



Murrieta Valley Historical Society Newsletter

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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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From Left to Right: Frank, Illah, and Rose Shupe

Photo courtesy of Brad Snodgrass

The Shupe Family

By Jeffery G. Harmon

Frank and Rose Shupe owned and operated the Log Cabin Café on the Inland Highway (Washington Avenue) in the early 1920s. Frank Shupe was also a carpenter and built several homes, cottages, and other structures in Murrieta, and in Southern California throughout his life. The Shupe family contributed their time and talents to the growth and prosperity of Murrieta.

Frank Willard Shupe was born July 23, 1869 in Warren County, Iowa. He was the son of James and Beatrice (Bartlett)

Shupe. He married Lydia "Rose" Rosella Gibbons on June 14, 1893 in Lacona, Warren County, Iowa. Rose Gibbons was born February 15, 1874 in Warren County, Iowa. She was the daughter of William and Fannie (Tidball) Gibbons. Frank and Rose had one daughter, Fannie Illah Shupe, born May 22, 1898 in White Breast, Warren County, Iowa. She preferred to be called by her middle name.

The Shupe family moved to California in 1910. In 1916, Rose's brother, Virgil Gibbons, purchased a 160-acre ranch in Wildomar, Cali-



Illah Shupe

Photo courtesy of
Brad Snodgrass

fornia. The Shupe family moved to the ranch and lived with the Gibbons family. Illah Shupe worked at the Lakeland Ranch olive cannery in Wildomar during this time. In December, she was injured from an explosion at work. Dr. John Sturges in Murrieta dressed her facial wounds and monitored her recovery from the accident.

Frank Shupe purchased 20 acres in Murrieta in September 1917. He then began building a concrete house on the property for his family. Two years later, Virgil Gibbons and his family sold their Wildomar ranch and moved to Los Angeles in 1919. The Gibbons would visit the Shupe family in Murri-

eta throughout the following years.

Frank began constructing the Log Cabin Café in May 1921. Frank and Rose began operations later that year. In July 1922, Frank built a four-room bungalow for Illah near the Log Cabin. The property was rented and provided a small secondary income and investment for Illah.

On November 23, 1923, Illah married Dale Cutlip. Dale was born November 3, 1900 in Salina, Jefferson County, Iowa. He was the son of Fred and Bessie (Shetterly) Cutlip. Illah and Dale were second cousins through the Tidball family lines.

Later that year, Frank and Virgil Gibbons purchased two lots in Belmont Shores, Long Beach, California. The Shupe family moved to Long Beach in the winter of 1923, while Frank built two homes on the properties.

Frank and Rose Shupe returned briefly to Murrieta in 1924. In the summer, they bought property on Palomar Mountain and began building a home and campground. During the winter months, they would return to Murrieta to live until the next summer season. They moved to Los Angeles in the winter of 1927 to live with Dale and Illah Cutlip.

The Shupe family returned to the Log Cabin in Murrieta in the winter of 1929. Through the years they had rented the café, their home, and

cottages, to various people. Upon their return, they began doing renovations on the Log Cabin and converted it into a family home. The remodel was completed by the spring of 1930. The home was then rented by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haskell. The Shupes then returned to Palomar Mountain to make preparations for the summer season.

Frank Shupe became a member of the Imperial Highway Association in 1933. The group's goal was to construct a highway from Los Angeles to the Imperial Valley through Southwest Riverside County. When Frank was in Murrieta for the winter he and his son-in-law, Dale Cutlip, attended several highway group meetings.

In November 1933, Frank was contracted to build a house on the Judson property. Meanwhile, Rose and Illah were active in the Ladies Aid Society of the Murrieta Methodist Church. In December Illah was in charge of the society's Annual Bazaar dinner.

The Murrieta Woman's Club began construction of their clubhouse in February 1934. Frank Shupe was the construction supervisor with most of the labor being volunteers from the community. The clubhouse was completed by May. On May 12, 1934, the clubhouse was dedicated. Rose Shupe was in charge of the barbeque at the event. Approximately 225 people were served that day. Illah was named the club treasurer that year.

By the end of the month, Frank returned to Palomar Mountain to begin preparations for the summer season. Meanwhile, Dale and Illah Cutlip had moved from Los Angeles to Murrieta and settled in their small house on the Shupe Ranch. In September, Frank and Rose returned to Murrieta. Then Frank began building a house for Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bates.

Frank and Rose did not return to Palomar Mountain in the summer of 1935. They only drove up the mountain a few weekends during this time to

check on the campground operations.

The next year Al Duffy hired Frank to build him a new home in July 1936. Frank no longer worked on Palomar Mountain during the summer season. The property may have been rented to friends or sold. Meanwhile, Rose held a fundraiser dinner at her house to finish paying off the debt for the Woman's clubhouse.

For the next two years, Frank and Rose traveled and visited family friends. They remained active in the community

and attended many social events. Frank continued to build when he had the opportunity. He built a new bungalow on his property in January 1938 to be used as a rental.

Frank Shupe died on November 26, 1939 and was laid to rest in the Elsinore Valley Cemetery. After her father's death, Illah took care of her mother. Rose remained active in the Methodist Church, the Happy Hour Club in Sedco, and the Murrieta Home Department. During World War II, Rose volunteered for the local Palomar



From Left to Right: Back Row: Frank Shupe, Illah (Shupe) Cutlip, Dale Cutlip, Grant Needles

Front Row: Ernest Gibbons, Rose (Gibbons) Shupe, Millicent (Gibbons) Needles

Photo courtesy of Brad Snodgrass

Branch of the Red Cross. Her health began to decline in 1943. She died in her Murrieta home on August 12, 1945 and was laid to rest beside her husband.

The Shupe family lived in Murrieta for twenty-eight years. The Shupe Log Cabin, their home, and rental cabins are all gone. Today track homes cover the former Shupe property on Washington Avenue. However, the Murrieta Woman's Club clubhouse that Frank Shupe built still stands in the Historic Downtown Murrieta District. The Shupe family had contributed to the success and development of Murrieta and should be remembered for the all work they had accomplished.



The former Shupe home in December 1982. Later owned by Paul and Helen Anderson. Source: The Ron Wickerd Collection



We appreciate all of our volunteers for their support this year. Thank you for helping us preserve and educate our community on the rich and diverse history of our valley.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Photo taken on December 11, 2021 during the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Museum Update

We would like to thank all our board members, members, volunteers and guests, for your continuous support this past year.

These past few months have been busy and I am excited to say that Marvin D. Curran has donated his mother, E. Hale Curran's, gong to the museum. This gong was used at the Fountain House to call guests to dinner. Also, Hale rang the gong at the end of World War 1 in celebration. It is an honor to have this in the museum for all

to see.

The Museum has received several other donations of documents and items from the Garrison family and from Ruth Zepede to display.

This year the Murrieta Elementary School 3rd grade classes came to the museum for a field trip. Students participated in hands on displays, made artwork, toured the museum and went on a walking tour of the Historical Downtown District.

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Annual Members Appreciation reception held on December 11th. It was wonderful to visit with all of you. We would like to offer a special thanks to Council Member Lori Stone for attending the event. Your support to the history of our community is greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year,

Annette Jennings,
Museum Director





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Next General Board Meeting TBA

General Board Meetings are virtual in a Zoom meeting format. Anyone interested in joining us, please send an email to info@murrietahistoricalsociety.org and we will email you the Zoom link before the meeting



The Murrieta Museum,
41810 Juniper Street
at Hunt Memorial Park.

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