

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

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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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Memories retold

A Calving Experience

By Tony Tobin

(Editor's Note: The manuscript for this story written by Tony Tobin was found in among some old documents, and is being reprinted as found. This story originally appeared in the VaRRR News in 2014.)

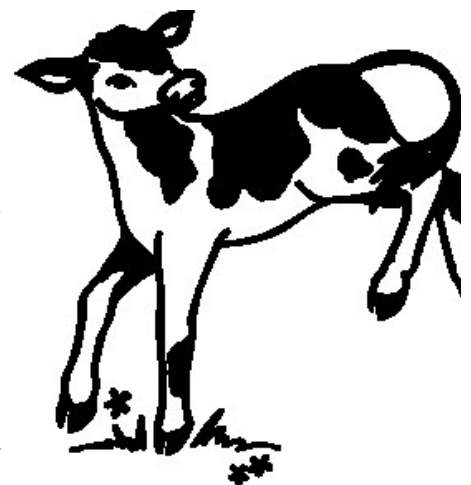
In September of 1919, my parents, Mr. & Mrs. M.V. Tobin, homesteaded 440 acres in an area called Chihuahua Valley in northeast San Diego County, California. There were my parents and four children: ages 6 months, 3, 5 and 6 years. I am the 5 year old. Our house was one room, 14'x20', with no ceiling nor interior wall covering, just 2'x4's. We had no horses or wagons or a car. We borrowed animals and equipment in order to do what little farming we did.

After about a year my father bought a 1918 Dodge touring car. We also bought a Holstein cow with a calf. We planted the usual garden and some fruit trees.

My father hunted deer and rabbits for meat. We also got meat and milk from the neighbors, before we had the cow. My mother was an extra fine seamstress. She had worked for a company that made wedding outfits for the very wealthy, in San Francisco, before she married and moved to Los Angeles with my father, brother and me in 1916. My sister was born that year and my younger brother was born in 1919, the same year we moved to Chihuahua Valley.

In the latter part of 1920, my mother decided she needed her old treadle sewing machine, so we packed up the old Dodge and went to Los Angeles, about 150 miles and a six to eight hour trip. I don't remember how long we were in Los Angeles, but when we were going to return to the old homestead my folks decided to take a long way around and go by way of San Marcos where an old navy buddy of my dad's lived. San Marcos is between Oceanside and Escondido. We had no problems getting there and stayed a couple of days and then headed home to Chihuahua Valley by way of Escondido, Ramona, Santa Ysabel and Warner Springs. The road from San Marcos to Santa Ysabel was paved and crooked with lots of hills.

As we left Escondido and headed for Ramona we went through the San Pasqual Valley (where the present day San Diego Wild Animal Park is). We came upon a large sign on the highway that read "10 day old pure bred Jersey Calves for sale -- \$10". My dad always wanted a Jersey cow because of its rich



(Continued on next page)

A Calving Experience

milk. Soooo what does he do but stop to check out the calves. Well here's the picture: An open touring car with 2 adults and 4 kids, a sewing machine in the back seat with 3 of the kids, rolls of blankets over the fenders and boxes on the running boards. Now just where and how are you going to add a ten day old calf? My mother was quite apprehensive but my dad figured it out. Put my 4 year old sister in the front seat with my folks and put the calf in the back seat (on the seat; there was no room on the floor, because of the sewing machine) between my brother and me. Now how do you keep a 10 day old calf from thrashing around and wanting to stand up? Between my dad and the dairyman they came up with a solution: Put the calf in a large burlap (gunny) sack and tie the opening around the calf's neck. This they did and put it on the seat between my brother and me and we were on our way.

We probably had a 3 or 4 hours ride to home . . . we thought. Now remember, this is not a housebroken animal and it didn't wear diapers.

Everything went fine, except for the calf relieving itself at will, until a mile or so out of Santa Ysabel (it consisted of an old general store, gas station, lodge, and garage-blacksmith shop and several houses). The car quit. It was fortunate we had come over the last hill and we coasted all the way to the garage. The mechanic couldn't get the car fixed until the next morning so we set up camp behind a nearby large billboard and staked out the calf. We bought canned milk and mixed it with water for the calf and we ate in the lodge.

