



# Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 1

## 10th Annual Pancake Festival Coming May 23, 2015

Come join us Saturday, May 23, from 8 a.m. - Noon, to kick off the Memorial Day weekend with a fun-filled pancake breakfast at the Bernardo Winery! Lively Dixieland music will entertain us while friends and families enjoy delicious pancakes, sausage, fruit, yogurt, juice, and coffee. Children will enjoy playing patriotic games, and decorating paper hats with red, white and blue stickers and glitter, and having their faces painted.

A \$20 donation will provide the opportunity to paint a ceramic tile, which will be glazed and fired, then mounted on our permanent tile mural wall outside the Museum. A beautiful vintage carved cameo pin/pendant and rope chain awaits the lucky door prize winner, as well as tables full of fabulous raffle prizes! In keeping with our tradition, we will introduce our 2015 Military Honoree and invite everyone to extend a warm welcome.

Tickets are \$7 - FREE to veterans, active military, and children under age 3 - and may be purchased in advance at the Museum or at the breakfast. We hope to see you there!



### Pancake Festival's 2015 Military Honoree Rear Admiral Robert H. Wertheim

Rear Admiral (RADM) Robert (Bob) H. Wertheim, served 35 years in the U.S. Navy. He served as Director of Navy Strategic Systems projects responsible for research, development, production, and operational support of the Navy's submarine-launched

ballistic missile systems. He retired in 1980, and then spent another seven years at Lockheed Corporation.

RADM Wertheim grew up in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He attended New Mexico Military Institute and graduated in 1942. He went to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with honors in 1945. At sea, he received special orders to report to Sandia Base, New Mexico to begin work on a project to take nuclear weapons on board ships. In 1951, he was selected by the Navy to obtain advanced education. He graduated from M.I.T. in 1954 with a degree in nuclear physics.

In 1956, he got orders to report to Washington being asked to serve on a Navy Special Projects Team to deploy ballistic

missiles at sea. This project initially developed the Polaris nuclear submarine missiles. RADM Wertheim was the Technical Officer at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, and a military assistant to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. He became Technical Director of the Special Projects team in 1968. He retired from the Navy in 1980.

Bob's wife Barbara passed away in 2001 after 55 years of marriage. Their two sons Joseph and David both live in Pittsburgh. Bob currently consults with various entities concerning nuclear non-proliferation. He is an active member of the American Academy of Sciences and works with the United States Strategic Advisory Committee on national security issues and the U.S. Strategic command.

When you visit his office it puts one in awe of this quiet and unassuming hero's accomplishments. The walls are filled with memorabilia. Bob is quick to point out however, his favorite award is a golf trophy. On the trophy the plaque reads "For the man who has everything except a golf trophy."



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a 501 (c)(3)  
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Tax ID# 33-0269787

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## President's Corner

*By Nancy Canfield, President*

Easter is coming, but we have been Hopping All Year - Moving History Forward. We have been addressing our annual plan objectives identified in last November's Board Retreat. We have accomplished the following 5 from our list of 10 objectives:

**Seeking a Museum Director** – Done! We now have the leadership of Jennifer Garey!

**Budget** – We have a new bookkeeper, Kathy Miller, replacing Faye Schell, a tough pair of shoes to fill! Kathy, assisted by board member Ralph Parris, is addressing Budget Policy, Procedure, and Planning as envisioned by our budget committee.

**Growing our Membership** – Planning and incorporating this vision into events such as the Speaker Series, Pancake Festival, and RB Tastings add value for members.

**Digital Archive Initiatives** – Ongoing progress under the direction of our Collections Manager, Peggy Rossi and her team. Their efforts ensure existing oral histories, newspapers and photos are captured for posterity! We also have begun to record new oral histories of those individuals who had significant impact on our community.

**Outreach to the Public** – other museums, street fairs, etc. – Jennifer has added to this effort through networking in the Southern California region in general.

**Next Objective in 2015** – expanding activities for children with hands on Education and programs is in the works.

## A Message from Our New Museum Director Jennifer Garey



It is an honor to be a part of such a wonderful organization. The attention to quality and professionalism by both the board and staff is inspiring.

