

Historic Highway 395

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Founded

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Mission Statement

The preservation and the promotion of Historic Route 395 from San Diego to the Cajon Pass.



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Telling the story, one mile at a time

Fallbrook, Part 2

by Jeffery G. Harmon

Our journey begins at the intersection of Ammunition Road and S. Mission Road where Historic Route 395 travels on S. Mission Road towards the community of Bonsall. As we travel south, we come to Rocky Crest Road. The Fallbrook Historical Society has a wonderful museum at 260 Rocky Crest Road.

The history of Fallbrook is told in different sections of the museum. From the time of the Native Americans to the Avocado Industry, all facets of Fallbrook's rich history wait to be discovered. The centerpiece of the museum is a model train set. The train travels pass a multitude of model replicas of Fallbrook's historical buildings.

Traveling further south on Mission Road, the Los Jilgueros Preserve can be found on the east side of the road. This 46- acre preserve is nestled between S. Mission Road and a suburban neighborhood. The Preserve provides a place for

the traveler to get out of the car and stretch the legs. Two ponds and a fresh water marsh attract a wide variety of birds.

Driving further south to Overland Trail, we find the Ostrich Creek Bridge, a tranquil stop just a few feet west of S. Mission Road. The original bridge was too narrow for commercial truck traffic, so a wider bridge was constructed in 1943. Saved from destruction, the mossy leaf strewn bridge sits idly above the cascading rocky creek.

Further south is a small road called Silver Springs Lane. This marks the location of the Silver Springs Café once owned by the Hughes family. The café was a well known travel stop along the route. Here travelers would fill up their water reserves from the springs for free. The café was a local eatery where high school students carved their names into the lunch counter. The spring dried up and the business closed, but the memory of this way

station remains.

As we drive down the road, a Wild West themed collection of buildings can be seen on the side of the road. This is the Valley Fort, built in 1965 as a steakhouse and retail center. The property has gone through several owners since its conception. From 1996-2008 it was home to the Cask 'N Cleaver Steakhouse. In 2010, the property was purchased by Hank and Patty Hornsveld, the owners of the Mission Theater. Their future plans are to revitalize the attraction including a restaurant and retail shops.

At the Valley Fort, we veer to the southwest on Heller's Bend Road. This one-mile road was by-passed around 1948. Driving down this back road, we see horse fences along the side of the road, while oak tree branches provide a leafy canopy. At the south end of the road, the 47-acre Heller's Bend Preserve can be found. A hillside hike brings the

The Driver's Seat

We are looking forward to our first annual Historic Route 395 Fun Run & Car Rally on June 25, 2011. This event commemorates the 2008 Legislation that designated the highway a historic route.

The Historic Route 395 Fun Run will begin at 9:00 a.m. at two separate locations. I will be leaving the parking lot next to the Perris Theater on D Street in Perris. At the same time, Steve Varner will be leaving the parking lot at the Centre City Café in Escondido. Steve and I will rendezvous at the Elder House in Fallbrook.

Everyone with a car can follow the caravan along the Historic 395 route to Fallbrook. This is a great driving excursion for family and friends. Because we are traveling on surface streets,

each drive should take between 45 minutes to an hour. This is an opportunity to slow down and travel through many "Main Street" American towns.

The Car Rally will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Elder House in Fallbrook. There will be food vendors and local entertainment. Afterwards, Steve and I will be leaving the event and conducting the Final Fun Run of the day. Participants may choose to follow either member to Perris or Escondido.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us. Come on out on June 25th, and Take a Ride on Route 395.

Jeffery G. Harmon

Editor

Photos of Old Town Temecula Are Wanted

The Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaRRRA) is seeking historical photos of Old Town Temecula to be used in a new Arcadia book they will be putting together as a fundraiser for VaRRRA. If you have photos from the 1980s or before of any places in Old Town, please contact Loretta Barnett (mlbarnett55@verizon.net), Rebecca Farnbach (rebfrnbach@aol.com), or call Darell Farnbach (951-552-3516)

Missing an issue?

[http://
www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org/
hwy395.html](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org/hwy395.html)

Fallbrook, Part 2 Continued....

adventurer to a panoramic view of the Bonsall/Fallbrook region.

Heller's Bend Road rejoins S. Mission Road, which then enters the community of Bonsall, where our journey ends. Join us next time as we drive Historic Route 395 through Bonsall and crossover a historic bridge.

