Antique Appraisal Faire  
Saturday, March 10

Wondering what grandma’s old clock is worth? Have a fine oil painting that may be valuable? The Historical Society is hosting its annual Antique Appraisal Faire on Saturday, March 10 in the museum. Certified appraisers Carol McAndrew and Paul McConnell, who are experts in pottery, porcelain, art, small furniture, silver, costume jewelry, collectibles, dolls and toys, will be giving verbal evaluations between 10am and 2pm. The cost is $10 per item and the maximum is three items per person. Appraisals for fine jewelry are available by Cabernet Jewelers, which is located at the Bernardo Winery. No weapons or firearms may be submitted.

Appointments are necessary for the Appraisal Faire. The Historical Society sponsored a very successful appraisal event in October, 2010. Over 200 items were evaluated and additional appraisers were called in. It is recommended that community residents wishing to participate call early for reservations. Funds raised at the Antique Appraisal Faire will be allocated to the Historical Society’s museum operating endowment.

Call Jane today at 858-485-0387 to make your reservation!

Local Voices Program  
Wed. Feb. 22

A Conversation with Bob Williams

The first presentation of the Historical Society’s new Local Voices program, entitled When There Were More Cows Than People - a Conversation with Bob Williams, will be held on Wednesday, February 22 at 9:30am at Café Merlot in the Bernardo Winery. The Local Voices program is designed to be a casual dialogue featuring stories by long time residents. Williams, whose family ranch included the present day Valle Verde, Green Valley and Silver Saddle subdivisions, will reminisce about growing up in the fifties when about 350 people lived in the area on large working ranches. Williams’ father Homer was a Founder of the local Water District. Bob’s memories include a 1 ½ hour bus ride with local notables like George Daley and Ross Rizzo, attending Pomerado Union elementary on Midland in a four classroom school, and driving 300 head of cattle down the main highway toward San Diego (US 395/Pomerado Road) at age 14. Rural life was tough and isolated on those early farms and Bob will share the experience of growing up in our community when it was undeveloped open ranch land. Bob still lives on his family’s Valle Verde property and works as a real estate appraiser specializing in ranches and farms.
Coyote Tails
History Stories of Rancho Bernardo & Poway

A new Ad Hoc Education Committee has been created to outreach into our local schools with history lessons for elementary students. Chair Lorraine Kaa (pronounced Kay) has developed a presentation entitled Coyote Tails—History Stories of Rancho Bernardo & Poway. In this free 45 minute program Lorraine will use coyote folk lore and narration to educate young students about Native Americans, Early Explorers, Pioneer Days, San Diego Regional History and local community information.

The Historical Society Board has allocated $500 for the purchase of artifacts and other teaching tools for this program. The first presentation is scheduled for mid-February.

Lorraine spent her career as an educator and was a docent at the Museum of Man in Balboa Park for fourteen years where she often organized children’s summer programs. She taught high school history, middle school World Cultures, lectured at San Diego State’s Extension School, and participated in several local archaeological digs.

If you know a teacher who might like to book this program, please have him or her call Lorraine at 858-521-8201 for more details.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Speaker Programs
On Wednesdays at 9:30am at Café Merlot

February 22—Local Voices with Bob Williams
March 14—Chris Knudson, The Spanish Period
April 11—Local Voices with another long time resident TBA
May 9—Ben Cueva, The Mexican Period

Upcoming Events
Antique Appraisal Faire—Saturday, March 10
7th Annual Pancake Festival—Saturday, May 26
RB Tastings Festival—Sunday, September 30

Tom Cook was chosen by the Board to represent the Historical Society at the Hats Off To Volunteers annual event which honors outstanding volunteers in the community. Tom has been a Board member, past President, Speaker Chair and is a dedicated historian.
Introducing Our Land Grant Pioneers—The Snooks

Captain Joseph Snook, an English sea Captain and his wife Maria Antonia Alvarado Snook were local landowners on whose former lands the modern Rancho Bernardo was eventually built. Upon taking Mexican citizenship he changed his name to Don Jose Francisco Snook and soon after was granted two land parcels from the Mexican Government: one in 1842 and the second in 1845, totaling over 17,000 acres. Rancho Bernardo now sits in what was then the southwestern boundary of their estate. Captain Snook died in 1848 and Maria Antonia was remarried in 1853 to Henry Clayton, a land surveyor. She died of smallpox in 1862. They did not have children and their lands were subdivided and sold by their heirs.

Museum Attendance Soars

Many thanks to our loyal museum docents who open the museum to the public four days a week. Our museum is a popular place. Museum attendance has been averaging about 60 people a day and the head count for Holiday Nights in December was 679!

Welcome New Members

We want to welcome our new members to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society.

Thomas & Andrea Arnold
Bill Romo
Michele Simoneau
Bill & Elizabeth Derry
Ross Simmons
Jill Wright
Catherine Barr

Please join us for an exciting year in Rancho Bernardo. Informative speakers each month at the Winery and the 50th Birthday celebration of Rancho Bernardo.

Sally Edwards, Membership Chair

Special Thanks To Café Merlot

Due to the popularity and large audiences for our speaker events, all future programs will be held at Café Merlot—located near the museum in the winery.

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