



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 2



John Boaz greets guests at the mud wagon introduction event August 2016.

Mud Wagon Exhibit Now On Display at Museum

The RB Historical Society introduced its newest exhibit to the public, a replica of a vintage 1880s mud wagon stagecoach. The rollout took place on Saturday, August 20, at the society's museum. The 11:00 a.m. to noon program featured an explanation by project leaders Rich Thorpe and Phil Ewing of why and how this stagecoach replica came to be built. Also, a keynote speech on the history of roads and transportation in the back country, especially around the old town of Bernardo, was given by author Charles R. LeMenager.

The construction of the stagecoach was a cooperative venture by the RB Historical Society and the Escondido History Center (EHC), with funds from a county development grant. County Supervisor, Dave Roberts, accepted the thanks of the Society's President, Nancy Canfield, for the \$25,000 San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant that made the construction of this exhibit possible.



Mudwagon participating in this years Spirit of the Fourth Parade.



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.



OFFICERS

President

Nancy Canfield

Vice President

Fred Gahm

Secretary

Raenell Hooten

Treasurer

George Leitner

MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Ted Oatway

BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Cook

Sally Edwards

Carol Gahm

Jane Harmon

Richard Thorpe

**RANCHO BERNARDO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

a 501 (c)(3)

non-profit organization

Tax ID# 33-0269787

P.O. Box 27314

San Diego, CA 92198-7314

858-775-5788

rbmuseum@sdcoxmail.com

RB HISTORY MUSEUM

Bernardo Winery

13330 Paseo del Verano N.

San Diego, CA 92128

© 2016 Rancho Bernardo

Historical Society.

All Rights Reserved.



President's Corner

By Nancy Canfield

The purpose of our annual community meeting October 10 is to share some of the exciting activities happening with the society this year, and our annual election of the board.

A committee has sought volunteers to become board members and some existing board members will remain in place. If you would like to serve on the RB Historical Society Board, please contact Jane Harmon, 858-485-0887.

We have finished constructing our authentic Mud Wagon replica at the Bandy Blacksmith shop in Grape Day Park. Board member Rich Thorpe has led this effort alongside master wheelwright Phil Ewing. The project was funded primarily with a San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant, and donations from friends of the museum.

We are pleased to announce George Leitner has accepted our invitation to become Treasurer. Our new Museum Director, Ted Oatway, will assume the role from John Boaz. John will be devoting more of his time to our ever growing archive collections. We have received materials from the Ed Brown Center, the RB Public Library, Bert Ball real estate photos by the hundreds, and so much more. As word of the RB Historical Society's stellar capabilities to preserve local history has spread, more and more groups and individuals trust us with their past, for our future.

We have applied for a grant from the RB Community Foundation to overhaul our website, enriching it with more information and research capability. Thanks to Peggy Rossi and her Digitization team, thousands of documents and images are readily available to the public online.

Our Education Program, led by Shelley Charlesworth, is going into local elementary schools to teach about the history of the Kumeyaay Nation, to third graders. They have also held talks for scout groups. We also have made the mud wagon a part of the Education Program teaching about the history of transportation in the region.

Director's Message

By John Boaz

I would like to begin by welcoming Ted Oatway as my replacement as Museum Director. Ted has over forty years of experience working with computers. He has held positions in consulting, management, and system engineering with IBM, Sun Microsystems, and Oracle. Ted is an energetic, optimistic, and enthusiastic supporter of the Society. He began working with Peggy Rossi on collections before becoming a board member. He and Peggy are responsible for putting our catalog of collections online and linking it to our website. He has spearheaded our effort to upgrade the Society's website and to replace lighting in the museum.



Ted Oatway



George Leitner

Next, we all welcome George Leitner as a board member and new Treasurer. An engineer and small business owner by background, George's volunteer jobs have included financial roles with Home Owners and Community Associations. He has been a director and vice chair of the RB Community Planning Board and currently is a resident member of its Development Review Committee. He has been a director and chief financial officer of the Diamond Gateway Chamber of Commerce

Educational Programs and Outreach

Part of the mission of the RB Historical Society is to provide education about the history of Rancho Bernardo and surrounding areas. Two ways that we fulfill that educational mission are the monthly Speakers Series and our youth outreach program, the Kumeyaay Trunk Show.

Our monthly Speakers Series, coordinated by Vincent Rossi, is held on the second Saturday of the month at 11am in the RB History Museum. It features fabulous speakers showcasing a wide range of topics. Many talks are videotaped and made available online for those who could not attend the live presentation.

