



VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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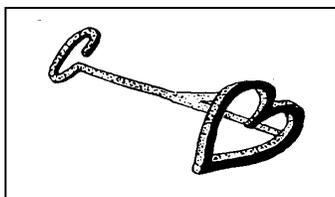
4th Quarter 2013 – Volume 4, Issue 4

“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.



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New at the History Center
Darell Farnbach in attire of beekeeper along with tools including honey separator, 5-gal. container, & smoker, all part of a new bee exhibit on display at History Center.

Bees on the Vail Ranch?

The Vail Ranch was known as a cattle empire. In contrast to the large grazing beasts, tiny bees also were profitable to the Vail Ranch.

In August 1910 the Vail Company sold of 13 dairy calves for \$119.25. On the same page of the ledger book, 51 cases of honey, equaling 6,158 pounds, sold at six and a quarter cents per pound for \$384.87. In September 1910, cream was sold for \$47.99 and 20,504 pounds of honey was sold for \$1,281.31. In October 1910, 665 ½ pounds of beeswax was sold at 26 cents per pound for a total of \$173.03.

Where did the Vails get their bees? We would assume that honey bees have always been in California, but recent research tells a very different story.

An 1872 article from the San Diego Union told how honeybees were first introduced to California. A Pennsylvanian beekeeper, J.S. Harbison, is credited with successfully bringing honeybees to California. In 1855, when he shipped one hive to Sacramento, most of the bees died or escaped, but this proved that bees could survive the long trip. In 1857 Harbison accompanied his shipment of sixty-seven hives from Pennsylvania to California via Panama.

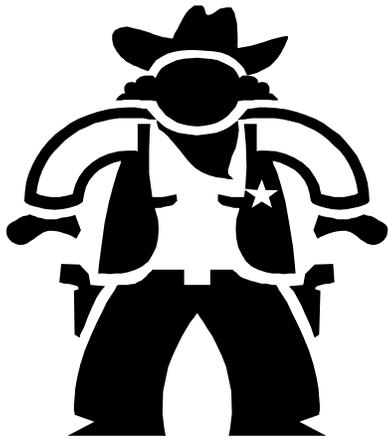
During the voyage he opened the hives occasionally to allow the bees to fly, hoping to increase the chances for safe delivery to the West. But, even with his care and attention, few of the hives arrived in good shape. In the following two years he brought more hives and had enough to start an apiary in California.

Other investors followed his example and by 1860 over 5,000 hives had been imported into our state. Harbison eventually brought four apiaries of 1,180 bees, including 17 of the choicest queens, to San Diego County where he was

(Continued on next page)

Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

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Ranch Bees?

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honored with awards for quality of honey by the State Agricultural Association.

From the difficult beginning, the honey industry took off. The article continued to say that in 1871 San Diego County exported 27,690 pounds of honey. And, "...during the past year [Clark & Harbison Company] sold 300 stands of bees to farmers in every part of the county. Nearly every ranch in San Diego has now an apiary on a small scale."

An 1875 article from the San Diego Union mentioned the steamer Ancon which was loaded with outgoing products of 40,000 pounds of wool and 2,000 pounds of honey.

An 1877 article mentioned that A.C. Wentworth of Fallbrook moved 300 stands of bees ten miles to Temecula Canyon where they had more access to water.

This is a quote from an 1893 article, just after Riverside County was formed, breaking away from San Diego County, "The honey crop of Riverside County is an important item. From Temecula alone, 200 tons of honey were shipped last season."

An article in 1902 said Riverside County's climate was favored for honey business, that the blossoms from the white sage made the best honey and the buckwheat blossom also made good honey. It mentioned the small amount of capital needed to start an apiary, just the hives, and artificial comb, then at harvest the purchase of cans and cases.

As the business developed in Riverside County, there was a need for a county bee inspector who would watch for a disease called "foul brood" that would destroy entire hives. The following letter tells about bee business in Riverside County.