The next morning, we packed up and headed for home. From here to home was about 40 miles. We got 12 to

14 miles and the car quit again. We sat around and Dad tried to fix the car with no luck. Traffic on the road was almost nil. As luck would have it along comes the rural mail carrier and he had a big Marmon touring car and said he would tow us to Warner Springs where the maintenance mechanic could help us. Imagine, if you will, riding in an open car on a dirt road being towed about 15 feet behind another car.

It was so dusty you could hardly see the other car. Well, we made it to Warner Springs which was and is today a resort for the wealthy with a Hotel and very nice cabins, (adobe and concrete) 2 large swimming pools fed from the hot sulfur springs, etc. My folks cleaned us up as best they could and went to the hotel dining room to eat. They wouldn't let us in because we were so dirty from the ride behind the towing car.

They did let us rent a cabin and use the bath house at the swimming pools to shower and wash up and then they let us in to eat. My brother and I didn't smell too good after riding in the back seat with the calf. We had to stay all night and Dad and the mechanic got the car going again in the morning and we took off again for home, another 20 miles to go. We got home without any more trouble and I guess the calf was just as happy to get out of the sack as we were to get out of the car after almost 3 days.

I don't know how long it took Dad to get all the calf residue and odor out of the car but the calf grew to a fine milk cow and a real pet and everyone lived happily ever after.

Washing Clothes the Old Way

(Years ago a Kentucky grandmother gave a new bride in the family the following recipe for washing clothes. Reproduced as found handwritten on scrap of paper.)

Bilt fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water.

Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.

Shave one hole cake of lie soap in bilin water.

Sort things, make 3 piles. 1 pile white, 1 pile colored, 1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with bilin water.

Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, and then bile. Rub colored don't bile, just rinch and starch.

Take things out of kettle with broomstick handle, then rinch, and starch.

Hang old rags on fence.

Spread tea towels on grass.

Pore rinch water in flower bed.

Scrub porch with hot soapy water.

Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.

*** It is suggested that you paste a copy of this over your washer and dryer, when you think things are bleak, read it again and count your blessings! ***

Applying for recognition as a National Historical Site

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Most of us have stopped at roadside attractions when leisurely driving through the countryside. Many of the sites are county or state historical sites marked by a plaque on a large boulder. We have also redirected our routes when we follow large brown “National Historical Site” signs on major roadways. The Temecula Valley Historical Society hopes that one day soon that brown signs on Interstate 15 will direct visitors to Vail HQ.

On September 1, 2019, the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaARRA) merged with the Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS) to unite in our common interest in historic preservation, since most of VaARRA’s goals had been accomplished. The one goal remaining, application for national historic recognition for Vail HQ, was assumed by the newly merged organization. Our story goes like this, in the mid-1990s when a group of us discussed saving the derelict buildings of the now thriving Vail HQ, we agreed on several goals. We would save the site from demolition and would allow non-corporate businesses to lease spaces to bring life to the area and would hold public events in the common area. Those goals came after a lawsuit, a long wait, and a lot of perseverance.

Because we who advocated for preservation of the property did not own the land, we had to share our dreams with the ever-changing chain of owners to bring our vision to fruition. Ownership of the property changed five times between 1998 and the present.

The last remaining goal has taken a while longer to achieve and we are now on the cusp of attaining it. Recognizing the many events, significant people, and historical significance of the property that makes it a landmark in the Western US, we decided we would file paperwork to register it as an official National Historic site with the United States Department of the Interior.

This has proven to be a long and tedious process and one that has faced several delays. In 1998 some of us researched guidelines for making the application and consulted with the California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO). We learned the property was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2002, Dick Fox, a VaARRA board member painstakingly researched every aspect of historic significance of the Vail HQ property. Dick, with his son Rick Fox, an architect, described in detail the construction of each building on the property. Dick then completed the detailed application form, and we engaged a historian experienced in the application process to take the required black and white photographs. After completion of the paperwork, the property owner stated he was not yet ready to sign the application with his approval.

In 2019 we repeated the application preparation, understanding that owner Jerry Tessier of Arteco Partners

would sign the application in January 2022. Because state historical offices need to review all National Historic Applications, we revised our previous application and learned digital photographs were acceptable by then. Once again, we hired a photographer who was familiar with the process. We sent our application to SHPO in September 2019 with a letter requesting their review in advance of our January 2022 application. We were told they would not do their review until our official application submission in January of 2022.

