

Vol. VI Issue 1

# Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



April 2011



Tom Cook with a uniform worn by the Dragoon Infantry in the Spanish Mexican War

## The Museum Renovations *new paint, new exhibits, a new door*

Our beautifully refurbished museum has attracted hundreds of visitors this spring and is a testament to the hard work by many of our Board Members. Guests are drawn in through our new entrance door which opens from the center of the Winery and leads towards a huge mural of Lake Hodges by local artist Sowinski. The walls have been newly painted under the direction of White Dog interiors. Current exhibits include artwork depicting the Mexican War, a store from the early Town of Bernardo and artifacts recovered by archeologists.



Fred Gahm and Frank Auwarter in front of the Town of Bernardo Store and Post Office Display

Tom Cook has arranged for two period uniforms to be on loan from the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. These reproduction costumes feature a Dragoon Infantry uniform and a typical Californios dress during the Mexican American War. Oscar Teel is working toward installing our two antique cast iron lamps flanking the new entrance. The Grand Opening of the renovated museum is scheduled to coincide with our annual Pancake Festival on May 28 on Memorial Day weekend. However the public is invited for a sneak preview any time during our regular hours!

### SPEAKER SCHEDULE

#### Native Period

(2000 BC – 1870)

10/22/10 - Susan Emery

#### Spanish Period

(1769 – 1823)

2/25/11 - Chris Knudson

#### Mexican Period

(1823-1848)

4/15/11 - Ben Cueva

#### Anglo Transition Period

(1848-1943)

6/17/11 - Tom Cook

#### Modern Rancho Bernardo

(1943-1982)

8/19/11 - Vincent Rossi

#### Expanding Rancho Bernardo

(1982-Today)

11/4/11 - Jack Templeton

## Historical Society Speaker Series

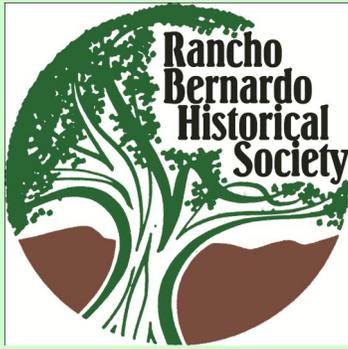
*By Nancy Canfield*

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

Educating and informing our constituency is high in our priorities. Through displays, events, annual community meetings with historic speakers we've accomplished that. This year, we have developed our Speaker Series. With a grant from the RB Community Foundation, we have coincided with the Historic RB Time Line we developed, which was sponsored by a memorial fund from a former dedicated volunteer and historian, Tim Mazzoni.

Bi-monthly, we invite a knowledgeable speaker to the museum to share information on a particular period of history. Our most recent speakers spoke of the Native and Spanish Periods complete with period artifacts such as pottery, weapons, an authentic sword and conquistador helmet. Ben Cueva spoke about the Mexican Period from 1823 – 1848 when this region won its freedom from Mexico.

We hope to expand this fascinating speakers program year after year. Many thanks to the RB Community Foundation for their financial support, Tom Cook for arranging the speakers, Larry McIntyre for recording this bit of history, and Fred and Carol Gahm for organizing the logistics.



P.O. Box 27314  
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## Officers

**President**  
Karen Rott

**1st Vice President**  
Carolyn Hess

**2nd Vice President**  
Gary Powers

**Secretary**  
Valerie Schmitt

**Treasurer**  
Faye Schell

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Tom Cook

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Alethea Altenbern  
Janet Atkin  
Frank Auwarter  
Sue Bair  
Nancy Canfield  
George Cooke  
Sally Edwards  
Fred Gahm  
Jane Harmon  
Margarita Logan  
Hilda Teel  
Nancy Willson

[RBHistoricalSociety.org](http://RBHistoricalSociety.org)

## President's Corner *By Karen Rott*

**Dear Rancho Bernardo Historical Society,**

*We're Moving Our History Forward* has certainly taken on new meanings in the last four months. The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society has been a very busy group rearranging and moving almost everything in the museum.

