

Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society



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Our Mission

To collect, preserve, research, and interpret the documents, photos, and artifacts that connect us to Rancho Santa Fe and its past.

We offer the opportunity to learn more about the history of this special village through exhibitions, historic sites, archives, special events, educational programs, and publications.

La Flecha House is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

RSFHS.ORG

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Architect Lilian Rice *by Vonn Marie May*



Much has been written about Rancho Santa Fe's master architect, Lilian J. Rice. Underlying her design prowess, which is demonstrated throughout Rancho Santa Fe, was an innate respect for

the power of education. This is evidenced by her parental influences as well as the opportunities afforded her as a revered and accomplished architect.

Lilian's father was a noted educator during the 1880-90s in San Diego County. Despite intermittent prospects in real estate, Julius Augustus Rice held several positions that ranged from teacher, to principal, and later in life an appointment to the San Diego County Board of Education. He ultimately received a lifetime achievement award from the California State Board of Education for his long service. Laura Steele Rice, Lilian's mother, was a former teacher and accomplished artist, who maintained an in-home studio and painted regularly. Some of her miniature landscapes are available to view at the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society.

At the age of seventeen Lilian graduated from high school in 1906 and began her college career the following Fall. A young bright girl ready to learn of her chosen profession, she arrived at the

University of California Berkeley during a very heady time of Bay Area regional art and architecture. She was exposed to the likes of Julia Morgan, Bernard Maybeck, and John Galen Howard, all graduates of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, the latter two her professors.

After graduation in 1910 and upon her return to San Diego she was first employed as a teacher of descriptive geometry at both San Diego High School (where her father was once the principal) and San Diego State College, (then called the state Normal School). At Berkeley she had excelled in architectural drafting and rendering, so teaching what she loved came easily to her.

In 1921 the 'project-of-a-lifetime' presented itself to Lilian when she was hired on as a project designer and architectural renderer at the noted architectural firm of Requa & Jackson. The firm had secured a significant project in Rancho San Dieguito
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Coming Events

CELEBRATING OSUNA

Date To Be Determined

DR. JAMES KEMP HOME TOUR AND LUNCHEON

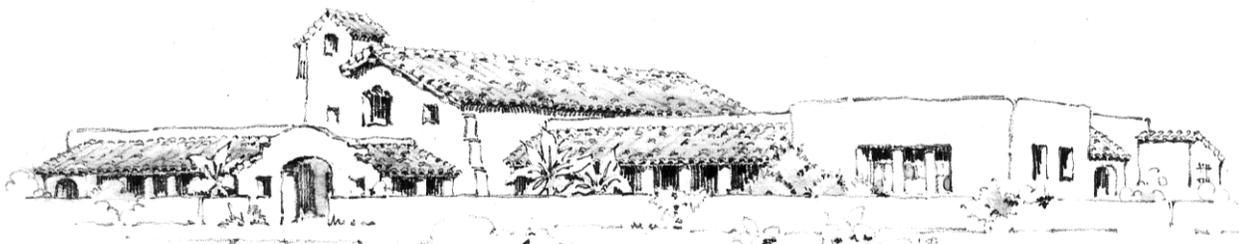
Saturday, May 21st
10:30 am

COFFEE ON THE PATIO - LIFE IN RSF, BY PETE RAGAN

Saturday, July 23rd
10:30 am

FANDANGO

Friday, October 7th
4:40pm - 8:00 pm



School Rendering by Lilian Rice

Update from Board President John Vreeburg



The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society continues to carry the message of preservation and education to our community. Our Annual Meeting in February outlined our progress based on activities in 2015, including our highly successful “Boots, Bridles & Barns” tour, the continuing Speaker series with Dr. James Kemp speaking about the “Pottery of Mata Ortiz”, and the presentation of the completed new Gate and Courtyard dedicated to O. Rea Mowery. As part of the remodeled Courtyard we have installed our Memorial El Camino Real Bell, visible as you drive up Via de Santa

Fe, or La Flecha.

Through the help of our San Diego County Grant we were able to complete the RSF TimeLine project to enhance our visitors experience and awareness of the development of the Rancho Santa Fe area. We thank the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation for funds that made it possible for us to continue the digitizing of our document and photograph collection, and enable us to develop a local history program for the children of the local schools.

This year we will have events for our Members to enjoy including a “Cinco de Mayo” event at Osuna I, held

in conjunction with the RSF Garden Club, and the RSF Association, a visit to Dr. Kemp’s residence in Julian to see exhibits of local and Indian arts, and a presentation by Pete Ragan of “The Perspective of Growing Up in Early Rancho Santa Fe.” During Rancho Days this year, we will present our ever popular “Fandango”. More about these events in upcoming reports.

We are ever more thankful for our continued support from our individual, family and corporate members and look forward to serving the community in the many years to come.

Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society

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President	John Vreeburg
Vice President	Max Wuthrich
Rec. Secretary	Kathy McHenry
Cor. Secretary	Betty Williams
Treasurer	Steve DiZio
At-Large	Peggy Brooks
Administrator	Sharon Alix
Historian	Vonn Marie May
Volunteers	Bunny Clews Dale Sodergren Lori Thomas



John & Dr. Kemp with Mata Ortiz Pot



HS with El Camino Bell in courtyard

Time Tells by Paulette Britton, RSF Historical Society Member

Small historical societies play an important role in protecting and preserving the historical record and also interpret the past to the public. As demographics change, it becomes important for keepers of history to remain relevant to its new neighbors.

