

Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 4. Issue 4.

July 2019

It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Murrieta Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.

2019 Officers

President Jeffery G. Harmon
Vice President Annette Jennings
Secretary Carol Sierra
Treasurer Jenny Mayoral

Directors

Connie McConnell, Al Vollbrecht
Pat Jennings, Ashley Jennings
Bigay

Committee Chairs

Museum

Annette Jennings

Research & Preservation

Jeffery Harmon

Public Relations

Connie McConnell

Membership

Annette Jennings

Program Speakers

Virtual Assistant

Ashley Jennings Bigay

Events/Education

Pat Jennings

Newsletter Editor

Jeffery G. Harmon

A publication of the
Murrieta Valley Historical Society

Email:

info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org



Our Family, Part Three

By Floyd Rail

While I was sick, several of my friends finished putting in my crop. As I recall the group included: Brad Stowell, Joyce and Howard Sykes, Walter Cooper, Harold Wickerd, Ed Bryant, and I really do not remember all involved, but it was a great gesture of good will. That is the way life was in a small community.

Many times this same spirit was expressed when need arose. To this day, Hale Curran is living in a home that was built for her after a fire destroyed the old hotel where she had lived. Also Mrs. Sotello is still living in the little cement block home built for her after a fire destroyed their home in the middle of the night. Even our little Czechoslovakian minister came out and helped mold cement bricks. There was always a quick response when there was a serious need. (Great people)

We had a snow storm the first winter of our marriage. This was a rare thing in Murrieta. I only remember three snowfalls while I lived there forty one years. We also had floods. It may have been the same winter that water flooded the field where our house was, all the way from our back



Isabella Floyd
Homer Mary Alice
1938

door to the neighbor's barn. We didn't have bulldozers then to make check dams and at times we had some very heavy rains.

The biggest event in our early married life was the arrival of Mary Alice. Wow! I passed out cold and they picked me up off the floor. I'll have to admit that wasn't a very manly way for a father to welcome a young lady but that's the way it happened. I did recover though and eventually got acquainted with her. I was rather slow in learning the art of being a first class babysitter, but time has a way of solving most problems and short comings. I'm still trying.

It was quite an experience



Cora Lee, age 2, was upset that her brother, Homer, age 5, took her chair. (Source: The Homer Rail Collection)

trying to learn the fine art of raising babies. Mary Alice really got off to a bad start by having colds every night for several hours and that really didn't help the sleeping schedule very much. It took quite a while to find the right formula for her, but a good look at exhibit "A" will testify to the fact that we did succeed.

Homer was more fortunate. He was a big, husky guy to start with and kept right on being husky. He had his problem a little later. He had chicken pox first and at the same time he got impetigo. Wow! What a time we had. But obviously he survived, but not without a struggle. He later had boils. Ugh! With a little help from the P38's flying over at a crucial time, Mom took care of one operation. The poor guy.

By this time Cora Lee had arrived on the scene of action. She was born at the Burnham place. Just before her arrival on a Sunday after lunch we were looking out the window toward town and saw a big, black smoke in the vicinity of our old home place. We jumped in our trusty Model T coupe and hurried over to find the Bormose home engulfed in flames. I parked in the driveway of our old home and sat there for a short time watching. Many of the townspeople were there. After a short time, Alvin Matteson came out and said there was fire in my barn. Boy, I went into action real pronto. About that time the Perris Forestry fire engine rolled in and they came to our rescue. The fire had just reached the manger just a few feet from our winter supply of hay and seed grain. A very close call.

Before Cora Lee was very old, we moved to Jerry Young's house in town. I had started working for Howard & Barnett at the feed store and mill. I think she was about three years old when we moved. We took our cow with us even though the lot was not very large. Nobody complained thank goodness. We were lucky as we used lots of milk.

David was born at the Young home. He was named after the two Young brothers, David and Richard. They were fine boys. David was a pilot in Korea and was killed a year or so later. Richard was a paratrooper and went to France. He became very quiet after he re-

turned. I think the war had a very powerful affect on him and also the loss of his brother. Sad.

One day (Sunday afternoon) Mom and I went for a stroll down toward the Dunham place and found out the place next door was for sale. We studied the possibilities and decided to buy it. It took a lot of doing to finish it so it would be comfortable for our family. But eventually it became home sweet home to us. While we lived there we had many memorable experiences. Cows, chickens, kids, rabbits, snow and a lot of living. Humble as it was, it was real. Sometimes with tears, but lots of happiness as well. All those great visits with Grandma Stollar. We had a garden and fruit trees and roses. It was really a good time for us.

