



# The Perristorian

**Derris Valley Historical Museum  
Derris Valley Historical Archives**

**Fourth Quarter 2013**

## The Little Museum that Could!

Since our inception in 1964, the Perris Valley Historical & Museum Association has chugged along with an all volunteer staff and a caring group of members. With minimal funding and always short staffed, it sometimes seemed as though we were running on the “I think I can, I think I can,” method that got the little engine to the top of the hill.

Now approaching our 50th year, we have a great group of mem-

bers, support from Supervisor Marion Ashley, County of Riverside, the City of Perris, local schools and businesses. While still working with all volunteers and a small budget, we are proud to still be here—actively participating in our community—guarding and sharing our history.

Follow our “little engine” and his train to see the places we have been this year.

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### Officers

President.....Quinn Hawley  
1st Vice President.....Bill Hulstrom  
2nd Vice President.....Ann Motte  
Secretary.....Mae Minnich  
Treasurer.....Dennise Manning

### Directors

Mike Behrens      Kay Busch  
Cindy Chambers      Katie Keyes  
Vincent Magana      Midgie Parker  
Marie Spradlin



*Lovella Singer from the Dora Nelson African American Museum, John Denver rode the history train, PVHM honored Tom Parker, and people loved the train ride at the Orange Empire Railway Museum.*

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## Southern California Fair—100 Years

Harrison Hall was abuzz this year with people re-living the 100 years of the Southern California Fair. History was brought back to us through this pictorial panel display cleverly thought out and created by Midgie Parker, Katie Keyes, Judy Hoffman, Marie Spradlin and produced by Dan Yost of Powerflow Communication. History is what we are about, and we are so happy that the Southern California Fair has commemorated their 100 years of history with this exhibit.



## Silverado Pick-Up Won!

The long awaited truck raffle ended on the last day of the So Cal Fair, October 13th with Fernando Mejia of Chino winning the coveted 2014 Chevrolet Silverado Pick-Up. Congratulations and thank you for supporting the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce and the PVHM.

## Bazaar @ the Perris Depot

The second Bazaar @ the Perris Depot was held November 23rd. The cool morning gave way to a beautiful sunny day where everyone seemed to have a great time. The vendors were happy, the shoppers



were happy. Whether shopping for themselves or getting an early start on Christmas, everyone left with a smile on their face. If you missed it or if you want to come again, the next Bazaar is scheduled for May 10th—see you there.



## Halloween Festival

Everyone had a great time dressing potatoes and having their faces painted at this annual event. Our organization joined the City of Perris, led by President Quinn Hawley, with help from the students of the Perris and Val Verde High Schools Interact Clubs. Great job—great fun!



## History Walk

A big group of interested people showed up for our History Walk down historic "D" Street on October 19th. As part of the Live Well Perris program, we took on a group comprised of all ages and all fitness levels. Armed with a map and a timeline, volunteers Midgie Parker and Dave Stuart split the group and embarked on a day of fun, fitness and learning. From Perris City Hall they moved south to see the art-deco Perris Theater. They were given a grand tour of our museum in the 1892 Queen Ann Style Santa Fe Depot. Christina Perris welcomed the group to the Historical Archives at the Bank of Perris, circa 1918, and they were greeted by John and Ann Motte at the 1886 Southern Hotel.



New storefront on "D" Street.

Everyone learned something about history, architecture and folklore. From the very old to the new Perris Station Apartments and the Mercado District, everyone was interested, engaged and enjoyed the journey ending at Mercado Park.

We are very happy that such a large group of citizens shared an interest in our history and we had a great time trekking along with them.



Dave Stuart leads one group on their History Walk.

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### School & Business Displays

It is finally done, and it is beautiful. All historical panels and display items have been installed in twenty-two schools and two local businesses. Our volunteer member, Dan Yost, will see to it that the displays are rotated to the next location monthly, until everyone has had the opportunity to see them and learn our history. Our local teachers have planned lessons to incorporate information to be gleaned from these displays. We are always happy to share our history and we are so grateful that our schools and the public at large are interested in learning their history.