To learn more about
Historic Route 395 visit:
<http://www.floodgap.com/roadgap/395/>



The Ostrich Creek Bridge

Spotlight: Lake Elsinore Museum & Research Library

Historic Route 395 travels through Lake Elsinore's historic downtown district on Main Street. The Methodist Episcopal Church, an enduring historical landmark, can be found at the intersection of Main Street and Heald Avenue. Completed May 11, 1924, the church was designed in the Classical Revival style complete with Corinthian columns and stained glass windows. The Lake Elsinore Museum & Research Library is housed in the building's basement.

The entrance to the museum can be found at the northeast corner of the building. Visitors begin to feel like they are traveling back in time as they descend the service ramp to the museum's main floor. Thousands of artifacts from Elsinore's past can be found. With the careful eye, the visitor will discover amazing treasures.

Aimee Semple McPherson, a gospel preacher and founder of the Foursquare Gospel Church, had a beautiful home built in Lake Elsinore. Known as Aimee's Castle, the Moorish style mansion is located on a ridge overlooking the lake. The Lake Elsinore Historical Society periodically conducts tours of this unique landmark.

What's that lurking in the lake? It is Elsie, the Loch Elsinore Monster! Learn about the colorful legend behind this mystical beast. By the way, what happened to Elsie when the lake ran dry? It is said that she crawled out of the lake and hibernated in a cave in the Elsinore Mountains until the waters returned to the valley.

Speaking of monsters, Dracula took up residence in Elsinore. Bela Lugosi, who portrayed Dracula in the 1931 Universal Pictures horror classic, moved to the



lake to avoid the public eye. His son attended the Lake Elsinore Naval and Military Academy during the family's residency.

While touring the museum, do not miss the electronics exhibit. Phonographs, phones, radios and television sets of all makes and models will thrill the curiosity seeker. Hidden within this exhibit are several vintage musical instruments.

There are many other items to be discovered throughout the museum. There is a collection of wood water skis, fishing poles and wicker tackle boxes. Learn about Elsinore's famous hotels and hot springs such as the Bundy Hotel and the Amsbury Hotel. Check the Lakeview Inn registry and see who checked in.

There is an exhibit about the Lake Elsinore Storm baseball team with their green dog mascot, Thunder. Several artifacts are displayed from the Elsinore Masonic Temple including an altar with kneeling pad used in ceremonial rites. There is a collection of replica vintage dresses and an extensive

vintage doll collection. The variety of items on display is extensive.

As I bid farewell to Ruth Atkins, President of the Historical Society, she called my attention to one final display in the museum, an electric permanent wave machine. This strange contraption had the appearance of an executioner's electrical chair. Built like a salon hair dryer, multiple wires slithered out of a metal dome, at the end of each wire, jaw like clips clamp down on the "victim's" brown locks. The woman's dream was to be transformed into a dinner party, head turning goddess. At the moment though, I wanted to escape before the machine seized my locks.

Once safely in my car, I drove out onto Main Street and headed west on Historic Route 395. As I drove pass the downtown district, visions of a gospel preacher, Dracula and a dog named Thunder lingered in my thoughts. Where will this old highway lead me to next?

By Jeffery G. Harmon

Historic Route 395 Sign Installation Update



Tom Casey presents a sign to Escondido Mayor Sam Abed

On April 1st, *Cruisin' Grand* began its annual Friday night tradition in Escondido. However, there was something different about Grand Avenue this year. Two Historic Route 395 signs were installed in the center median between Maple and Broadway. How did this happen?

Tom Casey, Historic Route 395 Resolution Author and Association member contacted Escondido Mayor Sam Abed. Tom offered to donate two signs, if the city agreed to install them before Friday night's kick-off of this season's *Cruisin' Grand*. Mayor Abed accepted the donation and had the city install the signs prior to April 1st. Main Street Signs, who manufactured the signs, stamped on the bottom, "Donated by Tom Casey".

By this generous donation, Tom has "primed the pump". The City of Escondido and the Escondido Chamber of Commerce are excited about installing more signs along Historic Route 395 in the near future. Steve Varner, Association Map Archivist, prepared a detailed map recommending potential sign locations. Steve stated that Escondido had a complex route because of several 90 degree turns. (San Diego is the leader in 90 degree turns)

After the success in Escondido, Tom contacted the Cities of San Diego and Vista. Currently, Tom is planning to have two signs installed on Park Avenue near Balboa Park in San Diego. Also one sign will be placed at Historic Route 395's southern terminus at the intersection of Park Avenue and Market Street. In Vista, Tom plans to

have a sign installed at both entrances to the historic downtown district along Main Street. Again it is his intent that these signs will "jumpstart" the sign installation project in both cities.

Finally, contacts are being made in the City of Riverside in hopes of installing two signs within the Mission Inn Historic District on the Main Street Promenade next to the Mission Inn. Steve Varner is currently researching the archives to determine the exact route the highway took through Downtown Riverside.

