



VaARRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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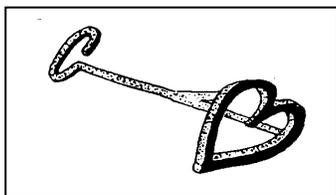
1st Quarter 2016 – Volume 7, Issue 1

“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



View of new windmill and water tank platform installed recently.

On Track for Early 2016 Opening

Vail Ranch Headquarters Site Renovation Update

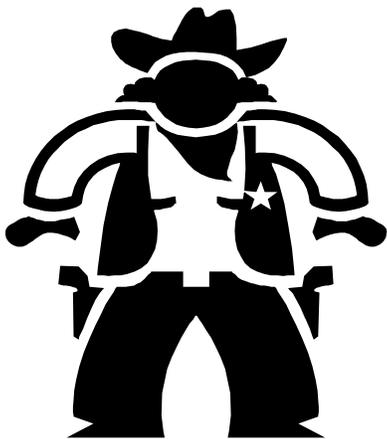
The Vail Ranch Restoration Association (VaARRA) is overjoyed with the restoration and rehabilitation accomplished so far by the property owner Arteco Partners in the project they are calling Vail Headquarters. After the settlement to a suit to save the historic property in 1998 three developers in turn sold it off rather than making the investment in time and resources to turn this location into the community welcoming heritage site that it is becoming. But Jerry Tessier, CEO of Arteco Partners was captivated by the site and the stories and the possibilities to make it a place where people can come to step into a scene of the past and enjoy spending some time with friends, moseying around artifacts, dining, and listening to music. Tessier is making this a signature location for Arteco’s artful restoration and is partnering with VaARRA to make sure everything is authentic.

To create the ambience a lot of planning and underground construction was needed. Activity kicked into full gear almost two years ago with the renovation on the Wolf Store adobe. Then during most of 2015 passersby have seen work on the rest of the property. You have

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Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson
Larry Beaver
Audrey & Vince Cilurzo
Russell & Patricia Cook
Roger & Lynn Cudé
Richard Deemy
Walt Dixon
Karen & John Drain
Tom Elliott
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Gary Georgi
Phil & Connie Harris
Sue & Jim Jeffrey
Ken & Mary Lavezzari
Wendy Lesovsky
Anne Miller & David Elliott
Bonnie & John Martland
Jimmy & Peg Moore
John & Bev Moramarco
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Dennis & Karen Sterner
Karen & David Strauss
Mike & Carol Strode
Nathan Vail
Roger Weber
Lisa Woodward



VaARRA Board of Directors

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Ranch Renovation

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seen 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. Sometimes we are asked, "How many times do they have to dig up the property to do this?" And our answer is, "As many times as it takes."

In keeping with Department of Interior Standards for restoration that make this site eligible for nomination as a National Historic Site new buildings have been added behind the bunkhouse and the Cookhouse where cooking installations and restrooms do not interfere with the original footprints of the buildings.

The red Machine Barn and Office building has new footings as well as all new interior structural stabilization, rafters and siding. The original tin roof has been placed again on the Barn and Bunkhouse. In the south end of the barn VaARRA will have a restoration workshop where people can observe woodworking and other work done on old wagons and machinery. Just outside the workshop a blacksmith pavilion will provide a place to observe the craft of shaping metal.

To make the project financially sustainable another building is under construction which will house a contemporary women's wear boutique with antique displays. At the front of the property and adjacent to Famous Footwear, this building which is now under construction is designed to resemble the old Mule Barn that burned down in 1928.

Much of the interior of the Foreman's House has been removed, including carpet, paneling, linoleum, flooring, and the old furnace. Attractive period features like built-in cabinets and fixtures were kept intact. 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. Pictures taken in 2015 are part of this update, along with the same view from recent days to show the progress.

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 also planning a display of two cowboy bunkrooms in the old bunkhouse depicting two different eras of ranch history.

