

# The Historian

A Quarterly Publication of the Fallbrook Historical Society

Spring 2024

## Vintage Farm Equipment On Display At The Fallbrook Historical Society

**The Fallbrook Historical Society has opened a new exhibit in front of the 7-11 store at the corner of Main Ave. and Fallbrook Street. Save our Forest prepared the soils, installed an irrigation line, and provided the plants.**



**3 Bottom Plow  
Fallbrook plow over 100 years old  
steel blades turned over topsoil  
pulled by a team of 6 horses**





### **Closer view of the 3 Bottom Plow shown on Cover Page**

A plow is a farming implement used to loosen the soil and create furrows prior to planting seed. Possibly the deepest that soil was penetrated during the horse drawn years was by this type of tool. John Deere is given credit for coming up with the idea of a curved mold board made of steel with a removable shank. A plow this size probably used six horses.

The Fallbrook Historical Society has more than a dozen antique farm implements on display in the yard that were once in use on the pioneer Grid Ranch or on the Fox-White homestead a century ago.

Here are a couple of other examples:



**1939 Formway Wizard Walnut huller.** Walnuts poured into the scoop were fed into the manually rotating cylinder. After the hulls cracked, walnuts fell into a tray placed below the cylinder. *Fallbrook Historical Society*

**Walnut Huller:** The walnut was first cultivated in California by the Franciscan Fathers in the late 1700s. The earliest walnuts to enter California were known as "mission" walnuts. Walnuts were a crop on many Fallbrook farms in the early 1900s.(1) There are several competing claims as to who built the first walnut huller. However, the Wizard model is plainly engraved with the U.S. Patent # issued to William E. Formway in 1939, and his company name is stamped on the side of the machine for all to see. Formway was the son of a San Jose orchardist. The Formway Machine Shop operated in Los Altos, CA from 1920 to 1971 in a former Model-T garage.(2)





The adjustable **Row Seeder** designed in the 1880s, is pulled by a two horse team. The hoppers drop corn seed in a straight line into the plowed furrows. The wide flat wheels then push the loose dirt over the seeds. One hopper has been lost from this old machine. *Fallbrook Historical Society*

**Two Row Seeder:** After the field has been ploughed and furrowed, the seeds need to be planted. This simple horse drawn implement, manufactured by several different companies before the year 1900, gave the farmer a seat to ride on.

**Fresno Scraper:** A precursor to the bulldozer, this horse drawn machine was used for constructing irrigation canals and ditches. Invented in 1882 and manufactured in Fresno by James Porteous, the scraper was in high demand by farmers. Larger versions of the Fresno Scraper were used by the Army Corps of Engineers in building the Panama Canal.(3)



**1882 Fresno Scraper** a horse drawn earth scrapper used for constructing irrigation canals and ditches. Invented in 1882 & manufactured in Fresno by James Porteous, It was in high demand by farmers. *Fallbrook Historical Society*

~Tom Frew

Footnotes:

- 1) Fallbrook Enterprise 1911-1915 lists many farms with acreage of planted walnut trees. Walnuts sold at 5 pounds for \$1.00.
- 2) Los Altos Town Crier, May 17, 1996.
- 3) Janes Porteous biography, James Porteous Collection, MSS #004, Fresno City and Country Historical Society.





# MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

CEREMONY

**MONDAY, MARCH 25TH**  
**11:00 AM**

PLEASE JOIN THE SGT. WM. PITTENGER CAMP 21  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
IN HONORING ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED  
OUR NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR



FALLBROOK ODDFELLOWS PIONEER CEMETERY  
CORNER OF ALTURAS AND CLEMMENS

## Exploring FALLBROOK'S HISTORY

We love to talk about our history, even going back as far as the Ice Age.

Do you have a question about Fallbrook's pioneer families, the historic buildings around town, our first schools, and where the railroad once ran?

Submit your question to our Historian [here](#).

Docents at the Historical Society Museum on the corner of Rocky Crest & Hill Ave. can show our historical displays collected by our museum curators.

Private tours for groups can be arranged by [contacting us](#).

Historical Presentations to your Club or group can be arranged by [contacting us](#).

*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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**Fallbrook Historical Society**

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