Our educational outreach program for young people has been a great success over the years. The Kumeyaay Trunk Show, presented by Shelley Charlesworth is the latest version. The goal of this program is to educate youngsters about the lives and culture of the original inhabitants of the area, thus inspiring a love of local history in a new generation.



Educational Program coordinator Shelley Charlesworth hosts a group of Cub Scouts and parents at the RB History Museum.



Museum Exhibits

The RB History Museum is another important resource in support of the society's goals. The museum is located on the grounds of the historic Bernardo Winery.

Permanent exhibits include a graphic timeline of historic events from the early Kumeyaay civilization to modern development of Rancho Bernardo and the surrounding area. Additional exhibits include Trails and Travelers of the area showing how inhabitants have traveled the region over the years. The latest addition to this has been the addition of a full scale, working replica of a mud wagon stagecoach. Another display presents information about what it was like to live in the original town of Bernardo with graphics and artifacts representing life in that time of the 1800's.

A unique section of the museum, "The Collection Box", allows community members who have a collection of vintage items to display them, on a temporary basis, in the museum. The latest items on display showcases "How Kids Learned" before computers and contains items such as an Erector Set, Lincoln Logs, and Tinker Toys.

Collections and Archives

By Peggy Rossi

Since the last newsletter, we have launched PastPerfect Online which places our museum collections online for you to view. We currently have hundreds of photos on the site, a list of our library collection, and descriptions of many objects and archived items. We plan to eventually have on the site scanned documents and images of the object collections. To see the online collection, go to our website at <http://www.rbhistoricalsociety.org> and click the Rancho Bernardo | Online Collection link.

We are currently having digitized over 1,000 black and white negatives from the 1970s-1980s, all from RB. All of the photographs are new to our collection and include images of the building of the Town Center.



Peggy Rossi adds a photograph into the online collections database using PastPerfect museum software.



Historic Rancho Bernardo

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

Fall 2016

News from our Archives

Items donated to our collection since the last newsletter:

- Multiple Bernardo Gardeners Presidents' Books, photo albums and yearbooks;
- Lake Hodges Bowls Club albums, records, miscellaneous papers on lawn bowling, multiple plaques and framed items;
- Bert Ball Collection consisting of hundreds of photographs, many albums and documents from his real estate collection including advertisements, brochures, his Hall of Fame plaque and newspaper items.
- *Gateway to Alta California: the Expedition to San Diego 1769* by Harry W. Crosby;
- *Beef Stew for 2500* by Rudolph Shappee.

We also facilitated the donation of a historic collection of "Dolls for Democracy" (a B'nai B'rith project) to the Jewish Historical Society of San Diego. The dolls had belonged to an RB resident who left them with Jane Radatz when she moved. Jane then contacted us. The dolls are wooden figures of men and women dressed in historically accurate clothing, representing such persons as Helen Keller, Golda Meier, Jim Thorpe, Abraham Lincoln, and Simon Bolivar. They found a perfect home at the Jewish Historical Society.

National Archives Month

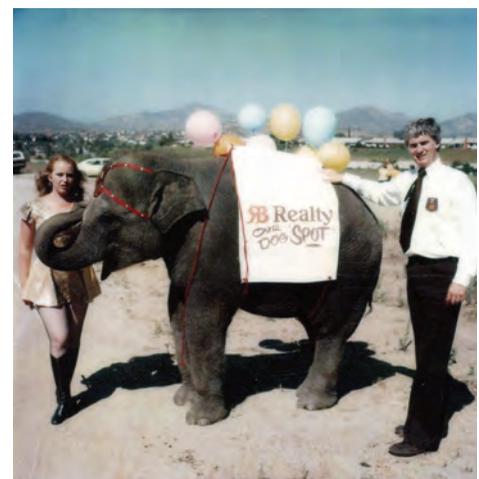
We have a lot of special months and days (National Hot Dog Day, anyone?), but did you know that October is important in two ways for people in the history business? One is Family History Month, which RBHS celebrated with its special speakers' presentation. It's also National Archives Month. RBHS gathers in its archives letters, notes, memos, documents, photographs, albums, scrapbooks, audio and video recordings — all the items that record the history of our community, big and small. We preserve it all in a way that keeps it safe and available for future generations. We thank you, the community, for your support, both in donating items for our archive collection and for your financial support. Happy National Archives Month!

Photographs from the Bert Ball Collection

Bert Ball, long-time realtor in RB, recently moved from RB to be closer to his family but before he left, he generously shared his large collection of RB material. Bert was a realtor in RB almost from the beginning and his collection adds greatly to the story of RB's growth and development.



