



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XV, Issue 1



Harry Summers family members along with Councilmember Mark Kersey (right) at the dedication of Harry Summers Court.

Harry Summers Court Is Officially Dedicated

by Vincent Rossi

On the afternoon of November 7, the city of San Diego paid an official tribute to Harry Summers, the developer considered the father of Rancho Bernardo. A covered street sign at the intersection of Bernardo Center Drive and Bernardo Plaza Court was unveiled, adding “Honorary Harry Summers Court” to Bernardo Plaza Court.

In November 1961, Summers and his partner and fellow Texan W. R. “Fritz” Hawn created Rancho Bernardo, Inc., a joint venture with Lawrence and Donald Daley, to transform what was then a working ranch into the master-planned community of Rancho Bernardo.

The tribute was initiated by San Diego City Councilmember Mark Kersey, whose Council District 5 includes Rancho Bernardo.

In a brief ceremony before the unveiling, Kersey welcomed members of Summers’ family, including his widow, daughter and son-in-law. Other invited guests included Rancho Bernardo Historical Society President Richard Thorpe and Vincent Rossi, local historian and blogger, as well as Debbie Kurth, representing the Rancho Bernardo Business Association.



Summers, third from right, at groundbreaking for RB’s first bank in 1964. [photo credit] Union Title Insurance Company



OFFICERS

President

Rich Thorpe

Vice President

Fred Gahm

Secretary

Sandy Parkington

Treasurer

George Leitner

BOARD MEMBERS

Alethea Altenbern

Nancy Canfield

Sally Edwards

Carol Gahm

Fred Gahm

Jane Harmon

Raenell Hooten

Bob Kaplan

George Leitner

Jeanne MacLaren

Sandy Parkington

Rich Thorpe

RANCHO BERNARDO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

a 501 (c)(3)

non-profit organization

Tax ID# 33-0269787

P.O. Box 27314

San Diego, CA 92198-7314

858-775-5788

rbhistory1@gmail.com

RB HISTORY MUSEUM

Bernardo Winery

13330 Paseo del Verano N.

San Diego, CA 92128

© 2020 Rancho Bernardo

Historical Society.

All Rights Reserved.

President's Message - *Focusing on a Turn of the Decade*

By Rich Thorpe, President

As we launch a new decade, it's natural to reflect on the past and start looking forward. For an organization that opened the first Rancho Bernardo History Museum in a shed at the Bernardo Winery in 2005, we've accomplished a lot.

With great support from the community and the Winery, we renovated the old workshop and relocated there in 2013. We raised over \$200,000 and embedded "cornerstones" for major donors on the front wall.

In partnership with Escondido History Center in 2015, we built a replica "mud wagon" stage coach of the type that traveled through the Rancho Bernardo area from about the mid-1870s to the early 1900s. We built a staircase for visitors to climb inside and roll it out for parades and other events throughout the county.

Since 2015, we have digitized massive amounts of historical information, including all issues of the *Bernardo Brandings* (our community's first periodical), most of our photograph collection, and many documents covering all aspects of our community's history.

We jump-started our free Monthly Speaker Program in 2015, which now draws a full house on a regular basis. We continue to expand our Native American education program at local elementary schools.

Looking forward to the next decade, we will enhance the museum entrance by recreating the original grapevine-covered pergola, adding outdoor exhibits, and refurbishing the commemorative bricks.

Next, we plan to revamp and update our indoor exhibits, including one dedicated to local Native American culture. We're also working on a new interactive Wall of Honor Display to accommodate the next generation of local U.S. military service men and women.

To better serve the community, we will build on the partnerships we've established with local organizations, such as the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Soroptimists, and the RB Community Foundation. Our new "Window on the Community" will feature them and others on a rotating basis.

Most importantly, we hope to invigorate the community to support the preservation and appreciation of Rancho Bernardo's unique history. As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, we invite you to help us accomplish even more this decade.

RB Historical Society Receives Two Grants

by George Leitner, Treasurer

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society recently received two significant grants that will fund improvements to exhibits both inside and outside the museum in 2020.

The first grant, received in October 2019, was from the County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program for \$13,300 to restore the museum entrance area.

This will include replacement of all the weathered commemorative bricks at the entrance with more durable laser-engraved ones. These bricks give recognition to generous donors for over the last six years.

A pergola will be installed the full length of the museum front wall in the style of a pergola that was removed years ago. It will provide shade and protect visitors as well as reduce sunlight into the museum that can damage displays inside.

