

VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

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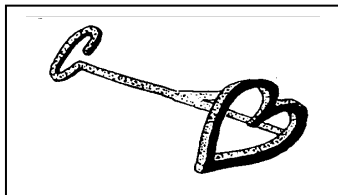
3rd Quarter 2009 – Volume 1, Issue 3

*“Dedicated to the preservation
and restoration of the Historic
Vail Ranch Headquarters.”*

**Little Temecula
History Center is
NOW Open –
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.***



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Around The Chuck Wagon

After a Long Day . . .

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

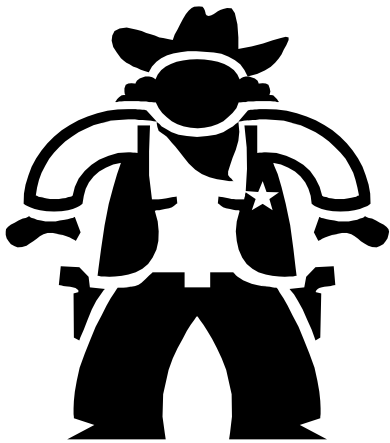
Good food was a perk when working at the Pauba Ranch, part of the huge Vail Ranch of Temecula. In fact, people who didn't work at the ranch tried to time their business with the Vails to coincide with mealtimes, hoping for an invitation to the cookhouse where steak and potatoes were staples. Former Pauba cowboys describe family style dining around a big table with heaping bowls of good food to nourish their weary bodies after long days of hard work.

A dinner bell called ranch hands to the cookhouse where they scrubbed clean at an outdoor sink before entering. Pitchers of ice cold milk were passed along with the hardy food. Cooks were busy sunup to sundown baking bread and keeping a pot of coffee and slices of pie ready for anyone who wandered in.

There were a number of cooks employed while the Vails owned the ranch from 1905 through 1964. Some stayed for a long time, others didn't. Some got hooked on the vanilla, which used to have a high alcohol content. One cook only lasted one day. They complained his raisin pie had a crust

Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson
Audrey & Vince Cilurzo
Eve Craig
Robert & Kathryn Curtis
David Elliott & Anne Miller
Walt & Jean Dixon
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Phil & Connie Harris
Suzanne & Fred Legner
Bonnie Martland
Neil Miller
John Moramarco
Beth Paden, Discovery Works
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Lyz Quinn
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Karen & David Strauss
Mary Lu Taylor
Lisa Woodward
Roger Weber



VaARRA Board of Directors

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so thick it could have been used as shoe soles and the raisins would have made good shotgun shells.

When the cowhands herded cattle, the food served wasn't quite as good, but after a long day in the saddle, some cornbread accompanied with beans cooked with *carne seca*, dried beef, tasted pretty good.

In case you don't know about cattle drives in the Temecula Valley, here's the story. The Vails owned a lot of cattle that ranged on the open pastureland of the immense 87,500-acre ranch. When the grass was consumed from one area, the cattle were driven to another pastureland. Sometimes they were driven to a Vail property in Imperial Valley, a trip taking several days.

Cowboys on horseback surrounded the herd, often 200 head of cattle, following the chuck wagon and the trail boss. The chuck wagon, usually a spring wagon pulled by one or two horses or mules was outfitted with kitchen gear. The chuck wagon cook was usually an older cowboy whose days in a saddle were over. The chuck wagon would inch ahead of the herd until arriving at a predetermined site, where the cook would start a fire with wood he had carried among his load of cooking gear and the bedrolls of the riders.

He'd open the cloth bag and pour his parboiled beans into boiling water and would cook cornbread or biscuits in a cast iron pot. The beans cooked within an hour because they were pre-boiled and sundried before the trek. They were flavored with dried beef seasoned with chiles. Then he'd boil the coffee.

Cowboys coming into camp after securing the herd would take a draught of water from the one tin cup hanging from a barrel on the side of the wagon and would grab a tin plate and a fork to get his grub.

As the sky turned bright with stars above and cowboys settled into bedrolls for the night, tall stories were told and ballads were sung until just the howling of the coyotes filled the night.

On Sunday afternoons you can see the chuck wagon pictured above sitting outside the Little Temecula History Center, the red barn west of Kohls in South Temecula. Three men from the Vail Ranch Restoration Association built the chuck wagon from two old axles, four wheels and some rusted old hardware they found. The stamp on one of the axles indicates it is an old Studebaker wagon, like many of the original chuck wagons were.

Recent Artifact Donations

In June, Audrey & Vince Cilurzo donated an old survey boundary marker from the Vail Ranch days, it is inscribed "V.Co. B.M. #27 EL 1307.89 1925", also some empty cartridge casings found on their property.

Don & Helen Porter from Palm Springs gave VaARRA a dress form, and laundry hand washing plunger.

During August, the Ray Family from Fallbrook donated a lovely copper water still; and Jacquetta Cawood provided a nice barrel butter churn to add to the collection. Also Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Murphy donated a Model T Auto Jack, and a Reliable Egg Scale.

Restoration Update . . .

Model T Ford

The restoration work on our 1926 Ford Model T Roadster continues to make progress. Initial efforts have been with the fuel system – starting at the gas tank, then moving to the fuel pump, and completed with rebuilding the carburetor. Next on the agenda is to rebuild the distributor and install new spark plugs. Once that is complete we will give it the “smoke” test (meaning try to start it). As indicated in our last issue of *VaARRA News* our intention is not to “restore” it to original new like condition, but rather to get it running. Two of the members of the local Drifters Car Club (John Harrison and Bob Grieb), are helping Darell Farnbach in this effort.

