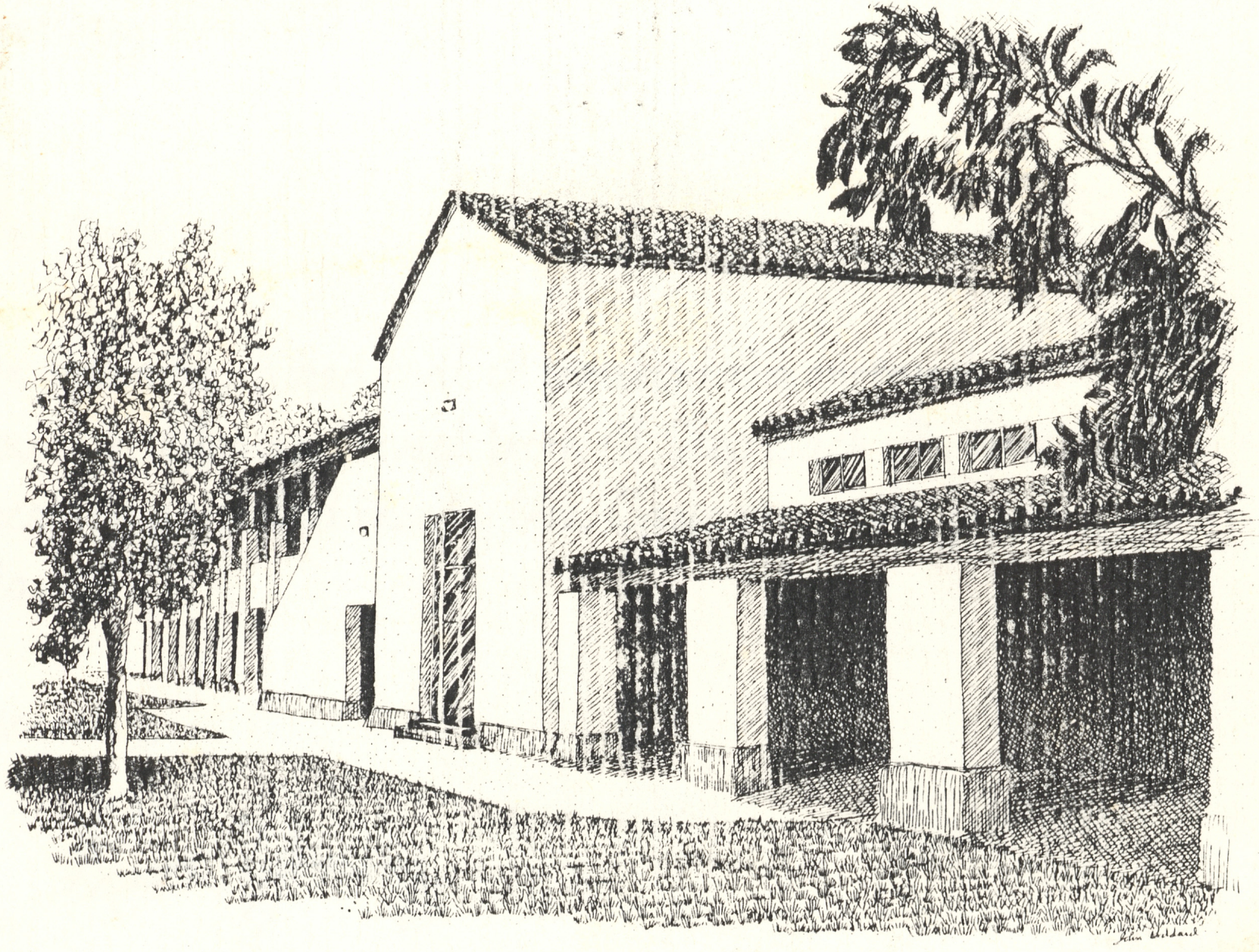


February 24, 1997

Mrs. Paul,

Dr. Rowe has asked that I forward the enclosed to you -- a video and script from *A Step Back In Time* recently presented here by Mrs. Cassarino's 4th grade class.