This is from a letter to Roy Fernald in Temecula, dated June 2, 1943: "Friend Roy, Got your letter today. We have no inspector in Riverside County at present. Wright is looking for someone for the job. Bees been doing very well but it is almost impossible to get help. Too much war. Wish that I was young enough to take part myself. I have to let the other fellows do the bee work as I cannot do the lifting. Lots of honey buyers offering ceiling price of 12 cents for any kind of honey. L.L. Andrews, Corona

Honoring the nearly forgotten bee industry of the Vail Ranch and the surrounding area, the Little Temecula History Center now has a bee exhibit, as shown in the picture at the beginning of this article. If it has been a while since your last visit to the history center, you may want to drop by on a Sunday afternoon to see this and other new items on display.

VaARRA would like to thank Jeffery Harmon for doing the research that provided material for this article.

See Page 3 for some Gleanings of "Bee Culture" 1894

To all of our VaARRA Friends and Visitors

**The History Center
Will Be Closed**

Sunday, December 1

Gleanings of “Bee Culture”

Vol. XXII, April 15, 1894, No. 8

About Temecula and Rainbow -
We found Temecula another shipping point for a great amount of honey. The town is not so thriving as it was in boom times, and is sort of waiting for the next boom. We stopped overnight here and found the hotelkeeper a typical Californian. He was an ex-beekeeper; sold his honey for 3½ cents per pound, and on that low price went out of the business. Another factor for quitting the business was that, on the lonely bee ranch, his wife was attacked and dangerously bitten by a wildcat. The wife, however, was equal to the occasion, and got hold of it in such a way as to choke the life out of it...J.P.M. [Rainbow] owns 200 colonies of bees.

Sales of bee hives and sections -
In Fallbrook we found Mr. A. F. Cate, quite an extensive beekeeper, and in business as a lumber dealer. In the latter capacity he handles bee hives and sections, distributing many thousands among the surrounding beekeepers. Mr. Cate had just received samples of the new sections from the Home of the Honeybees, and was quite enthusiastic over their fine appearance. In speaking of the relative merits of producing either comb or extracted honey, he thinks that, as it requires more skill to produce comb honey, the true beekeeper will not be content to continue to produce extracted, but should aspire to the higher degree of comb honey production.

-- Recollections of a Cowboy --

(Editors Note: We are sharing with you some letters that Guy Flint sent to Carole Bell of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, in answer to her questions about his experiences as a cowboy for the Vails on the Santa Rosa Ranch. Entries in the Vail payroll book show he was employed by the Vails from 1937 through 1942. Mr. Sandy Vail Wilkinson said Flint left to serve in World War II. One of Flint's saddles is on display at the Little Temecula History Center. Letters reproduced with permission of Carole Bell. Any misspelled words were left as originally written.)

Hi Carole,

It was nice to hear from you. I did enjoy the trip down there & the fiesta very much. I was disappointed the way the old ranch has been cut up, but I think they call that progress.

The middle room in the larger adobe was used as a bunkhouse for the cowboys & a chore man, all it had in it was four army type cots & some old chairs & a stove. The rest of the rooms were used to store extra saddles, leather goods & harness for a team of horses. There was a wash room on the east end with a cold water shower. There were railroad ties set in the ground in front of the porch for hitching posts. The smaller adobe we called the wine cellar, I don't know why it never had any wine in it while I was there. It was used mostly for storage also.

In the fall the Vail's would have friends down to hunt deer & we would store the carcasses in there until someone would take them into L.A.

There were generally 2 to 3 cowboys & a chore man in the bunkhouse & the cook stayed in the big house that burned. We ate there in a room on the south end across from the foreman's house where you live. The building in between was a shower room & in back of it was the power plant for electricity. The shower room had a wood burning water heater in it.

No we didn't have rodeos or barbeques. They used to have school house dances once in a while down around Murrieta & Temecula we would go to some times.

You have to understand Carole the country was still in the great depression at that time. Most of us didn't even own a car. I could not afford to do many of the things that are common place today.

The cowboys worked for \$30, \$35 & \$40 a month depending on longevity & knowledge plus room & board. Breakfast was served at 6:00 of a morning & we started to work right after & generally came back to the house around 5:30 to 6:00 in the evening. Cook would put up a lunch for us & we ate that somewhere on the ranch at noon, paper sack lunch that you put in your saddle bag.

