



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 4



Mud Wagon Is Nearly Complete and About Ready to Roll

By Richard Thorpe, Mud Wagon Project Coordinator

Our replica “mud wagon” stage coach made its first horse-drawn test run at Bates Nut Farm in September, thanks to Alden Townsend (rose-colored shirt) of Valley Center. Alden’s beautiful Percherons (www.ranchoverano.com) pulled the wagon for over an hour. It performed perfectly, according to Phil Ewing (blue shirt), Escondido History Center’s master wheelwright, who leads the project. It even lived up to its name when Phil drove it through a large mud puddle formed by a broken irrigation line (thankfully not due to the wagon). Mud wagon stage coaches like ours typically operated in the back country, where roads were often rough and muddy.

Since the test run, all carpentry and metal work have been completed. Final sanding and metal preparation are underway, prior to professional painting. In early 2016, we’ll add canvas to the canopy, leather on the front and rear boots, and upholstery for the seats. The final step will be striping and lettering. We plan to have the inaugural stage run in March 2016.

The project has been a true team effort. It began in May 2014 as a cooperative venture with the Escondido History Center.

It was made possible through a \$25,000 San Diego County Neighborhood Development Grant, facilitated by Supervisor Dave Roberts. Volunteers include Jim Fratis, quickdraw champion and expert pinstriper; Paul Page, softball umpire and veteran craftsman; Dick Anderson, retired fine wood-working instructor; and Eric Lunde, expert carpenter. Stop by the Grape Day Park Shop any Saturday morning to see the progress.



A few of the team members left to right, Jim Fratis, Richard Thorpe, Supervisor Dave Roberts, Phil Ewing, Nancy Canfield, Paul Page, and Eric Lunde.



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RANCHO BERNARDO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

a 501 (c)(3)
non-profit organization
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President's Corner

By Nancy Canfield

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society is proud to announce our new Museum Director, a willing board member, John Boaz. John has been an active member of the Collections Committee, and anywhere we've needed help. This in addition to his dedication to his granddaughter and her softball prowess! He and his wife Millie are both amateur musicians he is a clarinetist and she is a cellist. Millie is also heading up the Bookshop for the Friends of the RB Library. John and Millie were instrumental in lining up Richard Lederer's presentation to the Friends of the Library annual meeting

Our former museum director Jennifer Garey resigned for personal reasons. She leaves with our gratitude for her contributions, and all the best to her in the future.

This fall we began the process of organizing our legion of volunteers, including docents, staff, archivists in our museum, who do all of the work of the RB Historical Society, into our newly formed Friends of the RB Historical Society. Our plan is to send each individual a certificate so stating, and have a special gathering to recognize and thank them. Keep your eyes open for your invitation. Many people are attracted to the good work we do, and great fun we have. We hope you will consider becoming one of them. Please contact the museum and become a part of this important piece of Rancho Bernardo History.

On the opposite page, you'll find our annual Thank You and request to become a member, and make a donation to the RB Historical Society. You'll see a list of accomplishments we are proud to report this year. I know you, like me, are receiving many other requests. I hope we will be on your list.

Please join us for Holiday Nights at the Bernardo Winery. The decorated museum will offer music, and treats to visitors from Dec. 17th - 20th from 4-9 pm. Hope to see you there.

Museum Director's Message

By John Boaz

Are you proud to call RB home? Do you believe it is important to study and preserve the rich history of this area and pass it on to future generations? Does giving back to your community appeal to you? If these ideas appeal to you, you may wish to consider volunteering your time and talents to the Rancho Bernardo History Museum.

Do you possess any of those skills needed by our museum to fulfill its mission?

- Expertise in one or another aspect of RB history.
- Training in museum studies or experience as a museum staff member.
- Experience with historical research.
- Interpersonal communication skills to function as a docent, interpreting exhibits to visitors.
- Financial planning or Certified Public Accountant credentials for conducting audits.
- IT experience that might contribute to computerizing collections and exhibits.
- Experience in development, especially fundraising and grant writing.

Want to volunteer? Select Contact Us on our website, www.rbhistoricalsociety.org.





Thank You for Your Continued Support of the RB Historical Society

By Nancy Canfield

As the year draws to a close we would like to say thank you and wish you all the best for 2016. It has been quite a year for the Society, and we owe much of that success to help from individuals like you and all the others who have donated items to the museum, time and money over the course of this past year. Some accomplishments have been:

- Construction of a historically correct Mud Wagon, highlighting the preferred alternative to walking in the 1800's.
- The monthly Speaker Series continues to grow in popularity, and now past speakers programs can be viewed on YouTube.
- Our digitization project allowed us to scan the past issues of Bernardo Brandings, RB's first periodical produced from 1962 to 1976. We also have digitized a large part of our photo collection and converted our cassette tape collection, including original Oral History Interviews, to DVD. The next step is to make these digitized materials available to visitors in the museum and on our website.
- We continue to record more Oral Histories of local residents who tell us how it used to be in RB. These are available on YouTube.
- Expanding Education program with visits from local 3rd Grade classes, scouts and other groups of children with hands-on activities in the RB History Museum.
- Growing research library materials for community inquiries, such as the photos and articles for the Save Webb Lake program!

