

May 2011

La Lavandería



Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

May is National Historic Preservation Month

Rancho Guajome will be hosting a work project for volunteers to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation encourages groups throughout the nation to organize preservation related projects in May. Some of the ideas for supporting local historic sites include: hosting an open house, conducting candlelight tours of historic districts, holding workshops or demonstrations on maintaining historic homes and organizing restoration work projects, such as, painting and clean-up.

For further info on preserving historic sites visit www.preservationnation.org and to volunteer for our event call the park office @ (760)724-4082.

Volunteer Project Details:

Date: May 11th, 2011

Time commitment: 3 hours (9a-12)

Project: Adobe limewashing and adobe mud application (i.e. you will get muddy).

Bonuses: Coffee and Bagels provided! Feeling good about preserving America's Historic Sites!



Come help preserve the historic Rancho Guajome Adobe ranch house for the enjoyment of future generations!



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

Rancho Guajome Adobe Docents Have Always Led the Charge!

Rancho Guajome Adobe has a colorful history that is often best told through the lives of those who lived there. The adobe's history as a County Park is often best told through the park's wonderful docents. Sure, County Rangers have always been there leading the charge, but docent fingerprints are all over many of the park's biggest milestones and accomplishments.

Before the chapel and adobe were restored, it was docent **Ruth McGuckin** that scheduled and gave school and private tours. She was also one of many local residents that advocated for the adobe to be restored. No one has probably given more tours of the adobe than Ruth. She also personally trained more than one Sr. Park Ranger on how to best take visitors through the house and cover the major interpretive points. It was also Ruth's husband, **Mac**, who spearheaded the Palomar Woodworker's restoration of Ysidora's carriage.

Docents also headed up the first serious gift store effort. The "garage" made for a logical gathering and starting point for tours, but it wasn't until a group of docents rolled up their sleeves and turned the dark and dingy garage into a functional visitor's center and gift store. From what former Sr. Park Ranger **Diane Kennedy** use to say, the core docents in this effort were **Hank Presutti, Susan Freeman, Carol Marquand, Carol Yunt and Donna Steinbrenner**. Docents **Beverly Thomason** and **Suzie Pere** were also involved early on to help staff the gift store. This must have been around late 1998 or early 1999.

In the early days, the docents helped explore

and develop special event ideas for the growing park. There were a few Mother's Day Teas and an annual sunrise service organized by a local church. There were also the two graduation ceremonies; one from Guajome Park Academy and one from the Guajome Academy's downtown satellite campus. The ceremonies brought over 3,000 people to the park in two days. Docents **Maria Grant, Nell Hassler, Alicia Kruk and Roberta Gibson** always helped out with these events.

Much like nowadays, each docent pursued their interests, but there was one docent that everything ran through; **Lorna Jean Kipke**. Lorna was a master of the telephone. LBJ had nothing on her. She was part organizer, part drill sergeant, but all "friend." She even scheduled the ranger's lunches and sometimes, days off. She was also the head of the livestock committee that took care of the park's chickens, goats and cats. Docents **Jean Rath, Rita Wood and Carole Shanahan** among others were part of the committee.

The RGA docents have always helped shape the park. Early on there was free reign to try new things and see what fit the park. As RGA forges ahead into the future, it will take the next generation of docents and staff to lead the park through its evolving role in the landscape of North County. From ramshackle ranch house to National Historic Site, from quiet park to nexus of local trails— docents will continue to lead the charge!

By Jake Enriquez, District Park Manager for North County

A Look Back: Carriage Dedication at Guajome in 1995

These photos were given to us by the docents at Santa Margarita y Las Flores. The photos were taken during the dedication of Ysidora's carriage (a.k.a. the Doctor's Buggy). It sounds like the restoration was a major undertaking, involving many people that donated their



time, money, skills and resources to the effort. Retired Supervising Ranger, John DeWitt, wrote a one page synopsis of the restoration effort, which I hope to post near the carriage, so visitors can learn about the challenges of the restoration process.

Docent Sign-Up Form for "Adobe Days" Shifts

1. Choose your shift:

- Morning 10a-1:30p Afternoon 1:30p-6p All Day 10a-6p

2. Choose your assignment:

- Adobe Patrol Other _____ Grinding Activity

Name _____ Phone # _____

Please detach and bring this form to the docent meeting on May 3rd, or call the park office to sign up. Thanks!

Important Dates and Events @ RGA

May 3rd: Docent Meeting 10am @ Graham House/ Ranger Office

May 11th: Furniture Committee Meeting 9:30am @ Graham House/Ranger Office

May 11th: 9a-12p, National Historic Preservation Work Project @ the Adobe



*Sign up now for school tours, weekend tours and gift shop shifts! Make it simple, just call the park or email us. 760-724-4082/ Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Kudos, Praise and Acknowledgement

If you would like to send a shout out to any docents, volunteers, staff, friends, groups etc. associated with Rancho Guajome Adobe send them to me via email or snail mail: jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Kudos for May:

- ◆ Thanks to docents **Elizabeth Springfield, Jean Rath, Danny and Ann Rupp, Sue Allenbach, Velia Telles, Pot Obetz, Dee Nolan, Paula White, Toni Bongiovani and Claire Wright** for answering the call of duty and signing up for school tours, regular tours, gift shop duty and special promo events in May!
- ◆ Kudos to Guajome Regional Park Ranger, **Amanda Ingraham**, for volunteering to help out at Adobe Days on June 11th!



- ◆ Docent Meeting @ the Graham House @ 10am on the 1st Tuesday of every month
- ◆ Furniture Committee @ the Graham House @ 9:30am on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

Park Projects & Updates

Trail Signs and Gates

We have installed two new gates and nearly a dozen new signs along Rancho Guajome trails. The new front gate on Santa Fe and the back gate at Willowbrook are made for pedestrians, bikers and horseback riders.

Limewashing and Painting

Staff continues with the never-ending upkeep of the adobe; applying coat after coat of fresh paint and lime. We are hoping that we'll get some extra help on May 11th during the volunteer work project for National Preservation Month!

Adobe Roof Repair

The roof area off the sewing room has been sealed and patched. The porch and railings are being reinstalled also.



FYI: Philip Steadman Sparkman

Docent Pat Obetz came across an intriguing article in the San Diego Union Tribune (February 12, 2011) about Phillip Stedman Sparkman, a self-taught linguist and anthropologist. Sparkman moved to Rincon in 1875 by way of New York City and England. He ran a store in Rincon and became enamored with the local Native American population, the Luiseno. He observed and recorded their language and culture. Eventually, he recorded the Luiseno language (which had never been recorded in text) in “Grammar and Dictionary of the Luiseno Language” and wrote an ethnographic study titled, “Culture of the Luiseno Indians”. He spent long hours in a study behind his store studying the Luiseno language and culture. Unfortunately, he met an untimely end – gunned down at his own store in Rincon. (*Article in the U-T was written by Richard Crawford, in the section entitled The Way We Were, Feb 12, 2011*).



General County Info

**Main Office Address:**

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Dr. Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

General Information & Questions:

Dept. Phone: (858) 694-3030
Park Office: (760)724-4082

County Parks History Office

(858) 966-1305
History.DPRCenter@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail:

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Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Diego County Parks Society

P.O. BOX 957
Bonita, CA 91908
SDCPSOC@aol.com
(619) 267-7323 office
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Reservations:

(877) 565-3600; M-F 8am-5pm
or on-line at: www.sdparcs.org

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A legacy preserved