



# Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 5.

November 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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A publication of the

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Robertson Ranch in Webster Valley

(Noble and Joan Roripaugh Collection,  
Courtesy of the French Valley Historical Society)

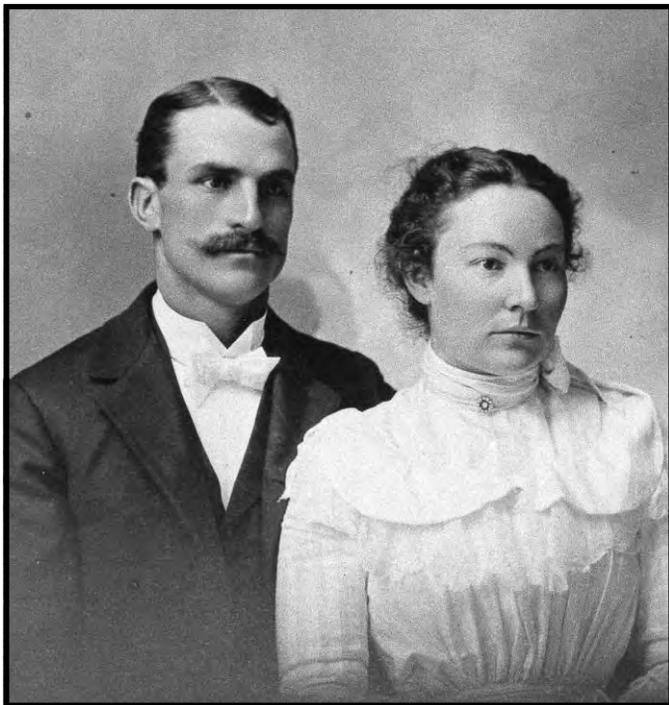
## Walt Cooper's Life (Part 2)

May 18, 2001

My cousin, Glen Robertson, was Grant Morse's foreman. Grant owned all the best ranch land from Anza to Red Mountain.

In 1925, Glen, Grant, Red Mitchell and I drove 400 head of cattle to Temecula to ship to Los Angeles on the train. We started at the Hemet Dam where Grant had pasture rented. Glen wanted an early start, so he fed us a lot of watermelon that night and I guess you know we all were up at 3 a.m.

The first night we spent at Tripp Flats and picked up a lot more cattle there. Then Juan Diego Valley gave us a few more cattle and Upper Reed Valley a lot more. In Lower Reed Valley we found a few more, and then we spent the third night at Cottonwood where Gib Miller came in with a load of hay on Grant's 1914 Fageol truck to feed the cattle. I was amazed at how Glen could grab a 150 lb bale by the wires and throw it up on his back and carry it a hundred yards so the cattle would have plenty of



Mark and Lena Robertson  
(Noble and Joan Roripaugh Collection,  
Courtesy of the French Valley Historical Society)

room to eat.

The next day we nooned at the Vail's scales and watered and weighed a few cattle to get an idea of what the herd would weigh. We then drove to the loading corrals that afternoon. We spent the night in the Temecula Hotel. The Ludy family owned the hotel and there weren't many covers on the beds, so we froze out by 3, which was o.k., as we had to be loaded by 6. We then trotted back to the ranch in one day, which had used up almost four days to get there.

I worked for my uncle and aunt, Mark and Lena Robertson. I learned a lot from them about farming and raising cattle. My uncle ran a ten foot

grader and I drove six horses with six lines and we graded the road from Upper Reed Valley to the St. Johns grade and back in one day. That was the first time I ever met M. J. Yoder, who farmed in Hemet. Dick Gauld caught up with us in the afternoon. He and M.J. were looking to buy workhorses as M.J. had rented a lot of land on the Pauba Ranch. M.J. had to use some of the Vail ranch mules and they were very bronco and tore up the farm tools, so M.J. bought three Cat 30's. By working day and night they covered a lot of land.

Grant Morse was the first one to use the method of summer fallowing, that is to plow the land in early spring and not plant it till next fall. His crops were so much better than the other big

farmers that they all went to summer fallowing, which meant one crop in two years. I have a picture taken in 1912 of Grant's 75 Holt pulling a 20-foot Holt Harvester in a wonderful crop of wheat.

A little item about Grant; a man came to the ranch to see Grant and Gib Miller said, "go to Hemet and look for a short guy with his pants at half mast and half a plug of Climax in his face and you found him."

I bought an EUHS annual printed in 1927 and I still have it. A whole lot of the teachers and pupils in it have passed away. In 1927, I went to a track meet at Pomona College and I set a record of 10 feet 6 inches pole vaulting and I got a third. That record stood for three years. I was 15 years old. Fred Burrell finally broke it when he was 18 years old.

I did lots of work for farmers in the Murrieta area and the best one to work for was Maurie Stoner. He started at 7:00 a.m. and quit at 5:00 p.m. The rest worked from daylight till dark.

The first hay baler I worked on was horse powered. The horses were hitched to a sweep and stepped over the plunger and baler, the plunger making two feeds to one round. It took one man to feed the baler and two tablers, one buck rake driver and one wire tier and bale buck; four men besides the kid, who drove power. I got one dollar a day and board. Everybody boarded the help in those days,

and fed well. A day's work with the H.P. baler produced 175 bales in a day.

