



VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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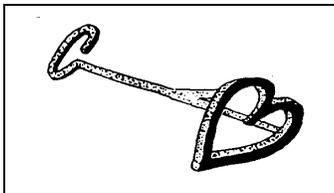
2nd Quarter 2015 – Volume 6, Issue 1

“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

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On the web at
www.vailranch.org



Cookhouse renovation June 2015

Local History News

Vail Ranch Headquarters Site Renovation Update

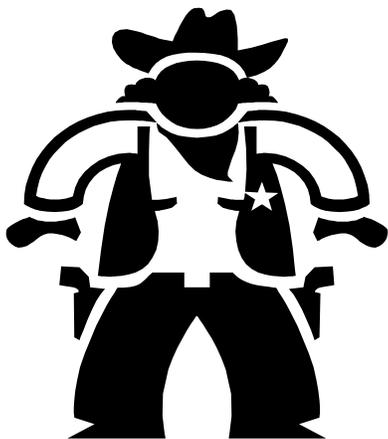
VaRRA would like to apologize to everyone for our lack of communication. It has been a while since we sent out newsletters. We have been busy with the renovation of the historic site. It is really happening! We will summarize the project history and then will give you the update on the property. We appreciate your interest and support for this project.

The Vail Ranch Headquarters Site, recognized as a California historic site, also eligible for National Historic Registry status, is undergoing restoration according to the US Department of Interior Standards for Historic Renovation. We won’t cite all the layers of history at this location in this newsletter, but you can learn about the significant heritage of the site at vailranch.org.

After many years of handwringing, meetings, a 1998 lawsuit, negotiations, planning, discussions, more meetings, and then, finally,
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Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson
Audrey & Vince Cilurzo
Jerry & Tina Colling
Roger & Lynn Cudé
Robert & Kathryn Curtis
Walt Dixon
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Phil & Connie Harris
Sue & Jim Jeffrey
Ken & Mary Lavezzari
Anne Miller & David Elliott
Bonnie Martland
Jimmy & Peg Moore
John & Bev Moramarco
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Dennis & Karen Sterner
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
Charolette Fox
Malcolm Barnett
Loretta Barnett
Dave Wilson
Toni Benson

Ranch Renovation

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agreements, the architectural plans were submitted for county approval and then were passed on to the City of Temecula Planning Department about 6 years ago.

This was followed by a series of unfortunate events, including three changes of ownership. Each owner was responsible to complete restoration of the historical property and to keep the terms of the legal settlement with historic preservationists, the founders of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaARRA). By the time Arteco, an historic architectural firm, took title to the property the economy tanked and loans were not available to complete the project, so the waiting game continued.

Finally about two years ago Arteco began renovation on the Wolf Store. Now they are working on the rest of the property. They have done deep trenching and the underground work has been completed for sewer, fire hydrants, waterline, gas lines, electricity, cable, water drainage, collection of water runoff, and grease traps for future restaurants on the property.

Meanwhile the red Machine Barn and Office building has new footings as well as all new interior structural stabilization, rafters and siding. Next will be the replacement of the original tin roof. The Bunkhouse is undergoing the same process.

The Foreman's House has been moved for a second time, to a foundation south of the cookhouse to make room for a new building designed to look like an old mule barn at the north side of the property. Much of the interior of the Foreman's House has been removed, including carpet, paneling, linoleum, flooring, and the old furnace. New bathrooms and an A.D.A compliant ramp have been added.

The cookhouse next to the Wolf Store received new cement footings and removal of materials damaged by termites.

VaARRA is in the planning and staging phase for historic displays that will be in place in different areas of the property to depict past occupants and usage of the areas. Maybe you have seen the vintage 1875 hotel room already completed in a south room of the Wolf Store.

VaARRA is preparing to build an outdoor blacksmith pavilion where live blacksmith demonstrations will be done. VaARRA is also planning a display of two cowboy bunkrooms in the old bunkhouse depicting two different eras of ranch history.

Plans are underway for an old-fashioned windmill and water tank. Final grading for the property is underway in preparation for the addition of decomposed granite and landscaping. Three new support buildings are now in various stages of construction.

Darell Farnbach and helpers have almost completed restoration of the old well digging rig and are working on a few other items for display. Eagle Scout projects will provide two restored wagons and benches for the site.

This historical district has already received interest from potential business owners. Augie's gourmet coffee roasters will share the Wolf Store with A la Minute ice cream vendors. A tack store

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Early Marketing

Selling Cars With Exotic Animals

Many of us remember television commercials in the 1980s with Cal Worthington of Worthington Ford featuring exotic zoo animals to attract attention and to sell cars. This was not a new concept. The August 2015 Classic Car magazine article “Gale: A Car with Bite” quoted a 1949 interview with D.W. Cook, the inventor of the 1905 Gale car.

