



Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Murrieta Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.

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The Stulman Hot Springs Resort by Jeffery G. Harmon



Jack Stulman:
Source: September 15, 1923,
Los Angeles Herald

The Stulman Hot Springs Resort was opened in 1936 by Jack Stulman. After a few months, the resort was bankrupt and closed. What caused the quick demise of the resort? An answer may be found within the ten years it took to establish the business venture.

Jacob Shtulman was a Russian Jew born on April 18, 1888.

When he was 24 years old, he immigrated to America. He changed his name to Jack Stulman and settled in Los Angeles, California in a prominent Jewish community.

In 1926, Jack and his business partner, Samuel Lewis, began buying property southwest of the Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs Resort. Within a year, it was announced that the Mission Hot Springs Resort was going to be built on 309 acres in Murrieta at a cost of \$1.5 million dollars. The president of the company was Rudolph Rosenberg. The vice president was Marcus Jacobowsky, formerly the vice president of Fort Dearborn National Bank in Chicago, Illinois. The resort's ad in the Los Angeles County Medical Association bulletin stated that the resort would offer therapeutic amenities and multiple recreational opportunities.

Unfortunately, the project was never built. On October 6, 1928, Jacobowsky passed away. Without another investor, there was not enough funding, and the project was abandoned. The resort property was later acquired by the Santa Fe Winery and Distilleries Co. Undeterred, Jack still believed in the dream of opening a resort in



Proposed Mission Hot Springs Hotel to be owned and operated by

MISSION HOT SPRINGS, Inc.

HEALTH AND RECREATION
MURRIETA, CAL.

WATER ANALYSIS

	Parts per million	Grains per gallon
Total Solids	960.0	56.0
Mineral Solids	805.0	52.2
Volatile and Organic Matter	65.0	3.8
Silica (SiO ₂)	30.0	1.7
Sesquioxide of Iron and Alumina (Fe ₂ O ₃ -Al ₂ O ₃)	0.3	None
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	647.6	37.8
Sodium Sulphate (Na ₂ SO ₄)	44.9	2.6
Sodium Carbonate (Na ₂ CO ₃)	19.4	1.1
Calcium Carbonate (CaCO ₃)	75.0	4.4
Magnesium Carbonate (MgCO ₃)	34.1	2.0

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EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 527 Roosevelt Bldg., Los Angeles

Bulletin - Los Angeles County Medical Association, Volume 58

Murrieta on his 40 acres with hopes of success.

Jack needed to generate revenue for his property. In 1930, he opened the Murrieta Auto Camp on Murrieta Hot Springs Road. It is unknown how successful this business was

for him.

Construction on the Stulman resort progressed slowly. In 1932, Jack hired Warren A. Hicks as his construction supervisor. Camp cottages and construction workers' quarters were completed first on the property.

The Elsinore Lumber Company was contracted to deliver wood and cement for the construction project. On March 10, 1933, materials began to be delivered to the property. However, the deliveries stopped on April 7th. Jack owed the company \$669.75 for the materials, but he only paid \$226.20. The company went to court and filed a lien on Jack's property. The lien was to recover the \$475.55 that was unpaid.

Jack then contracted with the Whiting-Mead Co., and soon building materials were once again being delivered. Within a short time the deliveries stopped because Jack failed to pay his bill. On August 9th, a lien was placed on the property to recover \$46.

Later on March 27, 1934, the Dill Lumber Company delivered building materials to the resort and then stopped on June 17th. They were owed \$203.63 for the materials. The company went to court to get their payment.

Jack needed positive publicity in order to generate new investors. Evangelist and Elsinore resident Aimee Semple McPherson was a special dinner guest at the resort's completed dining room in April 1934. After dinner, she was given a tour of the resort's construction progress. She later gave a brief positive report of the facilities to the newspaper.

Throughout the resort construction, Jack continued to raise funds for the project. Over

several years, he had his friends, the Golob family, invest in his venture. He also took a promissory note out from the First National Bank of Temecula, and a mortgage out with Hollywood State Bank in Los Angeles. He believed that once the resort was open, then the revenue could eliminate his debts.

In 1936, Jack contracted with Nathaniel A. Davis, a representative of the Southwestern Lumber and Building Materials Co., to provide the material to complete the resort. On April 21, 1936, Davis went to court and placed a lien on the property. He had delivered \$5,427.40 worth of materials to the resort, but had only been paid \$1,500.

A construction accident occurred in June 1936. Julian Derry was in a recently dug pool when it caved in on him. He was buried alive for six minutes. Rescue workers dug feverishly to free him from the pit. Once he was found, he was rushed to Elsinore by ambulance. Then he was transported to the Riverside Community hospital. Though he was severely injured, he did recover. He credited his

large sombrero protecting him in the accident.

