



Newsletter of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

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Recording History: Past and Present

By Peggy Rossi

It was lights, camera, action at the Daley Ranch House on the afternoon of Sunday, February 11th. The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society was the director but the stars of the show were our guests: Donald and Toni Daley, Nina Renda, Bob Williams, Elizabeth Rizzo and Ross Rizzo and the current owners of the ranch house, Gayle and Lee Sorrell who provided the set.

The Daley family originally owned what is now Rancho Bernardo. Donald and Toni Daley kindly agreed to provide us with a filmed oral interview which was conducted at the ranch house, where the original documents were signed for the sale of the land that became Rancho Bernardo. Ross Rizzo, his sister Nina and his mother Elizabeth provided additional background on the Bernardo Winery and talked about their relationship with the Daley family. Bob Williams, whose father worked in the Valley Verde area, provided insight into ranch operations in Rancho Bernardo and his family's close relationship with the Daleys.

Comparisons between then and now were inevitable as Mr. Daley spoke about the hay baling operations that took place where golf courses and condominiums now stand and as he described driving a herd of mules from the ranch over to La Mesa. Elizabeth Rizzo amazed us all when she mentioned that the winery did not have electricity until 1944. Helping her mother can great quantities of fruits and vegetables was part of Nina's recollections, but she also spoke of the wonderful times she had, growing up at the winery. Bob Williams described for us the frequent celebrations and barbeques at the ranch house.

The Historical Society would like to extend its thanks to Nancy Canfield for her tireless work in arranging this program, to Museum Director Susan Floyd for being our interviewer, to the Sorrell family for providing the historic setting and Cord Cameron along with Tory Chanel of Team Video for providing the technical equipment and expertise. After the film is edited, it will be available for viewing by appointment and will remain in our archives to provide future Rancho Bernardo residents and historians a picture of those early days.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE GOODBYE 2006.....HELLO 2007

By Tom Cook, President

What a year 2006 has been! Your Board has done an outstanding job. Your temporary Museum has experienced interesting requests for community service. Your Museum Staff is improving in numbers and knowledge. Awareness of area history through oral history interviews, talks, lobby displays and events is increasing. The moving and using of the Prudential-Information Building did not work out. We could have paid for moving costs but the cost to upgrade to modern building codes was prohibitive. Your If between now and June we can continue our pace of fund collection and if the City Building Permit process takes a favorable course, we should be able to start Museum construction in July. We then could move-in about December.

One problem exists. Our current membership hovers around 200. This will pay for Society Operations but is insufficient to pay for new museum displays and to show public support. I challenge each member to recruit at least one new member in 2007. With your help we cannot fail. Thank You. Capital Fund Drive Team is simply amazing. Starting with a kick-off in September and through the four months ending in December they have secured \$88,000 giving us a current Building Fund Balance of approximately \$125,000. They are un-stoppable.

RB History Museum Brick Program 2007

Our new museum at the Bernardo Winery is coming soon, and you can help in the fundraising effort by becoming a part of the museum itself! Purchase a Museum Brick inscribed with your message or name. Your brick will be installed in the walkway or plaza at the new museum; your contribution to the history of the RB area, and to the museum itself, will be remembered for generations.

Brick Pricing

4" x 8" Brick, 3 lines of engraving = \$250
8" x 8" Brick, 6 lines of engraving = \$500
8" x 8" Signature Brick or Corporate Logo
Brick = \$1000

IN MEMORIAM

By Susan Floyd

Long time historical society member Presper Joseph Skill, known to us as P.J., passed away January 20, 2007. A World War II veteran, he owned a wholesale lumber business in Los Angeles and later locally. He supplied shakes roofs for many of the early Rancho Bernardo homes. He helped secure the land where Pomerado Hospital is located today. He was involved in many community activities for which he received recognition in the Hall of Fame as early as 1974. He strongly believed that while developers build houses, "it takes people to build communities." We extend our sympathy to Momina and his son Jim.

Ed note: I consider myself honored to have received one of his famous roses which he brought to one of the historical society's general meetings. Sf

THANK YOU

Darrell Eichhoff for your major contribution.

Welcome to Mary Karscig our new Life Member and also purchaser of a brick.

Three easy steps to be part of RB History.

1. Obtain form at museum or call (858)487-5088
2. Choose the size of your brick.
3. Enter your engraving text on the form.
4. Send in check and order form to:

RB Historical Society, P.O. Box 27314, San Diego, CA 92198-7314 or phone (858)487-5088



HISTORY WAS MADE TODAY!

Submitted by Nancy Canfield

Today, a bit of history was created when George Cooke and High Country West coordinator and liaison, Stephanie Camerino gathered dozens of youngsters and adults at the High Country West Club. They created a personal piece of art on a tile, depicting a slice of RB history, to be installed at the new Rancho Bernardo Museum. With blank tiles poised in one hand, and sketch pencils in the other, all eyes were turned up to today's history teacher, Historical Society President Tom Cook. He told them about the days when there was no Interstate 15, only old 395, and how early rancheros drove cattle up the dusty road to nearby ranches like Ralphs and Daley. And about the Kumayay Indians who lived here. And how, when Lake Hodges dam was built, the original town of Bernardo was sunk, and now lies at the bottom of the lake. As they listened, their minds conjured pictures, and when they bent their heads over tiles and palates, their brushes produced scenes of long ago: horse drawn wagons, cattle, even a pig!

The tiles will be fired by Clayworks, at the Bernardo Winery, and installed inside and outside of the new museum when it is built later this year. The \$20 our artists paid for their tiles, will help make that dream a reality. You can learn a lot more about your local history by visiting <http://RBHistoricalSociety.org>. If you would like to make some history with your community center, school, church, or any group, have a tile painting event. Just contact Tom Cook at (858) 487-5088 and he'll provide a turnkey production – complete with history lesson, helpers, and supplies.

TILE PAINTING AT THE HIGH COUNTRY WEST COMMUNITY CENTER Saturday, January 27, 2007



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SECOND ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

AND CONCERT

Saturday, May 26, 2007

8:00 AM - Noon



Volunteers are needed for this Second Annual Pancake Breakfast and Concert to be held at the Winery.

Help us make this event a success and get to know other friends of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society. For more information, call Karen at (858)613-1933.



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