



Newsletter of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Vol. V Issue 1

January 2010

Welcoming Three New Board Members

By Nancy Canfield



*Kristine DeMatteo, Margarita Logan
and Pat Johnston*

The addition of three active community volunteers to our Board is good news for our organization as we move forward toward our mission to preserve our local history. A warm welcome to Kristine DeMatteo, Margarita Logan and Pat Johnston.

Kristine learned to love Rancho Bernardo as a college student who worked in our community first as a school liaison for the American Cancer Society and later as a case worker for Big

Brother Big Sister. Married to a Marine, she traveled around the country – always planning to eventually locate here. Three years ago, Kristine, her husband and two young sons returned. Kristine became active in the Rancho Bernardo High School Friends of the Library and served last year as its President. She enjoys being a Room Mother at school and growing a vegetable garden at her new home. She has a Masters degree in Education and is very excited to be part of the Historical Society team educating the community about our fascinating history.

Margarita, a native of Barcelona, Spain has lived in the USA since 1967. After living in the San Francisco Bay Area for five years, she moved to New York where she earned a Masters degree in Social Work, and enjoyed a 24 year career specializing in family and children services. For 32 years she was very active as a volunteer and Board member of LIHS, a fair housing center in Long Island. Margarita moved to Rancho Bernardo last year to retire near her son and his family and be closer to her daughter and her family who lives in Phoenix. She loves the Rancho Bernardo area as it reminds her of Spain with the warmer climate, olive trees and vineyards. She is one of the original Historic Society docents trained to share our history with visitors at our museum.

Pat moved to Rancho Bernardo in 1969 with her husband and three daughters. She has been active on community boards for school groups, girl's sports and women's clubs, along with her involvement in her church. Pat has volunteered one day a week for the RB Chamber of Commerce and RB Senior Services and is a member of the Republican Women's Club. Her daughters still live in the area and the whole family is actively involved in the community and the schools. She is a Life Member of the Historical Society and, as a 40 year resident, Pat will bring valuable perspective to our recollections of the past.

Huge Thanks

By Susan Floyd, Museum Director

To all those volunteers who made the museum move and opening a success, our thanks. The painters, the movers under Tom Cook's direction, Don Sheffler for creating the audio portion of the Transportation exhibit, Nancy Amon who created the Donor Wall, Oscar Teel who installed the Wall of Honor, Bill Durney and staff of Rancho Computer Networks, Inc. who donated a desktop computer, Oscar Teel who donated a color printer, Tom Cook who installed the wall partitions, and to Chris Ward and the Soroptimists International of RB who planned the first community organization display.

A special thanks to Greg Trigeiro of Twins ProServices who donated his time and supplies to make sure that the carpet in the museum was in pristine condition before we moved in. Their office in Escondido is at (760) 746-7799. Please support our donors.

Memberships

By Sally Edwards, Membership Chair

We want to welcome our latest Life Member, George Cooke. It is so vital now with our new museum that we keep all our current members and we welcome any and all referrals you might have for new members. We are all enjoying visiting the new museum at the Winery. It was great seeing so many of you over the Holidays.

Keep the membership renewals coming!



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www.
RBHistoricalSociety.org

How Blessed We Are!

By Nancy Canfield, President



This is the perfect time to take stock of all the good fortune that surrounds the RB Historical Society. The big event of the year was to be July 7. Then, we expected the Poway Council to give us the green light to go forward with building the RB History Museum at Bernardo Winery. But, as it turned out, there is a legal dispute that rightfully needed to be cleared up before granting the necessary building permits. In the meantime, the Bernardo Winery graciously began making plans to fit the existing RB Museum into new quarters that would better preserve its growing collections, archives, and volunteers.

While we planned our temporary move, we hosted the most exciting event of RBHS' long list of endeavors: A reception for Harry Summers, generally credited for the planning and development of Rancho Bernardo in 1962. Nick Anastasopoulos of Athens Greek Market was responsible for bringing Harry back to us, and the RB community flitted around him like fireflies that summer night at the Café Merlot. As usual, Café owner Toni Kraft ensured that this was the most memorable of all the events she has hosted for the RBHS. (Be sure to visit our website for photos and details of this magical night.

The move to the Vineyard Room on Oct. 9 was completed just in time for our second Antiques Fair! What a hit, under the dauntless care of Jane Harmon, our newly appointed Second Vice President, with eighty visitors and over one hundred items appraised. (Jane, with Karen Rott, is the co-chair of our annual Pancake Festival, our signature event). Though we had four appraisers, and nearby Cabernet Jewelers as a satellite appraiser for those bearing fine jewelry, we had to decline appointments. We plan to host this popular event again in March.

Once again, board member Carolyn Hess successfully co-ordinated our annual community meeting on Oct. 19 at the gracious Remington Club II. Noted local historian Jack Templeton was our speaker, and what a great job he did! A brief meeting preceded the talk, at which dedicated board member Karen Rott, now First Vice President and leader of our nominating committee, asked for additional nominations for board members from the floor. See our three new additions on page 1 of this issue, for whom we are so thankful!

As the future of our building site at the Bernardo Winery is uncertain, we have been fulfilling our duties to our members, donors, and the community by pursuing the numerous gracious offers that have come in from the community: Bernardo Heights, Sikes Adobe, The Ed Brown Senior Center, and 7 Oaks Community Center. The first two have proven untenable, but the latter two plus the Winery, are still viable. We are thoroughly exploring the possibilities of a new museum at one of these sites. Once again, much to be thankful for!

