

Wolf Store

VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

Copyright 2013, Temecula, California

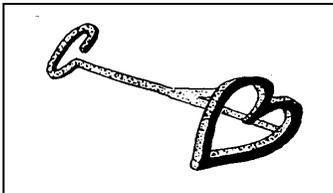
2nd Quarter 2013 – Volume 4, Issue 2

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

**Little Temecula
History Center is
Open on Sunday –
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

41403 Bitter Creek Ct.
Temecula, CA 92591

Phone: 951-699-5148

Cell: 951-552-3516

E-Mail: info@vailranch.org

On the web at
www.vailranch.org

Memories of Warner’s & Temecula

Ranch Recollections

This is document was transcribed from old type written pages on onionskin paper found in Sandy Wilkinson’s collection. Sandy was Walter Vail’s grandson who lived in Temecula from the late 1950s until he passed away in 2007. There is no record of who wrote these recollections.

Warner’s Ranch in San Diego County, California gets its name from J. T. Warner who came to California from Connecticut in 1835 via the southern gateway. He was known among the Spanish-speaking folks as Juan Largo, meaning Long John. He became a Mexican citizen and thus secured this grant of 26,000 acres of land, which now bears his name, although it is officially San Jose del Valle. Warner stocked the ranch with horses and cattle. He was living there at the time of the Mexican conquest.

In 1851 he had a store at the mouth of the Carricito where Warner’s Ranch joins Santa Ysabel Ranch. The Indians, becoming war like, sacked his store, running off horses and other stock in what was known as the Garra War because the chief who led the uprising was Antonio Garra.

My first recollection of Warner’s Ranch is about 1876. It was the property of Ex-Governor J. G. Downey. Charley Ayres had it leased using it for cattle horses and mules. When Ayres left, Downey put sheep on it under the management of Andrew Linton, a Scotchman. Some hogs were turned loose in the cienegas where they thrived and increased to such an extent that they became a nuisance. I went there with my father in about 1880 where we bought, gathered, and drove to San Diego about four hundred head of these hogs. Many of them were wild and it was a strenuous and interesting job getting them out of the swamps and educating them to the road.

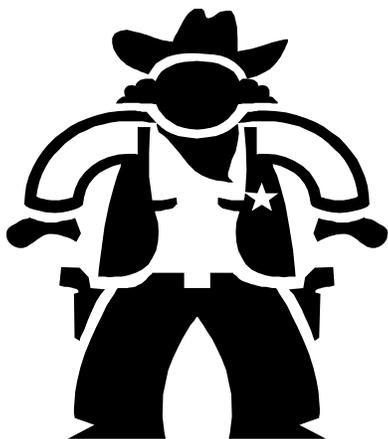
We had with us one John Dye who knew hogs. Lynton had a shepherd dog that also knew hogs. Between the hog man and the hog dog, we got them lined up and drove them successfully to San Diego. It might be interesting to know the trick Dye made use of to control those wild hogs. When a hog was encountered too wild to stay in the herd, the dog caught it. Dye then took a knife and cut a slit in the upper and lower eyelids, and with a string through these slits, the lids were tied together. This was done to both eyes and the hog was temporarily blinded. In this condition, the hog followed the herd with his sense of smell. After a day or two on the road, the string was removed, for by this time, Mr. Hog had learned his lesson.

In the late eighties, Vail and Gates leased this ranch. Vail and Gates had a stock ranch in Arizona with a large accumulation of grown cattle, as there had been a poor market for some years past. This ranch, Warner, was used

(Continued on Next Page)

Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson
Audrey & Vince Cilurzo
Robert & Kathryn Curtis
Walt Dixon
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Phil & Connie Harris
Sue & Jim Jeffrey
Pat Lallou
Bonnie Martland
Jimmy & Peg Moore
John Moramarco
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Karen & David Strauss
Roger Weber
Lisa Woodward



VaARRA Board of Directors

Darell Farnbach, President
Rhine Helzer, Vice President
Rebecca Farnbach, Secretary
Sandy Helzer, Treasurer
Dick Fox, Newsletter Editor
Charolette Fox
Malcolm Barnett
Loretta Barnett
Dave Wilson
Toni Benson
Anne Miller
David Elliott

Area Ranch Recollections

(Continued from Page 1)

by them to fatten and market these grown cattle and about four thousand head a year went to market through this ranch. They were generally shipped in from the Arizona range by rail, though one herd of about 1,400 head were driven down the Gila River, across the Colorado Desert, to Carrizo Creek and on to Warner's Ranch.

This drive of about 500 miles was the last large herd to pass this way. It demonstrated to the railroad people the possibilities of moving stock in this way, so they made a rate to Mr. Vail which made driving unprofitable. Living near Warner's Ranch, I found employment driving these cattle from the railroad station to the ranch, and after being fattened, to market. These cattle were out of the ordinary in that they were aged, many of them being ten or twelve years old. Ordinarily beef cattle go to market as soon as they were weighing enough, but the lack of demand had kept these steers on the range and so here was an accumulation of what cowboys know as "mossyhorns", meaning, old fellows. Vail and Gates put many thousands of head of these Arizona raised cattle through the Warner Ranch in the next ten years, most of which I had a hand in moving and many is the thrill we got in the process. If you will follow me I will try to recall some of the experiences involved.