We would be so appreciative if you could reach into your heart and your checkbook to support the great work of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.

Speakers Series Gearing Up For Next Season

By Vincent Rossi, Speakers Series Coordinator

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Speakers Series wound up its 2015 season with "From Stowe to Santee," a talk by Carol Crafts. The series drew good crowds and compliments all year.

There will be no program in December but we'll resume with a full schedule in 2016, starting off January 9 with a talk on the San Diego Toy and Doll Museum by co-owners Rex and Elisa Ballard.

Other speakers signed so far include Ruth Lepper and Diane Welch, two longtime freelance journalists whose articles on local history appeared regularly in the San Diego Union-Tribune and other publications. We're also planning a program on the "gem rush" in the Mesa Grande area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries presented by Jeff Swanger, owner of the Pala Chief Mine and an expert on local mining history. Details will be on the website as we get closer to event dates.

To see videos of previous talks visit www.YouTube.com and search for RB Historical Society.

Holiday Nights at The Bernardo Winery

December 17th-20th each day from 4- 9 p.m.
Village Shops and Museum Open





Historic Rancho Bernardo

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

Fall 2015

News from the Archives

Corridor News

A call from Elizabeth Himchak, reporter for the *Rancho Bernardo News Journal*, set the archives crew into motion. Due to the closing of one of storage units, they needed to find a new home for bound volumes of their publication *Corridor News*.

The *Corridor News* serves the Carmel Mountain Ranch, Sabre Springs and Rancho Peñasquitos communities. None of those communities currently has a historical society and the libraries could not accommodate this collection. RBHS decided we could not let those newspapers be destroyed so we volunteered to head over to the Pomerado News Group office in Poway and loaded up the bound volumes.

They are now in our collection and available for anyone to research. We have one volume of the *Peñasquitos News* covering July-December 1993 and bound volumes of the *Corridor News* covering January-June 1997 and complete runs of the paper covering January 1998 through December 2008.

RB Girls Softball

Another addition to our collection is a history of girls softball in Rancho Bernardo written by RBHS board

member John Boaz. Girls softball in RB began in 1971 (A team of RB girls did play in a Poway league in 1970) and has been going strong ever since. As part of constructing this history, John made extensive use of the museum's collection of RB newspapers. The title of the work is *History of the Rancho Bernardo Girls Softball League, 1971-2013*. This history is also available online. Just do a search under the title; the URL is too long to reprint here.



The Rancho Bernardo's Girls Softball Team, dressed in full uniform, walked away with first prize in the Girls' Youth Group category.

OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE
Rancho Bernardo Spirit of the 4th — 1975

Bernardo Brandings,
August 1975

A Definite Success

RB's Christmas Tree Lane of States Will Shine Again

Are you from Pennsylvania, Oklahoma or Virginia?

If so, stand up and be counted. Your State's olive tree needs YOU!

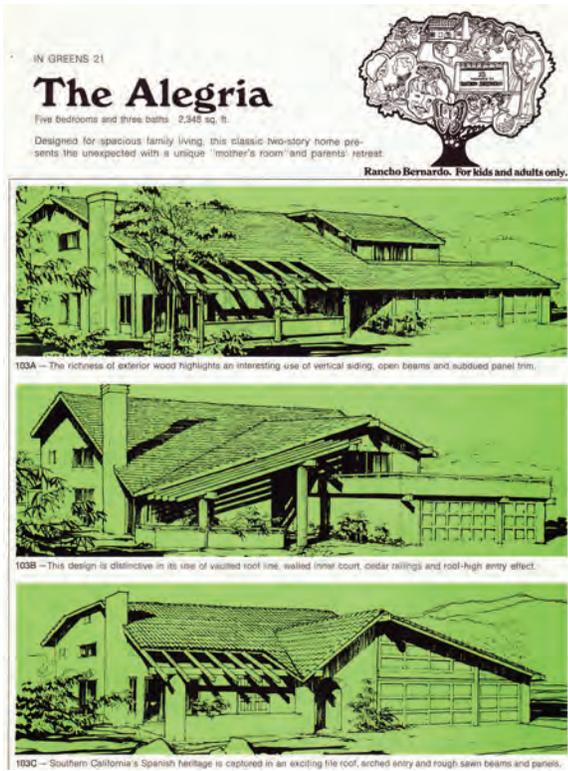
Rancho Bernardo's Christmas Tree Lane of States will bloom again this year in all its Christmas glory. And we want your State's tree to look as lovely as the rest.

