

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

January 2024
Volume 24 Issue 1

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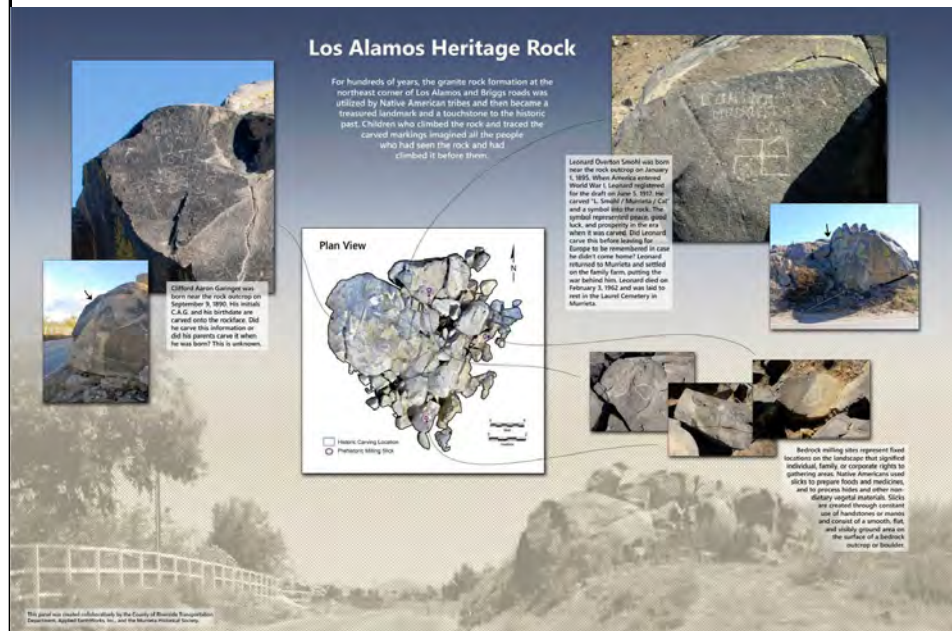
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Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593

www.temeculahistory.org



The Unfortunate Destruction of Los Alamos Heritage Rock



Heaven Wept Today

**While the bigwigs gathered under a tent under drizzling rain
To celebrate the success
Of the completion of the project
Connecting two roads together.**

**The ancient ones cried.
Modern progress erased their traces,
The grinding stones that had stood for eons,
The graffiti marking the passage of two young boys,
A marker in the place in the universe.**

**An archeologist forgot to mention the huge rocks
So earthmovers broke and displaced them.
"It is progress.
It makes it possible for more cars to move more easily."**

**Few dignitaries noted the insignificant sign
Or the heap of broken boulders.
Heaven wept.
I did too.**

Rebecca Marshall Farnbach



An etching from Los Alamos Heritage rock



A U.S. Geological Survey marker from the rock.



An etching from Los Alamos Heritage rock

For over a hundred years a granite rock formation in French Valley was a treasured landmark, a touchstone to the past where long-ago residents ground acorns and pioneers carved their names and initials. Children climbed the rock and traced the etched markings with their fingers and imagined the people who had touched and climbed the rock long ago. Unfortunately, during a field study for the widening of Clinton Keith Road, an archeologist misinterpreted the etchings on the rock that were made over one hundred years old as being “modern graffiti”. This is difficult to understand since the boulders were already identified as Riverside County archaeological site CA-RIV-11585, a site eligible for both California and National Registered Historical Sites. The rock formation was bulldozed on Friday, June 17, 2022, to make a six-lane road extension.

2024 Committees & Chairpersons

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County Historic Commission - Bonnie Martland

Education - Rebecca Farnbach

Events - Bonnie Reed

History Center - Toni Benson

Hospitality - Mindy Johnson

Media Release - Rebecca Farnbach

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Newsletter - Roger Cudé

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Technology, Innovation, Media - Jim Sappington

Tours & Outings - Phil Washum

Vail Ranch - Jim Sappington

Vehicle - Jim Sappington

Website - Roger Cudé

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you would like to volunteer to be on one of our committees, we would welcome your assistance. Please send an email to: info@temeculahistory.org.