The car was manufactured in Galesburg, Illinois. It featured a tilting body hinged at the rear and “provided free access to all the machinery of the car.”

The Gale Company utilized a unique advertising gimmick that featured Cook driving a lion around town (Chicago) in 1905. During that drive, Cook accidentally ran over the lion’s tail whereupon the lion “let out a roar heard across town.” Following that, the lion repeatedly tried to “steer the car with his giant paws,” forcing the lion tamer to beat the lion with a club. Upon exiting the vehicle, the lion was naturally in a bad mood and “lashed out and bit a small girl standing nearby.” At least one person would always remember the Gale.

We trust the girl and the lion lived long happy lives afterward, but that wasn’t mentioned in the article.

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will go into the bunkhouse and a corral will be built next to it for the owner’s pony. Perhaps there will be a garden behind the Machine Barn to supply produce for the restaurant that will go into the Cookhouse. There are a lot of interesting possibilities for this community area around the old Butterfield Trail traversing the property, including negotiations for a weekly Farmers Market.

For the last few months VaARRA has held antique sales in the Wolf Store, but now that the building is undergoing preparations for the new tenants that phase of use is over.

Everyone is invited to come to the property on Sunday afternoons to look over the yellow caution tape to see the buildings while they are still undergoing reconstruction. You can see the project up close and personal. Things keep changing and the community is watching and waiting for this heritage site to be open for business, which may be as soon as October of this year. Please remember you can stop in at the History Center on the other side of Kohl’s on Sunday afternoons to discuss the project with us.

VaARRA would like to thank Jerry, Paul and all the crew working on the project for the help and caring attentiveness to detail they are showing to this project. We could not ask for a better team. We also want to thank the City of Temecula and the County of Riverside for their support after learning about the historic importance of the Vail Ranch Headquarters Site.

We plan a big grand opening party when the renovation is finished we will send you an invitation. We hope you will attend and will return to the site frequently with friends!

If you have any questions about the history of the site or about community involvement onsite please direct them to info@vailranch.org or to Darell Farnbach at 951-552-3516. If you are interested in business opportunities, please look at www.vailhq.com or contact leasing agent Chad Iafrate at iafrate@cassidyurley.com or at 858-442-3869.



Back corner of Wolf Store on left, and Cookhouse changes

Briefs

History Center Notes & Activities

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. During your visit to the History Center, note that in our gift shop we have VaARRA T-shirts and other items including many books on Temecula area history.

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.

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Are You 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.

Images of History

Today's Pixs Are Tomorrow's History

By Rebecca Farnbach

Before photography was widely accessible, sketches were made upon rock or paper to record data, or to document events. From a sketch by a European named Vischer, we know how Pablo Apis' house looked. Helen Hunt Jackson's artist Henry Sandham provided many images of the Temecula Valley.

Later, as photographers hauled cameras into this rugged area, C.C. Pierce made lasting images of Pechanga families and lands, and F.H. Maude, L.J. Geddis and others documented the Wolf Store adobe and surrounding area. After setting up the wooden-legged tripods in the desired light of day, a photographer climbed under a cloth or leather drape to compose pictures from the upside down and backwards view through the lens.

Their photos took time and expertise to develop, too. No instant photo popped out with the push of a button. The delicate emulsion from glass plates was carefully processed with chemicals in a darkroom and paper images hung from wires to drip dry.

Photographers and collectors contribute to our present-day knowledge of the geography, flora and fauna and topography of our area. We know the faces of people who we could never encounter in our lifetimes because of the efforts of the early photographers.

We are indebted to individuals like E. Hale Curran who avidly took photos with Brownie cameras and collected photos from other photographers to depict the history of Murrieta. Other people who collected photos to reveal people and events of the past were Leverage Parker and Sandy Wilkinson. The Parker and Wilkinson collections are both held at the Temecula Valley Museum.

Each of us could help preserve the legacy of today for future generations by organizing and labeling the photographs we have in our personal collections. With family collections it is helpful to ask older members of the family to help identify the people, places and events depicted. When there are no elders to identify photos, some information can be gleaned from sorting photos by locations printed on the back of the photographer's card stock. By using genealogical charts and maps, then by dating the clothing and hairstyles, some good guesses can be made as to who the people may be and their relationships to one another. People's faces change as they age, but after childhood the proportions of chin to mouth, eyes to ears, etc., do not change.

We so much treasure photos of yesterday – yes, they are worth a thousand words – for their wealth of information. We can all do our part to save some of today's images for enjoyment in the future.