Since our last newsletter, we have painted the museum interior, reconfigured all of the displays and established a new front entry. The front door is now on the opposite side of the building with a large welcoming patio and porch right across from the Winery Tasting Room. We are most appreciative of White Dog Interiors, who volunteered to help us redesign our new look.



Amidst all the construction, we launched our Speakers Series with a grant from the Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation. In March, Nancy Canfield, chairperson of this series, introduced Chris Knudson, a member of Los Californianos, who discussed Spanish California. This will be followed on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, by Ben Cueva, a credentialed anthropologist presenting local history during the Mexican Period.

As the construction continued, Jane Harmon didn't let the disorder and confusion distract her. She held yet another successful Antique Appraisal Fairs.

Through all the inconvenience, our museum staff has been unruffled, truly "grace under fire." Even with the chaos, they continue to identify and catalogue items in our archives giving us an invaluable periodical collection. The attention to detail and work that they have done are two of the main reasons that we have made so much progress with these resources. Many thanks from all of us to Peggy Rossi, Collections Manager, for her guidance and support.

Coming up we have our Memorial Day Celebration and Pancake Festival on May 28<sup>th</sup> with a tribute to the military, a Dixieland band and fabulous pancakes by the Kiwanis. Mark your calendars now for pancakes and the Grand Re-Opening of the museum. We hope to see you all there.

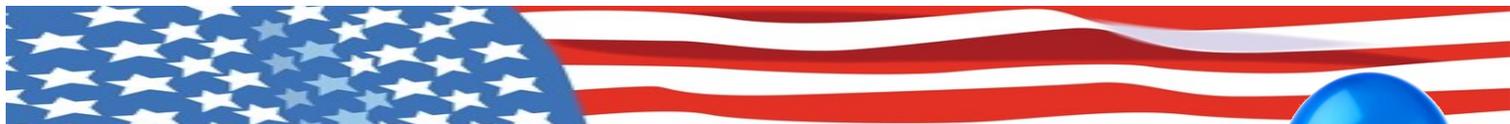
On October 2, we will present the First Art & Wine Festival at the Bernardo Winery. We hope this will become another signature event for the Historical Society. You don't want to miss this fun filled day.

As always, our thanks to all the many organizations, donors, members, workers and friends who make this museum a part of the Rancho Bernardo history.

If you haven't stopped by to see us lately, you should. Come see our new look and meet new and old friends. We also have opportunities for volunteers and docents. If you are interested, you may contact me at the museum regarding the possibilities.

Fondly, Karen

[www.RBHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.RBHistoricalSociety.org)



# Memorial Day Celebration Pancake Festival

Sponsored by Rancho Bernardo Historical Society



Live Music by  
The Dixie Strutters



Wear your Red, White & Blue!



Yummy Pancakes

## Saturday, May 28

### 8 am – Noon

**Bernardo Winery**

**13330 Paseo del Verano Norte**

Buy your tickets at the event or at the  
RB History Museum on Tues or Fri am or Sun pm

**Tickets \$6**

Ages 3 and  
under free

Door  
& Raffle  
Prizes



## FUN & GAMES

**FREE**

### Family Activities

- Bounce House
- Lawn Games
- Balloons & More

Thanks to our many sponsors

And the RB Kiwanis Club—  
our wonderful chefs

[www.rbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rbhistoricalsociety.org)

## Memorial Day Celebration

Bring your military photo  
to be scanned  
for the RBHS Museum  
Wall of Honor

Military & Veterans  
with a photo in uniform

**EAT FREE TODAY**



## HONORING OUR VETERANS



# Hats Off To Susan Floyd!

*Submitted by Nancy Canfield*



For the second year, Rancho Bernardo's "Hats Off to Volunteers" event has invited the RBHS to submit an entrant. Last year, we found that no matter what name we proposed and all that persons' accomplishments, we found ourselves saying, "Yeah, but what about....?" So we nominated the whole group, and I, as president, accepted the award for the group.

