



# Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1.

January 2020

*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.*

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Murrieta Valley Historical Society

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## Murrieta All Star Marching Band

London, New Year's Day, January 1, 2020

By Jeffery G. Harmon

The Murrieta All Star Band participated in the 2020 London New Year's Day Parade. The band was comprised of students from all three high schools. It was lead by Murrieta Mesa High School band director Daniel Greenberg. He was assisted by Murrieta Valley High School band director Brad Pulverenti.

The students spent six days in London. During their visit they toured the Tower of London, the National Observatory at Green-

wich, Windsor Castle, and Oxford. They also took a boat cruise on the River Thames, and witnessed the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace.

The band performed a concert at Cadogan Hall, home of the London Philharmonic Society. Cadogan Hall was formerly the Church of Christ, Science church, built in 1907.

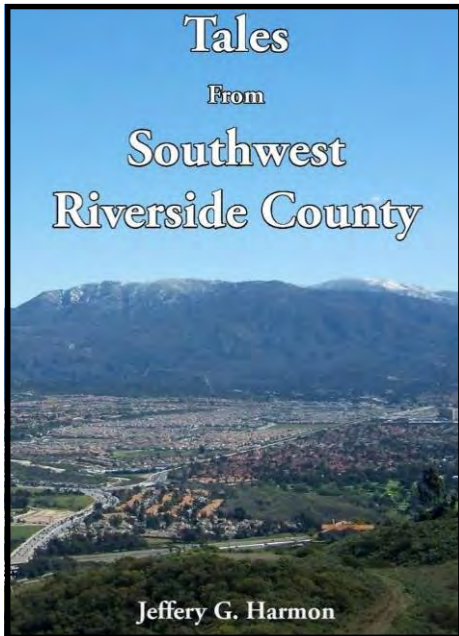
On New Year's Day, the Murrieta All Star Band marched the

two mile parade route. The students traveled through Piccadilly Circus, London's version of Time Square. They then traversed through Trafalgar Square passing by the National Portrait Gallery. The parade route

ended near the Westminster Bridge. For their finale piece, the students performed, "Can't Take my Eyes off of you". The crowds cheered, and the students were highly praised for their achievements.

This was an once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students. The memories they created will be shared and treasured for years to come. We are so very proud. Congratulations!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! We hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas season and that you will have a prosperous and joyful new year.

It was a busy and incredible year in 2019. The opening of Murrieta's first museum in April was a grand success. The response and the compliments have been pouring in. I want to recognize and thank our Museum Director Annette Jennings, and her husband, Pat, for the hundreds of hours they have spent at the museum. They have laid a strong foundation and a legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

I would also like to thank the members of the board for volunteering their time and for their guidance during the museum's first year of operation. It has been a challenge, but we have all worked as a team to see this vision come to fruition.

If you only visited the museum on opening day, then you need to come back for a second look. New exhibits have been added and new artifacts have been donated. It is our vision that the museum never becomes stagnant, but continues to grow and be refreshed.

One of our goals has been to provide educational programs for school field trips. In December we hosted our first class from Murrieta Elementary School. The teacher and students enjoyed their visit and the activities that they participated in. We will be hosting several other classes from the school later this year.

Recently we received a grant to purchase a computer and archival software for the museum. We are so excited that we will be able to digitize the current collection and make it accessible for public research. The long term goal is to make the Murrieta archives accessible

online.

Please mark on your calendars the Annual Fireman's BBQ on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating the Murrieta Museum's one year anniversary. We are looking forward to seeing long time friends, and meeting new ones as well. This is always a special day for Murrieta.

I am excited to announce the launch of my new book, "Tales from Southwest Riverside County". The book is a collection of 74 articles that I have written over the past nine years. If you would like a signed copy, you may pick up a book at the museum for \$15. I hope you enjoy reading about the fascinating people and events that have occurred in the area over the past 150 years.