On Dec. 5 we held our official opening of the museum at the Vineyard Room, and had a wonderful turnout. The enthusiasm was high for the displays, the location, the facility, and the holiday treats.

Meanwhile, we continue with the business of the RB Historical Society and Museum. Right now, docent training is in process under Susan Floyd, our tireless museum director. More trained docents will enable us to extend our days and hours of operation. You are invited to join this elite team. Susan also led the museum refurbishment committee, a legion of volunteers who cleaned, painted, and shouldered furniture and equipment into a splendid site for our temporary museum. Be sure to come by and marvel at the outcome.

Tom Cook, former President, Vice President, and long time board member, headed up

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the relocation from the old museum to the Vineyard Room, harvesting able-bodied volunteers from the community. What a team! Tom also heads up all of our community outreach, those displays you see in the banks, Vons, and at the street fairs and community events. Most notably though, Tom has been the driving force behind all matters relating to the planning and construction of the new museum. He has tirelessly liaised with the late Winery owner Ross Rizzo, his heirs, our architect, contractor, San Diego and Poway Planning departments - every detail of building the Rancho Bernardo Museum. Oh, yes, we have so much and so many to be thankful for!

Bernardo Winery held its second annual Holiday Nights on Dec. 18, 19, and 20. The museum received about 100 visits the first night and 50 on each subsequent evening. The winery shops were open and festooned with lights and cheer. Café Merlot was serving as fast as the visitors could sit down for a meal. There was even a horse drawn carriage giving tours through the vineyards. On the Tasting Room Patio, Santa and Mrs. Claus were holding court for all the youngsters in the crowd. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this unique Rancho Bernardo tradition next year.

Our current museum hours are Tues. and Fri. 9-12. Stop by the Farmers Market at the Winery for your fresh fruits and vegetables, then come over to the museum and see what we've accomplished.

Wishing you abundance in all good things for 2010!

Locating and Sampling Our Historic Treasures

By Tom Cook

OK, so what are 'historic treasures', living history examples? Here are four examples within greater RB. It's worth noting that all existed prior to modern RB history which started in 1960.

#1 Mule Hill Battle Field (c Dec. 1846)

Park your car at the 'On-the-Border' Mexican restaurant by the Westfield shopping mall and cross Via Rancho Parkway. Walk a few hundred yards on the Coast-to-Crest Trail and you will arrive at the first panel display. Here, Kit Carson is describing the start of the battle. Walk a little further and you arrive at three panel displays that describe the actual Battle. A future panel will describe the Mexican

forward position. Also, visit the Sikes Museum collections or go online at www.SanPasqualBattlefield.com-Site Location Project by George Hruby. It's well worth your time and understanding.

#2 Town of Bernardo (c1872 - 1917)

If you walk a few hundred feet further south you will arrive at the actual site of our historic beginning as a community. A stone and display panel with photos point out the General Store, Stage Stop, School, Blacksmith Shop, etc. Walk along the tree stumps and 'feel' history under your feet. Three other panels are on display.

#3 Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead (c 1870)

Across from the shopping center, next to the Golf Center on Sunset Drive, you will see a windmill. This is the original site of the Adobe built by Zenas and Eliza Sikes. Much progress is being made to replace the damage done during the great firestorm of 2007. Opening is scheduled for June, 2010.

#4 San Diego to Yuma Road (c1820 - 1870)

If you go along Pomerado Road just south of Mirasol across the street from The Trails entrance, you will see a new high fence, presumably placed there by SDG&E. Prior to the fence and gate being added, you could clearly see a small section of the old Yuma Road that went thru RB. If you look closely you can imagine the original Padres traveling to the San Pasqual Mission Station and hide gatherers moving south to the ships in the late 1700's. General Kearny and his battered Army of the West moved along it in 1846, Stage and Mud Wagons bounced up the trail in the 1860's.

3

Do You Volunteer?

By Susan Floyd, Museum Director

Did you know that according to 2008 statistics every volunteer hour in California is worth \$22.79? In December the RBHS volunteers put in more than 114 hours. Figure the total worth of volunteers in dollars. Not only are volunteers helping the organization financially, they are all giving back to the community with their time and talents.

The organization is fortunate to have 14 museum volunteers who are committed to hours each month. They are

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at the museum the second Tuesday of the month for docent training 9-10 am. And then the fun begins: Jo organizes the bound copies of RB news, Jerry and May work on clipping pertinent news articles for the topic files. Marge starts to inventory the names in the people files. Lisa and Peggy are entering data about photographs in Past Perfect. Faye is checking for telephone messages, Carolyn is taking notes about a potential donation. Sally is updating the membership files; Margarita is organizing the museum shop. And everyone is ready to greet visitors and answer questions about RB history. There were more than 171 visitors in December. The place is buzzing!

Currently the museum is open two days a week. Tuesday and Friday from 9-12. We'd like to be open Saturday and Sunday afternoons but need more dedicated volunteers for those days. If you'd like to join this busy group, please call Susan at 487-4599 or stop by for a visit during open hours.

More Donations

Thanks to Judy and Tim Mazzoni, the museum has a new viewing monitor.

We are very grateful for this gift. Please stop by the museum to watch the Al Deahl video. History will come alive on this new screen!

Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
Spring
Antique Appraisal Faire

Saturday, March 20, 2010
10 am — 3 pm



at
Casa de las Campanas
(in the Dinner Theatre)

18655 West Bernardo Drive - Rancho Bernardo



Verbal Appraisals

- Each item: \$10 per appraisal
- Maximum of 3 items per person

By Appointment Only

Please call Jane Harmon at

858.485.0387 to reserve your time slot



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