.C. Rail and two sons, Floyd and Ira, of Murrieta.

Mrs. Heintz and Miss Rita Domenigoni attended the meeting of the teachers of the Elsinore district concerning the track meet which will be held in the early part of March, Monday evening at Elsinore.

Mr. Marian of Arlington and Mr. Ronibaud of Utah visited at the J.M. Nicolas ranch Sunday. The latter is a nephew of Mr. Zermina Nicolas.

The McSweeney Farms shipped a car of seed potatoes to San Francisco Tuesday.

A.F. Nienke received another car of lumber last week and spent the weekend with his family at Riverside.

Bill Murnagh spent the weekend with his mother at Venice.