

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

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Our mission is identifying,
preserving and promoting the his-
toric legacy of the Temecula valley.

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Women's Suffrage

By Bonnie Martland

As March is women's history month, I thought it would be appropriate to do an article with women as the focus. Many of you may remember that in 2020 we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution which, in effect, gave women the right to vote. Actually, it said that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any other state on account of a person's sex. What may not be common knowledge is that some women in the United States had the right to vote before the ratification of the amendment. Fifteen states, notably all in the West, had granted women the right to vote before it's passage. However, what also may not be common knowledge is that with the passage of the 19th Amendment, all women in this country still did not have the right to vote! Consequently, this year, in 2024, we are celebrating another one hundredth birthday, the one hundredth birthday of the passage of the act that finally did grant all women citizens of this country the right to vote. That bill was the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Its passage declared Native Americans were citizens of the United States. Effectively non-citizens prior to the passage of that act, our first Americans were not eligible to vote!

Wyoming, while still a territory in 1869, was the first state to grant women full voting rights. Utah did the same in 1870, then Washington in 1883, Montana in 1887 and Alaska in 1913 while they were all still territories. As states, Wyoming was again the first, in 1890, to grant women the right to vote, then Colorado in 1893, Utah in 1896, Idaho in 1896 and Washington in 1910. California, in 1911, would be the sixth state to grant women the right to vote.

Granting women the right to vote was not a new idea. Some of you may recall the society guest speaker who spoke as Abigail Adams a few years ago and read the letter Abigail sent to her husband John on the topic.

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She admonished him to not forget the ladies when forming the country's government. However, it was not until a women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, that the movement pushing for women's suffrage got off the ground. In the next fifty years supporters of women's suffrage set out to educate the public about the importance of the movement. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other suffrage pioneers held rallies, circulated petitions, lobbied Congress and did whatever they could to increase awareness about the importance of gaining women the right to vote. Across the country, organizations were set up. Some focused their attention on campaigns to enfranchise women at the national level. Others focused their attention on their individual states.

In California, the suffrage movement began as early as the 1860s. In those early days a dynamic duo was Laura de Force Gordon and Anna Dickinson. They planned a lecture series, gave speeches and organized suffrage meetings. Elizabeth Shenk and Emily Pitt joined with their efforts and garnered praise from Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who both drew large crowds when they came on their only trip to California in 1871.

In 1870 Laura de Force Gordon founded the California Woman Suffrage Society. The society worked to advocate for women's right to vote. California held a referendum on women's suffrage in 1896 and the suffragists worked tirelessly for the cause. However, the majority of male voters rejected the idea of women having the vote and the amendment went down to defeat. Several powerful state newspapers opposed the idea of giving women the vote, and newspapers were the main source of publicity for the amendment. Opposition by some conservative organizations and party politicking did not help. Some suf-

fragists felt that men voted against the amendment on the premise that if women got the right to vote they would vote for temperance and ban the sale of alcohol.

In the wake of the defeat of the 1896 amendment, suffragists in California continued to persevere in their efforts to secure the vote for women. They published newsletters, held meetings, published articles, traveled the state (sometimes in a jazzy blue convertible), and lobbied politicians. Suffrage leaders in the Black and Hispanic communities lobbied for the suffrage movement in their communities.

Proposition 4, Senate Constitutional Amendment No.8 granting California women the right to vote was placed on the October 10, 1911 ballot. Suffragist Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first female lawyer in our state, at age 62, had drafted a suffragist amendment to the state constitution which said, "Women citizens of this state who comply with elections laws and are twenty-one years old shall be entitled to vote in all elections." Proposition 4 used very similar language. Suffragists campaigned vigorously across the state in support of Proposition 4 and over three million pages of literature and over ninety-thousand buttons were distributed across southern California alone. Men in minority communities were recruited to the polls. On the day of the vote ladies woke up at four in the morning and went to work distributing brochures near voting places, watching the polls to make sure all votes were counted and even drove supportive men to the polls to cast their votes. When votes came in from the cities, the proposition was failing and assumed dead. However, when Californians awoke the next morning, they found that the returns from rural counties showed that the proposition had indeed passed. It became law by the slim margin of 3,587 votes. Not only is it women's history month it is election time.

