

# The Historian

Published by the Fallbrook Historical Society



While the image of a stagecoach on the left may be what comes to mind when thinking of the inspiration for our Stage Coach Lane, Old Stage Road, and other like-named streets in Fallbrook, the image on the right is more likely to be what was frequently used as it was in this photo bringing guests the Francis E. Willard Hotel in West Fallbrook. The hotel later became The Naples and then later the Hotel Ellis.

## Stage Coach Roads

More than one road around Fallbrook has the word Stagecoach in its name. A couple of older buildings carry reputations, built on rumor, of having been stagecoach stops long ago. Read on.

Fast moving horses pulling a mail wagon or passenger carriage generally needed to be replaced with a fresh team roughly every 20 miles. This is called a “stage”. The wagon or carriage being pulled would have sometimes been called a “coach”. Small stations with a corral or stable of fresh horses were established along a route at each stage.

*Continued on page 5*

Live Oak Chapter of  
Questers Place  
Temporary Plaque at  
Hindorff Adobe

Annual Reche  
Schoolhouse Open  
House Event

Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War to  
honor heroes at  
Pittenger House

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Sat., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm Reche Schoolhouse Annual Open House**      **Reche Schoolhouse**  
1319 S. Live Oak Park  
*Presenting the Reconstructed Hindorff Adobe Structure!*  
*(See photo below)*

**Sun., Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 9 am–4 pm Fallbrook Harvest Faire**      **Stop by our Booth!**

**Sat., Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Remembrance Ceremony**      **The Pittenger House**  
1730 S. Hill  
**(at Rocky Crest)**



Live Oak Questers members from left to right: Irene Althaus, Marilyn Clyde, Kathleen Gerard, and Carolyn Ganoce

Temporary historic marker from The Live Oak Questers whose Grant funds made the reconstruction of the Hindorff Adobe structure possible.

**THIS PLACE MATTERS™**

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



*You're Invited*

*Annual Reche Schoolhouse Open House*

*Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>*

*1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.*

Live Music – The Slacker Hill Band

Historic Quilts Display by the Fallbrook Quilt Guild

Vintage Cars

Historical Tours

Refreshments & Ice Cream

***This will be the official unveiling of the reconstructed Hindorff Adobe!***

*You don't want to miss it!*



***Members of the Fallbrook Historical Society and the Live Oak Questers at the Reche Schoolhouse on last month for the first regular open day of the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse, Hindorff Adobe, Indian Rocks, and grounds are now open to the public every second Saturday from 1pm until 4pm. at 1319 S. Live Oak Park Rd.***

Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War

Remembrance Ceremony

at

The Pittenger House

Fallbrook Historical Society

1730 S. Hill Street (at Rocky Crest)

Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to help honor these heroes

Mark your calendars and join us



Last year's ceremony featuring Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War in period costumes and reenactment uniforms at the Pittenger House

***Stage Coach Roads Continued from page 1***

Stagecoaches first appeared in the San Diego region in 1852 with the establishment of erratic service between San Diego and Los Angeles. Stage lines operated to the east, west and south of Fallbrook, but there was never a stage station here in Fallbrook. However, the U.S. mail was delivered to the Reche post office in the Live Oak Park vicinity between 1878 and 1888. Besides the mail, these 'mud wagons' may have sometimes carried paying passengers to the hotel in Fallbrook.

To the east of us, the famous Butterfield Overland Mail Route operated during the years 1857-1861 from St. Louis to San Francisco. Instead of going due west across the mountains, Butterfield picked a more southern route to stay open during the winter. Entering California along the Mexican border at Yuma the route covered much of northern San Diego County. Traveling northwest on the way to Los Angeles via Temecula, the Butterfield stages followed the old Southern Emigrant Trail with stops at Vallecito (Borrego Springs), Oak Grove, and Warner Springs. Today, these restored historic sites are designated as official San Diego County landmarks.

Wells Fargo eventually took over the Butterfield line, using the classic covered Concord carriages that we think of when we hear the word stagecoach. These carriages could accommodate passengers both inside and outside. Guess which ones were the cheap seats. Stagecoach operations were suspended during the Civil War in the 1860s. Remember, the Fallbrook settlement did not even exist prior to 1870.

To our west, in 1871, the Seeley Stage Line advertised its Concord stagecoach service running between San Diego and Los Angeles. Starting in Old Town San Diego, the stage line used the old El Camino Real traversing Rancho Buena Vista and Rancho Agua Hedionda to reach the big stage station at Mission San Luis Rey.

In 1885, stagecoach travelers wanting to visit Fallbrook could rent horses and a wagon at San Luis Rey and follow the road along the south side of the San Luis Rey River (Old River Road) to the crossing at Mt. Fairview (Bonsall). From there they would have taken today's Olive Hill Road. It's clear on today's maps that Olive Hill Road drops down to Mission Rd. at Stagecoach Lane, which leads to Reche Rd. and Live Oak Park.

### ***Stage Coach Roads Continued***

However, the Southern Pacific train from National City and running through the Santa Margarita Canyon was becoming the preferred route by 1882. Fallbrook livery businesses operated “stages” bringing mail and passengers from the old train depot up today’s De Luz Road to West Fallbrook, with a possible stop along the way. By 1888 the Reche Post Office had closed in favor of a new post office in West Fallbrook.

Trains and motorized vehicles eventually caused horses and their carriages to disappear from Fallbrook streets. In 1912 the Pickwick Stage Line advertising in the Fallbrook Enterprise was operating between Fallbrook, Oceanside and Los Angeles using a model T Ford.

#### ***References:***

***Elizabeth Yamaguchi, former historian of the Fallbrook Historical Society***

***San Diego Historical Society***

***Judge Benjamin Hayes diaries describing his travels as the first judge of the district court that served Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino Counties from 1849 to 1875.***



## ***Volunteer Opportunities***

Whether you are looking for a volunteer opportunity to enhance your historical knowledge of this fascinating area, or want to help with events, get involved with a community of like-minded folks, or just lend moral and financial support, there is something at the Fallbrook Historical Society for you.

We are looking for members who would like to fill these positions:

*Membership Chair*  
*Barn Curator*  
*Main Museum Curator*  
*Railroad Display Curator*

We are also looking for members who would like to help set up or help clean up before and after special events such as the upcoming Open House at the Reche Schoolhouse. Please call 760-723-4125.

### ***Fallbrook Historical Society Buildings*** ***Available for meetings and events***

*located at 1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Drive) and houses the Museum, the Pittenger House, the Ford Room, the Gem & Mineral Room, and the Barn. The Ford Room and the Barn are available for rental for meetings or other occasions. Call 760-723-4125 for further information or visit our website.*

*The Fall Brook Reche Schoolhouse is located at 1319 S. Live Oak Park and is available for rental for weddings, reunions, and other events.*

*Call 760-723-4125 for further information or visit our website.*

### ***Contact Us***

Have a question about Fallbrook History?

Need help with a research project?

Visit us at the Museum  
Thursdays and Sundays 1pm-4pm  
and by appointment call 760-723-4125

Visit us at the Reche Schoolhouse  
Second Saturday of each month 1pm-4pm

***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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