Sincerely,

Ruth Young

A Step Back in Time

a readers' theater presentation about the history of Rancho Santa Fe

presented by:

Mrs. Cassarino's 4th grade class

The Cast

Malcolm Rogers.....Max Schechter
Yaman Indian Man..... James Clelland
Yaman Indian Woman.....Morgan Stanley
Juan Cabrillo.....Brandon Rose
Don Jose de Galves.....Ben Grant
Gaspar de Portola.....Elizabeth Benozer
Capt. Fernando Rivera.....Zoe Dunn
Fr. Junipero Serra.....John Wheeler
Expeditioner.....Brandon Rose
Californio 1.....Lindsay Geier
Californio 2.....Susie Saxten
Californio 3.....David Edens
Governor Pio Pico.....Trevor Scott
Don Juan Osuna.....James Clelland
Julianna Lopez.....Sarah Munoz
Pioneer 1.....David Edens
Pioneer 2.....Katie King
John Sutter.....Tyler Matthews
Stephen W. Kearny.....David Bardin
Leandro Osuna.....Sam Teitelbaum

Indian.....Lexi Myron
E.A. Riley.....Brian Burke
Colonel Ed Fletcher..... Brandon Rose
W.E. Hodges..... Arianna Jimenez
Mr. Henshaw.....Lindsay Geier
L.G. Sinnard.....James Clelland
Lilian Rice.....Georgie Smith
Santa Fe Official.....Kristin Cuthbertson
Mrs. Merkan.....Sarah Munoz
Ivy Fidero.....Paulina Poe
Reporter 1.....Susie Saxten
Reporter 2.....Ashley Paulus
Reporter 3.....Zoe Dunn
Ellen Ross.....Ellen Scott
Reporter 4.....Arianna Jimenez
Buzz Baker.....John Wheeler
Reporter 5.....Lindsay Geier
Neil Random.....David Bardin
Fire Chief Fox.....Kristin Cuthbertson
Reporter 6.....Katie King
Reporter 7.....Sam Teitelbaum

Rancho Santa Fe

Malcolm Rogers —

My name is Malcolm Rogers, and I am an archaeologist. I have spent more than 40 years following the trails of ancient man in Southern California. I gave the name "La Jolla" to the people who lived along the Southern California and Baja California coasts for thousands of years before the coming of the Yamans. I also named the San Dieguitos — the earliest arrivals — who left no evidence of homes or burial grounds — only spear points, crude tools and sleeping circles.

Yaman Indian Man —

Later we were "found" by Spanish explorers and priests. We too were called Yamans. Our culture was more developed as evidenced by our grass huts, our burial grounds and tools.

Yaman Indian Woman —

We were a "small people" — our men were about 5 ft. 4 in. tall and the women about 4 ft. 11. Compared to modern man, our heads were considered large.

We had large villages near the coast and the river valleys, and it was us that Father Serra and his priests tried to Christianize.

Juan Cabrillo —

After I, Juan Cabrillo, failed to find the Straits of Anian, Spain discovered that the Russians were attempting to build a colony to expand their hunting of others.

Don José de Galvez —

I started an expedition. My name is Don José de Galvez and I wanted to set up forts and missions near the harbors of San Diego and Monterey. I felt that by doing so, I would prevent Russia and other countries from claiming the land.

Gaspar de Portola —

I was governor of New Spain at that time. My name is Gaspar de Portola. I sent 3 expeditions that would begin the settlements Galvez mentioned. The first expedition of three ships left Baja California for San Diego in 1769. The other two left on foot.

Captain Fernando Rivera —

Lt. Pedro Fages and myself, Capt. Fernando Rivera, led one of the overland expeditions. It took us 5 months to travel from Baja to San Diego. Several men died. Many were sick from the long journey across the mountains and deserts of the Baja Peninsula.

Portola —

Father Serra and I led the other overland expedition. We were the last to arrive.

Fr. Serra —

I remember writing about the journey in my diary.

"After we passed one high mountaintop, another stood right in our way. We climbed up its slopes, hoping that from the summit we might catch a glimpse of the ocean, only to be disappointed. From there we saw a shallow sort of valley and then some hills and then a further chain of mountains just as high as the one we had passed."

Finally, we arrived in San Diego in July. to celebrate I built a large cross — that spot would be the first California mission.

Portola —

We didn't stay long in San Diego. We set out again in search of Monterey Bay. Part of that journey led us through what you call Rancho Santa Fe. I've been told that we traveled on Camino Viego — through Rancho Santa Fe following Paseo del Prado,

El Puente, La Noria to La Bajada and then along San Marcos Road.

We saw a few antelope, rabbits and wild birds — and our horses — the only domesticated animals — were a source of great wonder to the natives.

Man —

I was one of the 61 men in this expedition. It was a long, grueling experience. We passed Monterey Bay without realizing it was the place we were looking for! We turned back, low on supplies and water. We raised a cross and returned to San Diego. The following spring Portola traveled north again.

