



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 2

5th Annual RB Tastings Festival Coming August 29, 2015

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society is pleased to announce its upcoming RB Tastings Festival. The event features a variety of restaurants, breweries, wineries, musicians, artists as well as a classic car show with 40 exciting beauties - cars, that is!

This annual event is held at the historic Bernardo Winery, the oldest continuously operating winery in SD County, and the date is Saturday, August 29, from 1 - 4 pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance available at www.rbtastings.com, or \$40 at the door. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help continue the operations of the Historical Society.

Participating breweries include Aztec, Karl Strauss, Stone, Stumblefoot - and a beer brewing demonstration by Ballast Point. Wineries include our host, Bernardo Winery, Cordiano, Abnormal, Orfila, BK Cellars and Woof'n Rose. Restaurants include Cafe Merlot, Athens Greek Market Cafe, the Barrel Room, Urge, Bernard'Os, Chick-fil-A, Boston Market, O'Harleys, and Miguel's - just to whet your appetite. Music supplied by Mojo Sessions (jazz, R&B, soul), the Drum Circle of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra consisting of 20 musicians, plus more.

Our emcee for the day is KXYX's own Sam Bass and his velvet voice will guide us throughout the event.

Contact Nancy Canfield at 619-871-9333 for details.



Come Listen to Our Speakers Series

By Vince Rossi, Speakers Series Coordinator

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Speakers Series was started in January 2015 and has been gathering a growing audience ever since. Upcoming programs include:

September 10: Jack Larimer on the Centennial Celebration of the Vista Library.

October 10: "Tales From The Trails: San Diego's Rich Outdoor History," described by Tom Leech, author, consultant and member of the Ocean Beach Historical Society.

November 14: "From Stowe to Santee," Carol Crafts, docent at the Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Open Space Preserve and member of both the Poway and Santee Historical Societies.

Previous talks are available by going to www.YouTube.com and searching for RB Historical Society.



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RANCHO BERNARDO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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President's Corner

By Nancy Canfield, President

There's a beehive of activity at the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. In June we participated in the annual Cultural Center at the RB Alive Street Fair, with crowds of visitors excited to see that Rancho Bernardo has so much history, and that we are strenuously preserving it.

The 4th of July Parade saw the debut of our hand crafted Mudwagon, a smaller version of a stage coach. These vehicles were used for transportation around San Diego County before the automobile. Many thanks to the SD County Supervisor Dave Roberts' support in the form of a grant for this.

Peggy Rossi's team coordinated the digitizing of all the historic *Bernardo Brandings* newspapers, preserving the history of Rancho Bernardo and making it easier for our visitors to research and enjoy. Our oral history interviews of local residents, recorded by Raenell Hooten and Sally Edwards and now on YouTube/Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. Also, check out our recorded Speaker Series organized by Vince Rossi. Our heartfelt thanks to the RB Community Foundation, RB Woman's Club, SD County, and for small private grants.

Each fall we begin the process of adding to our Board of Directors and legion of volunteers, including docents in our Museum, who do all of the work of the RB Historical Society. Many people are attracted to the good work we do and great fun we have. We hope you will consider being one of them. Please call the museum and play a part in this important piece of Rancho Bernardo History.

Membership Update

By Sally Edwards, Membership Chair

Become a member of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society and help us achieve our mission to preserve the local history and increase public awareness through programs and outreach.

We have many exciting programs including our monthly Speakers Series, as mentioned earlier, at the Museum on the grounds of the Bernardo Winery.

We also have fundraising events like our annual Pancake Festival which takes place on the Memorial Day weekend and the upcoming Tastings Festival each fall.

We are recording oral histories with residents in the community who have been active in RB and share their love for Rancho Bernardo.

We are digitizing the *Bernardo Brandings*, one of the first news periodicals of Rancho Bernardo.

We hope to have these available to see online in the future. We are also digitizing our photo collection of several thousand photos. Our objective is to preserve all of these photographs for future generations.

These are some of the reasons we need your continued support with membership in the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. Also we are looking for active board members to the Historical Society. It is an exciting time to belong to our Historical Society either as a member and/or on the Board.

Please contact Nancy Canfield to discuss your interests.

