



Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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May 2022

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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Dale and Illah Cutlip

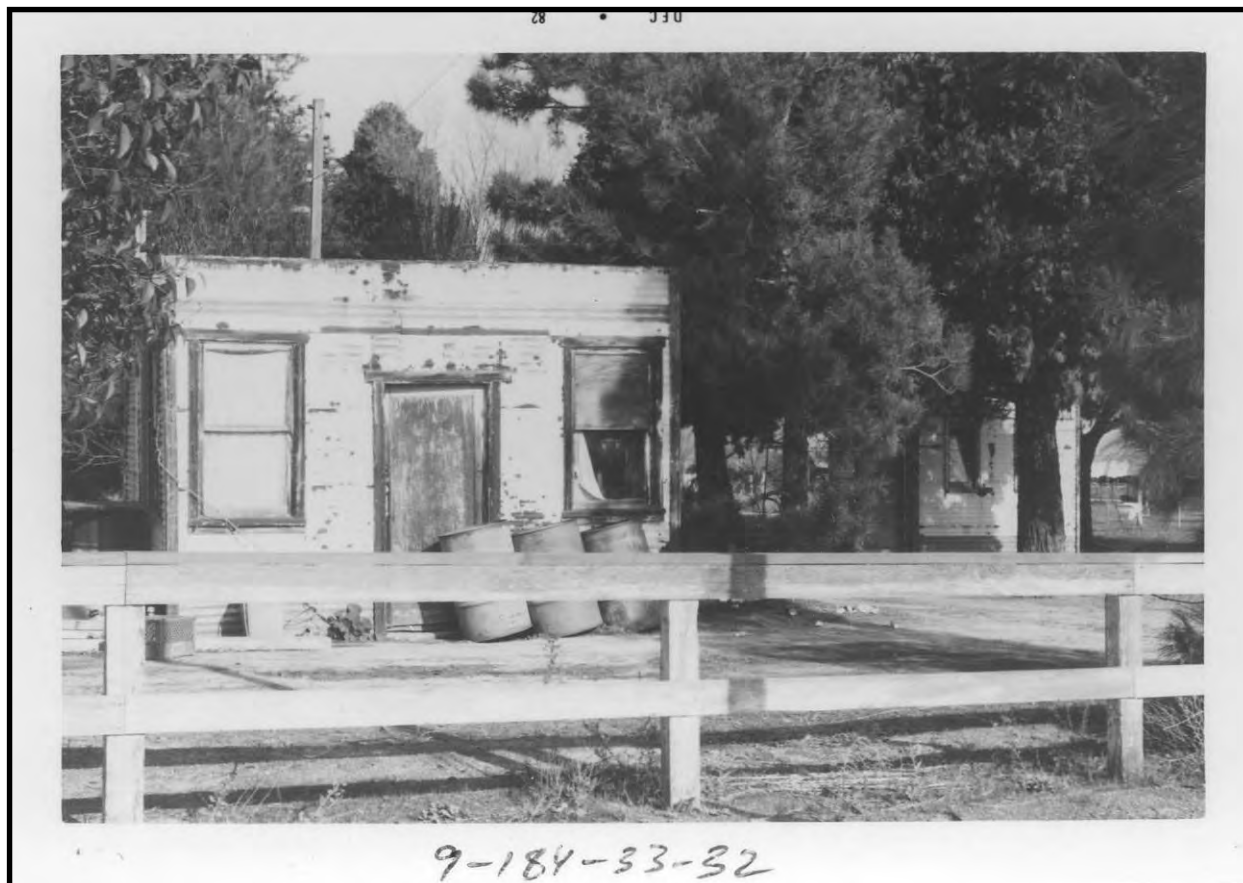
By Jeffery Harmon

Dale and Illah Cutlip were Murrieta residents who served the community for over ten years. They were business owners, and active in civic groups and social clubs. Though their time in the community was brief, they made many contributions to Murrieta's development.

Dale Garrison Cutlip was born November 3, 1900 in Salina, Jefferson County, Iowa. He was the son of Fred and Bessie (Shetterly) Cutlip. By 1906, the Cutlip family moved to Trout Lake, Klickitat County, Washington. Fred and Bessie had two

more sons, Wayne (1906) and Glenn (1909). Then in 1918, Fred owned an auto garage in Redmond, Deschutes County, Oregon. By the mid-1920s, the Cutlip family settled in Los Angeles County, California.

On November 13, 1923, Dale married Illah Shupe in Los Angeles. Illah was the daughter of Frank and Rose (Gibbons) Shupe. Dale and Illah were second cousins through the Tidball family lines. They had no children. They settled in Inglewood, California and Dale made his living as an auto mechanic.



A gas station located on the former Shupe property on Washington Avenue. Dale Cutlip possibly distributed butane to his customers from this building. Source: The Ron Wickerd Collection

Dale and Illah moved to Murrieta in 1933 and lived in their home on the Shupe ranch. Illah became an active member of the Ladies' Aid Society at the Murrieta Methodist Church. In December, she was in charge of the Society's Annual Bazaar Dinner. She also served as the Society's treasurer in April 1937,

Illah was also the treasurer for the Murrieta Woman's Club in 1934. That year, her father, Frank Shupe, was the construction supervisor for the Murrieta Woman's Club clubhouse. On May 12, 1934, the clubhouse was dedicated. Illah assisted her mother, Rose, in

preparing the barbeque supper for the event. The next year, Illah was named president of the Murrieta Woman's Club by unanimous vote.