We are looking forward to 2020. We know there will be new challenges, and new adventures waiting for us. Again, the Society and the Museum could not be a success without our members, our volunteers, and our sponsors. Thank you for preserving, and protecting our local history so that we can continue to educate people about our rich and diverse past.

Thank you.

Jeffery Harmon, President



## Phil Brigandi (1959 – 2019)

“When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground.” African proverb

On December 12, 2019, Southern California lost one of its great “libraries”. Phillip K. Brigandi, the Orange County Historian and Archivist died at the age of 60. He wrote over 25 books, 100 articles, and assisted in many other projects. In 1998, he published the book, “Temecula at the Crossroads of History”. He was an incredible storyteller and had an unquenchable passion for local history.

Brigandi once wrote, “At its best, local history can help give all of us a sense of connection to the past, a sense of belonging, a sense of place. We are all part of a larger story.”

Thank you Phil for preserving and protecting our past, your contributions will not be forgotten.

To learn more about Phil Brigandi, please visit his website:

<http://www.socalhistoryland.mysite.com>



## 2020 Presentations

January 13th – Mindy Johnson– Portrayal of E. Hale Curran

March 9th – Gerry Nicholas - Portrayal of Samuel “O.T.” Hackett

May 11th – Steve Lech- Rails to San Jacinto –

The Coming of the Railroad to the San Jacinto Valley

July 13th - Shelley Leddy — Portrayal of Catherine Fernald- “Trixie”

September 14th – TBD

November 9th- Pat Jennings-Montana Dinosaur Dig experience



The Murrieta Museum,  
A Center of Culture  
and History  
is located at  
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at Hunt Memorial Park.



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# Museum Update

## Happy New Year!

I would like to take this time to thank our members, sponsors, volunteers and our community. With all of your support, the Murrieta Museum has become a great asset to our community. Since our Grand Opening in April 2019, the Museum has had many visitors and people have been donating historical items to us from our area. Pat Jennings and Jeffery Harmon have scanned hundreds of photo and documents to add to our archives. The Museum had a couple of special events and displays such as; Historic Highway 395 and vintage greeting cards displays. The museum also had two books signing, from the Society's President, Jeffery Harmon, author of the book, *Tales from the Southwest River-*

*side County.* We are pleased to be working with the Murrieta Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes. The teachers and their students will be touring the Museum to learn about Murrieta's history. They will also be participating in hands on educational activities and taking a walking tour in the Historic Downtown Murrieta District. The classes are scheduled for tours through the end of the school year. The Museum has launched the Southwest Riverside County museums' Passport program. Visitors are encouraged to visit all the area museums in Murrieta, Perris, Menifee, Lake Elsinore, Temecula and the Little Temecula History museum. Once you collect all the passport stamps, you will receive a certificate of completion and a prize.

The museum is open on Thursdays from 1-4 pm, for appointments or for group tours email, [info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org)

Annette Jennings

Museum Director

## Sponsors for 2019:

Honeycutt Farms, Chick-fil-A, Black Bear Diner, City of Murrieta, Janice Rumsey Photography, Murrieta Lifestyles , Larry Cottingham and Associates, P.M. Property "Asset" Management, Santa Rosa West Association, Waste Management and The Mill.



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



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### Next General Board Meeting

February 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.


At the Murrieta Museum

41810 Juniper Street

(At Hunt Memorial Park)

All members welcome to attend

*Gerry Nicholas presents*  
**SAMUEL "O.T." HACKETT**




**MONDAY, MARCH 9 AT 6 PM**  
**MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 8 TOWN SQUARE**

Samuel Hackett was a stagecoach driver who owned and operated the local mail route from San Diego to Temecula from 1878 to 1886. He was known as "On Time" Hackett. People claimed they could set their watches to Hackett's arrivals and departures.

MURRIETA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER  
41810 JUNIPER STREET, MURRIETA, CA 92562  
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