

VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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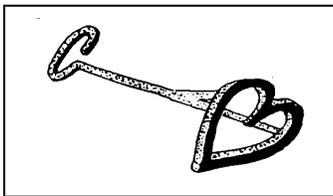
2nd Quarter 2017 – Volume 8, Issue 2

“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
41403 Bitter Creek Ct.
Temecula, CA 92591

Cell: 951-552-3516

E-Mail: info@vailranch.org

On the web at
www.vailranch.org

Heritage Vine Display Planned for Headquarters

The Vail Ranch Restoration Association and Vail Headquarters have partnered with some Temecula Wine Country pioneers to establish a Heritage Vine Display at Vail Headquarters. It was the dream of Temecula Wine Country pioneer Audrey Cilurzo that somewhere in the Temecula Valley there would be a display of early Temecula vines and she suggested Vail Headquarters for the location. Although the display will not be formally planted for viewing until early 2018, preparation has begun.

The earliest known grapes in this region were brought in the late 1700s from Europe by the padres of the San Luis Rey Mission. The cuttings were planted in small clumps of soil, wrapped in cloth, and nurtured during the long voyage around Cape Horn to the new mission in what is now Oceanside. Cuttings from those vines were later brought to the Temecula Valley, which was an agricultural outpost for growing grain as well as grapes for use at the mission.

In the late 1800s some residents of the Temecula Valley made a two-year round-trip journey to Europe to secure other varieties for winemaking, but Temecula was not recognized as a wine grape growing area until Vincenzo and Audrey Cilurzo planted the first commercial vineyard in 1968, the first in a now-flourishing industry that presently has a world reputation for producing fine wines.

When contacted about the Heritage Vine Display, Roger Honberger and his cousin PatC Winbury were enthusiastic about donating heritage vines from the vineyard they jointly own at their properties at Pechanga. The Mission and Zinfandel cuttings came from their great-grandfather's Felipe Cazas' vineyard. Cazas planted the Zinfandel cuttings from the two-year voyage to Europe. Greg Pennyroyal, vineyard manager for Wilson Creek Winery, who also teaches viticulture at Mt. San Jacinto Community College, will prepare the vines for planting and will send samples of the Mission vines to UC Davis for DNA testing to authenticate their origins. In January, clippings from the original Cilurzo vines from the 1968 planting will be added to this unique collection at Vail Headquarters.

During the historic handoff of the vines Roger and PatC stood on the porch of the historic Vail bunkhouse, now the home of Winchester Western Saddlery and in view of the foreman's house, Cheflavor today. Their grandfather James Freeman lived with his family, including Roger's mother and PatC's father, in the Foreman's house in the 1910s and 1920s and many of their uncles and other relatives lived in the bunkhouse for many years. Roger and PatC were pleased to donate the vines to the Heritage Vine Display as a living reminder of their family.

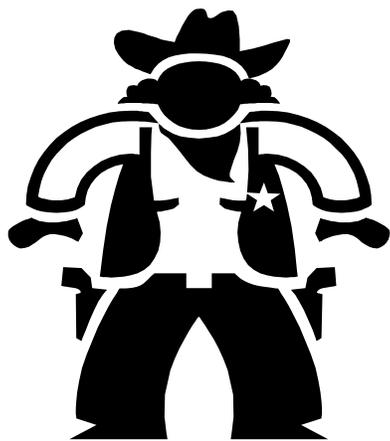
Rebecca and Darell Farnbach of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association received the cuttings with Martha Culbertson, Audrey Cilurzo and Greg Pennyroyal also present.

Letter to the Editor:

Subj: Dick Fox

Members of the VaARRA board congratulate you on your retirement from 15 years of service to the Temecula Valley Museum, and thank you for your ongoing work with VaARRA and the Temecula Valley Historical Society.

*Sincerely, Darell Farnbach,
VaARRA President.*



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Roger Honberger and his cousin PatC Winbury with some of the Heritage Vines given to VaARRA, to be part of a Heritage Vine display with installation planned at Vail Headquarters in 2018.

Upcoming Headquarters Activities

Saturday, July 29 – Beginning at 4 p.m. “Ramble On” a pre-1979 vintage car show. There will be cars, food, vendors, and music.