But more than a place to see artifacts from the past, Historical Societies often become ground zero, a starting place for all of society to have a community context for existence. If you want to take the temperature of any given town or village or if you want to understand the heartbeat of the same, you have to know the roots of its beginnings.

Rancho Santa Fe is no different. In fact, the Ranch has more important history that is relevant to not just the

county, but also the state, than most places in California. It reflects women as peer equals in a time in history when that was not the case. The architect of the buildings in the Village of Rancho Santa Fe was Lilian Rice who received a Bachelors degree in 1910 from the University of California. Back then college was a man’s world and the women of the Ranch can proudly draw strength from their trailblazing predecessor.

The Ranch was also a place of glitz and glamour in those early years, attracting many Hollywood stars and

socialites. Hardly a thing has changed. Hollywood is not quite as glamorous as the days of old, but the Ranch is still a place where captains of industry hang their hats, where fashion has been celebrated for over 60 years on the grounds of the Inn, and where families still desire to live out a life with good friends

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About Our Organization

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Every year, new artifacts and documents are added to the collection through the generosity of individuals and corporations. These donations help the museum fulfill its mission as the Ranch’s chief interpreter of state and local history. Items that may appear to have little value often may have historical significance and might be a welcome addition to our archives. Please call for an appointment to have artifacts evaluated or for details on how to include us in your estate planning.



Cont. Lilian Rice

being built by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company. As the official architects for the future design of Rancho Santa Fe, Requa appointed Lilian as their lead architect. When Requa & Jackson exited the project in the mid 1920s, Lilian became the supervising architect of Rancho Santa Fe.

For the remainder of her short life, Lilian's time on the Ranch was highly productive and of her own making, crafting a resumé of educational facilities both on and off the Ranch. Aside from her many built projects in RSF, e.g., some 50+ residences and the village core, she also designed several homes in La Jolla and a scattered

Cont. Time Tells

who are genuinely good people and where a great education for their kids is but a short drive from home.

History should be studied because it is beautiful. History gives us a sense of purpose and belonging. What would the Ranch be but another blip on the map if not for the richness of our shared histories? The land on which the Ranch exists contains echoes of Indians, Mexican land grants, failed railway experiments, women architects, clambakes, covenants, Olympic games and movie star ranchers.

In this sense, history helps provide identity, and this is unquestionably one of the reasons all modern nations

encourage its teaching in some form. Historical data include evidence about how families, groups, institutions and whole countries were formed and about how they have evolved

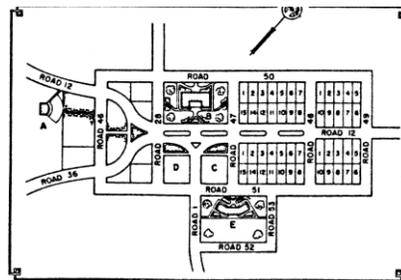
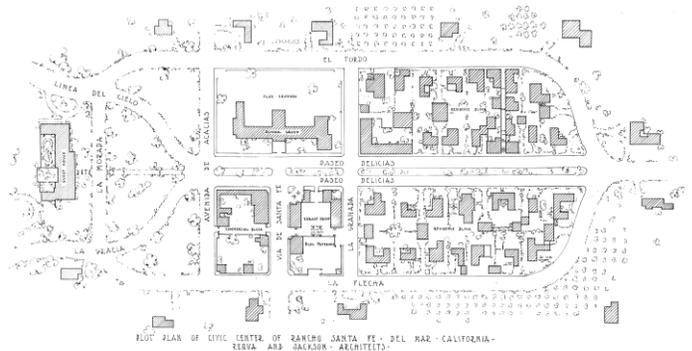
few within the County. In 1924 she designed and supervised construction of Rancho Santa Fe's first elementary school, formerly the Aliso School. Lilian was also one of the first trustees of the Rancho Santa Fe School District.

A personal commitment and support of educational settings continued for architect Lilian Rice. She designed the San Dieguito High School (now San Dieguito Academy) in 1937. She also designed a Chula Vista elementary school in the Sweetwater School District in 1938 the year of her death, which was later renamed in her honor as the Lilian J. Rice Elementary School.

while retaining cohesion.

Time tells all. The past, present and future are all connected. Take some time to learn more about what the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society has to offer you and your family. Videos of local World War II heroes can bring your child's history lessons to life, prompting thoughts and conversations about the human experience in another time and place. The second that just passed in time is now history. Be a part of the beauty of the Ranch this was, is and will be.

The Historical Society is a non-profit where your involvement may likely be tax-deductible.



Village Sketch

PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OF CIVIC CENTER
RANCHO SAN DIEGUITO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
OCT. 1921 BY LG SINNARD
SCALE 1" = 250'

KEY TO SINNARD PLAN

- A OPEN AIR THEATRE AND PARK
- B HOTEL
- C STORE
- D GARAGE
- E SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUND

Civic Center Plan



Lilian in driver's seat w/girl assistants

Life Members Appreciated

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society welcomes its newest Life Members:

- Elizabeth Oliver
- Phil & Valley Reilly
- James Torian



La Flecha House

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RSFHS Recognizes Its 2015 Sponsors

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society appreciates the contributions made by its corporate sponsors. Their contributions are significant in enabling the society to carry out its mission to preserve the local history and educate the public.

Bing Crosby Level



Walter Hodges Level



Juan Osuna Level



“The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present.” - David Thelen