Vail and the buyer arrive from Los Angeles and we spend a pleasant evening at the old ranch house. In fact, our evening was passed in an old adobe room that was once a part of a Butterfield stage station. Plenty of good eats were put on by Manuella, the half-breed wife of Jesus Cueves, one of our best cowboys. Manuella had served up delicious meals for Downy, Linton, and now Vail and Gates. Coffee was served before daybreak and then Jim Knight, the foreman, assigned the horses to each man to ride. All this was easy going in open country, but a dead man's hole brush came down to the very road which road the steers completely monopolized, and all of the side riders found their way through the brush as well as they could, never failing to keep in position. In course of time, a trail or path was well developed as thousands of cattle in hundreds of trips went to market, over this route.

No process removed the brush and on went the boys, scraping, swishing, through the brush protected by chaps, taps, denim jacket, and big hats. Though this brushy situation was frequently broken by open glades and little valleys, nevertheless, brush prevailed over at least one-third of the road from Warner to Temecula. On long trips, cattle become road broken and side riders are able to drop in among the stock and thus avoid much bad road, but in this case, the trip was so short, the steers so frisky and ready to run, that the rough side trail was the order of the day. We passed a few settlers at Oak Grove, a schoolhouse, and an interesting adobe structure that was once a Butterfield stage station. Wise old Jim Knight steered away out around those houses for some foremen had experienced nasty stampedes there. Dogs will bark, and curious pedestrians will step out in most unexpected places and there steers will run at the drop of a hat.

At Henry Bergman's, where we night-camped, no one gets much sleep for half the crew were always on watch, and if the cattle were particularly restless, all hands stayed with them, some whistling, some humming, some singing songs that cowboys know will interest nervous steers. A start was made from here at peep of day as it is a long way to Temecula, at two or three miles an hour. These long-legged fellows could take a much faster pace, but holding them to a slow pace was the system that made them weigh well when they reached the scales. On we go through Awanga [sic], Niger Canyon [sic], past the Pauba Ranch reaching Temecula at nightfall.

The loading corrals here were not large enough for 300 head of

(Continued on Next Page)

In Memoriam

Long-time VaARRA board member, Bill Harker passed away in early March at age 96.

Bill will be long remembered and sorely missed. His insight and experiences were always welcome input to our endeavors.

#####

Available at History Center Gift Shop

The Little Temecula History Center is always open on Sunday afternoons 12 – 5. During your visit note that in our gift shop we have VaARRA T-shirts and other items including our two most recent books on Temecula area history. These books, “The Southern Emigrant Trail through Riverside County” by Anne J. Miller, Ph.D. and “Images of America: Old Town Temecula” are both full of images and history information unique to Temecula.

Tours & Events

In addition to the visitors at the History Center during our regular Sunday afternoon hours of operation, we have many other activities and events, including private group tours by appointment.

On the fourth Monday each month the Temecula Valley Historical Society has its monthly meeting, which starts at 6 pm with a history related program, followed by a Board Meeting. TVHS meetings are always open to the public.

Area Ranch Recollections

(Continued from Page 2)

cattle, so standing was again the order of the night and here was a corral, a long wing, and a long high bank that made three sides of a square, so only two men were required to guard, and all but two of the boys hit the hay. Dominguez and myself stood first guard and we thought we had a snap, but we reckoned without the steers. They soon showed a real stampede. We had about 200 feet to guard and it looked easy, but the cattle were restless. Time and time again we turned them back, and time and time again, they moved down to the deadline. One large spotted steer was very persistent, and on one occasion he approached me alone at a fast walk. When I made the move to stop him, away he dashed like a racehorse. He was fast for a way as neck and neck he sped down the flat ground that lay in front of us. Behind me the whole herd was coming fast and furious with old Dominguez in their midst whipping hard, in an effort to get in the lead.

Directly, old Frenchie, my night horse, and I had passed up the big steer that had started the stampede and Dominguez came up with me. We were now running in the lead of the thoroughly frightened cattle whipping them in the face with our riatas. *At this point the print dims to an illegible text. We have pieced together the rest as well as we could to finish the story.* When I succeeded in checking [their progress and moving] them in the desired direction before [a cloud] of rising dust indicated that cattle were coming [toward us from all] directions, and like clockwork, riders and cattle converging in the chosen spot and the round-up stood at attention. The big fat steers little dreamed how soon they would be prime roasts and steaks in some Los Angeles eating house.

The following appears to be about cattle buying.