Some days we would cover many miles. This was at least six days a week. All the branding was done at Pauba ranch headquarters at Temecula. When we had to brand & vaccinate cows we would leave Santa Rosa at about 4:00 in the morning & be at Pauba ranch for breakfast. We would have gallop & trot most of the way to make it, then ride back at night.

It was a time when we felt lucky to have a job. Most of the cowboys were young fellows like myself. I was 22 at the time I went there.

Well Carole I've rattled on long enough for this time but I have many more things I can tell you, I'll be more then happy to do so.

I'd like to hear from you
Your Friend
Guy R. Flint

You asked me where the old pump was. Down below the main house that burned there is small rocks & cement dam, the pump house sets over the dam & pump and engine went into pump house.

VaRRA and History Center Reminder Notes

Holiday Gift Ideas !

At the History Center you will find local history books, postcards and other unique items for that special person who enjoys history. You will find that VaRRA carries a full line of local area "Images of America" books, along with Anne Miller's "The Southern Emigrant Trail through Riverside County". The History Center is regularly open on Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m., (except for Sunday, Dec. 1 this year).

Year-end Giving?

Many people and companies make charitable donations to non-profits before the end of each year. Please remember that VaRRA is a 501C3 non-profit and would appreciate consideration. Contact us at the mailing address on the front page of this issue.

Did you know?

The History Center is available to non-profits for special meetings and events, at nominal cost of \$100 per session. To inquire as to whether a date & time is available for your organization's event contact Darell Farnbach at 951-552-3516.

Volunteer Help Needed !

The VaRRA History Center is in need of volunteers to assist during Special Events and occasionally during our regular Sunday hours. Please let us know through the VaRRA e-mail contact at info@vailranch.org of your interest and availability.

More Guy Flint Letters

(Continued from Page 3)

Hi Carole,

3-7-00

Well I'm finally going to answer your last letter. I'm not very good at writing letters. I really enjoy receiving them too.

I certainly enjoyed you & what a great family you have. I'm sure you are very proud of them. Did you enjoy the National Parks in Utah? We really liked all of them.

In fact we have seen all of the parks west of the Mississippi river & this country has something to be proud of! I think our favorite is Glacier Park.

I should think that the old ranch is beautiful about now. I read in the paper this morning where those wet-backs froze to death in the Laguna Mountains east of San Diego. I remember one year we had just shipped in 400 cattle & had just put them in the Gavilian & Sandia area of the ranch & it came a snow storm & I had to ride in the snow all day to keep them from drifting out of the area & in came snow in S.C.

I hope this finds you OK. Hope your family is OK. We are still plugging along fairly healthy.

I saw a short subject on T.V. a while back where the Conservancy had taken over the Santa Rosa Island. That used to be such a great ranch when Vail & Vicker had it. They had their own ship to go back & forth to the island & for shipping cattle.

Well Carole that's about all I can think of to write now so I'll sign off.

Your Friend
Guy

5-15-00

Hi Carole,

Sorry, I've been so long in answering your letter (no excuse). Was nice to hear from you. You said your kid's couldn't get home from school because of flood waters. I can sure understand that. I had to swim a horse across Murrieta Creek to get mail in 1938. Almost all of the water gaps over the ranch were washed out that year.

We had several rain gauges on the ranch and I usually read them. We had 21 inches of rain in 4 days & nights steady with no let up.

All of the different pastures had names. There were seventeen on the Santa Rosa. Only eight of these had Spanish names:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cienaga – meadow/swamp | Rinconada – corner |
| Tenaja – basin | Lomas Palomas – dove land/hills |
| Chapulin – grasshopper | Sandia Canyon – watermelon |
| De Luz – the light | Valleicitos – little valley |

There were areas within these pastures that had mesas but only two that had Spanish names:

La Mesa De Los Burros – of the burros
La Mesa De Los Venados - of the deer

I would imagine the old ranch must look good with all the rain.

I hope everything is going good for you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Your Friend,
Guy