



Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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October 2017

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

P.O. Box 1341

Murrieta, CA 92564

951-387-4862

Email:

info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org



The Murrieta Garden Club

By Jeffery Harmon



Murrieta Garden Club Historian Alice Vose proudly displays her scrapbooks and photo albums documenting the rich history of Murrieta's second oldest civic organization.

On a rainy day forty-three years ago, Alice Vose attended the first meeting of the Murrieta Garden Club at the Murrieta Town Hall which was the former Mrs. Inez Hunt home. Alice was unsure if she wanted to participate. It was March 7, 1974 when Arlean Garrison, the club's founder and first president, had gathered with thirteen members and began organizing the new club. Alice liked what she heard and decided to join. She would later become the club's

historian, documenting the club's activities through newspaper articles, photographs, and other club related items.

Mrs. Juanita De Shazo acted as the organization's advisor. She had been the Past President of the Fallbrook Junior Garden Club, and Chairman of the Palomar District for the California Garden Clubs. At the first Murrieta meeting she gave a talk which included information on forming a garden club. She suggested for the members to wait



Charter members of the Murrieta Garden Club include (from left) Lorina Ankrom, Alice Vose, Arlean V. Garrison, Hale Curran, and Rita Park, pictured with club president Carol Kravagna. They received certificates at the November's annual Thanksgiving dinner.

(Source: March 9, 1995, Rancho News, from The Alice Vose Collection)

on the bylaws.

The club decided to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The Town Hall fee was waved, but later when funds were raised, the club donated \$25 to the Town Hall Association for gas and electricity. The club did not meet during the summer months because of the heat. There was a potluck lunch and a guest speaker. Centerpieces were created for the tables and then raffled off at the end of the meeting.

Thelma Garrison talked about the iris and gave the history of the plant at the second meeting on April 9, 1974. In May, Judy Gonzales demonstrated how to make corsages. Then at the next monthly meeting, Juanita De Shazo conducted a corsage workshop for the attending members and guests. For the December meeting, members brought hangers, old sheets and rags, pinecones, and

wire for wrapping. After the business meeting, members crafted Christmas wreaths with the materials.

The first meeting of the New Year took place at Joe Roe's Feed Store. Everett Greer, a local nursery owner, gave a demonstration on pruning roses and trees. For the next month's meeting a tour was given at Kenneth Kreigh's garden and estate. It was arranged by Ron and Fran Wickerd. Twenty people enjoyed strolling through his garden of trees, flowers, and plants along with his artistic rock and cement displays.

At the March 1975 meeting, Fran Wickerd suggested a club fundraiser by selling plants at the Annual Murrieta Fireman's BBQ in April. Club members agreed, but the funds raised at the event were minimal. Undeterred, members decided that better planning would make the fundraiser more successful.

The next year, the sales were a success and the club booth became an annual fundraiser that continues to this day.

The first installation of club officers occurred on October 14, 1975. Juanita De Shazo conducted the proceedings. The officers were Arlean Garrison, President, Dolores Gerdes, Vice President, Rita D. Park, Secretary, Irene Maseles, Treasurer, and Fran Wickerd, Publicity. Afterwards a Fashion Show was presented by Rene Ramsey and Mary Lou Smelser, proprietors of the Murrieta Country Sophisticate.

The October and November meetings in 1975 each had fifty people in attendance. Among the guests were Sam Hicks, local constable and historian, Tom Patterson, retired staff reporter for the Press Enterprise, Lillian Basquez, member of the Temecula Chamber of Commerce, and Ken Kreigh, famous

landscape designer and rock artist.

When members arrived for the November meeting, there was no key to get into the Town Hall. It was a beautiful day, so the members and their guests held the meeting outside. During the proceedings, Alice Vose was nominated to be the club's historian.

Though the position was only for a year, Alice continued to record the club's history in her scrapbooks and photo albums. Because of her diligent efforts, she has documented the club's activities through the years and preserved an important part of Murrieta's history.

For the coming year, the club planned to hold workshops, take tours of nurseries and gardens, and hold demonstrations. An annual fundraiser was planned to help support local non-profit organizations in the community. On January 20, 1976 the club's bylaws were approved and accepted.

One annual event the club hosted was the Thanksgiving luncheon for the pioneer families. This occasion grew into an annual reunion for the community. Each year, Alice would call the families personally and invite them to the event. If people were unable to attend due to health concerns, Alice would personally deliver them a Thanksgiving plate to their door. She would not eat until all the meals were delivered.



April 1985, Murrieta Garden Club Float for the Murrieta Centennial Parade (Source: The Alice Vose Collection)



In July 1991, club members are stage next to the original Town Hall/Historic Hunt House preparing to participate in the Murrieta Cityhood Parade (Source: The Alice Vose Collection)

In later years, her granddaughter, Ashley, would take photos of the attending couples and families. Sometimes it would be the last photo before a spouse or a dear friend would

pass before the next gathering. The event ended a few years ago and now only club members participate.

The club continued to support the local community.