Each olive tree down Rancho Bernardo Road will represent a particular state and will be decorated by RB residents formerly from that state.

Rancho Bernardo, Inc., will string Xmas lights on the trees Dec. 8-9, and

Showing Off Your State

The article partially shown here is from the *Bernardo Brandings* December 1965 — 50 years ago. RB's new residents (the first moved in back in 1963) came from all over the country and were given the opportunity to decorate an olive tree on Rancho Bernardo Rd. with items representing their state. At the time of this article, 25 "states" had signed up. The decorating would take place on December 18 and "youngsters with ladders will be on hand to assist with hanging the decor." Whether this event took place again in 1966, we don't know. We don't have a copy of a December *Brandings* from that year. By 1967, however, there was no mention of it.



Rancho Bernardo Plan 103

Five bedrooms and three baths
2,348 sq. ft.



Selling Rancho Bernardo

Over the years, the museum has collected pieces of real estate advertising, mostly brochures or single page handouts illustrating the various houses available and their floor plans. The one shown here is typical.

A few years ago, we loosely organized them into three cartons but still didn't fully know what we had, and so it was hard to make use of them. We are now in the process of formally organizing them and cataloging each piece into our museum software program called PastPerfect.

From the first neighborhoods of Seven Oaks and the Greens to the later neighborhoods in Bernardo Heights and High Country West, we have original advertising pieces for most of the homes offered for sale in RB. Occasionally we have visitors at the museum who would like to see the original floor plan for their home.

Once we have completed this project, which will probably be done by the end of the year, we invite you to make an appointment to come in and see a copy of the original sales brochure or handout for your home. We can also make a copy for you if you would like. A small donation would be appreciated. These are not formal architectural drawings so are not suitable for structuring remodeling projects.

You will need to make an appointment to view these or other archival materials. Docents will not have access to these items. Please call the museum number (858-775-5788) or send an email (rbbmuseum@sdcoxmail.com) to request an appointment.

50 Years Ago in RB

The January 1966 issue of *Bernardo Brandings* laid out plans for a number of changes in the RB community.

"...we have revised our master plan, and are now negotiating to build a mobile home park on a 70 acre area."

That never happened.

"Even the RB Shopping Center will present a new face to the public... for a full fledged Safeway supermarket will be built in 1966 in the area now occupied by the RB Nursery. The Nursery will be moved to an area north of the old RB Headquarters Building on Pomerado Road."

The small Safeway store first built at the corner of Pomerado and RB Roads initially faced east. It was moved around to face north as the current supermarket now does. The original sales office was on the northeast corner of Pomerado and RB Roads and the nursery mentioned would now sit in that area. Safeway expanded its store from 10,000 sq. ft. to 22,800 sq. ft. — a sign that the community was growing rapidly.

Plans were also mentioned to approach a group "interested in bringing a stable and riding facilities to RB." That eventually became the Rancho Bernardo Saddle Club (now gone) and featured a large performance ring.

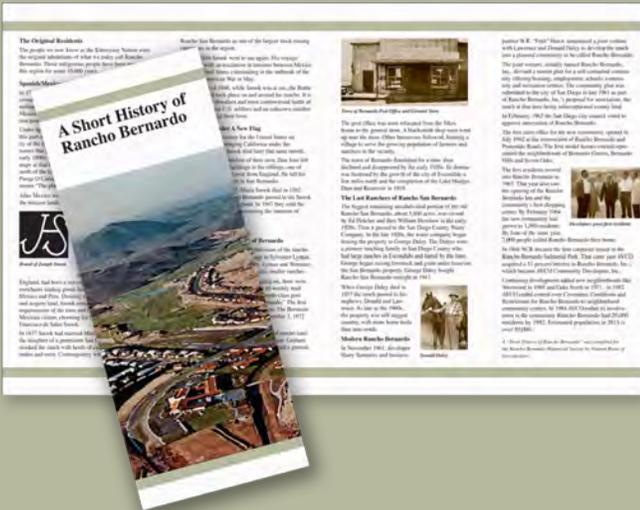
"Historic Rancho Bernardo" is produced by Peggy Rossi for the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.



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WE HAVE A NEW BROCHURE FOR YOU

We have updated our History of Rancho Bernardo brochure. Stop by and pick up the latest version and see what has been added.



- Volunteers for Events
- Museum Docents
- Help with the Mud Wagon

Contact:
 Jane Harmon
 858-775-5788