WHAT WE DO

- Community Events
- Education and Outreach
- Museum Exhibits and Archives

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP US

Volunteer Donate Contribute

BECOME A MEMBER

Museum Update MUD WAGON DEBUT

By Richard Thorpe

The Spirit of the Fourth Committee wanted something “different”, and we delivered! The build team worked overtime to get the mud wagon “street worthy” to finish the coach body, brakes, and seating for six. Ross Rizzo, Winemaster at the Bernardo Winery, provided the horsepower - his six-wheel John Deere Mule shown in the bottom picture . Our mud wagon wowed the crowd as the final “float” of the parade.

Since the parade, we finished the pole assembly for harnessing the horse pair, including the front neck yoke, the “tongue” between the horses, and the double tree behind them. Front and rear “boots” are being made for the driver footrest and passenger luggage, respectively. The final carpentry step is to build the canopy frame, which can be removed to wheel the mud wagon in and out of the Museum.

It’s on to the finish work: adding leather sides to the boots, sewing canvas for the canopy, upholstery, and priming and painting (to be contracted out). There’s still lots to do, so volunteers are invited to visit the Wainwright Shop any Saturday or Tuesday morning at the Escondido History Center in Grape Day Park. Contact Rich Thorpe at 858-312-6142 for details.



Museum Highlights BALBOA PARK PAINTINGS

By Frank Auwarter

2015 is the centennial year of Balboa Park. To celebrate this anniversary, the museum has installed an exhibit, of watercolors by Rancho Bernardo artist Drew Sawyer thru September. The paintings on display include, the California Building with its bell tower, the Colonnade and Patio, the reflecting pool, and the beautiful Cabrillo Bridge spanning a water-filled Cabrillo Canyon before the construction in 1948 of State Route 163.

Balboa Park was set aside as park land in 1898. The opening of the Panama Canal in 1914 promised to make San Diego, into a major port. To celebrate the city hosted a worlds fair, the Panama-California Exposition. Magnificent buildings were constructed. Landscaping included exotic plants from all over the world. The fair opened in 1915 and extended through 1916 with thousands of visitors. In 1935-36 the park hosted another worlds fair, the California Pacific International Exposition.

Today, San Diego has preserved this atmosphere, preserving many of the buildings, and much of the landscaping. One hundred years later, we still enjoy this wonderful park.



Historic Rancho Bernardo

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

Summer 2015

News from the Archives

Our collection of *Bernardo Brandings*, Rancho Bernardo's first newspaper/magazine has officially entered the digital age. We received back from the processor digital copies of issues dating from July 1962 through 1969. We plan to make these available for research by the public, either online, at the museum or both fairly soon. The second set of *Brandings* has gone out for digitizing, and we expect them back within a few weeks.

We are continuing with our series of oral history interviews. Our latest interview was with Joyce Gage. These interviews are now on DVD with copies at the museum. In addition, they are available online on Youtube. Go to www.youtube.com and enter Rancho Bernardo Historical Society to see the list of interviews.

Our regular speaker series is also available on Youtube, and you can select to view one of those there as well.

Tremendous thanks go out to our volunteer team that has worked to produce these videos and speakers' presentations. We also thank our speakers for their presentations,

which are given free to the public on the 2nd Saturday of the month (no speaker in August) and to those long-time RB residents who have volunteered to be interviewed for our oral history program.



Recent Museum Acquisitions

Since the beginning of the year, we have received the following items donated to our museum collection:

A school clock and oil lamp donated by Seymour Glick

As I Remember Poway: Memoirs of Mary van Damn (autographed copy) donated by Millie and John Boaz

Soroptimist banner donated by Nancy Brokaw

Bernardo Greens plans 21 and 22 in Rancho Bernardo folder designed and donated by Warren Molentin

Three books — *The Participatory Museum*, *Earth Pigments and Paints of the California Indians: Meaning and Technology*, and *Introduction to Museum Evaluation*, donated by Jennifer Garey

"Hats Off to Volunteers" hat (2010) donated by Nancy Canfield

Wheels Across America: Carriage Art & Craftsmanship, Vol. 2 donated by Richard Thorpe

