



Wolf Store

VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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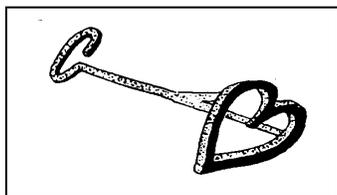
4th Quarter 2009 – Volume 1, Issue 4

*“Dedicated to the preservation
and restoration of the Historic
Vail Ranch Headquarters.”*

**Little Temecula
History Center is
NOW Open –
In Red Implement
Barn next to Kohl’s
At Margarita and
Temecula Pkwy.**

**Sundays 12 – 5 pm
Or by Appointment**

***Come see the results of
Our efforts, and perhaps
Volunteer to be a docent.***



Vail Ranch Restoration Association

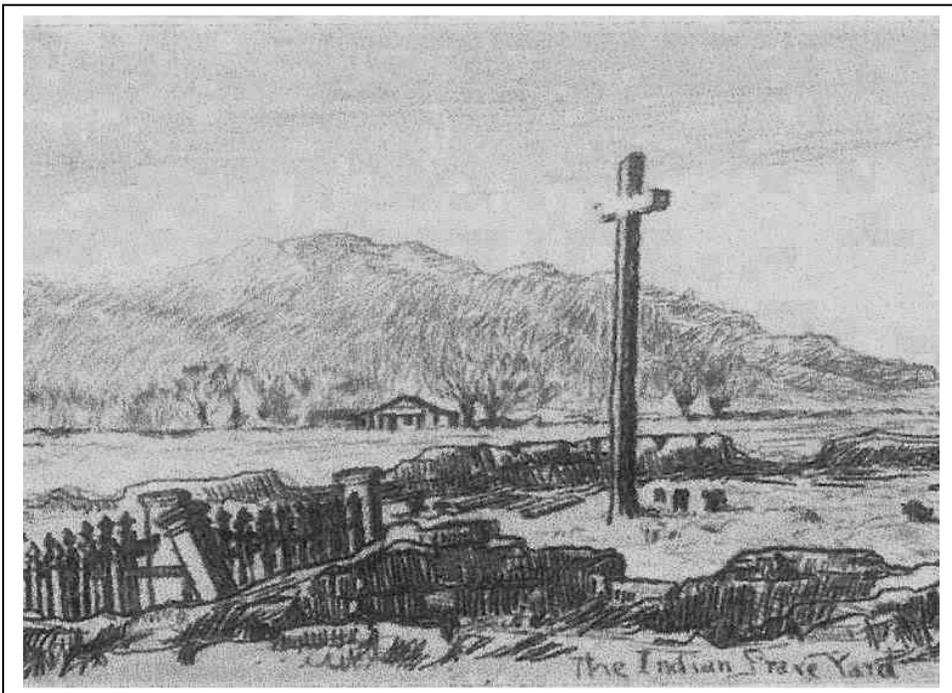
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This sketch titled “The Indian Grave Yard” was done by an unknown artist in 1891. The Wolf Store is identifiable in the background. – Courtesy Ramona Pageant Association

The Temecula Massacre Was Mexican-American War Event

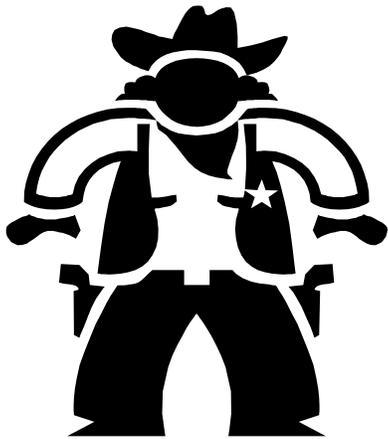
By Anne J. Miller, Ph.D.

Often considered just an isolated incident between two Native American tribes, the Temecula Massacre was actually one event in a sequence of events in the Mexican-American War.

The first event was the Battle of San Pasqual on December 6, 1846 when the Californios, lead by Andrés Pico, killed over twenty of U.S. General Stephen Kearny’s men. Following this battle, some of the Californios went to a rancho in Pauma Valley. A number of Luiseño Indians, sympathetic to the Americans, captured eleven Californios in Pauma Valley and later killed them. When word of this event, known as the Pauma Massacre, reached Los Angeles, Mexican General José

Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

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Eve Craig
Robert & Kathryn Curtis
David Elliott & Anne Miller
Walt & Jean Dixon
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Phil & Connie Harris
Suzanne & Fred Legner
Bonnie Martland
Neil Miller
John Moramarco
Beth Paden, Discovery Works
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Lyz Quinn
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Karen & David Strauss
Mary Lu Taylor
Lisa Woodward
Roger Weber



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María Flores ordered José del Carmen Lugo of the San Bernardino area to capture the Luiseño Indians responsible for the Pauma Massacre.

In January 1847, José Lugo with some Cahuilla Indians came to the Temecula Valley in pursuit of the Luiseño Indians and killed a number of them, reportedly in the canyon in the area of the current Vail Lake Dam.

From various different accounts written soon after this Temecula Massacre occurred, it is estimated that about 38 to 40 Luiseños were killed. The actual number will never be known because the severe rains and flooding in the canyon after the massacre would have made recovery of the victims difficult. When the Mormon Battalion arrived in Temecula on January 25, 1847, they reported the Luiseños were burying their dead in the cemetery that today is located south of the Temecula Parkway.

Many years later, José Lugo reported that perhaps a hundred Luiseños were killed, but no other evidence has been found to support his claim.



