

# Newsletter of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2005

## YES, WE HAVE A TEMPORARY HOME!

By Susan Floyd, President

Yes, We Have a Temporary Home!

It's taken many months of planning, field trips, and phone calls, but we finally have a temporary home for the RBHS Museum. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the RBHS Board of Directors approved a site at the Bernardo Winery. There is still a lot of work to be done before the small building is open to the public, but everyone is pleased that the society will now have a presence in the community and a starting point to ensure that the vision of a permanent Rancho Bernardo Museum becomes a reality. In addition to the Winery site, a committee comprised of members of the RB Community Foundation and the Historical Society visited two other possible locations: one in Bernardo Heights and the other near the Sikes Adobe Farmstead. Brian Maischein's office is providing support and suggestions. Tom Cook has also met with Susan Carter, San Dieguito River Park deputy director, for possible collaboration with that group. We have engaged Mr. Kit Ashley, local architect, to visually capture our needs. Please look for upcoming news releases regarding the grand opening of the small museum or give Tom a call (487-5088) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Help us Grow

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society is a non-profit organization, dedicated to preserving the local history and increasing public awareness through programs and outreach. As a non-profit we depend on the community to help us accomplish our mission: volunteers, donations and contributions, memberships, and gifts to our collections.

### Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the society, and we simply couldn't operate without them. In the past, we've had a great time working on sorting and filing newspaper clippings and photographs, developing special events, assisting with mailings and helping with the numerous other jobs that need to be done. Here's an example of some of the many opportunities available:

- **Immediate help** is needed to move the collections now stored in the rental space to the Winery facility. Please call Tom Cook at 487-5088 to let him know when you are available.
- **Special Events Committee:** help us plan now for upcoming fundraising events, Friday fundraising at the Winery, and special General meetings

President  
Susan Floyd

1st Vice President  
Tom Cook

2nd Vice President  
Mike Stelman

Secretary  
Joyce Gage

Treasurer  
Sue Johnson

Membership  
Jutta Gilstrap

Newsletter Editor  
Oscar Teel

Immediate Past  
President  
Cathy Sirpis

Board Members

Barbara Billeter  
Carol Gibson  
Bob Gibson  
Marty Judge  
Larry McIntyre  
Tom Richards

at the RB Library.

- **Photograph Collection:** help sorting out the photographs and beginning to document and log this important collection
- **Newspapers and Books:** help with the news clipping file, creating a book catalog, conducting research. Oral History tapes: help transcribing oral history tapes, documenting existing tapes, participating in taping and processing of oral histories.

### Donations & Contributions

The Historical Society welcomes financial donations and contributions. Contact Susan Floyd, President, at 487-4599 for more information on how we can work together to establish a gift that will suit your needs.

### Membership

Members make a difference! Not only do your membership fees assist the Historical Society in running its many programs, but as a member you receive advance news of upcoming events.

### MEMBERS

As of February 14th, the RBHS has a total of 100 current members. **Jutta Gilstrap**, Membership Chair, reported this good news at the Board meeting. She is actively recruiting new members. If you know of a neighbor or friend who is not already a member of the society, please give Jutta a call and let her know. 451-2849

Welcome to these new members from December to February:

**Robert Alexander, J. Woodrow Beard, William Bonner, George Cooke, Barbara Deahl, Bob Fletcher, Robert Holmes, Virginia Huddleston, Charles Innis, William Jordan, Frank Leamy, Shirley Napierala, Catherine Nash, Jacqueline Nelson, Willa Olivas, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nesbitt, Eleanor Stephens, Bion Murphy, Marion & Gloria-Jo Pierce, Myrna & Lou Reese,**

### RBHS RECEIVES GRANTS

By Tom Cook

On December 1, 2004, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price made a one time community project award of \$25,000 to our Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. It is required to use these funds during the budget year 2004-2005. This grant was triggered by providing matching funds of \$25,000 that was secured through the vigorous effort of the RB Community Foundation. In addition, the RB Community Foundation has committed to provide an endowment of \$250,000 the interest from which will be used for operating expenses for our planned RBHS museum.