During the April meeting, there was discussion of possibly having individuals or organizations donate signs for the route. With each signed donated, the donor's name would be imprinted on the sign. The donor would then have some input in the sign location along the route. Tom believes that through donations, the route could be signed quickly. If you or your business would like to donate a sign, please contact us. Together we can promote and preserve this beautiful historic route.

By Jeffery G. Harmon



Tom Casey is standing in front of the newly installed route signs on Grand Avenue in Escondido.

*The Historic Route 395
Association Presents*



**The First Annual Historic Route 395
“Drive 395”
Fun Run & Car Rally**

On June 25, 2011

Two simultaneous Fun Runs will begin at 9:00 AM

Northern Point of Departure

The Perris Theater in Perris, CA

Led by Route Member Jeffery Harmon

Southern Point of Departure

The Centre City Café in Escondido, CA

Led by Route Member Steven Varner

**Each Fun Run will follow the Historic Route 395
to the Elder House in Fallbrook**

where there will be music, food, beverage and fun!

For more information contact (951) 837-5905 - jethrosire@yahoo.com

**A HISTORIC ROUTE 395 ASSOCIATION
PUBLICATION**

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Meeting Location:

Rainbow Oaks Restaurant

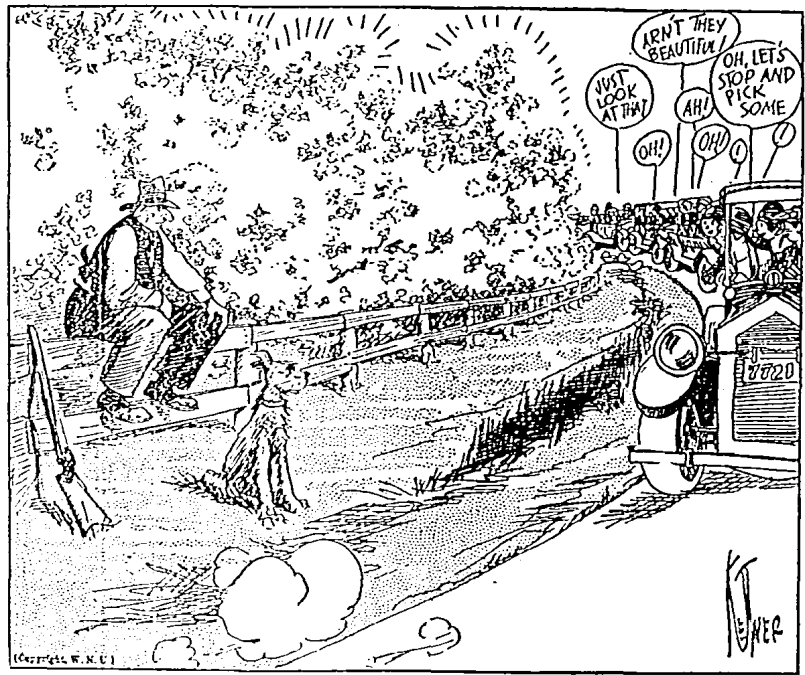
Time: 8:00 a.m.

May 7, 2011

June 4, 2011

July 9, 2011

Along the Concrete



Reprint: The Vista Press July 3, 1930

Moosa Canyon Road Construction Will Continue

(Reprint: Vista Press, October 28, 1943)

The prison road camp located in Moosa Canyon near Escondido will be continued during the war under a decision made by the State Highway Commission at a meeting in Sacramento, according to announcement made today by Henry B. Cramer of San Diego, member of the State Board of Prison Directors.

Cramer said that Warden Clinton T. Duffy of San Quentin prison would increase the number of prisoners in Moosa Canyon camp.

Cramer told the highway commission that the prisoners in the road camps, who have been theoretically paid a gross wage of \$2.50 a day when working often find they are "in the red" at the end of the month and have not been

credited with any money because of pro rate camp expenses which are deducted from their accounts.

The commission decided to increase the per diem wage to \$3 a day, effective if legally possible as of Aug. 4, when new legislation, authorizing such an amount, became effective.

Cramer declared that the Moosa Canyon Road, now under construction, was of great strategic military value, and its vital need has been stressed by military and naval authorities, the board of supervisors and many civic organizations throughout San Diego County.

He has taken a leading part in the campaign to have the present road camp continued and his vigor-

ous efforts along this line were a major contributing factor in the commission's decision.

Now available: Special Edition:
The Bridges over Lake Hodges

Please email your request.

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<http://www.americanroads.us/forum/index.php?board=28.0>