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Make sure you (males and female alike) take advantage of the franchise that many worked for so long, and so hard, for you to enjoy. As seen in 1911, every vote does count.



Suffragists **Karen Michaud** and **Bonnie Martland** dressed to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, March 13th - Phil Washum will lead an intrepid group of TVHS members to a docent led tour of Bernardo Winery & Museum, the oldest continuously operating winery in Southern California.

Meet in the parking lot across from the Little Temecula History Center, the "Red Barn" next to Kohl's at 8:45 a.m. to depart at 9 a.m. Carpooling is available.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Every Sunday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
"Sunday Funday"

Family fun, entertainment, and vendor Market. The Antique store is open, and train rides for kids.

The Little Temecula History Center is open noon to 5 p.m.

Every Tuesday - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vail Headquarters Farmer's Market

Saturday, March 9 - noon to 4 p.m.
Doggie Palooza

Sunday, March 24 - noon to 5 p.m.
Misfit Made Spring Market

Friday, March 29 - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Moonlight Market

SPECIAL NOTE

If you would like to volunteer to be on one or more of our committees, we would welcome your assistance.

We are also looking for:

A History Center greeter on Sundays.

Vail Headquarters greeter on Sundays &/or Tuesdays

Help at our Antique Store on Sundays &/or Tuesdays

Assist with 3rd grade field trips at Vail Headquarters and History Center

Portray a historical person from Temecula's past

Scan publications to create digital documents

If interested, please email us at:

info@temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org

100 Years Ago in Temecula

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

March 14, 1924

It is reported that a Los Angeles land syndicate has been negotiating for two of the large ranches near Temecula with the view of subdividing them into 10 and 20 acre tracts. Rumor has it that one of the ranches bought was the E.E. Barnett place. It is also rumored that other interests from Pasadena are considering purchasing the Plumb ranch adjoining. If these deals go through it will mean the settling up of hundreds of acres of fertile farm land, giving the district substantial growth such as men of vision have predicted for several years.

The three new bridges on the Aguanga and Warner Hot Springs road are nearly completed. This will be of great benefit to the back country and also to Temecula, bringing increased traffic this way.

March 21, 1924

By A. F. Nienke Manager,
Temecula Valley Lumber Co.

The high school bond election is over. Now let us all bury the hatchet, throw away the hammer, and work together for the common good of the whole valley from Alberhill to the Pauba Ranch. There is a lot of work to be done. By co-operation and good will we can make this valley one of the best districts for homes in all Southern California.

Let your light shine and do your best. Look forward and forget the past. We have many fine settlers that came to the district in the early days who deserve credit for their good judgment for selecting this district for their homes. But times have changed. No longer can we farm as in the early days. Today there is a great demand for small farms with water. We have both particularly in the Temecula and Murrieta districts. Capital is required to develop them which can only be secured by interesting outsiders.

The future of this section is more apparent to outsiders than to many who live here. Many men of means can be found who will feel that a land investment in the district is a safe one. The time has arrived for a forward move in this section. Every indication points to a "back to the land" movement in the cities. We must ever be on the alert to attract the right sort of financiers and the right sort of settlers. We must encourage honest effort and dishonest tactics.

Few of us realize the varied resources of the district. We have more than land and water. We have the finest health resorts in the state- the Murrieta Hot Springs, famous for its mineral waters and mud baths – and Elsinore with its mineral waters, bath houses and sanitariums. When we stop to think what those resorts will mean to this section in the future we should feel more confident that we have the making of one of the best valleys in the entire state.

But to put the district on the map as it should be we must all work together, for what is good for Elsinore is good for Murrieta and Temecula also. Elsinore has made a good start, so let the good work go on all down the line.

March 28, 1924

E. C. Baird from Fullerton arrived here Monday and took up his work as station agent for the Santa Fe R.R.

Farmers are coming in town with a smile on their face and report the rain has been coming down just right and with the April and May showers the prospect for a good crop looks favorable.

Joseph Welty, of Los Angeles, called on friends here Friday. Mr. Welty is one of the oldest settlers of the valley he having resided here some 46 years until moving to Los Angeles last fall.