The museum has already accomplished a great deal. Our beautiful new facility, first class collections management and storage, a museum full of informative exhibits, fun outreach programs such as Coyote Tales to local schools, and other events such as the Pancake Festival honoring our military, the RB Tastings Festival, and an inspirational lecture series featuring speakers from around the area.

The future is exciting and we have already begun to brain storm how we can make the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society entertaining for our members, volunteers and the public. We hope to become your place to be, a place to share ideas and experiences.

Our benefit of the hard work put in by past and present volunteers has established a solid footing for us all to now build a broader future offering even more experiences for our members. Some of the ideas discussed include: educational programs based in CORE standards; updated and changing exhibits with online exhibit components; digitization of collections to be made available to researchers online; book signing events and more.

But first, I look forward to jumping on-board the Mud Wagon, (figuratively speaking) and participating in the already popular Pancake Breakfast, I can smell the syrup already.

See you in the Museum.

## Museum Update THE MUD WAGON

By Richard Thorpe

In March, Supervisor Dave Roberts paid a visit to the mud wagon workshop in Escondido's Grape Day Park. Supervisor Roberts was instrumental in helping RBHS secure a \$25,000 county grant to help build the mud wagon. He was joined by members of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society and the Escondido History Center (EHC) who are partnering to recreate an authentic "mud wagon," which ran between San Diego and Escondido in the late 1800s.

With the frame and wheels assembled, work has focused on finish-sanding the hickory wheels and building the braking system. EHC's wheelwright Phil Ewing has fabricated and installed the steel components. The various oak levers, beams, and brake pads are in progress. According to Ewing, brakes were not designed to actually stop the mud wagon while in motion. If the driver applied brakes without proper direction to the horses, they would simply drag the coach with locked wheels! Rather, the brakes either slowed the vehicle for downhill descents or kept it stationary for loading and unloading.

The mud wagon workshop is open to visitors and volunteers on Saturday mornings. Come check out the progress.



*Dave Roberts (middle) along with Phil Ewing and other members of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society and the Escondido History Center.*



*Volunteer Jim Fratis finish-sanding the wheel spokes.*



*Brake System Components beginning to take shape.*



## Museum Highlights THE WALL OF HONOR

San Diego has long been a military town from the early days, and the number of military personnel and families who currently reside in the surrounding communities is large.

The Wall of Honor was started in 2006 in the RB History Museum as a tribute to individuals who have served in the military throughout the years. Veterans' photos are grouped in a framed collection along with their name, branch and dates of service. To date there are over 200 individuals recognized in the display.

There are plans to redesign the current display and turn it into a digital display. This will allow the display to be easily updated as more veterans are honored. Going digital will also allow more details to be presented about the veterans and the events. A digital approach will also improve the viewing experience by enabling the content to be searched.

If you or a family member are Veterans and would like to have a picture included on the Wall of Honor, please stop by our Museum. We will also have volunteers accepting photos at the Pancake Festival on May 23, 2015.



# Historic Rancho Bernardo

A ROUND-UP OF STORIES AND NEWS FROM THE RB HISTORY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Spring 2015

## News from the Archives

Part of our job as an historical society is to preserve and protect the history of our community. We have a large collection of documents, photographs, scrapbooks, audio and video tapes, books and textiles. We catalog them on the computer and place them in boxes or wrappings to keep them safe.

Now we are moving into the next stage and have begun a digitizing program, thanks to grants received last year from the RB Foundation, the county and an individual donor.

The project began in January by having a collection of video tapes turned into DVDs. These tapes were filmed by Larry McIntyre over a number of years and include both individual interviews and group events such as several RB Foundation Thanksgiving luncheons. We hope to make these available online when we get the logistics worked out.

We have purchased video equipment that we are now using to conduct oral history interviews with long-time RB residents. Sally Edwards and Raenell Hooten are conducting the interviews.

Another aspect of the project is to digitize the *Bernardo*

*Brandings*. This was RB's first newspaper which began publication in 1962. We have almost all copies of this publication. Presently, copies from July 1962 through 1969 are being digitized by a local company. Our plan is to make these available online. They will be fully searchable and downloadable.

Our photo collection, which consists of around 1,500 photos, is also being scanned, done in-house. The museum software that we use to catalog our collection allows us to add the photos to the catalog record so image and description can be linked together. We hope to make many of them available for viewing, either online or on a computer at the museum, depending on copyright issues.

