



Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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January 2021

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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1928 McCormick-Deering 10-20 tractor

(Source: internet image)

Walt Cooper's Life (Part 3)

May 18, 2001

Raleigh Brown used to get unbroken mules from Mahlon Vail and keep them a year or two and do his own farming and return them broke. When I started there, I was going with Clara Brown, so I knew about this great team of leaders and when he returned them, I asked Jim for them, and I kept them till I quit. Jim assigned other mules to me, but when a new man was hired, Jim would give those mules to him, but I always kept my leaders.

The Pauba had a Sandwich hay baler they fed wit a Jackson Fork and they baled more than one could with man tablers.

In the fall of '29 I went to work for Maurie Stoner to plant his hay. He would raise about four hundred acres of hay every year and sold it to racehorse owners. He used eight horses and a 10-20 McCormick-Deering tractor. He paid better wages and shorter hours than any other farmer. We made \$2.25 for a 9-hour day and board.



Allis Chalmers Model K Tractor (Internet Image)

Maurie used three tablers, one feeder and one wire tire and one man to either buck and weigh or buck and poke wires. He used two buck rakes and wouldn't allow more of a load than three shocks to a load so the tablers could pull it apart easier.

When it was time to move, he dropped the long belt and pulled the baler with the tractor. Every man knew what to do to make a quick move. There would be about four hundred bales in each setting and the hauling to two big barns started right away. That way the hay never lost much weight by drying out.

A working stiff like me never got to work all year round, so money got awful scarce in the winter.

I got married, May 26, 1931 to Jessie Sheld. We heard of work in Lodi in the almonds. I worked as a truck swamper and got 30 cents an hour. Jessie worked with other ladies sorting the almond meats on a belt. So

with both of us working and paying very low rent, we did all right. When the almonds were all gone, we went to the Libby, McNeil and Libby ranch, but their season was over too. So we returned to Murrieta through Bakersfield and a man asked if we wanted work and said he paid 50 cents a hundred for cotton pickers. I thought we could make two bits a day, so I never started.

There was no work in Murrieta, so I tried cutting wood, but for \$2 a tier, I couldn't make much. Toad Freeman was Miss Izon's foreman and the Rock House below Temecula was where Toad's son, David, would spend the winter and go to school. We were told that if we stayed and farmed the forty acres and cooked for David, we would get our board and room, but no wages. That was o.k., we had to trade at Tarwater's and all they had was canned milk and other cans and bread; Burnham's would have been good.

In May of 1932 I got a job in the oat hay for Maurie Stoner. My father, Fred Cooper, died the last of May. He was born April 16, 1861 and is buried in the Elsinore Cemetery.

Maurie hired Raleigh Brown and four mules to haul hay for three cents a bale. I quit the baler and helped Raleigh haul. We could haul six hundred a day, so I made \$6 a day and Raleigh made \$12.

Later Maurie told me Jake Lambert got too sick to farm and he told Maurie to take over sixty acres of summer fallow for one dollar an acre. Maurie said, "there's your chance to start farming." So I borrowed sixty dollars from Maurie to pay Jake.

At that time we had noticed two ladies in an Auburn coupe come to Murrieta from DeLuz to shop. They were the wives of two bank robbers who hid out in the DeLuz area. The men were finally apprehended and taken back to Montana for trial. The ladies wanted to sell their furniture, so Maurie and I and Harvey Williams went up to buy some. My mother bought some furniture and a nice coal oil stove for Jessie and I. The ladies had a lot of home brew there, so we all got pretty drunk and Mrs. Stoner and Jessie met us at the bottom of the DeLuz grade and did we catch hell!

Jake had planted gyp corn on the summer fallow, so I picked it and sold it to Taylor Milling Co., in Los Angeles for one hundred dollars. After ex-

penses were paid, I never made much. I planted oats in the summer fallow and Jake died in the fall, so he didn't get the quarter crop rent he had coming. Jake and all the Murrieta men had dug graves for people in Murrieta cemetery's hard ground. Jake had provided for Dave Buchanan and I to dig his grave in Wildomar. Dave and I dug it with just shovels in two hours. In Murrieta it took a crew of men all day to dig a grave.