An old-fashioned windmill has been installed and a tower for the water tank is ready, as can be seen in the photo at the beginning of this update. The large crossbeam has been set on the archway over the actual and authenticated Butterfield and Southern Emigrant Trail that transverses the property.

The final grading of the property is complete and soon walkways will be filled with decomposed granite and some final drought resistant landscaping will be completed.

Darell Farnbach and helpers have almost completed restoration of the old well digging rig and are working on other items for display. Eagle Scout candidates are restoring two historic wagons and another

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Get to Know VaARRA

- Stop into the History Center on some Sunday afternoon and get to know us better.
- VaARRA is a 501(c)3 corporation, all volunteer organization, with NO paid employees.
- During 2014 & 2015 we had an on-going estate sale in the Wolf Store, and raised over \$14,000. This has helped enormously to fund many items on our to-do list for the restoration, and assist in completing our mission.
- We would like to thank all the donors of items and the financial gifts we have received throughout the years. All have kept us going.
- If any of our friends and supporters have an item that they think could be used for display purposes, or could help us to raise funds, now is a good time to donate.
- During 2015 we had 1,970 visitors to the Little Temecula History Center.

Stop by and see for yourself the many additions to our collection.

Ranch Renovation (Continued from Page 2)

Eagle candidate designed and made replica benches for under the south eaves of the Wolf Store.

Besides the ranch wagons and machinery already on the ranch site, we are pleased to announce the purchase of an original 1930s Vail Ranch water tank from Bob Morris that once sat in the Walker Basin area of DeLuz near the Cross Creek Golf Course that will be placed on the platform next to the windmill at the front of the property.

Businesses in the old buildings so far include a pizza place, a coffee and ice cream place and a tack shop. The owner of the tack business would like to bring her pony to work so we approved construction of a small corral, thinking it will also be fun for visitors to see her pony. There are still some spaces available for restaurant, brewery or other ranch related businesses to lease.

VaARRA recently received a small stagecoach donated by Dr. and Mrs. David Pulsipher that will be used to give rides on the property. There will also be a small train to carry passengers for a nominal fee. The trails throughout the property are designed to accommodate small vehicles to transport people in a historic experience.

Arteco is incorporating as much historical building material and landscape features as is possible from the ranch site, the estate of Tony and Mildred Tobin, items purchased from the Roripaugh estate, and construction materials donated by the City of Temecula.

The wood platforms on the water tower and windmill at the front of the property were made from material salvaged from the remodel of the 1880s Mercantile building in Old Town Temecula. Windows from the Mercantile Building are installed in buildings on the property.

Granite quarried from the hillsides south of Temecula about 100 years ago is featured throughout the site to line walkways and to provide bases for informative plaques. A focal point along the Butterfield Trail is the beautiful monument a talented stone mason named Jesus has constructed to our specifications from local granite to honor the people who traveled the trail long ago.

We are designing information plaques and posters throughout the property so visitors can enjoy self-guided tours, but we will welcome volunteer historians to be onsite to answer visitors' questions. Please contact VaARRA if this is something you want to do.

VaARRA would like to thank Jerry Tessier, Paul the construction foreman and all of the crew working on the project for the caring attentiveness to detail they are giving to this project. There could not be a better team.

We want to thank the City of Temecula and the County of Riverside for their support in approving site plans after learning about the historic importance of the Vail Ranch Headquarters Site. We want to thank the people serving on the City Planning Department, the City Planning Commission and the Old Town Review Board for their unanimous approvals of the plans. We feel their excitement and pride

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 *new* 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.

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for the project and are blessed to have their support.

Each person receiving this newsletter will be notified when a grand opening party is planned. 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 leasing one of the historic buildings, please see www.vailhq.com or contact leasing agent Chad Iafrate at lafrate@cassidyurley.com or call him at 858-442-3869.

Sincere thanks to all of you who have waited, watched and hoped with us through the years when our dreams for the property had just begun. It looks like those dreams are coming true!



Jan. 2016 – Front corner of cookhouse.



Jan. 2016 – Back Wolf Store and Cookhouse, approaching completion.