In 1997, club members prepare their float in front of the original town hall preparing to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Murrieta Volunteer Fire Department Parade (Source: The Alice Vose Collection)



Members created floats and participated in many area parades. Some of the club entries were in the Murrieta Centennial parade in 1985, the Murrieta Cityhood parade in 1991, and the 1997 parade celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Murrieta Volunteer Fire Department. Today members can be seen cruising down Washington Avenue in an antique car during the annual Veteran's Day parade.

The club has performed

many community services through the years. In 1981, the club donated \$900 for landscaping at the new Murrieta Community Center. Club members installed the landscaping at Murrieta's first city hall on Beckman Court. The club also donated money for the Murrieta Public Library's Garden of Verses. Fundraisers also contributed to local high school students' scholarships.

Alice smiles when she

shares that the members of the Murrieta Garden Club took good care of her and her family. Each of her three children and her husband attended and participated in the club activities. When her husband died in a Riverside hospital in 1995, club members were at her house with food and support before the family returned to Murrieta.

Today, Alice is the last surviving charter member of the Murrieta Garden Club. Before her are stacks of scrapbooks and photo albums that she purchased to document the club's history. She proudly states that she only missed a few meetings over the years, and is excited to attend the upcoming September meeting when a new president is to be installed.

She looks at her archived collection with smiles and a tinge of worry. She wonders what will happen to her efforts after she passes from this life. Those of us gathered around her dining room table smile and assure her that her collection will be preserved for generations to come in the soon to be created Murrieta History Museum.

The Alice Vose Murrieta Garden Club collection is more than a group of people planting tomatoes or creating corsages and Christmas wreaths. It is about the growth of the community and its people. Members moved into town and some moved out, while others passed away. Through it all Alice kept diligent records as the community transformed from a town to

a city.

Today there are around thirty members who still meet regularly at the community center at Hunt Memorial Park. The University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources provides monthly speakers for the club. Members continue to bring a dish for the potluck and create centerpieces to be raffled off at the close of the meeting. If you visit the Murrieta Garden Club you will still find Alice Vose in attendance beaming as she is greeted by old friends and new. This isn't just a club for Alice, this is her extended family.

Murrieta Garden Club

Past Presidents

Arlean Garrison 1974-1976	Wallie Hamilton 1995-1996
Molly Cunliff 1976-1978	Carrie Lacrosse 1996-1998
Mimi Utter 1978-1980	Pearl Geer 1998-2000
Fanchon Gatlin 1980-1982	Lorayne Eilert 2000-2002
Ruth Venable 1982-1983	Rita Park 2002-2003
Wallie Hamilton 1983-1985	Dianne Allen 2003-2004
Arlean Garrison 1985-1986	Phyllis Osborne 2004-2007
Eleanor Stembert 1986-1988	Lorraine Kline 2007-2011
Emma Wennberg 1988-1991	Barbara McHolland 2011-2015
Joann Martin 1991-1993	Laurie Hoskins 2015-2017
Carol Kravagna 1993-1995	



Temecula Valley

Historical Society Event

Old Town Candlelight Walking Tours
presents:

A Ghost Walk Tour of Old Town Temecula

Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Tour begins at

the Temecula City Hall fountain

Cost \$10 (Limited to 40 participants)

Proceeds benefit the Temecula/Murrieta
Scholarship Fund

RSVP to Bonnie Martland, scholarship
chairman at: bonnie@azteche.com



Special thanks to Waste Management for donating dumpsters for the Society's cleanup efforts at the Ray's Murrieta Café property.

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

Phone: 951-387-4862

E-mail:

info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org

Next Monthly Board Meeting:

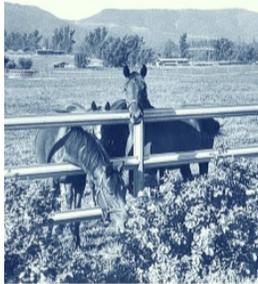
Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at

Honeycutt Farms Family Restaurant

40477 Murrieta Hot Springs Road, D2

(In the Alta Murrieta Shopping Center)

All members welcome to attend



BEHIND THE GLASS

A LOOK INTO THE
MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
HERITAGE ROOM COLLECTION.

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 13
6 PM

MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S COMMUNITY ROOM
8 TOWN SQ., MURRIETA, CA 92562
NEAR ADAMS AND KALMIA

Join Librarian and Archivist,
Laura Davis, as she explains the
collection in detail and how to
access the collection in the
Heritage Room.



MURRIETA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 1341, MURRIETA, CA 92564
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MURRIETA PUBLIC LIBRARY
8 TOWN SQUARE, MURRIETA, CA 92562
(951) 304-2665 | MURRIETALIBRARY.INFO

Membership Application

Individual

Annual \$25.00

Lifetime \$150.00

Family

Annual \$35.00

Lifetime \$250.00

Senior/Student

Annual \$15.00

Business

Annual \$200.00

Sponsorship

Annual \$300.00

Membership dues are for
one year and will be up for
renewal the month you
joined.

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Membership:

\$ _____

Checks payable to:

Murrieta Valley Historical
Society

Mail to: P.O. Box 1341

Murrieta, CA 92564