In the fall of '33 I had bought a 10-20 McCormick Deering wheel tractor and disc from Freeland Caterpillar Co. in Riverside. I had Jessie's 14 year old brother with us, so he drove the tractor after I sowed oats by hand. By eleven o'clock I finished sowing, so I put three horses on a harrow and smoothed up the land. We planted one hundred and fifty acres that way and it produced 250 tons of oat hay. Nobody even looked at the big pile I had, so before winter, I rented three barns and hauled it again and insured it. Next February I sold it to Goings Hay Market in El Monte. I got eight dollars a ton, so I lost money on that hay. I went to farming grain after that and did better.

I had rented more land and the 1937 crop was very good, so I bought a new Allis Chalmers Track type and Remely Sidehill Harvester. I used these until 1941 when I bought a Model K Allis Chalmers and a sixteen foot Harris Harvester. I was planting one

thousand acres and summer following 1000 acres.

In 1944 I bought a registered Quarter Horse mare #766, which is early in the registry. Now the numbers are several million. This mare had a great colt sired by "Chub" from the Irvine Ranch and was bred back to General MacArthur owned by George Mees, who lived in Corona.

By this time land values were getting better and city people wanted to live in the country. So by 1948 I harvested only 400 acres, but it was enough to pay off twelve thousand dollars of debt and I took a job in Auburn in a mine. After a year in Auburn, I moved to Bakersfield and got a job with Hartman Concrete Materials Co. I had to join the union to work there and later when 12A went on a strike, I went to work on the Isabella Dam on the Kern River. The dam was built by three companies, Macco, MK and River Construction.

A few months later that job also struck and I went back to work for Harman's. After a year, I moved to Huntington Beach and worked in Rolling Hills making house pads for the new subdivision. It was a thirty mile drive and very foggy. Every morning I expected to be killed. Finally we got through and I went to work in Corona Del Mar, that was much better. When Eisenhower got elected, I was afraid Union jobs would be scarce. So I went to Murrieta

and went to work for Harvey Blackmore. I worked a year for him, and then I worked for M.J. Yoder. That was better, more money and shorter hours. He also furnished a Ford pickup for each man to drive to work. After a year and a half I got a union job and was digging a storm drain from March Field south to Perris. It drained into the San Jacinto River, which finally reaches Elsinore Lake.

In October of 1955 I went to work for E.L. Yeager Co. of Riverside where I stayed for eighteen years. I finally retired on July 1, 1973 at 62 years of age. With Social Security and Local 12 pension, Leona and I have lived well ever since. I married Leona on September 22, 1953; she died on August 4, 2000.

In 1985 I went with my daughter to Topaz Ranch Estates near Wellington, Nevada and I liked the place. So I sold my Murrieta property and bought two and a half acres, 1 1/2 miles from my daughters and I have lived there ever since.

One important event was that Jessie and I had a daughter born on July 29, 1933 and she was a caesarian, costing \$600 at that time. Now I believe it would be several thousand dollars. She was married on July 4, 1954 to Noble Roripaugh, who had a young daughter. They had two daughters, born in 1956 and 1957, and one son, who was born in 1962.

Museum Update

As the year comes to a close, we pray that all is well with you and your family.

The museum has been closed since March. We hope that in the coming year, we will be able to open to the public once again.

Work has continued at the museum. I have been archiving items that were donated this year from Loretta Barnett, Homer Rail, and Rebecca Farnbach.

Recently, Jake Henricksen and his film crew videotaped Pat Jennings presenting a museum tour. When completed, students will be able to take a virtual tour of the museum. Also, Jeffery Harmon was filmed while giving a Historic Downtown Walking Tour. Both tours will be available on the Society's webpage in the coming year.

Pat Jennings has been busy with a few repairs on the museum before the rainy season comes. He has also scanned the Murrieta Fire Department photo collection for the archives.