We would like to thank the following for their participation in this project:

- Don Kazarian—Perris Auto Speedway
- Chris Dahl—Lowe's RDC 966
- Adrian Williams—Big League Dreams Sports Park
- Dave Vert—Ritchie Brothers
- Tim Devine—NPG Asphalt, Inc.
- Dan Yost—PowerFlow Communication
- Dave Stuart—Perris Valley Historical Museum



### Remembering Those We Lost



**Ralph Earl Stenlake**

March 29, 1937—March 27, 2013

Originally from PenArgyl, PA, Ralph came to Perris and taught school at Perris Valley Jr. High and Pinacate Middle School for 39 years. He coached football and baseball for 29 of those years. His greatest interest was studying the bible and his hobbies included Model Railroading and sports.



**Louise C. Martin**

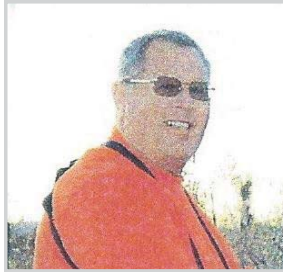
January 15, 1918  
August 2, 2013

A 95 year resident of Perris Valley, Louise had a long, full life. Born to John and Marie Coudures, a pioneer farming family of Perris Valley, she married Clifford Martin, from another pioneer farming family in 1940.

She raised two children, worked for the Riverside County Treasurer's Office and as Clerk of the Perris Justice Court. She was active in the PTA, Brownie and Girl Scouts, the Altar Society of St. James Church in Perris, and the Visiting Nurses Association. She was also a volunteer observer for enemy planes at the Observation Listening Post at the Cowie Ranch east of Perris during WWII. She was a lifetime member of the PVHM and she will be missed.

**Richard Eugene "Dick" Walker**

July 11, 1943  
May 24, 2013



Dick was born in Nuevo to Robert and Marcheta Walker. He graduated from Perris High School in 1961. Dick loved hunting and motorsports, and anyone that knew him heard about his drag racing on San Jacinto Street. He worked hard on the family farm earning respect from everyone for his pride and passion in being a good steward of the land. He was known to play as hard as he worked, always including his

family in his hobbies and work. But whether working or playing, he always gave 100% and was quick to offer a beer! We will all miss him.



**Robert**

**"Bob" Walker**

June 27, 1920-December 16, 2013

Bob Walker was born into and excelled in farming. As a child he was active in 4-H and FFA. After graduating from Perris High School, he earned a degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, majoring in agricultural programs and animal husbandry.

Through the years, he raised many crops and livestock, and operated and created all manner of equipment.

In 1937 he married Marcheta Thomas at Perris Congregational Church, and together they raised four children in the church and the Perris & Nuevo communities.



# Upcoming Events

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Saturday, January 18 Santa Fe Depot Gardens 11:00 AM  
**Fred T. Perris Day** Ice and Flowers. What? Come hear the Ricketts Family story and find out. They will be our honored Pioneer Family 2014.



Sunday, February 23 Santa Fe Depot Gardens 1:00-4:00 PM  
**Black History Month** Join us for a Soulful (Soul Food) Sunday fundraiser to benefit the Dora Nelson African American Art & History Museum.



Saturday, March 29th Motte Historical Museum 4:00 PM  
**Installation Dinner** 100 Years of Maybelline! Sharrie Williams, family heir, will share her story and her Dad's custom 1940 Packard may be on display. Don't miss this one.

## Dues & Don'ts

**Dues: Please pay your dues. Don't: forget to pay your dues.**

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual: \$15.00/year</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual Lifetime \$100.00</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family \$25.00/year</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family Lifetime \$100.00</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Business: \$50.00/year</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Business Lifetime \$300.00</b>   |
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer to be a docent.          | <input type="radio"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer to handle membership.    |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer to help in the Archives. | <input type="radio"/> Yes, I'd like to volunteer to help wherever needed. |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you for your generous contribution.**

Contributions to PVHM and PVHA are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. All information is kept private and is not shared with others.

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**PVHM, P O Box 343, Perris CA 92572**