A month later, three construction workers collapsed from heat exhaustion. They were taken to Elsinore for treatment. After three days, they were able to return to the job site.

The resort was opened in September 1936. It cost about \$150,000 to \$200,000 to complete. There were two hot spring wells on the property. William I. Zidell was president of the company, and Jack Stulman was the treasurer.

On November 9, 1936, Nathaniel A. Davis was owed \$7,650 for materials plus interest. By court order, the resort was closed and the furniture was seized and sold off at auction on the steps of the Riverside courthouse on December 28th in order to settle the creditors' debts. On January 6, 1937, the Stulman Hot Springs filed for bankruptcy.

A few months later, on April 2, 1937 at 6:00 a.m., a fire of unknown origins ignited in the vacant hotel. The watchman informed E. N. Nelander, a state forest ranger. Nelander ordered

state trucks from Perris and San Jacinto to the scene of the fire. The firefighters were only able to keep the fire from the boiler room.

The Stulman resort property went to auction in 1940 following the foreclosure of the trust deed. Dr. Nathaniel A. Davis of Los Angeles purchased the property and rebuilt the hotel. He renamed it the Temecula Hot Springs Resort.

The failure of the Stulman Hot Springs Resort may be attributed to lack of funding and poor financial management. Also construction took four years before the resort was finally opened. Perhaps the Great Depression may have hindered capitalists from investing in the project which may have attributed to the financial downfall.

Other factors may have contributed to the resorts demise. There were multiple bath houses and resorts in Elsinore. Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs Resort was a mile and half east of the Stulman's resort. Guenther's resort offered more amenities and had been operating for over thirty years. Stul-

STULMAN HOT SPRINGS

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This fire at Stuhlman Hot Springs, near Murrieta, destroyed the main structure and threatened other nearby buildings. The blaze spread rapidly. Although handicapped by lack of water, volunteer firemen put up a valiant fight to save the structure, which was completed only last year.

Source: April 22, 1937, Riverside Daily Press

man's could not compete with the bigger resorts in the area.

Jack Stulman died in 1961 and was buried in the Jew-

ish cemetery in East Los Angeles. Because the resort was only open for a few months, the Stulman Hot Springs Resort was quickly forgotten. It is now

covered in homes near the intersection of Murrieta Hot Springs Road and Whitewood. Today no trace of the former property remains.

A Murder-Suicide at the Stulman Hot Springs Resort by Jeffery G. Harmon

Jack Stulman hired Warren A. Hicks as the construction supervisor in 1932. Hicks oversaw the construction of the worker quarters on the property. He lived in one of the cottages during his employment.

In February 1934, Ada Coffy answered an advertise-

ment for the hot springs resort and was given employment in the kitchen. A week later she took ill. Warren took a personal interest in her and nursed her back to health. Soon the two fell in love. After Ada recovered, the couple went to Riverside and got married on March 30, 1934.

Two weeks later, Ada's cousin, Miss Hazel Jones, moved to the hot springs to work. Hicks soon became suspicious of his young bride, because she was very friendly with the men at the resort. He believed that Hazel was covering for Ada, and he threatened Hazel. She reported Hicks to Jack

Stulman, but he told her not to take it seriously.

On June 10, 1934, around 8:30 p.m., Warren was drunk and came to his cottage, but couldn't find Ada. He went to Hazel's cottage and asked if Ada was there, but she wasn't. Hazel followed Warren back to his cottage to wait for Ada to return.

When Ada entered the cottage, Warren accused her of being with another man. She denied his accusation. He punched her in the face and shoved her face down on the bed. He then pulled a .38 caliber automatic pistol out and fired several shots into Ada's back, killing her.

He then pointed the gun at Hazel, but the gun jammed. Hazel fled outside afraid she would be hit. He dislodged the

stuck bullet then pointed the gun at his chest and fired. Mr. Grat-tan heard the shots and ran to the cottage. He found Hicks leaning against the door frame. Hicks said, "I've done a good job, George." Hicks then laid down on the bed beside his wife and died.

A few days later, Mrs. Harriet Henry, Ada's mother, traveled from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Elsinore, California

to make funeral arrangements. As Ada was laid to rest in the Elsinore Valley Cemetery, she was remembered fondly by her family and friends.

Warren was survived by two sons from a previous marriage. His funeral was a small private affair. The crew and those that knew him never forgot his heinous act that left a tragic mark on the Stulman Hot Springs Resort.



September 9, 1936
Riverside Daily Press



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**The General
Monthly Board Meeting
is held on the second
Monday at 5:30 p.m.
Please join us at
the Murrieta Museum**



The Murrieta Museum,
41810 Juniper Street
at Hunt Memorial Park.

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