Californio —

As the missions were built along the coast, many people settled in New Spain — all of what you know as California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah was within the border of Mexico.

Californio 2 —

We became tired of the government of Spain treating us like second class citizens. We could not hold political office and grew tired of Spanish rule.

Californio 3 —

So we planned a revolt. In 1821 we fought and won our independence from Spain. Those of us who fought in the war and supported the Mexican cause were given land grants — huge properties — to farm and raise cattle and horses. Many Ranchos were built and this was a peaceful, prosperous time for us.

Governor Pio Pico —

Yes, I, Governor Pio Pico, felt strongly that the leather jackets and other supporters deserved a fitting reward. I offered land grants. Don Juan Marie Osuna was told he could choose 10,000 acres of land anywhere in California, he chose the land where your town is today.

Don Juan Osuna —

That is right. I chose the fertile land between the mountains and the ocean. I called it San Dieguito, after the river flowing by it.

Pico —

The Osuna Rancho played an important part ion the war with Mexico. The California Rangers made their headquarters here.

Julianna Lopez —

Don Juan Osuna was the first mayor or alcade of San Diego and was quite the ladies man. I, Julianna Lopez, won his heart and became his wife. We had 13 children and lived a long, happy life in our adobe home here in your town of Rancho Santa Fe.

Juan —

Julianna and I enjoyed our life here — unfortunately she outlived me by many years.

Pico —

The Days of the Dons, as this tranquil time was known, came to an end in 1846. All of the new settlers coming to California had their own ideas about how the land should be governed.

Pioneer I —

We were surprised to arrive in California and find it governed by Mexico. We were Americans, and wanted our new home to be American, too.

Pioneer 2 —

Some settlers, like John Sutter, supported and respected the Mexican government.

John Sutter —

I was given a large land grant near Sacramento and it was on my land that gold was discovered. This discovery brought thousands of new settlers to California.

Pico —

The Americans decided to rebel against our government. The bear Flag revolt took place in 1846.

One of the bloodiest battles of the revolution took place near here at San Pasqual.

Stephen W. Kearny —

My name is Stephen W. Kearny and I am a general in the United States Army. I fought against Leandro Osuna and the Californios. The Californios were the very best riders in the world!

Leandro —

True enough. But we did not have enough soldiers. Don Andre Pico led 80 of us against Kit Carson and General Kearny's 200. We fought with our lances and before the American Army began using artillery, we held our own. Thirty-five American soldiers were killed, and only one Californio lost his life.

Kearny —

It is true. Our two canons were the determining factor. We finally forced Pico's men into retreat.

Leandro —

Not much changed right after the treaty was signed between Mexico and the United States in 1848. The size of Mexico was cut in half. Our ranch, once part of Mexico, was now part of the United States. We became citizens and were allowed to keep our land. I was very headstrong, and not a very good businessman. I foolishly mistreated the Indians.

Indian

Senor Leandro was very cruel to my people. He took the best lands for his cattle — we suffered at his hand. We took revenge. We told him that we poisoned his drink — with a poison that would cause great suffering. Leandro was so afraid to suffer he shot himself. His mother, Julianna, took over the Rancho.

Julianna —

In 1860 a horrible string of bad luck befell my family. Floods followed by drought devastated our herds. The locusts came in 1863. It was said that "Miles of fence could have been built by bones alone." I had to sell property to meet my expenses.

In 1905 the Santa Fe Railroad gathered in all the pieces of our original land to restore its boundaries and plan eucalyptus for railroad ties, under the direction of E.A. Riley, President of Santa Fe Railroad.

E. A Riley —

My plan was to plant 4,000 acres with 3,000,000 eucalyptus tree seedlings. This venture proved unsuccessful when it was discovered that eucalyptus wood would not hold the railroad spikes. Colonel Ed Fletcher leased the land.

Colonel Ed Fletcher —

I had a great interest in growing tomatoes on this land. I leased the land and began growing and shipping tomatoes in quantity. The problem of flooding in the valley persisted and I knew this land could never be fully developed until a dam could be built.

W. E. Hodges —

That's where I came into the picture. My name is W.E. Hodges and I was Vice President of the Santa Fe Railway. With Fletcher's help, we made an arrangement

with Mr. Henshaw to contribute the site for the dam.

Mr. Henshaw —

The Lake Hodges dam was completed in 1917 and the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company began a carefully planned subdivision of the land, using every source to preserve its natural beauty and historic traditions. We searched for the finest community planner of the time — who was L. G. Sinnard.