Not only does this project make our collections available to the public, it also provides back-up protection to preserve them for future generations in case of disaster, such as fire or water damage.

We are very grateful for the generous grants we have received and are thrilled that we will be able to make our collections more available to the public and keep them safe.

## Where Is Everybody?



These two photos are part of our museum photograph collection. Both were taken in 1965. Notice how empty it was. Also the freeway entrance sign says Rt. 395. There was no I-15 yet. These photos were donated by Keith Clements and perhaps were also taken by him. The originals are on slides.

# Paul Creston, Reknowned Composer and an RB Resident

While he was born in New York and lived most of his life there, when Paul Creston, an internationally known composer, decided to retire, he came to Rancho Bernardo.

Creston wrote five major symphonies and, according to the *San Diego Union*, over 150 major pieces. Arturo Toscanini conducted a number of his works as did Leopold Stowkowski. A performance of his Symphony for Organ and Orchestra was presented at the Kennedy Center in 1982.

He was born on 10 October 1906 in New York as Giuseppe Guttovogio, son of Sicilian immigrants. He selected the name Creston from a character he portrayed in a high school play. He started out playing on a \$10 piano his parents managed to purchase for him and later played piano in movie theaters and organ in church. He was, as he put it, “self-learned.”

He went on to compose scores for radio, television and the

movies as well as commercials in order to make a living and support his family, but his love was symphonic music.

He married Louise Gotto in 1927. Louise was a performer in her own right, having danced with the Martha Graham Dance Troupe until they started a family.

In 1975, the Crestons decided to retire and they selected Rancho Bernardo. They lived here together until he died on 24 August 1985 in a nursing facility in Poway. A memorial service was held at San Rafael church. His wife, Louise, passed away at Casa de las Campanas in June, 1989.

RBHS is privileged to have several copies of Paul Creston’s music scores, including the piece shown here, in our collection. We

also have a recording which unfortunately was done on a proprietary Sony tape. So far, we have been unable to find anyone who can access this music. We plan to keep trying.



## The Good Old Days

The Easter dinner menu from the Rancho Bernardo Inn in April 1968 featured some of the following all-inclusive (soup, salad, entree and dessert) items:

- Broiled California Local Lobster.....\$5.50
- Baked Sugar-Cured Ham, Champagne Sauce.....\$3.95
- Roast Rack of Spring Lamb.....\$5.50
- Roast Prime Ribs of Eastern Beef, au jus.....\$5.25
- Kids ate for \$1.25 less. Of course, remember, everyone earned a lot less then, but it sure sounds good!

## Research

If you are interested in researching in our archives, we request that you make an appointment first. That way we can have the materials ready for you when you come in and assist you with any research issues.

Please call the museum phone number—858-775-5788— or email us at [rbmuseum@sdcoxmail.net](mailto:rbmuseum@sdcoxmail.net).



## A Remembrance

On March 27, 1977, a horrific air crash occurred in the Canary Islands when two planes collided on the runway. A group of Rancho Bernardo travelers was on board and did not survive. The above plaque was placed in their memory at the foot of the clock along Bernardo Center Drive. If you drive by, you won’t see it so take a walk along Webb Park’s path and stop to remember.

Plaques in honor of Ray Webb and Harold A. Fletcher are on either side this plaque.

“Historic Rancho Bernardo” is produced by Peggy Rossi for the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society  
P.O. Box 27314  
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## RANCHO BERNARDO SPEAKER SERIES

### **NEXT PROGRAM: Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.**

History of the San Diego County Fair  
Speaker: Linda Zweig, Media Manager, Del Mar Fairgrounds / 22nd Agricultural District Association.

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS: May 2, 11 a.m:**

Richard Carrico, archaeologist and professor of American Indian Studies at SDSU.

### **June 13, 11 a.m:**

Wendy Barker, Executive Director, Escondido History Center, presenting The History of Escondido as shown in Old Photographs.

### **Volunteer for Events or Become a Museum Docent**

**Contact:**  
**Jane Harmon**  
**858.775.5788**

### **To Help with the Mud Wagon**

**Contact:**  
**Rich Thorpe**  
**858.775.5788**



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