Wednesday Nights – FREE movies outdoors beginning at 8 p.m. Movie night specials at Vail Pizzeria, Cheflavor, and Juice It Up. Scheduled movies are:

August 2 – “Nacho Libre”

August 16 – “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”

August 30 – “Star Wars”

September 6 – “The Lone Ranger” (1956)

September 20 – “Spirited Away”

Mark Your Calendars for a Special Event

Something special to look forward to: The Temecula Valley Historical Society plans a 50th Anniversary commemoration of “*The Invaders*” TV series to be held open air at the Vail Headquarters on the afternoon and early evening hours of Friday, November 11, 2017. Plans are in place to show the pilot episode that was filmed in Old Town Temecula. It will be fun to watch for scenes and compare then with now.

Opening at the Headquarters in August

New enterprises to open in the Stables Building soon will be *Temecula Clay* pottery shop with classes for adults and children, and products. Also *Buffalo Salon* (not saloon) will be a full-service beauty salon.



Pat Ommert

Local Resident Inducted Into Cowgirl Hall of Fame

Did you know that in 2016 Temecula resident Pat Ommert was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame? Pat, still an avid rider, has returned to Temecula after living in the Burbank area for a few years.

She performed as a skilled trick rider, Roman rider, jumper and horse racer. Pat toured with Wild West shows, was a stunt double for movies like the 1954 "A Star is Born" and performed in places like Madison Square Gardens in New York City.

After she retired from trick riding, she and her husband Will, a veterinarian, opened California's first private equine hospital and the Los Caballos Farm, a center to rehabilitate over-worked horses.

Pat received the Professional Horseman's Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 and has been an advocate for keeping California's horse trails and open spaces for future generations. Pat loves visiting the Vail Headquarters and the Little Temecula History Center.

Walter Vail to Receive Special Honor National Cowboy Heritage Museum

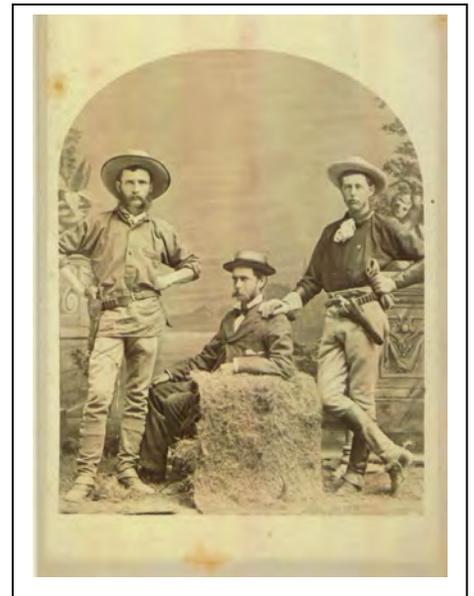
The Vail Ranch Restoration Association was notified a few weeks ago that Walter Lennox Vail, the founder and former owner of the historic Vail Headquarters, will be honored in April 2018 with induction into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Since 1961 the Western Heritage Museum has honored exceptional individuals who have made an indelible impact upon the history of the great West. Mr. Vail will join the ranks of other honorees including Theodore Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Dwight D. Eisenhower and more than 200 other great individuals whose lives exemplify Western ideals.

At the age of twenty-one, Vail left his home in New Jersey to go West. He first went to the mining town of Virginia City, Nevada and was disillusioned with the scoundrels he found there. A family member advised him to go to Arizona Territory and to buy land. Vail and his brother Edward and other investors bought land, cattle and water rights in an area near Tucson. While there, silver was found on his property and the prosperous Total Wreck Mine filled his pockets. The town of Vail, Arizona grew up around the mine. Mr. Vail was always looking for pastureland for his livestock and in the late 1800s he organized one of the last great cattle drives of the West to move 1,000 head of cattle from Vail, Arizona to pastures of Warner Springs, California. An early partner was Jack Harvey who was from England.

Vail eventually bought up four contiguous Mexican land grants in the Temecula Valley to form his 87,500-acre cattle ranch that dominated the region in the early to mid-1900s. The Vail Headquarters was the "command center" of his operation. Unfortunately, Vail was crushed between two streetcars in Los Angeles and did not live to see the success of the enterprise that was taken over by his family and was managed by his son Mahlon Vail. In 1964 the Vail holdings of the Temecula Valley were sold and it was the end of an era. VaARRA advocated to keep the buildings and Vail Headquarters intact for future generations to enjoy.