Membership News

Welcome New Members:

Jason Crissman

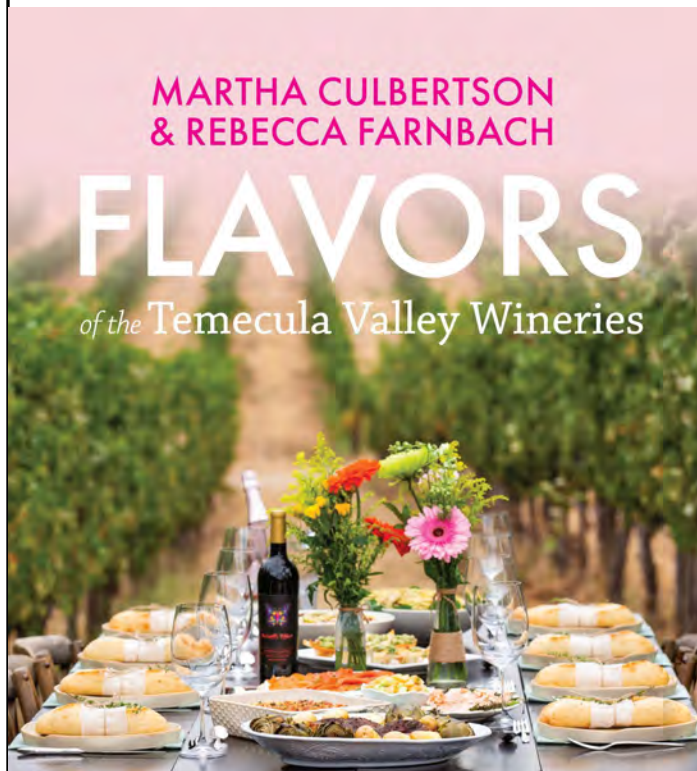
Riley Gordinier

Chris & Kathy Sizemore

Thanks to Renewing Members:

Jeff & Martha Minkler

Flavors of the Temecula Valley Wineries



If you are planning to buy a copy of the "Flavors of Temecula Valley Wineries" cookbook coauthored by Rebecca Farnbach and Martha Culbertson, please buy it from the Temecula Valley Historical Society so we receive the profit from your purchase. We will have books available at the Little Temecula History Center on Sunday afternoons and on the evenings of our presentations. The books will also be available at our Antique Store at Vail HQ on Sunday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, and whenever the store is open. The price is \$50.

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THANKS TO OUR 2023 DONORS!

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Vail HQ Merchants:

Nectar Clothing Store

Grazing Theory

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Individual Donors:

Joann Markham

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Suzanne Dechert

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Wheeler Hubbard

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column — January 1924

January 4, 1924

Wilson Sommerville was called to San Bernardino Monday morning by the death of his wife who has been in a critical condition for the past year. The family and friends have known that it was only a matter of time as her recovery was impossible. School opened Wednesday after nearly three weeks vacation. S.A. Seiple has purchased a new Essex coach. Mrs. C. W. Swanguen, who is in the hospital at Riverside, is doing fine at this writing.

January 11, 1924

Temecula Ships Seed Potatoes

The McSweeney Farms shipped two cars of seed potatoes to their warehouse in Los Angeles the fore part of the week, they being dipped already for the spring planting. They had three hundred acres in potatoes this fall and the average production being one hundred and twenty five sacks to the acre of the finest seed potatoes grown in the entire state. The thirty five thousand sacks which are stored in their warehouse here will move within the next two months to various points within and without the State. This seed is the certified White Rose variety. Their acreage to potatoes in this valley will be between seven and eight hundred acres this spring

Larsen's Barber Shop and Pool Hall Robbed

O.E. Larson's barber shop and pool hall was robbed of sixty dollars last Thursday night. It was no doubt the work of an inexperienced burglar as the culprit crawled through one of the windows which he had pried open and in the effort to get to the money drawer left foot prints on a chair which were close by. No arrests have been made so far.

Assistant Cashier Resigns from Bank

The Vail Company received ten cars, six hundred and fifty head of feeder cattle from El Paso, Texas Sunday morning.

January 18, 1924

New Radio Installed by Temecula Merchant

G.A. Burnham has installed a fine, new Nutridie Radio and has cut in on concerts from Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Vancouver and several other eastern cities as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

A Large Party Attends Royal Neighbor Installation at Elsinore

Mesdames J.B. Kelly, W. M. Friedemann, F.H. Hall, A.B. Barnett, A. Knott and J.M. Nicolas attended the installation of officers and the initiation of a class of twenty five into the Royal Neighbors camp at Elsinore Tuesday evening.

Mahlon Vail has purchased a new 1924 Buick roadster.

January 25, 1924

Santa Fe Rip Raps Temecula Tracks

The Santa Fe railway has had a force of men employed the past week rip rapping the right-of-way along the banks of the river west of town. Concrete blocks are being used for the work. Frequent cut-outs have occurred along the right-of-way during the past two years and the present work is being done to forestall a wash out.

Warehouse Being Painted

The McSweeney Farms have just finished painting their warehouse, and adding a few improvements.

R.B. Patterson is back at the Pauba ranch after several weeks' vacation.