This year, we decided to try to single out one person, difficult as it was amongst such a dedicated group of volunteers, and we chose Susan Floyd, our retired Museum Director. Some of Susan's many achievements during her tenure at the Museum follow:

- Opened two temporary facilities which have served as museums
- Recommended the purchase of Museum software to run both the membership and the museum
- Trained volunteers in the use of Past Perfect for both membership and museum collections
- Designed and installed various exhibits about the history of Rancho Bernardo
- Developed polices and procedures for the museum
- Developed a collection policy (for donated materials)
- Catalogued 1000s of artifacts
- Created a docent program with training sessions
- Participated in outreach events to the community
- Developed exhibits and programs with other historical organizations
- Scripted various oral histories
- Supervised high school students with museum projects
- Assisted researchers with the history of RB



I could go on and on, but instead, I ask you to visit our website Blog, Susan's creation, and read her postings. Then, you will have a true picture of her dedication to Rancho Bernardo, and it's history. Susan has decided to retire, and we miss her every day. Hats off to you, Susan, and thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts.

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## Antique Appraisal Faire A Success

Jane Harmon, Chair of the event, poses with Eileen Winship during the Appraisal Faire held on March 19 at the museum.



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**In Memorial—Two very special volunteers**

Jerry Peterson, Museum Docent and Cathy Sirpis, Past President

# Museum Display Committee Created

**By Frank Auwarter**

At its March meeting the Historical Society Board of Directors created a new committee to be known as the Museum Display Committee. The duties of the Museum Display Committee will be to propose museum exhibits for the approval of the board, to assist in the mounting of new exhibits, and to research and gather materials for future exhibits. Board Chairperson Karen Rott appointed board members Valerie Schmitt, Tom Cook, and Frank Auwarter to be members of the new committee. Letia Young and Sue Schaefer of White Dog Interiors were also appointed to the committee to apply their decorating expertise to the artistic presentation of exhibits.



*Depiction of the Mexican War  
Wikipedia Encyclopedia*

The committee has already mounted three exhibits. “The Wall of Honor” has been reinstalled in the new entryway. The Wall of Honor presents photographs of Rancho Bernardo residents who have served in the United States military services. An exhibit entitled “The Battle of Mule Hill” recounts the Mexican War battle that took place in 1846 just to the north-east of Rancho Bernardo. The story of the old town of Bernardo is retold in an exhibit entitled “Bernardo, the Town that Was.” The town of Bernardo was established in 1872 and was finally abandoned in 1918. The exhibit includes a recreation of Bernardo’s general store.

## Behind the Scenes—by Peggy Rossi, Collections Manager

Every Tuesday morning a dedicated group of volunteers works tirelessly to organize, catalog and protect the museum’s collections. These collections include historic objects, documents, newspapers, maps, hundreds of photographs and much more.

Volunteers Trena Mahlum, May Rivera, Marge LaGrone and Carolyn Hess have been bringing our clippings files up to date and assisting people with research questions. Marge and May recently organized folders of early promotional brochures and floor plans for RB’s numerous housing developments.



Jo Berkman has been doing a terrific job creating finding aids for our many document files for researchers to use. Bev Reed will be working with our photo files again so when someone is looking for a particular photo we can find it for them.

Both Jo and Bev have learned to use our PastPerfect museum software to record and catalog our new acquisitions. Recent acquisitions include a 1948 topographic map of the area, a selection of very early RB postcards, a collection of CEC-related items, documents from the early years of the society, and a collection of documents and photographs from the Rancho Bernardo Woman’s Club. We thank all our donors and encourage you to visit the museum and see what we have in our collection.

## Welcome New Members

Bruce Cahill  
Russ and Sue Haskell  
Marc Jobin/Fortress Computer  
Chris Knudsen  
Bill and Patsy Kraus  
Trena Mahlum

Charles and Loretta Mathieu  
Kathleen Mikitka-Gomez  
William Pease  
Michael Puque  
Ellen Willis

Special thanks  
to Marc Jobin of  
Fortress Computer Pros  
for the donation of our  
computer monitor  
in the museum



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## **ART, WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Join Us on Sunday, October 2**

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon wandering through the Bernardo Winery, sipping local beers and wine, admiring fine works of art and chatting with the artists while listening to live music.

The RB Chamber premiered this event in 2002 and now it returns better than ever!

Email Gary at [garyl@comcast.net](mailto:garyl@comcast.net) if you would like to be on the committee to help organize this fun party!

