

Wolf Store

# VaRRRA News

Newsletter from the  
**Vail Ranch Restoration Association**  
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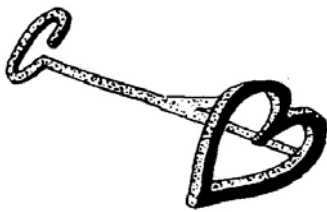
2nd Quarter 2018 — Volume 9, Issue 2

*“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

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## Vail Ranch Cowboys & Others Volunteer to Serve During WW I

President Wilson went before Congress on April 2, 1917 to deliver his message of war to help the Allies in Europe. The Allies desperately needed fresh troops to relieve their exhausted men on the battlefields of the Western Front. Despite Wilson's effort to improve military preparedness beginning in 1916, the U.S. military and National Guard units were not trained or equipped for the kind of fighting that was going on in Europe. To remedy this situation, Wilson pushed the Congress to adopt a military conscription act, which was adopted and signed into law on May 18, 1917. The act required all men between the ages of 21 and 30 to register for military service.

States and counties were required to establish districts to handle the registration, physical examinations, and to consider and process requests for exemption. Temecula ended up in Riverside Counties' District 2, and soon after establishment frequent articles in local newspapers reported on activities about the process. In the June 6, 1917 issue of the Riverside Daily Press it was noted that an initial supply of 30 registration cards had been sent to Temecula, but "cowboys and other laborers from the Pauba Ranch came in such unexpected numbers that the supply was quickly exhausted." The County Clerk Pilch was compelled to make a hurry-up auto run to Temecula to bring an additional 20 forms. It turned out that 48 men from the Temecula area registered for the draft.

Over the following weeks both the Riverside Daily Press and the Hemet News reported the names of those who had been called to appear for further review or physical examination. Some of those who registered from Temecula included: Anton Zivelonghi

(Pauba Ranch), Emmet Allen, Joseph Cantarini, Antonio Fiscalini, Alfred Knott, Walter Kuenzli, Ottavio Fiscalini, J.E. Grew, Lynn Smith, Carlo Panizzera, Hans Anderson, George Hall, Frank Burnham, Frank Jones, George Studley, Leopold Cantarini, Carl Swanguen, Elvetzi Cantarini, Anselmo Reggia, William Friedemann, Joseph Kolb, Vitore Dresti, Paul Clark, Eduardo Dias, Louis Cazas, Alfredo Campos, Joseph Nicolas, Mahlon Vail, Pete Matson, William Wolfe, Constantino Speziali, Henry Contreras, Alexander Escallier, Simon Riggs, Philip Magee, Frank Contreras, Ole Edward Larson, Jack Domenigoni, R.L. Bonebrake, Tom Scott, E.D. Sweet, M.E. Barnett, H. Clayston, Jose Beautista, and Gregorio Marrufo. Some of those who registered were exempted due to having dependents, or occupations that were in need such as farmers and ranchers. A couple including Carl Swanguen did not pass the physical examination.

Unfortunately with any armed conflict there are always casualties, and Temecula was not exempt from having to receive

**Mahlon Vail's Registration Card. See #12 exemption for "producer food stuffs".**

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Two venues are kept running by knowledgeable VaARRA volunteers: The Little Temecula History Center, at the corner of Wolf Store Road and Redhawk Parkway, and the Cookhouse at Vail Headquarters.

The History Center, a rustic museum with hands-on displays suitable for adults and supervised children, is open Sundays 12 - 5.

At the Cookhouse, open Sundays 11 - 4 and Tuesdays 9 - 1 pm, there are antiques, collectibles, books and T-shirts available for purchase, plus tickets for rides on the little train that runs through the property.

If you have questions about local history, we can usually answer them.



#### **VaARRA Board of Directors**

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## **Vail Cowboys & Others in WWI**

such notice. In the December 4, 1918 issue of the Riverside Daily Press it was reported that Ottavio Fiscalini had succumbed from wounds received in action during the Battle of Chateau Thierry. Months later in the July 12, 1919 issue the Riverside Daily Press reported that Ottavio Fiscalini's estate had been probated and consisted of \$1348.26. H.P. Zimmerman the public administrator indicated that all of the relatives of the dead soldier, mother, two sisters and two brothers, live in Switzerland.

**Pictured to the right is a photo of Ottavio Fiscalini's grave marker in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial. Although difficult to read the inscription says:**

**OTTAVIO FISCALINI  
Pvt. 361 INF. 91 DIV.  
CALIFORNIA SEPT. 26, 1918**



## **Multiple School Tour Groups Visit Vail HQ & History Center this Spring**

During April and May VaARRA hosted nine groups of students, giving tours of both Vail HQ and the Little Temecula History Center.

Volunteers from VaARRA and the Temecula Valley Historical Society staffed ten learning stations to demonstrate life in the past. These included blacksmithing, currying horses, riding in a stagecoach down the Butterfield Trail, riding in a Model A roadster, washing clothes on a scrub board, grinding coffee with a hand-turned coffee mill, and grinding acorns between a metate and a mano.

Many thanks to each of the volunteers. Two of the high points of the tours were with the Dutch Sister City students when we found a source of concern over the word "acorn". We learned it sounds like the Dutch word for "squirrel". The Pechanga third-grade students generously gave us some acorn flour and each of us tasted some muffins made from the flour.