The summer of 1928, Pat Samaniego and I worked for Charlie Hardy, who leased the Santa Margarita Ranch. We started with six other men on the gangplows and three 6-horse teams on harrows and a four-horse team on a broadcast seeder. We could plant about forty acres a day.

In 1929 on New Years, Pat and I started to cowboy at the Mission Viejo camp. There were several camps on the ranch, San Onofre, San Mateo, Aliso and Las Pulgas. The cook moved from camp to camp and we had better food than was served at the home ranch by three Chinamen. We had to hit the saddle, rain or shine, so slickers were used regularly. February, we distributed over three hundred bulls, all over the ranch, which covered 200,000 acres. The fog was very heavy some mornings and each man and partner had a turn every ten days. There were a few old horses left from the old days that were wonderful for wrangling. The horse herd lived on grass and ran on about one square mile in fence. On these foggy mornings a man was soon lost and wouldn't know anything about himself or the horse herd, but these wonderful old wrangling horses could find the herd and bring them into the camp corral on time.

In about April 1929 to the last of May, the spring

roundup was on. In about a month, we branded over ten thousand calves. We had a good breakfast, but no dinner then, the cooks would prepare a feast about 5:30 in the evening. During the day we ate lots of mountain oysters, cooked on a baling wire in the branding fire. Sometimes they came and picked up two or three gallons of the mountain oysters and cooked them right. It was like eating in a high-class restaurant at \$20 a meal. When the roundup was over, I quit and rode from the ocean to Murrieta in eight hours

and I never even trotted. Maybe a month later I went to work for Jim Freeman on the Pauba Ranch.

The working hours on the Pauba were 6 to 6. We got up at 4:30 and harnessed six, eight, or ten mules depending on what we were driving. Vail always had a barn buck that fed the teams at 4 a.m. and cleaned stalls through the day. The winters got as low as 8 above and we couldn't plow or drill as the ground was froze solid.



Grant Morse on horseback, Red Mitchell, and Glen Robertson on the ground. Reed Valley, ca. 1925,

(Noble and Joan Roripaugh Collection,

Courtesy of the French Valley Historical Society)

## Murrieta Valley Historical Society presents

### An Evening with José Estudillo

**Time:** November 9, 2020 06:00 PM

Bill Veale, a member of the "Notable Men and Women of Temecula," will portray José Estudillo, by ZOOM.

José Estudillo was an early settler in the San Jacinto Valley. He was a husband and father of twelve children. He was an Amansador (horse trainer), rancher, and later became a politician.

To watch the presentation, please download the ZOOM app, and then click on the link below to join the meeting.

#### Join Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84914889385?pwd=YmZGaTIJbk5GWmtxVzkrK3g0QnJ0QT09>

**OR** visit our Facebook page for the link.



## Museum Update

The Museum has been busy receiving new donations for our displays. We received mammoth and mastodon teeth that were found during the Grizzly Ridge and Cal Oaks housing developments. The Rail family donated photos and information on the Ross Rail family and Homer Rail donated his art work for future note cards. Rebecca Farnbach and Loretta Barnett also donated items and information from Walter Cooper, the Murrieta Hot Springs Resort and other items.

The Women's organization, the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, lovingly restored

some beautiful historic quilts for us. The Friends of the Library donated a few of E. Hale Curran's personal books for our resource area. Sara Vert volunteered to archive all our museum collections that are on display into our Past Perfect software. We appreciate her taking this task on.

I am working on video taping our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade educational tour program for the students who are learning virtually at home. There will be more information coming.

The holidays are coming and we have great gift ideas that the museum has available to pur-

chase. These items include: The Images of America books, Murrieta Hot Springs and Murrieta, Tales from Southwest Riverside County by Jeffery Harmon, note card sets with Historical Murrieta Landmarks on them, Historic 395 signs, Murrieta 395 stickers and Murrieta postcards. For more information, call: 951-387-4862.

The museum still remains closed but we hope to re-open soon.

Thank you,

Annette Jennings

Museum Director

Together we give.

**GIVING TUESDAY**

December 1, 2020

Please consider donating to the Murrieta Valley Historical Society on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Donations can be made on our website through PayPal or you may send your donation to our mailing address: Murrieta Valley Historical Society, P.O. Box 1341, Murrieta, CA 92564

# Walk/Run For History

hosted by the Murrieta Historical Society

**August 22 - November 30**  
**Distance: 5k (3.1 miles)**  
**Price: \$25 (includes bib and medal shown)**  
**Register: [bit.ly/walkmurrieta](http://bit.ly/walkmurrieta)**

The Murrieta Valley Historical Society and The Murrieta Museum are Non-Profit organizations are working to preserving and promoting the Murrieta legacy of the Murrieta Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance. The Murrieta Museum offers educational programs for the local schools and in the future hope to offer scholarships for students to pursue Museum Studies.

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**show off your medal**  
**#murrietahistory**

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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.

**BECOME A  
MEMBER TODAY**

**JOIN ONLINE!**  
**MURRIETAHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG**

<b>INDIVIDUAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25 / ANNUAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$150 / LIFE</b>	<b>FAMILY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$35 / ANNUAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$250 / LIFE</b>	<b>SENIOR / STUDENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$15 / ANNUAL</b> <b>BUSINESS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$200 / ANNUAL</b>
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- Name on our website
- Business website linked to our resource page
- Business logo on all major event press information

**\$300 / ANNUAL**

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