When Mary Alice was in her early teens, she was rather tall and carried responsibility real well. She spent a lot of time being responsible for her brothers and sister while her mom helped in the feed store as a bookkeeper.

Then Henry Winter asked her to help him at his little quick food refreshment shop. He expected an awful lot from her for her age and she had quite a time with her frustrations. I suppose it was a learning experience, but not really a happy one. Homer would help her sometimes.

As I look back over the years, I have a bit of a guilt complex about the way I worked

Homer. He was so capable I felt I may have taken unfair advantage of him and expected more than I should have as he helped in the feed mill. But I have been very proud of all of our children responding to responsibility as they did. It has really paid dividends to each of them.

Well, I have scribbled, rambled and reminisced and probably have not made a lot of sense. I wanted to leave a record of some of the pleasant memories I have of my family, and let you know how much each of you means to me. If I have done anything worthwhile in my life, it was having a part in the raising and enjoying four wonderful children now adults and raising the next beautiful generation.

God bless each of you.

Your Dad,

Floyd Rail

(1973)

The Later Years

By Homer Rail

After moving to Fallbrook in 1950, my dad continued to run the Elevator/Feed Store business in Murrieta and two feed stores, one in Fallbrook and one in Vista. He would drive to Murrieta in the morning where he ran the business during the day. He would then load up his truck with feed which he deliv-

ered on his way home in the evening. On Sundays he was the counselor for the youth group at the Methodist Church. (One of his youth married Charles Schultz of Peanuts fame!) His trucks were often seen in parades as the base for 4H and Scout floats in both Murrieta and Fallbrook. In 1954, he sold the Elevator and Feed Business to Ernie Fisk and took a job with the Fallbrook Elementary School District as the head of maintenance at Potter School. Floyd worked for the school district until he retired.

After leaving the feed business Floyd was able to spend more time with a talent that most people were not aware that he had . . . oil painting. He was really a natural and enjoyed this form of expression.

In the meantime, Isabella worked for a CPA, Clark Smith, as a bookkeeper. One of their clients was a well known drug store in Hollywood that catered to many well known celebrities. Isabella always got a kick out of seeing the kind of things that were purchased by these well known people.

Later Isabella went to work for the Fallbrook Union High School District as a bookkeeper. She worked there until her retirement in 1974.

In 1987, Floyd and Isabella sold their home in Fallbrook and moved back to Murrieta into a mobile home on their own corner lot at Spring Knolls Mobile Home Park behind Mur-

rieta Hot Springs. In 1996, they sold their mobile home and moved to Redwood Terrace Health Center in Escondido. On January 7, 2000 Floyd died quietly at Redwood Terrace. Isabella died May 2, 2004 with her family at her bedside.

The Next Generation

Mary Alice Rail Boyce

Mary Alice attended the Murrieta Grammar School and graduated from Elsinore Union High School in 1950 at the age of sixteen. During her teen years, she worked for Harry Winters at the Winters Drive-In. She helped out at the Murrieta Elevator and kept an eye on her three younger siblings while her mother was working for the Elevator.

After graduating high



David Richard Rail, 1948 (Source: The Homer Rail Collection)

school, she went to Palomar College and on to San Diego State College where she earned a degree in elementary education. She taught in the Escondido public schools before retiring and writing her book "Murrieta Old Town, New Town; A Community History".

Mary Alice and her husband, Gordon, are presently living near their daughters in Hughson, California.

Homer Rail

Homer transferred from Elsinore High School in 1950 to Fallbrook Union High School where he graduated in 1954. After moving from Murrieta, he continued to work with his father in the feed business and was a member of the Fallbrook Volunteer Fire Department.

He joined the US Air Force in 1955 and served as an instructor for two years. He then became a medic and spent the last year at a hospital in Keflavik, Iceland. This gave him the opportunity to see the world which was his motive in the first place.

Following his time in the Air Force, Homer attended various colleges eventually earning an assignment as a California State Park Ranger where he worked in parks throughout California.

In 1982, he was hired by the City of Rohnert Park as the Public Works Manager where he served until his retirement in 1998.

He is married to his wife, Andrea, and has two daughters and a son.

Homer is active in the Placerville Art Association, painting in various media and is also a member of the Gold Country Woodcrafters.

Cora Lee Rail Brannon

"In 1951 we moved to Fallbrook prior to my 10th birthday. I was in the 5th grade and went from being the only girl in a class of about 11 to a class of about 25. And, there were two 5th grade classes!!"

