

Newsletter of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Vol. IV Issue 3

September 2009

A visit with Harry Summers - a magical night!

By Nancy Canfield



Sometimes you can plan every detail of a party, and even if everything goes right, including the weather, it's as flat ginger ale left out overnight. Other times, you make sure you trust all the right folks doing their part, and the results have lots of fizz. That was the atmosphere at the Café Merlot on August 12. The honoree of the event was none other than developer Mr. Harry Summers who imagined, then built his vision for a planned community: Rancho Bernardo, beginning in 1962.

Then there was the setting, the historic Bernardo Winery, with its draping signature olive trees and grape vines. Nestled in the midst of the soiree is the Café Merlot restaurant owned and operated by Toni

Kraft, with her outstanding staff. Trays of food circulated through the crowd and festooned tables inside the restaurant, while the proprietor herself served the drinks.

Larry McIntyre of LegendEditions, publisher of the local RB phone book, and videographer extraordinaire, recorded a panel of three interviewers querying founder Harry Summers. On hand were Eileen Haag, Myrna Reese, and Susan Floyd, all experienced interviewers. Nearby were Pomerado News reporter Elizabeth Himchak, and UT's own Logan Jenkins, each with their own photographers in tow.

Entertainment came in the form of acapella renditions by Jack Mitchell, minus his famous trumpet, and tenor Frank Tershan. They belted out their own composition, Rancho Bernardo High, to the delight of over one hundred guests. The crowd came from host RB Historical Society's membership, the RB Hall of Fame, and longtime friends and admirers of Harry Summers. Many worked at Avco, like Bob Buie, or knew him from his days at the Saddle Club, like Carol McDaniel. On hand were Harry's wife, two daughters, stepson, grandchildren and countless friends.

Of course, nothing like this ever comes together without the dedication of a team of volunteers. Nick Anastasopoulos, owner of the Athens Greek Market, and longtime community volunteer with the RB Historical Society, RB Hall of Fame, to name a few, got the ball rolling with a personal invitation to Mr. Summers.

Summers continued on page 2

Community meeting features Jack Templeton

On October 19, 2009, the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society community meeting will feature a talk on the "History of Rancho Bernardo" given by Jack Templeton.

Templeton is a native Californian and has lived in Rancho Bernardo with his wife, Barbara, since 1985.

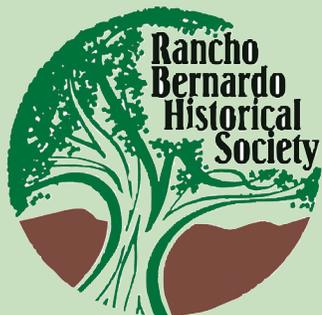
He received a BA degree from the University of California, Berkeley and is the owner of a public relations firm. He served as a Major Command Pilot in the United States Air Force in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

In Rancho Bernardo Templeton served as chairman of the RB Planning Board, President of the RB Community Council, RB Rotary Club secretary, and President of the RB Social Club. He also was the San Diego County Chief Deputy Assessor.

From 1991 to 1994 he was a writer/columnist of local and national politics and general interest articles.

Templeton has been a member of the San Diego Historical Society since 1979 and the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society since 1985.

All members and guests are encouraged to attend the community meeting on October 19 at 2 pm. Bring a friend and enjoy light refreshments at the Remington Club II. For more information, contact Museum Director, Susan Floyd, (858) 487-4599.



P O Box 27314
San Diego, CA 92198-7314

Officers

President
Nancy Canfield

1st Vice President
Tom Cook

2nd Vice President
Karen Rott

Secretary
Valerie Schmitt

Treasurer
Faye Schell

Museum Director
Susan Floyd

Board Members

Alethea Altenbern
Nancy Amon
Janet Atkin
George Cooke
Sally Edwards
Carol McDaniel Gibson
Jane Harmon
Carolyn Hess
Anthony Iasi
Tim Mazzoni
Myrna Reese
Lorraine Swara

www.
RBHistoricalSociety.org

RBHS supports the youth of the community. They are our future!

By Susan Floyd, Museum Director



Can you imagine longhorn steers roaming the fields of Rancho San Bernardo? Are you interested in cattle brands from that early time period? When you visit the RBHS, take a look at the brand for Joseph Snook who was granted large tracks of grazing lands in the 1800s. Did you know that his wife, Maria Antonia Alvarado Snook

modified that brand after his death by adding a fleur-de-lis design, making it her own?

Alyssa Siegman (pictured above) has left Rancho Bernardo for college but not before devoting many hours of volunteer time and creating the steer/bench which you see in the photo above. We've named this steer "Buck" and already he has been very popular with children and adults alike on Friday mornings. It's not easy to lasso a steer but for a quick lesson and a "step back in time", stop by the museum to test your skills.

For the last year, Alyssa has been working hard on a Gold Scout project. Her focus was to create historical materials and interesting activities for young children. Included were: interviews with Sikes Adobe director Anne Cooper, Poway Historical Society Cecilia Burr about early schooling in Poway, Peggy Rossi, Marge LaGrone and myself about the RB Historical Society. In addition, she conducted a leather tooling workshop for elementary students at nearby Chaparral School, and left us with great RB history puzzles. Thanks, Alyssa!

Calling all volunteers!

From the Museum Director-Susan Floyd

I am very happy to announce that soon the museum will be moving to new expanded quarters. This means much to the RBHS: better care for the collections, much improved work space for volunteers and a more welcoming area for our many visitors. Currently the museum is open only two days a week. With more volunteers we can extend the open hours and welcome more visitors.

If you would like to make new friends, develop new skills, and learn more about Rancho Bernardo history, come volunteer with a great team. You will know the satisfaction of helping to make history matter in your community.

