



# Historic Rancho Bernardo

A ROUND-UP OF STORIES AND NEWS FROM THE RB HISTORY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Spring 2017

## This Special Edition of *Historic Rancho Bernardo* commemorates the 100th Anniversary of US entry into World War I.



Poster courtesy of the Library of Congress

On June 28, 1914, a Serbian nationalist assassinated an Austro-Hungarian archduke in Sarajevo, Bosnia. One month later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The conflict quickly escalated into a global war, pitting Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, known as the Central Powers, against the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan.

The United States originally declared itself neutral, but joined the Allied side in April 1917. Originally known as the World War, the Great War, or the “War To End All Wars,” it came to be called World War I when World War II began.

It was the war that introduced the machine gun, chemical weapons and trench warfare to the world, creating a scale of destruction unseen up to that time. Almost nine million soldiers died on all sides, with 21 million wounded. Of 4.7 million U. S. soldiers who served, 117,000 were killed with 204,000 wounded.

In November of 1918 various members of the Central Powers agreed to an armistice. The war officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles, signed in Paris on June 28, 1919.

At least 140 men who lived in Rancho Bernardo served in World War I. That figure was the total number of members of Rancho Bernardo Barracks no. 1089, a branch of Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., an organization composed of men who served in the war.

The Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc. was organized by War I Buddies in 1948, uniting those who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period of World War I beginning April 6, 1917 and ending November 11, 1918, Armistice Day. It also included those who served in Siberia from November 11, 1918 to July 1, 1921. Among Americans, 4,734,991 men and women participated in the First World War. The VWWI was incorporated by the 85th Congress on 18 July 1958.



# SEVEN OAKS NEWSLETTER

by Otto J. Alvarez, Director  
Seven Oaks Community Center

January has set off 1965 like a rocket, and if the year's beginning is any forecast of the months to come, I guess we'd all better increase our intake of vitamins or something.

**SPANISH**—When we said that the response to registration for conversational Spanish classes was terrific, we did not then know how much so. RB has suddenly taken on the guise of an early California pueblo, language-wise at least, for on Mondays and Wednesdays Spanish is heard all through the Community Center as the students go to and from Spanish classes. The number of residents who took advantage of this, our initial adult education experience with the Poway Unified School District, was so great that it became necessary to have two beginning classes and one intermediate. We want to take this opportunity to welcome the two personable gentlemen who are the instructors, Arthur Ruiz, and Valerio Rodriguez. From all reports, both gentlemen have already been warmly accepted

your neighbors, make new acquaintances, and dance to the music of Johnny Kicman. You are reminded that each person is to bring a valentine signed by you for a special event! Cost for an entire evening of fun \$1 per person. How to dress? You are going to a party aren't you? Assisting the Olivers will be the Vic Reids and the Ed Staggs.

**VETERANS**—On the day that our last newsletter was distributed, another group was organized. This time it is World War I Veterans. The number of individuals attending the first meeting was so large that future meetings will be held in the auditorium, rather than in one of the clubrooms. Their first regular meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 1:30 p.m. This is the third Tuesday of the month and all subsequent meetings will also be held monthly on the third Tuesday at the same time and place. They issue a cordial invitation to all other qualified veterans who would care to join them.

**MEN, HOW ARE YOUR TASTE BUDS?**—One of our single male residents has approached us with a sugges-

at least six or eight who might find this an enjoyable activity and we urge that any one of you who would find participation "tasteful" come to our office and give us your name in order that an organization meeting may be called.

**PHILATELISTS**—There have been a couple of inquiries concerning the formation of a stamp collectors group or club. We take this opportunity to request that any of our residents who are philatelically inclined, please make it known to us in the office in order that we may take necessary steps to form a group.

**LADIES BRIDGE**—The results of last Monday's Ladies Bridge game, with ten tables in action was as follows: Mrs. James Connal, Mrs. Edward Boughton, Mrs. Floyd Jones, and Mrs. Marie Bacon. We had a happy chuckle when we saw the winner of the first prize. It couldn't happen to a nicer lady.

### Wild Flowers To Be Topic

Mrs. Esther Nesbin, Palomar College

The RB Barracks no. 1089 was formed in February 1965, and so many attended the initial meeting, they had to move the next meeting from a club room to the Seven Oaks auditorium. The members were officially called "Buddies."

As part of our exhibit, we are gathering the names of all Rancho Bernardo residents who served in World War I. We are also creating short biographies of each person. As they are written, we will add them to a binder on display at the museum. We hope to have a biography for everyone completed by Veterans Day in November, if not sooner.

Included now in the binder is a list of all the names we have found, along with some biographies. We will also be featuring individuals in the display window, and this display will change each month.

If you know of other individuals in RB who may have served, please let us know and we will add their names. If you are personally related to one of these servicemen or knew them, we would love to hear from you. Please visit the RB History Museum, at the Bernardo Winery to see the list of names.

"Historic Rancho Bernardo" is produced by Peggy Rossi for the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society



Poster courtesy of the Library of Congress

### RB BARRACKS NO. 1089 VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I



By  
**Wallace A. Sawdon, Publicity Chairman**  
Commander Gouert and the 1968 officers of Rancho Bernardo Barracks, Veterans of World War I, conducted their first meeting December 19, 1967. The Commander announced the appointment of the following Chairman: Mat Stein, Legislative Officer; Senior Vice Commander Merle Smith, Membership Chairman; Junior Vice Commander Paul Parker, Service Officer; Wallace Sawdon, Publicity Chairman; Bob Fox, Americanism Chairman.

The Commander then outlined three projects for consideration during 1968. First was for increased membership of eligible Rancho Bernardo residents. Second, a resolution to back the President in Vietnam war efforts advantageous to the United States. Third to propose a Round Robin Lawn Bowling Tournament among the various R B organizations.

**CHARLES B. GOUERT**  
Commander, Rancho Bernardo Barracks No. 1089, Veterans of World War I  
Commander of South Pasadena Post, American Legion in 1942. Adjutant and Sergeant at Arms of 18th District, American Legion. Also served on the California Americanism Committee. During World War I was with the 108 Field Artillery, 28 Division.  
Retired as Manager of Southern California Loan Department in 1962. Came to Rancho Bernardo in 1965. Is a Charter Member of R B Kiwanis Club.

### WORLD WAR 1 VETERANS AUXILIARY



by Mrs. Anne Nelligan

At the July 18th meeting of the World War I Veterans Auxiliary of Rancho Bernardo Barracks No. 1089 Mrs. Ruth Giffin was one of the guests. She reported on a new book she is writing which will take the place of the R. B. Brandings. She took pictures of a group of the ladies who had made 25 Ditty bags for the soldiers in Vietnam. This had been the Auxiliary's project for July in conjunction with the American National Red Cross. The ladies donated items to fill the bags including tooth brushes, tooth paste, ball point pens, shave cream, etc. Their project for August is to make 30 more of these bags for the boys.



Members of World War I Veterans Auxiliary shown above with the ditty bags which they are making for the boys in Viet Nam.