L. G. Sinnard —

I, in turn, hired a firm of architects, Requa & Jackson. On their staff was a talented young woman, Lillian Rice. Lillian was chosen to be the resident architect for Rancho Santa Fe.

Lillian —

I was sent to Spain to study the architecture there as the master plan was based on a Spanish/Mediterranean theme. I spent a great deal of time studying small town and village arrangements.

Sinnard —

Lillian and I worked together to produce a landmark community. I purposely planned winding roads throughout Rancho to slow down speeding drivers, to ensure their enjoyment of the breathtaking vistas. I also planned large lots, and saw to it that deed restrictions guaranteed favorable improvements to each one. Lillian's designs, of course, were a large part of those "favorable improvements."

Lillian —

When I returned from Spain I had a strong feeling about the way this unique community should be designed. My sketches showed Spanish buildings with tiled roofs, colonnades and patios. The great house (now The Inn) was to stand at the head of the street looking east to the mountains. Other buildings would be built closely together — the hub of a wheel, with all others spreading out — the largest parcels on the perimeter.

Santa Fe Official —

The plan was highly criticized by my group, the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company — we could not understand the idea of all that space in a little area — it was hard for us to see its practicality, but we passed Lillian's plans.

Mr. Merkan —

by the 1920's it was apparent that more and more families were living in Rancho Santa Fe, and that the community needed their own school. Up to this time, children were attending the one room Aliso School built in 1905, northeast of the Ranch. I was the first teacher. My name is Mrs. Merkan.

Ivy Fidero —

In the early 1920's the country schoolhouse was closed and we attended school in Rancho Santa Fe. We studied in the old toy shop, now an art gallery on Paseo Delicias, as our new two-room schoolhouse was being built. My name is Ivy Fidero ~~Laughter~~ Laughter and I was the first graduate of the new school. I can still remember wearing a fancy lace dress that I borrowed from my sister. I also received the gift of a picture from the woman architect, Lillian Rice.

News Reporter —

The school became a social focus of the community and was used as a concert hall, dance pavilion, supper club or garden exhibition room. The name of Aliso Canyon School was officially changed in 1927 to its present title, "Rancho Santa Fe School" — and became its own school district.

Reporter II —

The Village soon experienced growing pains. By 1931 there were 45 families in Rancho Santa Fe, and the School was bursting at its seams. A larger school was built two blocks away on Avenida de Acacias — where the Association offices are today. The 35-40 students shared two teachers.

Reporter III —

For the next two decades school life was relatively stable, but the appealing lifestyle in Rancho Santa Fe was being discovered.

Ellen Ross —

By 1947 we had 47 pupils in our school. My name is Ellen Ross and I was principal and one of the two teachers at the school at that time. By the mid 50's our school population doubled and we had to build a larger facility.

Reporter IV —

The third and final school site was chosen on La Granada between El Fuego and Avenida de Acacias — where the present school is found. The new school grew to seven classrooms on 10 acres. It was completed in 1955.

Buzz Baker —

In 1958 the Rancho Santa Fe School Board interviewed a young 6th grade teacher from Coronado. My name is Buzz Baker and I am the Superintendent of the Rancho Santa Fe School District. I hired Roger Rowe to replace me as the 5th grade teacher. It was probably one of the greatest moves I've ever made in my life.

Reporter V —

By 1961 A second wing was added to the school and the student body numbered 220. Roger Rowe was promoted to Superintendent in 1964 just as the community recognized the need for a library.

Neil Randol —

My name is Neil Random. I led the motion to sell 1/3 of an acre to the Library Guild for $1.00! The library was financed completely by pledges, donations, and memberships. The library was built next to the school.

Fire Chief Jim Fox —

As a firefighter, the last thing I ever expected was to be sharing my fire station with a class of 3rd graders. But in 1968 that's what happened. The school population

had grown again. The obvious solution was to add on again.

Reporter VI —

At this time all the 12th graders were bussed to San Dieguito — with the junior in students attending school in Solana Beach. So discussion was opened to determine whether the K-6 elementary school should be enlarged and expanded to include grades K-8. The construction bonds were passed in 1969. In September of 1971 the Middle School was opened.

Reporter VII —

The student body decided their school deserved school colors and a mascot. The vote was a landslide. Red, white and blue would be the school colors and an Eagle was chosen as mascot.

The school population continued a steady growth. The community teamed with the school board and added a gymnasium in 1975. One and a half decades later, another addition was planned. In September of 1992 a two story addition with 10 new classrooms, a science lab and art room opened.

What's next for Rancho Santa Fe School? The story is still being written....