Now we are preparing to send off our application. TVHS board member Jim Sappington is reviewing the verbiage and making sure we have included every possible nuance of significance to make our application go through: Author Helen Hunt Jackson stayed at the Cookhouse and based much of her novel *Ramona* on the people she met there and the landscape and features nearby, the Treaty of Temecula was signed nearby, Walter Vail who organized the last large cattle drive of the West owned the property, the Butterfield Overland Trail, also known as the Southern Emigrant Trail, is still imprinted on the landscape, it was one of the last large cattle ranches in Southern California, The trail on the property was part of the only year-round route to the Gold Fields in 1949, etc.

We expect an easy approval for our January 2022 application to the US Department of Interior to register Vail HQ as a National Historic District. This will be the first place in the Temecula Valley to be nominated as a National Historic Site. We will throw a big party to celebrate when we unveil the historic marker and hope you will come.



Founders of VaARRA, Rita Gentry, Darell Farnbach and Dick Diamond worked together from the drafting of the lawsuit to save Vail HQ it has always been the plan to have the rehabilitation done to the US Department of Interior standards in order to have the site designated as a National Historical Site.

President's Message

January, 2022

Yes, another New Year has rolled around. As we prepare and plan for 2022 it is also appropriate to take the time to reflect back on the past. TVHS has just completed 3 years of activity that was unprecedented in modern times. A pandemic that certainly upset and changed many aspects of our daily lives. During these trying times TVHS was fortunate to have had the leadership of Shari Crall. She challenged us to realistically continue our efforts of keeping the legacy and history of Temecula available for the public. Shari also led us into the world of Zoom board meetings.

Program presentations were also done through Zoom, and every Monday evening this past summer an outdoor presentation about either people or events in our history was presented on the stage at Vail HQ. Many of our members worked to make these events happen smoothly, and that is a source of pride we can all share.

Regulations imposed during the worst of the pandemic meant that we could not open and operate our History Center for public access. As soon as we could, once again members were there to open up and greet visitors who were in need of just "getting out" of their homes and looking to shake the doldrums of confinement.

TVHS maintains a "laundry list" of projects and ideas, among which is the goal to have the Vail HQ property registered as a National Historic Place. After many disappointments over the last 20 years in achieving this goal, it appears we finally have an owner of the property that is willing to sign documents as part of the application.

So it is FORWARD into 2022. We celebrate all that has been accomplished and anticipate what is still to be done as part of preserving and protecting the history of this wonderful Temecula we all call home.

Here's to a Happy and Healthy New Year for all.

— Dick Fox

Membership News

Welcome New Members:

Chloe Cuffel

Stacia Deutsch

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Dave Wilson

Stew Stewart

Whitney Vail Wilson

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 2 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Activities and vendors. Antique store open & train rides. History Center open 12-5.

Tuesday, January 4 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer's Market. Antique store open and train rides for kids. Same schedule every Tuesday.

Friday, January 7 — 6 to 9 p.m. Herrkooled VW Club meet, 20-30 cars parked on property.

Sunday, January 9 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Activities and vendors. Antique store open & train rides. History Center open 12-5.

Saturday, January 15 — 4 to 9 p.m. Thistle & Sage Vegan Market. Vendors and foods.

Sunday, January 16 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Activities and vendors. Antique store open & train rides. History Center open 12-5.

Sunday, January 23 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Funday, Activities and vendors. Antique store open & train rides. History Center open 12-5.

Monday, January 24 — 6 p.m. Zoom presentation by Sean Milonavich a Cahuilla Native who will speak on The Treaty of Temecula, an unratified treaty between U.S. government & multiple Native tribes.

Temecula's Pat Ommert Receives Special Award

Temecula's own Pat Ommert was recently inducted into the Rodeo Historical Society Hall of Fame and was the Tad Lucas Memorial Award 2020 honoree. Pat North Ommert was born October 12, 1929, in Bell, California. From 1941 – 1962 Ommert wowed audiences coast to coast with her trick riding, Roman riding and specialty acts while appearing at venues such as the Los Angeles Sheriff's Rodeo, Madison Square Garden, Boston Garden and Bobby Estes' Wild West Show in Mexico City, to name a few. In 1969 Ommert was a Rancho California Horsemen's Association founding leader, with a mission to develop a network of safe equestrian trails for future generations. Pat is also a National Cowgirl Hall of Fame inductee.



100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – January 1922

Issue of January 6, 1922

By Miss Elizabeth Nienke

Mrs. Hall, of the Temecula Lunch Rooms, spent part of the week in Riverside and on Tuesday went to Los Angeles to attend the graduation exercises of her daughter, Miss Ethel Hall, who graduates from the Nurses Training School of the California Hospital in Los Angeles. Miss Ada Helms, another Temecula girl, graduates with the same class.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bemis are the possessors of a nice new Studebaker light six car.