We are sharing some Thank You letters on Page 4, from students who visited earlier this school year.

# Headquarters Bits & Pieces

■ 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.

■ We are always in need of new or used children's books for the Little Free Library at Vail Headquarters, which is located between Cheflavor and the old Vail cookhouse. You may place the books inside or set them by the cookhouse door, where they will be collected on Sundays & Tuesdays.

■ Vail HQ Starlight Bazaars are "magical" evenings with live music, vendors, horse & carriage rides in the moonlight and usually over 1,000 people visiting under the stars. Visit Starlight Bazaars on the last Friday night of each month from now thru October from 6 to 10 p.m.

■ Friday Night Movies during the Summer on the Vail HQ Stage: Bring your friends, low-back beach chairs and blankets. Grab dinner from one of the vendors and settle in for a family friendly movie

Friday, Jun 15, Monsters INC. 8:30

Friday Jul 13, Space Jam, 8:30 pm

Friday, Aug. 17, Hoodwinked, 8:00

Friday, Sept. 14, Coraline, 7:30

■ We love hosting Farmers Market each Tuesday morning. It is a smaller group that makes for a quick shopping trip and a comfortable and personal option for interacting with farmers and artisans. Live music each week with Hawaiian-born Pua as he plays guitar and sings mellow songs that cast a spell on listeners, adding to the ambiance of our special historic few acres.



Scene during induction of Walter Vail into the Hall of Fame of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners in April.

## Walter Vail Inducted Into National Cowboy Hall of Fame

The Vail Ranch Restoration Association is pleased to report that Walter Lennox Vail, the founder and former owner of the historic Vail Headquarters, was 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, Walter 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.

# Student “Thank You” Letters

*(Editor’s Note: The letters below are from students who attend Pauba Valley Elementary School. We had a total of 120 students on 2 separate days visit in early December, 2017. They wrote “thank you” letters and we have reproduced some just as they were received with no correction to spelling or punctuation.)*



**Matthew Oliphant**, shown above, is one of the blacksmiths who volunteers at Vail HQ on Sundays. He and his fellow craftsmen Jeff, Arlie, and John are happy to visit with people and to talk about their work while they are demonstrating at the smithy. The items they craft, like the ones in the photo are available for purchase. They also are willing to make custom items at a reasonable cost. Stop by to hear the clang of hammer on metal and the sizzling of hot iron cooled in water.

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***Be sure to “Like” VaARRA  
And Vail HQ on  
Facebook to receive  
updated  
Information about events.***

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***Also be sure to visit  
[www.vailhq.org](http://www.vailhq.org)***

Dear Vail Ranch Docents,

Thank you for helping us learn about the Vail Ranch Headquarters.

I learned about a lot of things. I learned about the Magnificent 7, Butterfield stageline, toilet chair, the Wolf store, lye soap, tools used, ranch bells, bunk house, barn, ranch office, and a lot more things. Thank you once again.

Sincerely, Noah

Dear Vail Ranch Docents,

Thank you for helping us learn about the Vail Ranch Headquarters. What I love most of all was learning and the rides.

I learned a lot about the History of Vail Ranch. Like one of the things I learned was how back then they did there laundry and how they did horessshoes and how they used the bathroom and how the rich people used the bathroom.

I also learned how they made the building and were they sleep and I hope that all of you have a great Christmas thank you for everything.

Sincerely, Evelin

Dear Historic Society Volunteers,

Hey, its me Kaelyn, one of the kids you showed around from Pauba Valley. I loved how you showed me and my classmates what it was like back then. I love the garden and blacksmith shop, indain part, kitchen, laundry, and all the other ones. I hope you know how grateful I am how kind and patient you were with us. You made learning super fun and I think I will remember this amazing experience.

I also loved, all the detail like the thick walls and old hotel rooms.

Then, I liked the fun car ride and how fast and rough it was.

Next, I enjoyed the garden and the learning of plants I have never heard of. I can’t wait until I see the new butterflys!

Lastly, I was exited about was the sitting in the stage coach.

In conclusion, we had a great time.

Sincerely, Kaelyn

Dear Historic Society Volunteers,

Hello my name is Samson, and I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Pauba Valley Elementary School. My class just attended the historic society for a field trip and I wanted to thank you for all favorite parts.

First, I loved when we learned about the cowboy named Cookie. Cookie was the nick name for the cowboy that makes coffee for the others while round cattle. Cookie was usually a cowboy that was not in condition to work. Not only I like learning about Cookie but I also liked riding in the car. It went really fast and it was really fun. Part of it was because I sat in the very back were the trunk door is and when we hit the speed bump I flew for a second. Finally, my favorite thing was the stage caches. There was 2 that we got in and they were fun. I felt like I was living back then and traveling. Thank you for an amazing field trip.

Sincerely, Samson

Dear Historic Society Volunteers,

Hello, my name is Annie Webster and I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Pauba Valley Elementary School. My class just addended the Historic Society for a field trip and I wanted to thank you for all my favorite parts.

First, I’m going to thank you about the car ride it was so much fun and bumby! And sorry that we were screaming it was fun.

Second, thank you about the coffee it smelled so good! And it tasted so good! But I didn’t really like it.

Last,thank you for EVERYTHING it was amazing and super nice! I loved every bit of it!

Sincerely, Annie May