On behalf of the Society we would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year.

Annette Jennings



Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Friend, & Murrieta Native

Alice Vose

April 16, 1928 - December 8, 2020

"You are loved and God is with you always" - Alice Vose



Membership

Terri Whitaker our Membership Chairman recently resigned. We wish to thank her for all the work that she has done for the Society and its members.

Pamela Malnar has been appointed Membership Chairman. She has worked with Terri over the past year

and is ready to assume her duties.

We want to thank all those that have renewed your membership and we would ask that you encourage people to please join. If you are a new member, welcome.

Thank you for your support.

In Memory of Alice Vose

April 16, 1928—December 8, 2020

Murrieta native and historian, Alice Vose passed away on December 8, 2020 at the age of 92. Born in 1928 to Eulogio and Jessie Sotello she grew up in Murrieta, when the trains still ran and once served the Duke lunch in a now abandoned building off of Jefferson.

As an adult Alice spent four years in the Ground Observer Corps. during World War II and was very patriotic. She was a stay at home mother, a PTC member, helped with Dime and Dip Dinner fundraisers, a Den Mother for the Boy Scouts, and part of the 4H Live Wires (now Murrieta Mustangs). A founding member of the Garden Club Alice delivered Thanksgiving meals to homebound members and long-time Murrieta residents as well as helped with the Fireman's BBQ since its inception. She also helped with the city's annual Food and Toy Drive; then run by her daughter Annette and son-in-law Pat Jennings.

Alice was Mother of the Year in 1986 and attended Citizens for Cityhood and LAFCO meetings to support Murrieta becoming a city. She was a member of the Cruising A's and the Temecula Valley Model A Ford clubs for 20 years, a hobby she shared with her husband

Ray, her daughter Loretta Perez and son-in-law Rudy. Alice and Ray were in many holiday parades where Ray proudly displayed a sign titled, "Newlyweds Since December 5, 1948".

She enjoyed the Murrieta Veteran's Day Parade and was extremely proud of her son, Robert Vose who served in the Vietnam War. Robert and his wife Barbara loved visiting her during holidays until they moved back to Murrieta to assist with her support.

Later in life she joined friends at the Murrieta Senior Center for "Craft 'n Chat" and looked forward to her morning walks to the post office. To everyone who knew her, she was Grandma Alice but particularly to her five grandchildren and their partners: Scott & Shannon Perez, Anna & Dana Tolman, Thomas & Cindy Vose, Nathaniel & Ami Vose, and Ashley & Mike Bigay. Her great-grandchildren include: Kalei and wife Anne Marie, Hunter, Lori, Jacob, Joshua, Jessie, Jubilee, and Jadzia. Her friends and neighbors will remember her as the lady with over 2,000 cookie cutters, which was started by her late husband. Alice also cared for her chickens, giving away their eggs to those who needed them and often taking in chick-

ens from others.

Alice is preceded in death by her parents, husband Ray Vose, brother's Fred and Arthur Sotello, and sister Mary Cruz. May she have the biggest welcome home party ever! For 72 years Alice had a Christmas tradition in adding Christmas sprays to her family and friend's headstones at Laurel Cemetery in Murrieta. This tradition has been passed down over the years to her children and grandchildren who will now add her name to the top of the list each year.

As for her family, gone but not forgotten has never been truer. Murrieta has been significantly impacted by the love of Alice Vose. The devotion she had to her family and to the community can be seen throughout the city in its history and events, for she has passed on the importance of community in her hometown of Murrieta. To honor Alice, love your family fiercely, bake sugar cookies, and enjoy a city event. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in her name to the Murrieta Valley Historical Society, PO Box 1341, Murrieta, CA 92564.

Written by her granddaughter,
Ashley Jennings-Bigay

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Next General Board Meeting

TBA

At the Murrieta Museum

41810 Juniper Street

(At Hunt Memorial Park)

All members welcome to attend



The Murrieta Museum,
41810 Juniper Street
at Hunt Memorial Park.

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MEMBER TODAY**

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