If these doors look familiar to you, maybe it's because you've seen them at the museum. They now serve as our museum's front doors. From a note written by Bert in 2014, he said "The bevel glass doors . . . were commissioned by me in 1983. [They] were used as the main door at the Info Center [corner Rancho Bernardo Rd. and Bernardo Center Drive] Rancho Bernardo Realty. My good friend Jack Sweeney . . . built the doors for me."



The photo on the right is undated. It's uncertain how the elephant tied in to real estate sales but it probably did draw a crowd.



These Excellent Services
Are Yours at the

Rancho Bernardo Shopping Center

- Gragg's Unique Gift Shop
Goodies from \$1
- RB Variety Store
Everything under the RB sun
- Robinson's Pipe Shop
Gifts for Papa & puffies
- RB Bakery & Delicatessen
Catering a specialty
- The Chocolate Tree
Fine candies & ice cream
- The Spirit Shop
Something for the inner you
- Rancho Barber Shop
Best clip in town
- Rancho Coiffures
For a more stylish you
- Bernardo Carpet and Drapery
And furniture, too
- RB Garden Center
The most blooming spot around
- Safeway Supermarket
- RB Travel Service
Anyone for Rome?
- RB Insurance
John Grey at your service
- Jones, Hatfield & Norman
Attorneys
- Winston L. Bowen, O.D.
Ophthalmist
- RB Home Resales Office
Raise Grades at your service
- Southern Contractors Co.
- United California Bank
UCB does a little more for you

RB's First Shopping Center

In 1963, it was the only place to shop. Starting with the Spirit Shop in October, then followed by a Safeway in December, the center rapidly filled out with nine shops by February 1964 and a United California Bank in March of 1964. The Spirit Shop even sold RB branded liquor. The photo to the left shows how the center looked at that time and the list of stores is from the Bernardo Brandings dated September 1966. The center was called Pomerado Village Shopping Center, Rancho Bernardo Village Shopping Center or as you see on the left, just Rancho Bernardo Shopping Center.

We still shop there today but it's undergone many changes. Where is the shopping center located? At the corner of Rancho Bernardo and Pomerado Roads.

Men's Voices Brought Music to RB

"The Rejects?" Yes, that was the name of a long-running musical group in Rancho Bernardo. A group of men who liked to sing got together to form a group. "What should we call ourselves?" "How about the rejects," joked one man — and the name stuck. They began performing in the mid-1960s and continued for many years under the direction of Dr. Merle Francis, growing to 55-60 members with accompanying musicians. They appeared not just in RB but throughout the county. We have many photographs of this group at the museum.

The Troubadours were a popular barbershop group. Thanks to the late Ralph Parris, an RBHS member, who was a part of the group, we have a number of photographs in addition to programs, music books and information about barbershop singing.

There was a Ladies Choral Group in RB but we have no information about them. If you were part of that group, we'd love to hear from you.



Above, the Rejects in 1975 with director Merle Francis in the white jacket. To the right are the Troubadours, performing in competition in 1982.



Division Prelims—SoCal East
Ontario, California
May 22, 1982

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



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

SPEAKERS SERIES UPDATE

Dr. Richard Carrico will be speaking on the History of Winemaking in San Diego County on Saturday, November 12 at 11 a. m. at the museum.

Dr. Carrico, a professor in the American Indian Studies Department at San Diego State University, is also a winemaker and the author of a new book on the history of wineries and winemaking in the county. Copies of the book will be available after his talk.

This program will wind up our Speakers Series for the year. But stay tuned for a new season of talks beginning in January 2017.

Vincent Rossi, Coordinator



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Become a Museum Docent
Contact:
Jane Harmon at 858-775-5788

THANKS TO OUR 2016 PANCAKE FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Platinum

- Windermere Homes & Estates

Gold

- Lexus Escondido
- The Remington Club

Silver

- First American Trust

Bronze

- Casa de las Campanas
- George Cooke Team
- Greenway Lawn Aeration
- Oracle Corporation
- Sierra Pacific Mortgage

Special Thanks

- Albertsons
- Barons Market
- Bernardo Moving & Storage
- Boy Scout Troop 685
- Cafe Merlot
- Nancy Canfield
- Courtyard Marriott
- Del Norte High School Key Club
- Girl Scout Troop 8157
- Ginny Jackson
- Jewel & Vine
- Nancy Layne
- Los Rancheros Kiwanis Club
- Mt. Carmel High School Key Club
- Vons