A third element will be historical outdoor exhibits which can be viewed even when the museum is closed. Included will be a timeline depicting significant Rancho Bernardo and Winery history.



Original pergola outside building at the winery that would become the RB History Museum

In November 2019 a \$7,000 grant was received from the Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation to enhance exhibits inside the museum.

This will include a central panel with information about local Native American history and traditions and video screens to provide searchable access to our extensive collection of documents and photos including those from our military Wall of Honor.



Proposed digital interface for Wall of Honor

Navigational signage color keyed to the chronology of the existing timeline will be added.

Implementing all these elements during 2020 will be supported by a museum consultant and an exhibits committee which needs additional volunteers. Please consider joining and helping meet these ambitious goals.

These generous grants, which are in addition to our basic operating budget, are vital to maintaining and updating the museum.

We are grateful to the District 3 County Supervisor Kirsten Gaspar and her staff as well as to the many donors that make the RB Community Foundation grants program possible.

From the Archives

by Peggy Rossi, Collections Manager

We added two new interesting items to our archives collection in December.

One is a very fun cookbook, published by the Women of the Rancho Bernardo Community Church, probably some time in the 1980s. It's titled *Salads and Casseroles for Pot-lucks*. It's all recipes and includes the names of all the contributors. Can someone out there tell us when this was published? It carried no publishing date and we purchased it off Ebay. If you have an RB organization cookbook to donate to the museum, please contact us.

The other is a collection of 12 slides with accompanying digital images, taken in 1985 of the Sikes Adobe. The photographer was Grace Huff who was accompanied on her photography adventure by Escondido historian Frances Bevan Ryan. The slides include several images of the working cowboys who lived there then and images of the building itself, which was in terrible condition at that time. The image shown is of two cowboys on the front porch. We hope to have these images up on our Rancho Bernardo Online website shortly.

We're also working on our clippings files to make them more organized and easily accessed. A binder with a list of the clippings folders available is on the book shelf in the museum. We have clippings from the 1960s to the present. Check it out and if there is something you'd like to see, please call Peggy Rossi at 858-592-9260 to set up a time to view the folder(s).



Cowboys at the Sikes Adobe. Photograph by Grace Huff



Robert Brown posing in front of Wall of Honor

A Treasured Visit from Veteran Robert Brown

The RB History Museum Wall of Honor is one of the most viewed exhibits. Here we display photographs of RB residents who have served in the military.

Last fall, Robert S. Brown and his family visited our museum to see it and see the sign we created to honor him. Bob is now 102 years old and has lived in Rancho Bernardo since 1965. He may have lived here longer than anyone else. He served in the Navy from 1935 to 1965.

If you are a veteran or currently serving in the military, please stop by with a photograph that we can add to our Wall of Honor.

Speakers Series Update

Vincent Rossi, Speakers Series Coordinator

The Rancho Bernardo Historical Society Speakers Series 2020 season is in full swing with a variety of fascinating and informative programs. Talks take place on the second Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. in the museum, located in the Bernardo Winery.

In February we welcome Luke Bramon, head of the Ramona chapter of the Native Sons of the Golden West. He'll talk about the Native Sons' role in preserving California's historic places.

Our March 14 speaker will be Judith Downey, Special Collections and History Librarian at California State University San Marcos. Her topic will be: "Brewers, Bootleggers and Bosses: Women in San Diego Brewing History."

April 18, we'll feature a program on the Rancho Guajome Adobe with park docent Ron Quirk.

For further information on the series, visit www.rbhistory.org/events/speakers



History is a CINCH

by Liz Adams

In the past year I have attended CINCH meetings for RB Historical Society. CINCH stands for Council for Interpreting North County History, started in 1994 to meet the needs of historical societies in North County. I have had the pleasure of attending two of their quarterly meetings so far, and I find it fascinating. The first meeting was hosted by the Encinitas Historical Society, and the second one was at the Vista Historical Society. We discussed upcoming events for our individual organizations and also utilized the "hive mind" to help with any challenges such as membership or programs. I've learned a lot in the process of simply attending these meetings with the added bonus of getting to visit the host group's buildings and grounds afterwards. The next meeting will be hosted by Poway Historical Society on January 27, 2020. RB Historical Society will host the group on April 27. All are welcome. Let me know at liz56042@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

