



# VaRRA News

Newsletter from the  
**Vail Ranch Restoration Association**

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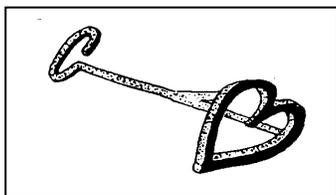
2nd Quarter 2016 – Volume 7, Issue 2

*“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**

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation  
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On the web at  
[www.vailranch.org](http://www.vailranch.org)



*Picket fences are modeled after the old Vail Ranch fences, and will outline outdoor activity areas.*

2016 Opening Soon

## **Vail Ranch Headquarters Site Renovation Update**

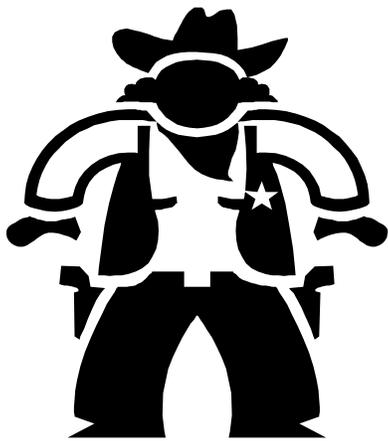
Excitement is building as each new detail of the ranch nears completion. And those details are many! The new stable building is taking shape as the Arteco team devotes their attention to it. Spring has brought life to the trees, some which are over 100 years old and others that were planted fifteen years ago. We are anxiously waiting the new landscaping and planting of thirty or more trees on the property.

Two sections of the site will be covered with grass watered by an innovative irrigation system that utilizes a mat with soaker tubes installed under the drought-resistant sod. The grass roots are watered without excessive evaporation.

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## Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson  
Larry Beaver  
Audrey 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

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

(Continued from Page 1)

If you drive by the ranch at night you will notice new lighting on the buildings and along the pathway. Trees and historical features will also be illuminated.

Local artist Bob Morris is working with Cody McGaughy from the Murrieta Machine Shop to fabricate a top for the old Vail Ranch water tank that will be placed on the platform next to the windmill soon.

Members of the community both young and not so young have provided materials, artifacts and labor to help Arteco and VaARRA with the site renovation. We are proud of the eight Eagle Scout projects done over the past few years after a lot of planning and hard work. Two projects were completed during the last month.

VaARRA and Arteco Partners have designed historic markers to be placed on granite blocks outside each historic structure with a wagon wheel attached to make them easily recognizable. The markers make it possible to take a self-guided informative tour through the property.

Please watch your inboxes for details on a Grand Opening and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony this summer. You will want to be there.

Soon you will be strolling through a Tuesday morning Farmers Market and will be getting coffee and ice cream while listening to live music under the canopy of trees that whisper secrets of the past.

This site nearly was obliterated but VaARRA and Arteco Partners made sure it was saved and renovated with love to give our community a place to pause, reflect and renew.

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It is that Season again...

## Sister City Students Enjoy Visit to Ranch

We enjoy meeting visitors from all over the world who visit the History Center. Groups from our Japanese sister city Daisen come annually. Last week a delegation of 24 teens toured from Temecula's Dutch sister city Voorburg. They most liked hearing cowboy words *howdy*, *chuck wagon*, and our words of farewell *happy trails to you*. The chance to climb aboard the stagecoach and Model T Ford were also highlights of their visit.

In May we will host third graders from Rancho Elementary School and students from the Pechanga School, giving them experiences in rope making and old fashioned laundry activities.

Let us know if you have an interest in helping us with educational activities with students and other visitors.

# Get to Know VaARRA

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



## Wolf Store Model Salvaged

Last November Paul and Lois Hastings delivered a model of the Wolf Store adobe to our History Center. It was salvaged from a refuse heap in Moreno Valley with few clues to its origin. Inside the model we found some old snapshots, one showing a man outside the Wolf Store writing on a tablet. We suspected he was jotting down measurements of the building.

VaARRA member Dale Garcia posted the photo with a request for information on *Facebook*. Within hours the response came. The man in the photo was identified as the late Don Walther who owned the Flying W Ranch in Moreno Valley where he had a small Western town set up. He was also known for his many models on display in the Moreno Valley Museum. Thanks to Paul and Lois the model was not destroyed and thanks to Dale we learned the builder's identity.

As this story was developing the question arose as to whether it was appropriate to call it a "model" or a "miniature." So . . . then *what is the difference between a model and a miniature?* A miniature is done exactly to scale. A model is a small version of something but is not necessarily exactly made to scale. After some measuring it was determined that the width of the building is to scale, but the depth is only about half as long. Either unfinished, or deliberately left short.

### *Blacksmith Shop*

An outdoor blacksmith shop will be one of the features at the Vail Headquarters. Volunteer blacksmiths will demonstrate the age old art of heating metal to form it into useful or decorative pieces. Who is not captivated by the intense heat, fire, bellows, pounding, cooling and shaping of the blacksmith's work? Imagine the importance of a blacksmith in a world before hardware stores when each hinge, nail, and rake was hand-fashioned. We hope to have the blacksmith shop open each weekend starting in July.

# 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](mailto: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](http://temeculahistoricalsociety.org) website, Local History tab, scroll down click on Historic Vail Ranch, then scroll to links for past issues.

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## New VaARRA T-Shirts Available

At History Center  
General Store

Most Sizes Still  
Available for  
\$20



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## In Memory

We want to remember two VaARRA members who passed away recently.

**Vincenzo Cilurzo**, a Temecula Wine Country pioneer and a long time supporter of VaARRA will be missed. Vince won an Emmy in his Hollywood career and earned a place in Temecula history by putting in the first commercial vineyard. His life and work in Temecula is chronicled in *Images of America: Temecula Wine Country* which is available for purchase at the History Center. Vince and his wife Audrey have given several artifacts and historical documents to VaARRA.

We also want to remember **Rick Busenkell** who was the first secretary of VaARRA. He kept a scrapbook of early newspaper articles about VaARRA's activities. He recently passed away in his home in Texas after a lengthy illness. Besides his work with VaARRA, he penned *Wolf Valley* a work of fiction infused with Temecula historic fact. Rick and his wife Debbie coauthored the nonfiction *These Hallowed Grounds* about celebrated US historic sites.

Each of these men cheered our efforts and we will miss them.

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For those of our readers who knew and loved the late board member Bill Harker, his autobiography has been posted on the TVHS website [www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org). Under the Collections tab scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the link. Did you know Bill's mother was the personal secretary for Thomas Alva Edison?