Mr. J. Hampton Watts of Los Angeles was a New Years' guest at the A.F. Nienke home.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Barton entertained with a New Years' dinner, their guests being Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schain and family of Ethanac, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schain and family of San Bernardino, Mr. Ole Larson of Los Angeles, Miss Mabel Pope of Los Angeles, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walters, Miss Ethelyn Walters and Mr. Vesty Cantarini, all of Temecula.

Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Sands and son, Edward spent Saturday night in San Bernardino. Mr. Sands' mother, Mrs. Sands, of San Bernardino, returned home with them for a visit.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sweet, of Riverside, a big bouncing boy. Mr. Sweet will be remembered to have worked in the store of G. A. Burnham and son a few years ago.

Mrs. S. Nicolas of French Valley has been seriously ill with pneumonia the past week, but is slightly improved at this time.

A large crowd attended the dance given in the Temecula amusement hall New Years' Eve and a jolly time is reported.

Ole Larson, of Los Angeles, spent the weekend with Temecula friends and relatives.

Miss Mabel Pope, of Los Angeles, who has visited her aunt, Mrs. W.T. Barton for the past week, returned home on Tuesday.

Issue of January 13, 1922

By Miss Elizabeth Nienke

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanguen at the Riverside hospital, a baby girl. The little miss has been named Bettie Jane.

Mr. Joe Welty has been on the sick list the past week.

William Friedemann made a trip to Oak Grove and Cahuilla on Monday and found the roads in fair condition.

George Kolb and family have moved into the Frank Tripp house on the boulevard.

Officer G. A. Riley has his father of San Diego as his visitor.

Miss Clara Slosson, of Elsinore, has been a guest at the W. T. Barton home.

Mrs. William Friedemann of Temecula and Mrs.

Forter of Elsinore very pleasantly entertained the ladies of the Social Club of the Elsinore Eastern Star on Tuesday at the Friedemann home. About fifteen ladies enjoyed the afternoon at the close of which delightful cake, sandwiches and coffee were served.

Mrs. Albert Otto has had as her guest this week her cousin, Miss Lenora Buss, of Williams, Arizona.

Jack Domenigoni has a new Dodge car.

Mrs. Harry Kolb is suffering with a severe case of the mumps.

Mr. and Mrs. John Putnam of San Marcos were guests at the G. A. Burnham home on Tuesday. Mr. Dan Cantarini was a Riverside visitor on Monday.

Issue of January 20, 1922

By Elizabeth Nienke

Mrs. Asie Larson and baby daughter, of Bakersfield, have been visiting at the Pete Larson home at Rainbow. They were luncheon guests at the home of Mrs. W.T. Barton on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham, Miss Ethel Burnham and Miss Elizabeth Nienke spent Sunday with friends in Escondido and San Marcos.

Miss Ethelyn Walters, Miss Clara Slosson and Mr. Sam Seiple spent Sunday at Tia Juana.

W. Vogel, of Imperial, is working in the Temecula Meat Shop, relieving Harry Walters who is soon to go into the dairy business.

Mrs. Carl Swanguen and infant daughter returned home from Riverside on Wednesday.

Mrs. Knott entertained with dinner Tuesday evening for Miss Rita Domenigoni and Miss Eula Fleshman.

Mrs. Albert Welty of Ellensburg, Washington, is a visitor at the Welty hotel.

Issue of January 27, 1922

By Elizabeth Nienke

Mr. Lunt, the Riverside County Physical Instructor, was a recent visitor at the grammar school.

A huge crowd attended the dance given in the dance hall Saturday evening.

Miss Ethelyn Walters left Saturday for Los Angeles to begin her work in the nurses' training school of the Clara Barton hospital.

The Temecula baseball nine played the Riverside Giants at the Hot Springs diamond Sunday. The score was 3 – 7 favoring Temecula.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire Stager, of Murrieta, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Verne Spivey.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Barnett have a new Dodge car. Mrs. Ritz, who was threatened with pneumonia and quite ill last week, is much improved at this writing.

Mrs. G.A. Burnham entertained with a dinner Thursday evening. The guests were Miss Eula Fleshman, Miss Rita Domenigoni and Miss Elizabeth Nienke.