The picture above shows the cement wall that surrounds the site of the old graveyard. It is located at the back of a shopping area off of Temecula Parkway, between Sports Authority and Killarney's Irish Pub. There is no marker or plaque indicating what is behind the wall, and when the shopping center was built, a significant amount of additional dirt was added to bring the ground level up to the height of the parking area.

Annual Membership Renewal Letters to be Mailed Soon . . .

In the coming weeks we will be mailing out reminder letters about renewing annual membership. As you can see from this newsletter, our volunteer level remains high but of course lots of these activities have a cost associated with them. All financial assistance is greatly appreciated.

Restoration Update . . .

The Brougham Coach

For many months during 2009 we had multiple volunteers donate hours of work. They were mostly students in a local college history class, and had a requirement of 10 hours community service in order to get an "A" in the class. VaRRA was the beneficiary, and hence had multiple pairs of willing and available hands. Darell Farnbach organized them to assist with our restoration efforts on the old Brougham Coach. Great strides were made with the sanding and painting of all 4 wheels, some rotten wood pieces were replaced, glass frames removed & repaired, the upholstery was removed to facilitate some interior repairs. General sanding and repairs were also made to the rest of the coach and frame. The total labor donated by students was 196 hours. In addition the equivalent number of hours was worked by Darell Farnbach to supervise and direct the students efforts. Much progress has been made on this restoration project. Come by and see the progress of almost 400 labor hours.

Old Buggy

Some of our volunteers were put to work sanding & painting the wheels on an old 4 passenger buggy we inherited last year. Much work is still needed to re-hab this unique buggy.

Recent Donations

In late September, Irene Hotchkiss donated the "Sharecropper" an original Temecula Tractor Race vehicle that her husband Tommy drove for years in the annual event. It also sports a "Lucky 7" name painted on its side. This is a converted 1930's vintage Dodge, and certainly is in need of some work before we can move it to the History Center outdoor equipment exhibit area.

Lynette & Jack Simonson donated a number of pieces of old ranch & farm equipment during October. Included in their donation were an old hay rake, drag scoop, portable forge blower, spittoon, hay tongs, metal dolly, an old wooden footlocker from the Great Lakes in 1880's, gallon oil can, two hand scales (18" and 24" long), a wooden block plane, and nutcracker.

Gene Knott donated a 2-part small form with built-in carbon paper titled "Vail Company", which is a truck load scale weight voucher, along with a pre-printed envelop with a return address "Vail Company, Los Angeles, Calif." And addressed to "Vail Company, Pauba Ranch, Temecula, California". Also included were some old newspapers and a photo copy of a 1966 issue of "Guenther's Gazette" from Guenther's Murrieta Hot Springs.

As we were preparing this issue to go to press, Pam Bowen of Temecula donated a 3-piece wedding dress from her family that is in a box with a label indicating that it was "wedding dress of Mary Ellen Temby, Jan. 3, 1878". Of note is that the donation to VaRRA was made on Jan. 3, 2010, 132 years after the wedding of Ms. Temby.

2009 Attendance Numbers

Total attendance at the History Center during 2009 was 1,884. This number includes general walk-in visitors during our standard Noon to 5 pm Sunday hours, plus some special events that took place during the year (two book signings, and the Mormon Battalion Re-enactors).

In addition to the History Center attendance, VaRRA and the Temecula Valley Historical Society co-hosted an event to kick-off the final week of the year-long celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Temecula Post Office. VaRRA opened up the Old Vail Ranch Headquarters grounds for a BBQ and historic display event on Sunday, November 1st. Approximately 500 people came through the gates to see historic displays, the Temecula Valley Gunfighters, along with many other booths. Of those in attendance, 120 bought BBQ tickets and were served a great meal. Visitors also had the opportunity to purchase beer donated by Andy Marshall of Black Market Brewing, or wine donated by numerous sources that was arranged by Phil Baily of Baily's Winery & Restaurant.

Brief Notes . . .

Model T Ford

Little has been done this past couple of months, on the Model T but we are rapidly approaching the time to do a “smoke test” on the engine. A “smoke test” is done when you think it is ready to start, and while trying to start it you watch for “smoke” (which may indicate that a problem still exists).

Library Progress

We have entered 629 data sheets of the Native American books that are known as the Cherry/Parr Collection. We continue to receive more book donations to this wonderful asset.

On our E-mail List ??

Our primary method of distribution of this newsletter is through our growing e-mail list, but if you have received a copy of our newsletter and would like to be added for e-mail distribution, drop us a note at info@vailranch.org and we will be glad to add your address.

History Contest

VaRRA has partnered with the Temecula Valley Museum and the Temecula Valley Historical Society to be the site provider of space to do the 3rd Grade History Contest judging, as well as the location for public display of the winning entries. More info to come in our next issue of *VaRRA News*.

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Current photo of the Brougham Coach which is under restoration. Almost 400 labor hours have been spent on this project since last summer. Many college student volunteers, plus Darell Farnbach's time have gone into this project. It is beginning to take shape as a very nice piece for VaRRA's display.



The Native American Library is beginning to take shape. Sturdy shelves have been installed, all of the books sorted by region of the world, detailed data sheets prepared for each book noting title, author, subjects, etc., and the great majority of these data sheets have been entered into VaRRA's museum software database. Come by and see the progress we've made. It is our goal to have this become a research library location. Many of the books are out of print, and were published during the middle of the 20th century.