Young Walter Vail



Jack Harvey (L), "Tio" (Walter's brother Edward) in center, and Walter (R)

Headquarters Bits & Pieces

■ This spring VaRRA hosted a number of third-grade students who come each year to learn about local history. This year was no exception. Each session was varied slightly based on class size and time available, but each included experience in the headquarters garden, and a ride in the stagecoach on the old Butterfield Trail. As time permitted laundry methods of old were shared. VaRRA volunteers have been doing this for the past sixteen years. The purpose for saving the historic Vail Headquarters is to keep a heritage site for the community.

■ On the 3rd Sunday each month the Temecula Gunfighters will be at the Vail Headquarters to provide valuable gun safety demonstrations.

■ On the fourth Friday of each month is "Starlight Bazaar" with live music, booths, food vendors. Horse-drawn carriage rides are available for \$5 per rider. Imagine the romance of live music and an open carriage ride through the property.

■ Did you know that everywhere you see an old wagon wheel and a slab of granite there is an informative plaque. Take a walk around the property and you will learn a lot from the plaques. We are sometimes asked why we don't have informative brochures. The plaques are a way to eliminate paper waste.

■ Do you like old cars? Be sure to come to Vail Headquarters on Sat. July 29 to see "Ramble On" a pre-1979 vintage car show beginning at 4 pm. Cars, food, vendors and music.

3rd Grade Visitors -- Thank You Notes

(Each year a number of classes that visit the History Center and Vail Headquarters as part of their 3rd Grade circular will follow up with individual "Thank You" notes written by the students. Here are some unedited.)

Dear Vail Ranch Volunteers,

I think that this feild trip was amazing. One reason was because all learned a lot. For example we learned about native americans. Another reason is we got to ride in the butterfield stage couch. It had comfortable seats and no windows. Finally, this feild trip was great because of the blacksmith. We got to learn about all the tools he uses. In concluse, this feild trip was amazing.

From Waller

Dear Vail Volinters,

Vail volinters I had the best time with you. First I liked learning about the bunk house. I liked to see how the houses change dering the years. Second I liked the blacksmith. I liked it, because we saw how red the medel gets. Third, buter field stage coach. I got to ride in it I learned that it held mail. This is why I had the best time.

Sincerely, Nate

Dear Vail Ranch Volinters,

I have really enjoyed attending to you meusem because I have learned a few things I did not know. Our first station was the kitchen. We learned that the boys cut wood and the girls did a lot. Our next station was the native station. A interesting fact was they (the Natives) would put huge woven baskets on their backs and walk to acorn trees and pick only the best acorns. The 3rd station was the laundry station. A very, very, interesting fact was it would take 3 to 4 days to finish one loud of laundry. Our final station was the check wagon station. Facts about the check wagon is the people on the wagon would ground their own coffe. In conclusion, I bet many people will enjoy going to Vail Ranch.

Sincerely, RK

Dear Vail Ranch Volenteers,

In my opinion the Vail Ranch feild trip was the best. First of all, I loved to do the laundry. The water was relly cold and it is fun to wash laundry. Next, I liked to go on the Butter field Stage coach, it was bumpy and it had no seat belts. Fianally, I liked the garden. The graden was fun. I have'nt craked my seeds yet. I had a great time at our field trip.

Sincerely, Hannah

Dear Vail Ranch Volunteers,

I had a great field trip to Vail Ranch History center. First, I liked the stage coach. It was fun because you could feel every bump on the road. Next, I though that the laundry station was fun because we got to wash the clothes. Last I liked the garden because we got seeds. I had a good trip.

Love, Daisey

Dear Vail Ranch Volunteers,

I gust lovd the garden because of the plants. I espeshly love the caretts. Next, I like the black smith because of how he shaps it. It was so cool that I got to see how the made horse shos. Finally, I loved the buterfeild stage chouch and I liked rideing in it because it was fun. The buterfeald was the best part. In conclushon, that is way I like Vail Ranch.

From, Hunter