The boss, the foreman and the buyer took a brief tour of inspection. Preliminaries were confined to seeing that the cattle were fat and [selection] was soon underway. The first “cut” consisted of five or six head of cattle being moved to one side and held by a few boys to “cut” into. Now [the] buyer moved about pointing out the animals of his choice. A cowboy (chosen for his proficiency as a cutter), moved to the edge of the herd nearest to the [buyer]. A clever dash at the opportune moment sent him galloping over to the “parade”, and the small bunch of cattle held there to receive him. Three or four good cutters added to this bunch very rapidly and soon the 200 fat cattle desired for this drive are segregated.

A few moments spent in cutting back the undesirables and the big herd is turned loose and all hands move in around the beef bunch. These cattle are to be turned into the Rincon pasture for the night so they are moved in that direction.

They are thoroughly stirred up after this “cutting” out process. They surge first one way and then the other trying to break away, but the sturdy cowboys head them in again and again. Not less than a half dozen times do they fall to milling before reaching the pasture at Rincon, and it takes fully half an hour to get them to pass through the pasture gate where they are turned loose to quiet their nerves in grass belly high. The next morning bright and early we are off for Temecula, the shipping point about forty miles away. The steers have quieted a bit, but are still alert and keen to run or mill if given half a chance and they continue so the whole trip to the R.R.

To one who is only familiar with barnyard cattle, it is hard to realize what these big, fat, headstrong, three-quarters wild brutes are like. Their education is confined solely to going to the rodeo ground and standing in the herd. Whatever else the steer does is brought about by the cowboy

(Continued on Next Page)

Brief Notes -

Library Progress

As reported in our last VaARRA Newsletter, over 800 data sheets for the books in our Native American library have been entered into our database. The majority of the books has been known as the Cherry/Parr Collection, but this original core collection has been augmented in recent times by other donations. Labels with call #, title, author and subjects have been printed and placed on acid free paper. These will be used to identify each book. Sorting and organizing by groupings is nearly complete. Finish work will include having shelf labels to designate groupings by region. Additional books continue to be donated to VaARRA.

On our E-mail List ??

Our primary method of distribution of this newsletter is through our growing e-mail list, but if you have not 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. Printed copies are usually available at the History Center during each quarter. In the event you missed an issue then go to temeculahistoricalsociety.org website, Local History tab, scroll down click on Historic Vail Ranch, then scroll to links for past issues.

Area Ranch Recollections

(Continued from Page 3)

tricking him, because he, the cowboy, knows the steers' nature and the respect he had for that mysterious man on a horse. These wild fellows have little in common with a trail worn herd that any kind of a puncher can lash and whoop alone. These cattle have to be held back constantly and only the most capable men available are assigned to this drive. Now they swing into formation varying in length from 200 to 500 yards depending on if they are four abreast or ten abreast, a constant winding, surging, stretching, thickening, living mass of beefs. The hoof beats sound dull but constant, a creaking of joints and a clicking of toes add to the low peculiar noise. Only when startled and they rush into a mill (which is the result of being held back when they attempt to dash away) is the noise really loud. In the "mill" (so-called because they go round and round in a circle).

This appears to be about loading the cattle into train cars on route to L.A. [T]he lot [is loaded] into the car, urged on by the two [men on horseback who are in the] pen with them. Thus, car after car are loaded in rapid successive. [The] boys go to breakfast after which they wind their weary way back to Warner's.

We hope you enjoyed reading this account. Thanks to Toni Benson for transcribing the material.

Announcement:

Wolf Store Renovation is Complete!

We are thrilled to tell you our good news! Most of our readers know that the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaARRA) was formed to protect and preserve the historic Vail Ranch Headquarters Site in south Temecula at a time when it looked like this precious heritage site would be lost. After a legal battle and subsequent settlement, followed by a series of owners of the property, Arteco Partners, has stepped up to fulfill terms of the settlement and to restore the buildings on the property. It has not been easy to secure funding during the past few years, but with a local community-minded bank, renovation has been begun. One building is finished and there are five more to go.

We couldn't be happier to show the community the newly restored Wolf Store adobe, the oldest building in the Temecula Valley, once a general store and post office, the center of the little village of Temecula two decades before the first building in Old Town was built.

Please join with us for a tour of the Wolf Store during the June 24th Temecula Valley Historical Society meeting. We'll have refreshments and music starting at 5:30 pm, followed by a short talk by Darell and Rebecca Farnbach. It is optional to stay for the 7 pm historical society board meeting. For more information, call Darell at 951-552-3516.

Special Event at Warner-Carrillo Ranch House

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) of San Diego invites everyone to attend the grand opening event for the newly restored Warner-Carrillo adobe and former stage stop on Saturday, June 1 from 11 – 6 pm. There will be historical displays and activities, stagecoach rides, music and tours. Food will be available for purchase. The entrance fee is \$5 per person. VaARRA's Darell Farnbach and Toni Benson will be taking the chuck wagon and will set up a rope making activity. Come on by for a fun day. See www.sohosandiego.org for more information.