

## Sikes Adobe Update: July 2009

We are nearly ready to begin building the farmhouse after its loss in the fire. During the past several months, we have not been idle. Here are a few highlights of happenings at the Sikes Adobe!



The garden was planted in the spring, by volunteers Christine Bass and Mike Asencio, with much initial success. Chris planted corn, beans, squash, carrots and radishes. The zucchini squash was enjoyed by staff members. Below, the unfortunate results of the presence of squirrels, who love the corn!

As soon as the first green sprouts appeared, the rabbits became interested. The squirrels waited until the ears of corn appeared and matured. The ears in the photograph to the right have been neatly devastated by squirrels. They know a good thing when they see it! Chris has said she can practically hear them laughing when she comes.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead was host to the San Diego County Archaeological Society for a field trip and tour of the farmhouse site.

Historical archaeologist, Susan Walter joined Sikes Adobe Museum Manager, Anne Cooper, in giving a brief history of the Sikes Adobe and a look at the remains of the adobe walls as well as



an explanation of recent excavations at the site. Students from Palomar College under the direction of Dr. Phil deBarros, and volunteers from City College and San Diego State University worked at the site each Saturday from late August of 2008 through December of that year. Please watch for preliminary results of our excavations subsequent updates.



As the visitors and fellow archaeologists were viewing the stabilized adobe farmhouse walls, another activity of interest competed for their attention. Note that crane in the background? John Boyce, of the Escondido Sunrise Rotarians, had arranged with the Hawthorne lift company to borrow a crane for the morning. Mr. Boyce and two of his family members were busy on the other side of the fence, repairing the windmill.

Mr. Boyce had kindly offered his time and services to repair the windmill, a feature of the landscape at the Sikes Adobe since it was installed there as part of the restoration efforts in 2005. Rotary Clubs from Rancho Bernardo the windmill and in which now waters the

Mr. Boyce discovered tail fan was broken He also checked the box, and found that hadn't damaged the gears, or melted away While up in the lift, telephone the

for advice, and he is now our expert on this wonderful piece of machinery. Thank you, John, and many thanks to the Hawthorne Company as well.



both Escondido and took part in recreating digging the well garden.

that the spring to the and needed repair. grease inside the gear the Witch Creek fire working parts of the all of the grease. Mr. