

# The Historian

A Quarterly Publication of the Fallbrook Historical Society

Winter 2019



## TRAIN TRACKS THRU FALLBROOK

The steam whistle of the locomotive accompanied by flashing lights and gates periodically stopping traffic were common sights and sounds when train tracks cut across the streets of downtown Fallbrook, from 1917 until 1982. Before WWII, the train from Oceanside made the afternoon round trip to Fallbrook, Monday through Friday. In later years this frequency decreased.

The railroad is long gone now. However, there are visible features in Fallbrook showing us where these tracks lay for over 60 years.

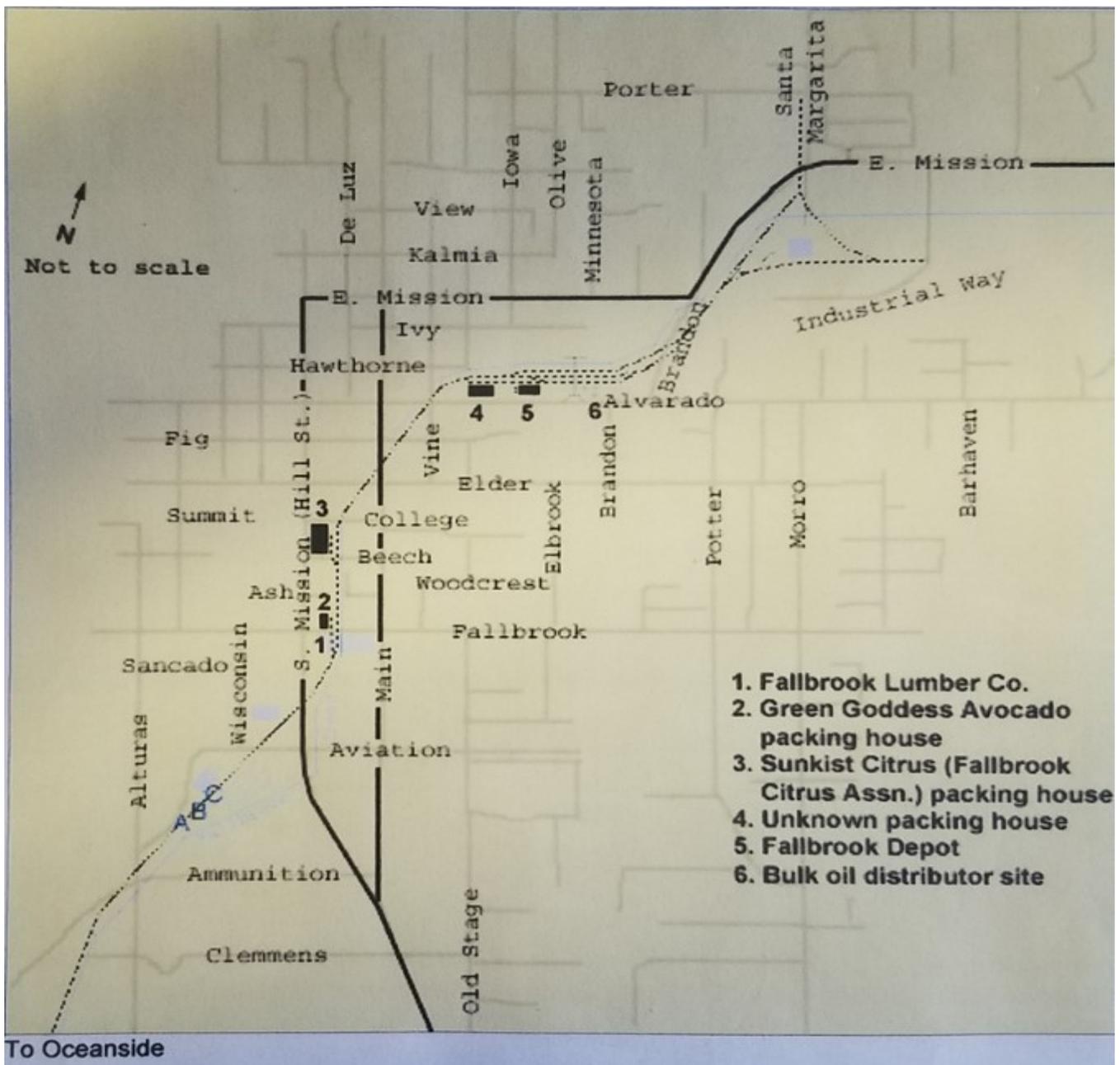
The railroad ran along a drainage ditch in Fallbrook that we can follow today going from Industrial Way to deep inside the Naval Weapons Center.

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Man-made features in Fallbrook include the many buildings constructed at an unusual angle to the adjacent streets. The old Santa Fe Railroad Right-of-Way through town was about 100 feet wide. Even after the trains stopped, older Fallbrook buildings were constructed to respect this right of way.

The Santa Fe train tracks emerged from today's Camp Pendleton 100 feet south of the Naval Weapons Center gate on Ammunition Road, running near the creek behind the apartment buildings. The railroad crossed Alturas Rd. at the intersection of Ammunition Rd.

Following the creek in a northeast (NE) direction, the train ran behind where Albertsons supermarket is today, traveling through the Extra Space Storage facilities. These storage buildings were constructed at an angle to not encroach upon the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. The train continued in a straight line across W. Aviation Rd, crossing S. Mission Rd. where the Two-Faced Tattoo sign is, the track going through where Major Market stands now, entering today's shopping center parking lot about where the red 'M' in Major is on their big sign.



Fallbrook Lumber used to be located in this parking lot near Denny's Restaurant. The train paused to deliver flatbeds of new lumber here before continuing NE across Fallbrook St., following Pico Promenade parallel to the creek, to service the citrus and avocado packinghouses that once stood there.

At College St. the track crossed the creek, going NE through today's Fallbrook Muffler and passing by the storage units on Elder St. The train crossed Elder at the storage gate cutting across the NW corner of Elder & Main where the red cabooses sits.



The railroad crossed Main Ave here, going into the Wells Fargo parking lot, passing through a corner of the bank where the ATM windows are. Travelling in a straight line, the track crossed Fig St., entering the alley behind Village Copy, still following the creek. The train crossed the intersection of Alvarado and Vine St., going through where Castrol Oil is now and gently curving behind the Art Center campus to today's Sheriff station, where the Fallbrook train station once stood.

Passenger and freight cars uncoupled at the station, but the engine continued NE to get turned around in the railroad 'wye'. The track crossed N. Brandon Rd. A dirt roadbed, visible today, on the east side of N. Brandon is where the track ran before it entered today's industrial park curving east into the 'wye'. The engine stopped, and then backed up going north on another track segment, crossing E. Mission Rd. at Santa Margarita Drive. The wide dirt shoulder visible on the west side of Santa Margarita by FPUD's parking lot is the top of the old 'wye'.

Now the locomotive was reversed, its nose pointing southwest. The engine proceeded back to the station, to pick up freight and passengers. The train returned through Fallbrook to load fresh produce at the packinghouses before heading back to Oceanside the way it came.

#### Acknowledgements:

Rod Stuart of the Fallbrook Historical Society has devoted much time researching and walking the exact path of the Fallbrook train.

Credit is given to former Fallbrook resident Craig Bass and his detailed history on Railroadpages.com

Information also taken from Don Rivers, former president of the Fallbrook Historical Society, and his 'Railroad thru Fallbrook' published Dec 3, 1998 in the Village News.

## Genealogy Resources at the Fallbrook Historical Society

The Fallbrook Historical Society museum has a variety of resources for anyone researching their family history in Fallbrook.

Fallbrook newspapers, with obituaries and notices, going back to 1911 are digitized and saved on our computers which are available for your review and research at the Heritage Center Museum at 260 Rocky Crest Rd. (at Hill St.)

The Historical Society has also recently added greater Fallbrook census records arranged alphabetically for the years 1900 and 1930 to tell us about recent generations with their names, ages, occupations and family members. Going even further back in time, census records from the years 1860, 1870, 1880, list the names of inhabitants, arranged alphabetically who resided in this area many years before there was even a town named Fallbrook.

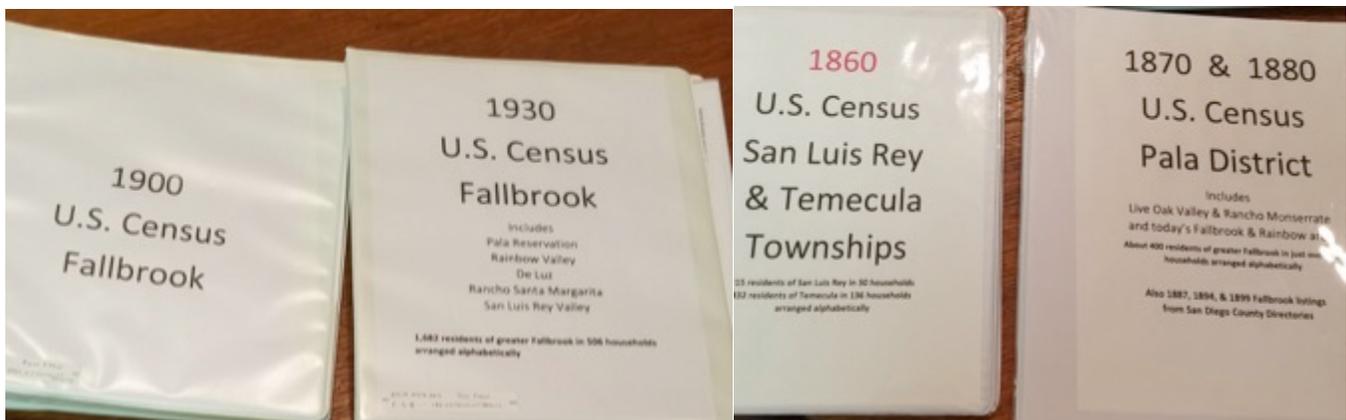
Fallbrook cemetery records can be accessed online. Check out the Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery [Directory](https://fallbrookcemetery.com) at <https://fallbrookcemetery.com> as well as the Fallbrook Oddfellows Cemetery [Directory](https://oddfellowscemetery.com) at <https://oddfellowscemetery.com>. Burial records usually provide the birth and death years. Family groups are often found listed nearby in the same plot. Exact dates help us cross-reference and find additional information.

The Historical Society has telephone books going back to 1950. Older books did not have exact addresses, but families can be traced through these records.

An index of Fallbrook High School alumni starts in 1895 and goes to 2008. FUHS yearbooks (with some gaps in years) also go back to 1912. FUHS newsletters (again with some gaps in years) are available from 1936 to 2003. A more recent collection of Potter Junior High School yearbooks starting in 1959 go to 2008 (with some gaps) are available for research.

Biographies of some historical Fallbrook residents may be in our files. We are working to expand our biographies through ongoing research. For a small donation to the Fallbrook Historical Society, a historian can help with some basic research.

The Fallbrook Historical Society can be contacted at [info@fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org)



**Message from the President**

Dear Historical Society Member,

This past year The Historical Society continued its mission to preserve Fallbrook history and to educate the public on its past.

We held an open house in June, a Reche School open house in September, a barn sale in October and will have an old-fashioned Christmas open house this coming week.

We showed the classic Buster Keaton film, "The General" at the historic Mission Theater and worked with the Fallbrook Village Association in providing docents for the 5500 people that visited the historic train caboose in the heart of downtown.

As with any non-profit, particularly one that oversees the historic Pittenger House, the historic Reche School house as well as the Heritage Center Museum and Barn, our expenses for maintenance and repairs are great.

We hope that you will continue to support the Historical Society by renewing your membership (form at right) or if you are able a (tax deductible) donation of any amount would be appreciated.

Your support will go a long way to helping us continue in preserving our rich heritage.

With the best wishes for the holiday season,

**Roy Moosa**

**Fallbrook Historical Society**

P.O. Box 1375, Fallbrook, CA 92088

*The Mission of the Fallbrook Historical Society is to collect, preserve and display the history and artifacts of the Fallbrook area.*

*The Historical Society accepts donations that are related to Fallbrook history and are of interest to the general public.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visa    Mastercard    Check    Cash**

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

*(Memberships are from January 1 to December 31)*

*Each membership has one vote. Patron receives a lifetime membership and has name placed on Patron Plaque.*

*Business / corporate sponsors will have space for signage inside the Heritage Center fence.*

*Business / Corporate patrons will have business signage as stated above plus their name listed on an Honor Plaque and ads in the Historical Society newsletters.*

**Family Membership \$30.00**

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$250.00**

**PATRON \$500.00**

**Business / Corporate Sponsor \$1000.00+**

**Business / Corporate Patron \$5000+**

Mail to: Fallbrook Historical Society

P.O. Box 1375

Fallbrook, Ca. 92088

Or sign up on line at:

**FallbrookHistoricalSociety.org**

**The Historical Society is a 501c/3 non-profit. Membership dues and donations are tax deductible.**

*Thank you for your support.*

## GO FUND ME CAMPAIGN

Please donate at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/campaign-for-fallbrook-historical-society>

Please share this link and information on your Facebook page and help us raise funds to maintain our historical buildings.

Dear Fallbrook Historical Society Members and Supporters:

Our facilities are in need of maintenance and we need your help to cover the costs. A modest donation from everyone will help restore and maintain our Historical Society Heritage Center.

1. Our immediate need is for \$6700 to replace our ancient broken air conditioner at the Heritage Center.

We also have other critical maintenance projects that will receive only partial funding later this year. The other items we need funds for are:

2. A new roof at the Heritage Center
3. Termite fumigating and damage repair for all our wooden buildings
4. Parking lot repair
5. Drainage issue outside Ford Room
6. New entrance gate at the Heritage Center

Visit our website at [fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

Thank you for your support!

## Historical Societies

### An Important Part of Communities

In our fast changing world, a sense of identity and continuity for future generations begins with solidifying a community's past.

Preservation helps strengthen our future. Our historic buildings and artifacts contribute to a vibrant, cultural village that draws tourism, art, festivals, and other activities which in turn draw investment, revenue, and economic growth.

Conservation of heritage buildings is an important tool in community development which needs a continuing source of funds.

**AS A MEMBER OF THE  
FALLBROOK HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, YOU PLAY AN  
IMPORTANT ROLE  
AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT! THANK  
YOU!**

Please consider actively participating as a docent (we train!), curator, helping with events, or even serving on our

Board of Directors.

Call 760-723-4125 for more information.

Need a place to hold meetings, host a wedding, have a reunion or a party?

The Reche Schoolhouse  
The Ford Room  
The Barn  
Are Available for Rental  
Call 760-723-4125

Your Ad Here

## Plan a Visit

### Reche Schoolhouse Open:

Includes the Schoolhouse, the Hindorff Adobe, the Indian Rocks

1319 S. Live Oak Park Rd.

Open the second Saturday of each month

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

or by appointment

### The Heritage Center Open:

Includes the Main Museum, the Pittenger House, the Gem & Mineral Room, the Ford Room, the Don J. Rivers Interpretive Center (the Barn), the outside displays

1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Dr.)

Open Thursdays and Sundays

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

or by appointment

### The Caboose at The Railroad Heritage Park

Main Ave. at Elder St.

Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

During Summer Nights Events

Fallbrook Historical Society facilities are available for private tours by appointment. Call 760-723-4125.

#### Ad pricing choices:

- 1) \$100 per year for an ad in each of The Historian newsletters (4 per year).
- 2) \$250 per year for an ad in both The Historian and Time Again newsletters (16 per year).
- 3) \$1,000 per year as a Business/Corp. Sponsor level Membership which includes ads in all newsletters plus signage and appreciation plaques at the museum .

## Welcome to AmazonSmile!

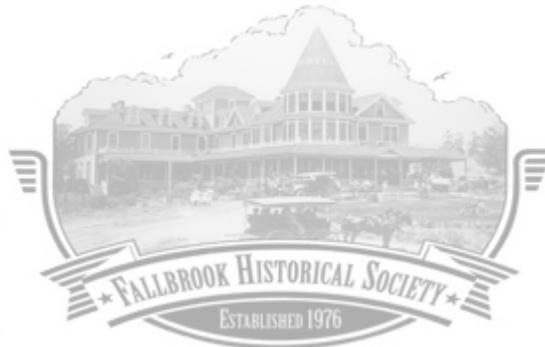
Thank you for supporting Fallbrook Historical Society.

Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.



Supporting: Fallbrook Historical Society ▾

*The Fallbrook Historical Society's mission is to bring history to life by educating the community and others about Fallbrook's rich heritage*



**FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Mary Belton: Community Display  
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**Fallbrook Historical Society**

P.O. Box 1375  
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1375  
[www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org)

[Recipient]

Address Line 1  
Address Line 2  
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