To volunteer, please call Susan at 487-4599 and ask for an application. A minimum of four hours a month is required. Training sessions will be provided. Jobs available include: greeting visitors, cataloguing collections, doing research, and caring for the new facility.

www.RBHistoricalSociety.org

Summers continued from page 1
Then the Historical Society's fantastic board, volunteers, and membership. Talk about Community!

A thank you gift basket of Historical Society goodies was presented to Mr. Summers including an RBHS cap, two history books written by RBHS members, a holiday ornament with the RB Logo, the signature Concert on the Green blanket, a video about RB by local historian the late Al Deahl, and more. He was truly thrilled and thanked the Historical Society in return with a check for \$10,000! for the building of the RB History Museum.

2010 Elections

Nominations for election to the 2010 Rancho Bernardo History Society Board of Directors will be presented at the General Membership Meeting on October 19th. Additional nominations from the floor are welcome. The slate plus additional nominees will be voted upon and elected at this meeting.

Rancho Bernardo... Past and Present

By Tom Cook

If we were to write such a book, what would we title the chapters? For simplicity we could call them Pre-Harry Summers and Post-Harry Summers!! For many this simple breakdown would be sufficient. To better understand our past and to organize our communication we would separate the two grand Eras into four periods as follows:

Mexican Rancho Period 1837 to 1946

For brevity we have left out a history of the original native people that spans 10,000 years and requires a separate book. In 1837 Don Jose Francisco Snook, an English sea captain, married Maria Antonia Alvarado and in 1842 received 17,763 acres from the Mexican government known as Rancho San Bernardo. Snook died in 1848 and left no heirs causing the breakup of this vast ranch into smaller parcels.

The old Ranch House was located just behind Westfield Mall at Cedar Creek.

American Period 1845 to 1960

On December 6, 1846, the bloodiest battle of the Mexican War fought in California took place just east of Rancho Bernardo. The survivors led by General Stephan Kearny and Scout Kit Carson were surrounded for three days on Mule Hill. Sergeant John Cox was buried there. The Hill can be seen from the I-15 bridge to the east. Around 1970 the town of Bernardo developed with a general store, school, post office and Bill Ober's Blacksmith Shop. It was a stage stop between Escondido and San Diego. Zenas Sikes and family arrived in 1868 and built an adobe and farm on 2,402 acres of the once vast Rancho San Bernardo. By 1887 the surrounding farm and ranch population was approximately 400. In 1918 the Lake Hodges dam was completed and the town abandoned.

Rancho Bernardo Development Period 1960 to 1980

In early 1960 Harry Summers a true visionary developed the "Planned Community" concept and called it Rancho Bernardo. The city of San Diego annexed the land and for the first time unique innovations such as 'ender ground utilities,' 'home spacing,' 'neighbor hoods,' etc. were installed. They

RB Past and Present continued on page 4

Twilight Concert on the Green
at the Bernardo Winery

A portion of the proceeds to benefit
The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
& The Poway High School Music Boosters

Featuring The Ira B Liss
Big Band Jazz Machine
with special guest vocalists Janet Hammer and Nathan Fry

With a suave mix of Traditional,
Contemporary, Latin and Swing, no wonder
why the Ira B Liss Big Band Jazz Machine
was voted the "Best Big Band in San Diego"
by the San Diego Music Awards.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH 6PM

TICKETS ARE \$25
- INCLUDES GRASS OR UNASSIGNED CHAIR SEATING
VIP PACKAGES, DINNER PACKAGES, GOLF CART PARKING &
GROUP RATES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. TICKETS AND INFORMATION
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BERNARDO WINERY TASTING ROOM OR
IN THE RANCHO BERNARDO WINDERMERE OFFICE
CALL 858-487-1866 OR EMAIL INFO@BERNARDOWINERY.COM
FOR MORE INFO.

BERNARDO WINERY
www.bernardowinery.com 858-487-1866
13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte Rancho Bernardo San Diego 92128

3

**Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
2nd Annual
Antique Appraisal Faire**

at
The Bernardo Winery
13330 Paseo del Verano Norte

Saturday, October 10
10 am — 3 pm

Verbal Appraisals
By Appointment Only

Certified Appraisals by
Carol Aradi

Appraisals for fine jewelry at
Cabernet Jewelers
Bernardo Winery

***Note: No weapons or firearms, please**



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
P O Box 27314
San Diego, CA 92198-7314

RB Past and Present continued from page 3

were studied and copied around the nation. Harry gambled by investing in the first 500 homes costing \$16,000 before they were sold. Rancho Bernardo 'was born.'

Rancho Bernardo Expansion Period 1980 to Today

Who can forget the "take a number" and "wait in line" at the sales offices, not being sure of the lot you would get? By 1980 demand for homes far exceeded supply. We had grown up and the Town of Bernardo was declared 'built out.' We had arrived!

Summary

It turns out that we can physically separate 'Old Town' RB from 'Modern' RB. All the 'old town' events prior to 1960 can be found just across Lake Hodges in front of Westfield Shopping Mall on Sunset Drive. Starting out on the Coast-to-Coast trail at Sikes Adobe farmstead, crossing Carson Creek and the wetlands you can stand at the display centers for Carson Memorial, Mule Hill, RB Town and all the rest. Go back to 1837, feel the excitement and have a good day.

RBHS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Soon we hope to move into a new facility.
This is a big step for the RBHS.
Your help is needed.
Offers gratefully accepted.
Please call Susan Floyd at 858 248-2030.

WISH LIST

office chair
donated paint
donated volunteer time to paint
desk top computer (new) XP Windows
utility cart/ book truck (\$200)
vacuum cleaner – lightweight
six months phone service (Verizon) \$300