

# Newsletter of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Volume 1, Issue 4A

December 2005

## A Special Christmas Edition



Tom Cook, President



Susan Floyd, Vice-President

The Board and Volunteer staff of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society wish you a Happy Holiday and hope you had a fulfilling and prosperous 2005. Hopefully an even better year awaits you.

The Museum that opened in April at the Bernardo Winery had a very successful 'launch' thanks in large part to the generosity of our Donors. 2006 will bring even greater progress towards our goal of a full/size permanent Museum. We look to you for support.

We pledge our effort to continue the mission of your Society in preserving and appreciating the rich history of this area.

### THE BERNARDO WINERY

For 116 years, Bernardo Winery has stood the test of time to become one of the largest wineries in southern California. Today Bernardo Winery offers over a dozen village shops including an award winning restaurant and quaint coffee shop.

With the holiday season in full swing, there are so many opportunities to be entertained, shop, dine, taste, and maybe even get lost in the Bernardo Winery's famous old country charm.

Rossi Rizzo, Co-Director, Bernardo Winery  
[www.bernardowinery.com](http://www.bernardowinery.com)

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Neighborhood  
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San Diego, CA 92127

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS .

### THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP:

Mike and Karen Stelman; Susan Floyd; Jane Harmon; P. J. and Momina Skill; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jacobs; Joyce Tavrow; Brian Maienschein; Margaret Stockman; Vivi-Anne Riordan; Oscar and Hilda Teel; Jeanne and Edward Brown; Cecilia Burr; Sally Edwards; Ruth I. Bradley; and Joan Childers and John Phillips.

### WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER:

**M. Colin Young; Cheryl Edwards; Karen Blankinship; May Rivera; Suzanne Swift; Sean and Leora Brophy; Don and Marjorie Rohan; Edward and Lynn Douglas; Renate Felix; Adrienne Gimbel; Benita Page; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Steffan; Alicia Annas; Gerald Campbell; Sharon Bailey; Nora Belmer; Sam Blank; Farah Egli; John Gardner; Karin Gentry ; Cathe Gigstad; Sharon Gregory; Kay Hanlon; Dee Dee Hill; Sallie Hite; Randy Jones; Patti Keller; Stephanie Kosmo; Eric Matz; Pat Morton; Carol Prendergast; Len and Bev Reed; Paul Rode; Marilyn Sandstrom; Gwen Thompson; Michelle Warner; and Gina Youngren.**

We very much appreciate your support throughout the year. You, our members, are the backbone of this organization. Many thanks to all of you and best wishes for a

### HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL THE BEST IN 2006.

Jutta Gilstrap,  
RB Historical Society  
Membership Chair

## CHRISTMAS IN RANCHO BERNARDO THROUGH THE YEARS

The streets and driveways of Westwood were lined for the first time with luminarias for Christmas in 1970. Symbolically a welcome sign for the Christ child, luminarias are actually lighted candles in sand-filled paper sacks. 2005 is the 35th year of the tradition.

In 1971, the annual Christmas home decoration contest was held. Every home in Rancho Bernardo was to be judged by a panel of experts. Has Rancho Bernardo outgrown this event?

In December 1969, the Drama Club presented Agatha Christie's play *The Mousetrap*. What happened to the Drama Club?

Oaks North opened its 27-hole Executive Golf Course on December 1, 1971. The course was built for one million dollars. Can't do that today.

In 1970, a new tradition started. A lamp-lit column of Rancho Bernardo Residents hiked to the top of Battle Mountain to light a Star of Peace which will reflect the spirit of Rancho Bernardo for all to see through the Christmas season. Not a bad tradition to resurrect.

In December 1974, the just organized RB Chorus, will present its first formal concert, *A Holiday Sing Thing*, at the Oaks North Community Center Auditorium. The fee was \$2.50. They are still going strong, but the group has many more than 35 members now, and the price has increased somewhat.

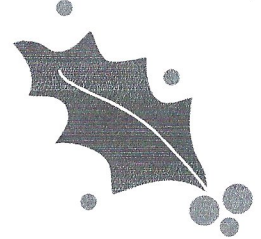
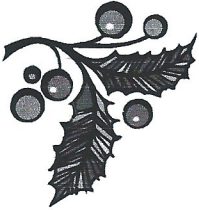
During the Christmas season of 1975, Seven Oaks residents celebrated its thirteenth Anniversary. Can you imagine? This Christmas is Seven Oaks forty-third anniversary! It doesn't look that old.

In 1973, the Mercado was a very active shopping center. It had 44 unique shops and held an *International Festival of Christmas*, with entertainment the whole month of December.

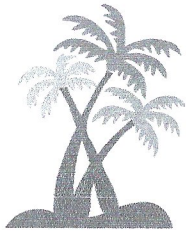
Thanks to Rancho Bernardo Brandings for all the above information.

## T'was the night before Christmas ...in beautiful Rancho Bernardo

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through our town,  
No noses were frozen, no snow fluttered down.  
No children in flannels were tucked into bed,  
They all wore their shorty pajamas instead.  
To find wreaths of holly was not very hard,  
For holly trees sprouted right in the back yard.



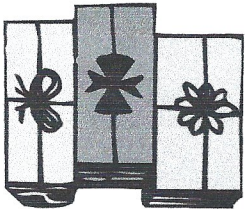
In front of the houses were daddys and moms,  
Admiring begonias and beautiful palms.  
The slumbering kiddies were dreaming in glee,  
Hoping to find boogie boards under the tree  
They all knew that Santa was well on his way,  
In a SC 430 instead of a sleigh.  
He whizzed o'er the freeways and up RB Road ,  
In a shiny new sports car delivering his load.



The tropical moon gave the Mercado a glow,  
And lighted the way for Santa below.  
And soon he arrived and started to work;  
He hadn't a second to linger or shirk.  
As he jumped from the auto, he gave a wee chuckle;  
He was dressed in jeans cutoffs with a H.O.G. buckle.



There weren't many chimneys, but that caused no gloom,  
For Santa came in through the patio room.  
He stopped at each house, staying only a minute,  
And lightened his sack of the gifts that were in it .  
Before he departed, he treated himself  
To bottled spring water left on the shelf .



Then he turned with a jerk and ran back to the car ,  
Remembering he still had to go very far .  
He jumped in the Lexus and put it in gear ,  
And drove throughout town singing with cheer .  
And I heard him exclaim as he went on his way,  
"Merry Christmas, Rancho Bernardo,  
I wish I could stay!"



Visit our web site:  
[www.rbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rbhistoricalsociety.org)



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