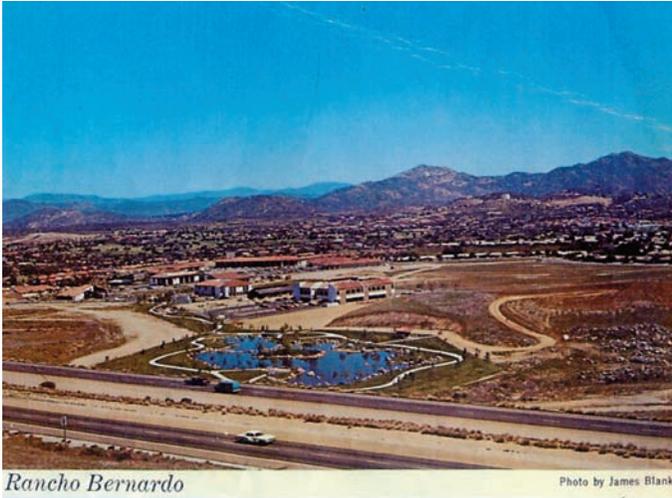
21 boxes of records from the Ed Brown Center

A decorative wooden Rancho Bernardo sign from the original sales office donated by Brian Westrie

Four Emergency Preparedness ball caps and an RB binder donated by Ralph Perris

A large collection of early RB photographs and negatives plus many miscellaneous RB items (still to be cataloged), donated by Sharon Raffer, former editor of the *RB News*.

Thank you everyone!



The photo on the left of Webb Lake is from an undated postcard in our museum collection. With discussion about changing the landscape of the park due to our current drought conditions, we thought you might like to see how it looked when it was first developed. How the scene has changed!

This image is part of our large photo collection currently being digitized.

Do you have RB photos that you would like to add to our collection? Please contact the collections manager at peggyrossi@sbcglobal.net to set up an appointment to bring them in.

Paul Creston Update

In the last issue of the history news, we had an article about composer Paul Creston, a well-known RB resident. We mentioned that we had a tape in the museum collection, created in a fairly obscure format, of an interview with Mr. Creston that we had not been able to access. Thanks to the company DVDYourMemories, which is doing our digitizing project, we now have that tape on DVD, at no charge to us. Please contact me at peggyrossi@sbcglobal.net if you have an interest in viewing this interview. And thank you to DVDYourMemories for making this available to us.

A Question

We received this email at the museum and hope that someone can answer his question.

My name is David Mitchell, and I had a grandfather Virgil Kraft that once owned a home in Rancho Bernardo, I believe in the 1970s. I remember being too young to drive, but in his garage was a white fiberglass bodied bicycle pedal car for multiple passengers to pedal side by side. My brother and I rode around the neighborhood. Do you have any information about those vehicles or know of any still extant in Rancho Bernardo?

Thank you so much. My e-mail address is kim7dave@msn.com.

Sincerely yours,

David K. Mitchell

RB Obituary Files

Since 1986, historical society volunteers have been clipping obituaries of RB residents from our local newspapers. While not every obituary has been saved, a large number have, and we are in the process of preparing an index for those obituaries. Volunteer Judy Schlotman works every week, creating an index that includes the person's name, their birth and death dates, place of birth, next of kin and where the obituary came from. We have several shelves of binders that contain these obituaries and will be putting the indexes in the front of each binder. We also plan to put these online so those who are researching their families can locate their obituaries and order a copy.

We continue to clip obituaries from the newspapers despite some of them being online to make sure future researchers have access to them. Volunteer Marge LaGrone is in charge of that job. We have now completed an index for obituaries covering 1986-1991. These are really history. It is interesting to see there were RB residents who were born in the late 1800s! And we can learn about the many talented and creative people who made up our community.

Research

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

Please email us at rbmuseum@sdcocmail.net or call us at the museum phone number—858-775-5788.



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
P.O. Box 27314
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VISIT THE RB HISTORY MUSEUM

Located at the Bernardo Winery
13330 Paseo del Verano Norte, San Diego, CA 92128

For more information and hours of operation
visit our website www.rbhistoricalsociety.org



VOLUNTEER WITH US

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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Bronze

- Casa de las Campanas
- Greenway Lawn Aeration
- Maritime Museum of San Diego
- Point Loma Credit Union
- Valley View Casino

Special Thanks

- Barons Market
- Haggen Food & Pharmacy
- Nancy Canfield
- Poway Transmissions