The Brougham Coach

As if we don't have enough going on, work has begun on restoration of our horse drawn Brougham Coach. Repairs on the wheels are underway, along with cleaning of the under-carriage, and sanding of the exterior surfaces. Two of the wheels are finished and painted. Some of the work has been done by students needing community service hours credit.

Maytag washer

A 1934 Maytag wringer washing machine is also undergoing work. When finished it will sport new decals and be powered by a Maytag two-stroke gasoline engine.

“Cowboy Jubilee” Raises \$\$ for Foundation

Santa Rosa Plateau Event

By Rebecca Marshall Farnbach

Schoolchildren from the Temecula area are familiar with the Santa Rosa Plateau as an ecological preserve, thanks largely in part to the efforts of the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation. Funding for student programs comes from several sources, including the annual Cowboy Jubilee, which this year had activities in Old Town Murrieta, the Liberty Ranch, and at the Moreno and Machado adobes inside the Santa Rosa Preserve.

On Friday, July 24th, over 50 hikers trekked the preserve to visit the adobes where representatives from the Nature Conservancy, the Pechanga Cultural Department, and the Vail Ranch Restoration Association gave presentations about some of the activities that took place there in the distant past and told about some of the people who lived and worked on the ranch. VaARRA also participated in support of the Jubilee by having our Stagecoach at the Saturday evening festivities at Liberty Ranch. Folks were able to climb into the stage and take their pictures for fun.

Here is a brief history of the Santa Rosa Rancho and some of its historical buildings. In 1846 Governor Pio Pico granted 48,000 acres to Juan Moreno, who built the adobe that has a square section still standing on the property. Agustin Machado purchased the Rancho in 1855 for \$15,000 and constructed the larger rectangular adobe dwelling. In 1876 Frederick Woldemar Ludovici purchased the Rancho for \$43,270 and formed a partnership with other investors.

A recently discovered document credits Ludovici for building the charming ranch house in 1877, although until the discovery of that document it was widely believed that Parker Dear built the ranch house later. The house featured five main rooms on the ground floor and a large upper story containing four small bedrooms, and a larger room that was used as a dormitory at times. This lovely house graced the ranch until it burned down in the 1970s.

Parker Dear arrived at the rancho in 1877 at age eighteen. His father John Dear, an investor in the Ludovici partnership, assumed full ownership of the Rancho in 1881. John Dear died in 1883. Parker Dear received the deed to the ranch from his father's estate in 1887. Parker and his wife Elena hosted picnics for residents of the valley who went by wagon and horseback to spend a day in the rolling grasslands under the oaks and near cool streams.

When the San Francisco Savings Union foreclosed on the Ranch in 1893, James Knight, formerly of the Warner Ranch, was hired as the manager of the Santa Rosa Cattle Company. Then the Cosmos Land and Water Company purchased the property. Cosmos leased the ranch to R.F. Garner of San Bernardino. They sold to Walter Vail in 1905. Vail added this to his three former Mexican Ranchos totaling 87,500 contiguous acres where he grazed his cattle.

Kaiser-Aetna bought the entire Vail Ranch in 1964. In 1984 the Nature Conservancy acquired 6,925 acres which are the centerpiece of the preserve today.

Brief Notes . . .

. . . Over 100 supporters came out on Saturday evening, September 12 to help VaARRA celebrate the release of two new books in the "Images of America" series from Arcadia Publishing. The latest releases are "Temecula Wine Country" and the "Greater French Valley". The event was at the History Center, with authors and representatives from both projects present to autograph copies. John Moramarco loaned a nice selection of antique wine making equipment and tools for a special display. Great refreshments in the form of hors d'ourves supplied by Volker, and wines provided by Bailys, Keyways and Curry wineries added to a full evening. Joel Reese chimed in with his music to add to the festivities . . .

. . . The total number of visitors to the History Center for the period from June through September of 2009, has been 721. Visitors have included folks from out-of-town visiting the area, interested locals, old-time residents back for a visit, families with kids, all folks who are curious about "What's in the Red Barn?"

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government -- lest it come to dominate our lives and interests."
--- Patrick Henry

The Cherry/Parr Collection -- Update

Native American Library Catalog Work Continues

As reported in our last issue of *VaARRA NEWS*, some time ago we acquired a collection of over 700 books, mainly about Native Americans and other indigenous peoples of the World. Many of the books are out of print and some are rare, including an 1830 Ojibway language Bible and a signed copy of Pancho Villa's wife's memoirs.

Through the efforts of numerous volunteers we now have data sheets done on all of the books. This was necessary to document each book for sorting, cataloguing, and assigning of "call/object numbers" which is now being done by Dick Fox, and Rebecca Farnbach. The books will be kept on shelves in the Little Temecula History Center. Once the books are individually entered into our VaARRA Collection Database, we hope that a searchable version of the collection listing can be put on the internet, for researchers to view. Historians would then be allowed to make an appointment to read and study the books onsite.

When this significant processing task is completed, we plan to hold an open house to showcase the books and to honor the two families responsible for the donation, which we call "The Cherry/Parr Collection".



Join us for an . . .

Old Fashioned BBQ

To Kick-Off Heritage Week, the final week of the year-long celebration
Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Temecula Post Office

**Many historic displays, gunfighters, live music, and activities
Which are FREE to the public . . .**

- Where:** Old Vail Ranch Headquarters &
Wolf Store (2nd Temecula Post Office)
- When:** Sunday, November 1st – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Cost:** BBQ tickets \$15 per person (\$18 at door)
(Water & soft drinks included) (Wine & Beer available
To purchase)

**Tickets available at: Bailys in Old Town, Temecula Valley Museum,
Chamber of Commerce, and Temecula's Main Post Office,
Also through VaARRA**