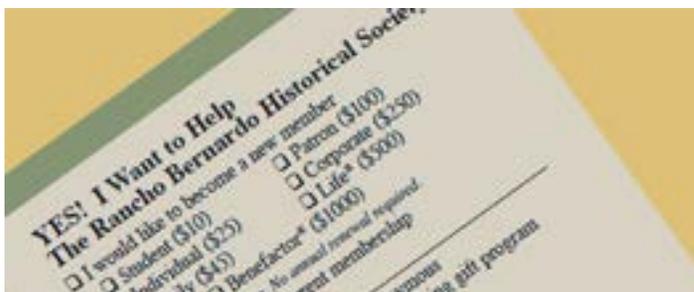
Help Support the Society when you Shop on Amazon

by George Leitner, Treasurer

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Rancho Bernardo Historical Society every time you shop at Amazon at no extra cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply log on to smile.amazon.com (not amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Your username, password, shopping cart, Prime membership and other account settings are all the same. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com select Rancho Bernardo Historical Society as your charitable organization. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. We receive quarterly deposits of all Smile donations directly to our bank account.

Thanks for being a part of our various ongoing efforts to preserve and share Rancho Bernardo history.



Membership News

by Sally Edwards, Membership Chair

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Historical Society from June through December, 2019.

- **Linda Gallagher**
- **William Simmons**
- **Lawrence & Marie Gray**
- **Mary Stanton**
- **Johanna Mullins**

New Life Members for 2019

- **Raenell Hooten**, a long-time member who is also a member of our Board
- **Ann & Chuck Innis** who have been members for many years.

We want to welcome all the new members who have joined us this year!

Thanks to All Our Volunteers

We thank all our volunteers, those listed below, and our board members, listed on page 2, who also wear many other hats:

- **Liz Adams**
- **Shelley Charlesworth**
- **Sue Engelskirchen**
- **Margarita Logan**
- **Karla Plonowski**
- **Peggy and Vincent Rossi**
- **Judy Schlotman**
- **Kathleen Slevin**
- **Nancy Stone**
- **Harold and Janet Swaisgood**
- **Nagie Williams**
- **Jimmie Willis**

Thanks for Helping

Fill out the form below and mail to the P.O.Box noted below. Or you can apply online at

www.rbhistorical.org/support

I Would Like to Become a Member:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$45) | <input type="checkbox"/> Life* (\$500) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor* (\$1000) | |

* One time donation. No annual renewal required.

- Please renew my current membership

I Would Like to Donate to the Society:

- Donation Amount: \$ _____
- Please keep my donation anonymous
- My place of business has a matching gift program
Please contact me for details

I Would Also Like to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Help raise money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in the museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at events |

Please Provide Your Information:

(List both names for Family Memberships)

Name: _____

Address : _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

- My check is enclosed for: \$ _____

Make checks payable to, and mail check along with this form to:

RANCHO BERNARDO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 27314 San Diego, CA 92198-7314

- Please bill my credit card:
 Visa Master Card Discover AMEX

Card No: _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

Authorized Signature (as name appears on credit card):



Rancho Bernardo Historical Society
P.O. Box 27314
San Diego, CA 92198-7314

Become a Docent and Help Us Share the History of Our Area.

We'd love to have your help. We thank you for your membership and support. Without it, we could not do our work of sharing RB history. If you care about history and enjoy meeting people, consider taking your support to the next level.

We need docents – those people who greet visitors and answer questions in the museum. You will have the opportunity to welcome visitors, not only from Rancho Bernardo, but from all over the world. Donating a few hours a month can make a difference, allowing us to be open more often.

No prior experience is necessary; only your enthusiasm to share the RB legacy. Training will be provided. Please contact Jane Harmon at janeharmonsd@aol.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

THANKS 2019 PANCAKE FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Silver

- The Remington Club
- Windermere Homes & Estates

Bronze

- Benchmark Mortgage
- Casa de las Campanas
- George Cooke
- North County Gymnastics
- Silvergate RB

Special Thanks

- Albertsons
- Barons Market

- Bernardo Moving & Storage
- Boy Scout Troop 685
- Courtyard Marriot
- Del Norte Honor Society
- Del Norte Key Club
- Elements Cafe
- Escondido History Center
- Girl Scout Troop 8157
- Hamburger Factory
- Jewel & Vine
- Kiwanis Club RB
- Mt. Carmel Key Club
- Nancy Canfield
- The Original Pancake House
- Rancho Bernardo Inn
- Shea Realty
- Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

Additions to Our Collections

We constantly update our collections with donated items. To see a listing of our latest additions visit our website www.rbhistory.org/museum or contact Peggy Rossi at 858-592-9360.