Dale and Illah joined the Murrieta Bridge Club in September 1934. The club met once a month at a member's home. The next month, the Cutlips hosted the Friday Afternoon Bridge Club and the potluck luncheon. In November, they attended the Hillbillies Bridge Club at the Garringer home.

Illah and her mother, Rose Shupe, were active members of the Murrieta-Wildomar Farm Bureau's Home Department. They attended monthly

meetings and participated in group activities. Rose Shupe was also a member of the Happy Hour Club in Sedco. Illah joined her mother at club meetings and events.

In 1934, Dale Cutlip operated the Valley Service Station in partnership with Mrs. Edna Stowell. In September, they built an addition to the station and added a lunch room. In October 1936, Dale closed his garage and machine shop and began working for Mr. Warfield of the Glo-Fire Log Company in Lake Elsinore.

Then in October 1938, Dale went into partnership with Victor Garrison. They pur-

chased the Murrieta Machine Shop from Howard Embry. A year later, Victor bought out Dale's interests in the company. Dale then became a butane dealer in Murrieta. His business office was located at the Shupe-Cutlip ranch on Washington Avenue

Dale was elected constable of the Murrieta Judicial District in 1938. He beat the incumbent, Melville Thompson. In 1942, Constable Dale Cutlip and Deputy Sheriff Floyd Baldwin arrested five men in Temecula for being drunk on the public streets. The men appeared before Judge Barnett and were fined \$25 each.

In November 1942, Dale resigned as constable. He was succeeded by Barney Roripaugh. Dale had accepted defense work in San Diego as an airplane mechanic for the U.S. Navy. He lived in San Diego and Illah remained in Murrieta. They would visit each other often. During World War II, Illah Cutlip, and her mother were active members of the local Palomar Branch of the Red Cross.

Illah's uncle, Virgil Gibbons, and his wife, Mamie, visited Murrieta several times and stayed at the Cutlip's home. In December 1934, Virgil bought a service station in Murrieta and added a lunch counter. Virgil and Mamie ran the station and lunch counter for nine years until Mamie died in 1943. Virgil sold the business to Dale Cutlip in July 1943 and moved to Lancaster, California. A year later, Dale sold the station to Donald Anthony in July 1944.

Illah's father died on November 26, 1939. She then took care of her mother, and together they were involved in many social activities and events. Then Rose Shupe died on August 12, 1945. She was buried beside her husband in the Elsinore Valley Cemetery.

After her mother's death, Illah moved to San Diego to live with Dale. They rented the former Shupe and Cutlip homes to new tenants. The Cutlips would visit Murrieta occasionally to check on their properties, which they eventually sold.

Dale and Illah moved to Laguna Beach, California in 1947. Then in 1958, they moved to Cortez, Colorado where they operated an antique shop and Dale was the Justice of the Peace. In 1962, they moved back to California and settled in Bell Gardens.

Dale died on January 4, 1964 in Maywood, California. He was laid to rest in the Elsinore Valley Cemetery. Illah then married Larry Holmes. Illah died on October 23, 1980 in a convalescent center in Bell Gardens, California. She was laid to rest beside her first husband.

Today, the Shupe-Cutlip property is covered with a housing development. However, remnants of the Cutlips' time in Murrieta can still be seen today. The Woman's Club clubhouse where Illah was a member and a leader, remains standing today. The Murrieta Machine Shop that Dale was a business partner with Victor Garrison, is still owned by the Garrison family and is the longest operating family business in Murrieta. Dale and Illah Cutlip should be remembered for all they had contributed to this community.



Illah Shupe, postmarked, Livingston, Montana, 1909
Photo courtesy of Brad Snodgrass



Artist Aimee Edgeworth created a beautiful mural that is displayed in front of the Murrieta Museum. The mural was installed on April 23, 2022.

Aimee also volunteers for our Elementary School Field Trip Days. She has the students participate in an art activity during their visit.

Thank you for your time and service



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Free but donations are always welcomed

Jeffery Harmon will give a presentation on the history of Historic Highway 395
SATURDAY, JUNE 25 AT 7 PM
@ THE ALLEY WAY
24810 WASHINGTON AVE
 (Corner of Washington and Juniper)



Museum Update

The past couple of months have been busy for the museum. I have been working with artist Aimee Edgeworth on a concept to have a mural made for the front of the Museum. Aimee completed it and it looks beautiful. People can stop by and take a Photo Op.

In April, Murrieta Fire & Rescue celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Fire Department and held the Annual BBQ. We ran a Murrieta Fire Department 75th Anniversary series on social media and had great responses. Robert Vose designed a 75th Anniversary poster to sell as a fundraiser for the Museum. The Museum also had a vendor booth at the BBQ, displaying the

Fire Department history through pictures and memorabilia.

Jake Henricksen from Hen XP produced a video on the history of the Murrieta Fire Department with an interview with founding member Marvin D. Curran. The video link is on the Museum's Facebook page and will be on YouTube. Jake is currently working on a video on the history of Murrieta Cityhood featuring Carol Kravagna Hansen.

We have been busy at the Downtown Market Night in Historic Downtown Murrieta on the first Thursday night of every month. We also participated with the Murrieta Library Plant Trade event as an outreach pro-

gram.

Our last 3rd grade class tour was in April. The students had a great time and asked many questions.

Jeffery Harmon is offering a docent program to train and recruit museum volunteers.

Please stop by the museum. We are open every Thursday from 1-4 p.m. and the first and third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thank you,
Annette Jennings,
Museum Director



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Next General Board Meeting TBA

General Board Meetings are virtual in a Zoom meeting format. Anyone interested in joining us, please send an email to info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org and we will email you the Zoom link before the meeting



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

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JOIN ONLINE!
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