Cora Lee married Dick Brannon in 1961 and they had two children. Dick Brannon worked in the airline industry for many years and the family traveled extensively. Cora Lee followed in her grandmother's footsteps and became a Master Gardener. Currently, Dick and Cora Lee Brannon live in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"Though only 10 when we moved from Murrieta, I have fond memories of the hours my brother David and I had playing at the feed store/mill while our parents worked. Roller skating at the school when Grandma Stollar was there, or clapping the chalk board erasers together and standing them up against the board with the chalk on top to help my grandma are good memories. Living in a small town and having the freedom to walk to the post office, to the grocery store or to a friend's house, was special, especially compared to today."

David Rail

After graduating from high school, David attended college with a degree in Meteorology. He married his wife, Barbara, in 1967. They have a daughter and a son.

David joined the Air Force in 1966 and was on active duty through 1975. He was stationed in Hanau, Germany, Soesterberg, The Netherlands, Lubbock, Texas, and Rapid City, South Dakota.

When he got out of the Air Force in 1975, he had a job with Oceanroute, a company that provides weather forecasts and routing recommendations for merchant shipping worldwide. Since most of the shipping companies were not based in the U.S., he traveled extensively to Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. He retired in 2004.

Since then, his hobbies include building street rods, and he is active in the Barbershop Harmony Society, singing in a quartet and a choir.



Museum Update

By Annette Jennings, Museum Director

I would like to thank the City of Murrieta’s City Manager Kim Summers, Assistant City Manager Ivan Holler, and City staff for taking the time to come to visit the museum. It was great to meet all of you and we appreciate your support. President, Jeffery Harmon has coordinated walking tours in Historic Downtown Murrieta, which had great reviews and we hope to do more in the future.

The Murrieta Museum has been busy on Thursdays with visitors and group appointments.

If you have an organization that would like to make an appointment for either a walking tour or museum tour please email us, info@murrietshistoricalociety.org. We are getting closer to expanding our hours and hope to be open on Saturdays soon; more information to come.

We have a new exhibit to see: Natural History Collection donated by Paul and Kathi Price. The Murrieta Valley Historical Society sends our appreciation and thanks to all of the hard work in getting this ready for our museum. Our dedicated volun-

teers and donations have been wonderful; the museum couldn’t run without them.

Finally, for those with young families, don’t forget we have sensory bins, puzzles, and activity pages for children. Murrieta was built on family and we welcome any person, any age.

Thank you,

Annette Jennings

Murrieta Museum Director



President Jeffery Harmon with members of the D.A.R., Luiseno Chapter preparing to embark on a walking tour.



Later that afternoon Cub Scouts Pack 346 gathered at the museum waiting to also take a walking tour of Murrieta’s Historic Downtown District.



Little House of Treasures
Antiques, Vintage Goods, Home Decor

Don & Rea Douglas

24980 Washington Ave. 951-304-1981/cell 951-970-3329
Murrieta, CA 92562 FB:LittleHouseofTreasuresMurrieta



Support Murrieta Valley Historical Society by shopping at AmazonSmile.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Murrieta Valley Historical Society....

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

<https://www.gofundme.com/murrietamuseum>

Murrieta Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 1341
Murrieta, CA 92564

Phone: 951-387-4862

E-mail:

info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org

Monthly Board Meetings

Held on the first Monday at 5:30 p.m.

At the Murrieta Museum

41810 Juniper Street

(At Hunt Memorial Park)

All members welcome to attend

Vail Ranch Headquarters: History to Restoration

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019 | 6 PM

8 TOWN SQUARE, MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Presented by Rebecca Farnbach, a founding member of the Vail Ranch Restoration Association, a group that is responsible for saving a community heritage site from demolition and neglect.



 MURRIETA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(951) 387-4862
MURRIETAHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY
8 TOWN SQUARE, MURRIETA, CA 92562
(951) 304-2655 | MURRIETALIBRARY.INFO

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

JOIN ONLINE!
MURRIETAHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

INDIVIDUAL

- \$25 / ANNUAL
- \$150 / LIFE

FAMILY

- \$35 / ANNUAL
- \$250 / LIFE

SENIOR / STUDENT

- \$15 / ANNUAL

BUSINESS

- \$200 / ANNUAL

SPONSORSHIP

- Name on our website
- Business website linked to our resource page
- Business logo on all major event press information

\$300 / ANNUAL

First name

Last(Family) name

Business

Address

Phone

Email

**CHECKS PAYABLE
TO: MURRIETA VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

murrietahistoricalsociety.org
info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org
(951) 387-4362
PO Box 1341, Murrieta, CA 92564