Members attending the Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Rancho Bernardo Inn have a firm grip on the grants checks

**Did you know:** In December 1868, Zenas Sikes purchases 2,400 1/2 acres of the Rancho San Bernardo for \$2,500?

**Do you** have an interesting fact about Rancho Bernardo to share? Submit to Oscar Teel at [odteel@aol.com](mailto:odteel@aol.com).

**Stanton Speer, Ruth Collings, Carole Stelman, Marjorie Stettbacher, Stephen and Annegret Wilder, M. J. Tashjian, Sarah Wagner, Mildred Wells, Dick & Barbara Warden, and Clark Welsh**

and to our Life member **RB Self Storage**. Thank you for your support.

## FAREWELL TO CATHY SIRPIS

February 14th was Valentine's Day and it was with a lot of heart that the RBHS said farewell to Cathy Sirpis, long time secretary and currently president of the society. The couple are moving to Virginia in April to be near their children.

A party for Cathy and Alex was held prior to the board meeting at the San Diego National Bank. A certificate of appreciation and a special gift were presented to Cathy. Mike Stelman graciously sponsored the event. Thank you, Cathy, for all the many years of contributing to RB History. You have enriched us all!

## SUSAN FLOYD ELECTED PRESIDENT

Tom Richards, chair of the nominating committee, presented one name for election, and Susan Floyd was unanimously voted president. She will continue in this position until October when the fall general meeting elections are held.

## GIFTS TO OUR HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Do you have interesting Rancho Bernardo memorabilia, photographs, historical artifacts, postcards or other ephemera that need a good home? RBHS is interested in expanding our collections, and now that we have a larger storage facility, we are interested in building up our resources. We are especially interested in printed resources... locally published newspapers and newsletters, which are needed to support historical research related to Rancho Bernardo and the surrounding area.

*Mark your calendar for  
April 13th—our next  
General Membership  
Meeting  
Rancho Bernardo Winery*

## CATHY SIRPIS HONORED BY THE RANCHO BERNARDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



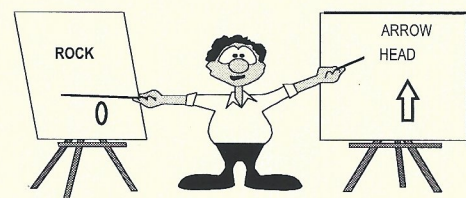
Cathy and Alex Sirpis

On Wednesday, February 17, Cathy Sirpis was honored by the Rancho Bernardo Chamber of Commerce during the monthly business mixer. Speeches and accolades highlighted by a Proclamation presented by Councilman Brian Maienschein overflowing with 'whereas' were used to bid Cathy and her husband, Alex, a fond farewell. They are leaving Rancho Bernardo to live in Falls Church, Virginia.

## APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup> HISTORY SEMINAR

By Tom Cook

On Saturday, April 23rd, the San Dieguito River Park will sponsor a half day seminar hosted by the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteers at the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, just East of the Wild Animal Park. Geared to those with a passion for local valley history, lectures, demonstrations, bound materials, and a BBQ lunch will be provided. For details please call the San Dieguito River Park (858)674-2275.



*Next Board Meeting, March 14, 2 PM  
San Diego National Bank*

**License Plate Frames are for Sale**

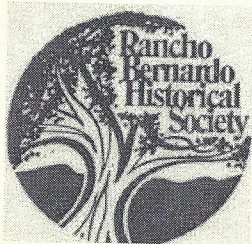
**Have you seen the great license plate frames featuring  
the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society?  
One for \$6.00 and 2 for \$10.00 This has  
been a great fundraiser for the Society.**

**They can be purchased at either the Chamber of Commerce  
or Senior Services.**

**Makes great gifts, too!**



**Thanks to all of you who have contributed.**



Rancho Bernardo  
Historical Society  
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San Diego, CA 92198-7314

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE  
PAST YEAR?**