

How Roads in Menifee Got Their Names

There was only the one main road called “the Road to San Diego” when the early settlers arrived in this area known as Menifee in the 1880s. Later on, when it was decided there should be more roads, some of the local men started to lay out the roads on the section lines. These roads appear every mile since one section is one square mile.



When it became necessary for these roads to have a name it appears the names of families residing in that area were chosen if possible. As late as the 1940s residents referred to these roads by the family names and not the ones you might see today. The address of your home was where you received your mail. For Menifee, the address was RR1, Box _ – for Rural Route 1. This particular route started in Romoland where the local post office was located and covered the area south to what is now Clinton Keith; Winchester Road on the east; and Quail Valley and Railroad Canyon on the west. Murrieta Road was named because that was the route to Murrieta from Perris. Goetz Road went to Quail Valley from the west end of Newport Road and was named for either Henry Goetz or his son Harry who were the first investors in what we know now as Quail Valley.

Newport Road is named for the William Newport Family. The home and ranch buildings were located on the north side of the road between Murrieta and Bradley Rds. (approximately where Kay Ceniseros Center is now).

Menifee Road Luther Menifee Wilson came from Kentucky to California in search of gold. He filed a claim in 1880 near the NW corner of today’s Holland and Murrieta Roads. He named his claim the “Menifee Quartz Lode”.

Murrieta Road Juan Murrieta left his home in Bilbao, Spain at the age of 18 and took a ship across the Atlantic. He crossed the Isthmus of Panama on foot and then took a ship north to San Francisco. Juan joined his brother, Esequiel, in Northern California and raised cattle and sheep. In 1873, the Murrieta brothers went into partnership with several investors and purchased the Temecula and Pauba ranchos. Juan Murrieta brought over 7,000 sheep into the Murrieta valley.

Scott Road is named for either Rev. William Scott, his property Scott Acres on the eastern border of the valley near Winchester Road or his descendants. Although not much is known about this man, it appears that is where the name came from.

Bundy Canyon was known to locals but we don’t know about where the name originated at this time. However, there was a Bundy family living in the Elsinore area. Where Murrieta Road

meets Scott and Bundy Canyon was called the Y by locals since you were either going left to Murrieta or right to Elsinore.

Bradley Road Newton Bradley worked on the Newport Ranch in 1900 and owned property near Garbani Road His home was on what is now Evans Road, just south of Garbani Road.

Evans Road is named for Henry Evans who owned the property on Garbani Road at Murrieta Road where the Menifee Middle School and Menifee Historical Museum is now located. He was a Riverside County road foreman for the Menifee District.

Wickerd Road is named for all the Wickerd families who lived north of Scott and west of Bradley Roads

Haun Road is named for the Haun Family who lived there. This road only went to Holland until later years. Lee Haun was also was a Riverside County road foreman. Nina (Walker) Haun was one of 13 women who were the first members of the Menifee Women's Home Department.

Lindenberger Road is named for the two Lindenberger families that arrived in 1887. They built their homes on the east side of the road and named their property "Olive View" and planted a large grove of olive trees.

Zeiders Road is named for the Zeiders family. Walter Zeiders came to California from Pennsylvania in 1909 on his motorcycle. Many of his descendants continue to live in Menifee.

Holland Road is named for the Holland families that lived on the east side of Menifee Valley and there were several families with that surname.

Briggs Road is named for the Briggs Family. There was a mine named Leon that was later changed to the Briggs mine.

McCall Road In 1923, the McCalls left their turkey ranch in Colorado with \$100 and set out for California in a red Buick Sedan with their three children. The rough trip took eleven days. They camped out along the road each night. Fred McCall had a 1,000 acre ranch. He grew grain, alfalfa and potatoes. In 1954, Fred was a County Supervisor as was his son Floyd.

Antelope Road probably got its name because it went to the Antelope School and the area known as Antelope. Since the Antelope and Menifee Schools were landmarks they were often used when giving directions to your home. (A person might live 2 miles south of the Antelope School, etc etc)

Leon was an early name given to the *area* from Antelope to Winchester Roads, and Newport to Scott Roads. Exactly where the name Leon came from is a subject of debate, but it is a possibility that when an early post office was established the name was taken from the man who had the office in his home. This was the usual practice in those early days. Old records show letters bearing the address of Leon, Ethanac, Romoland, Riverside County etc.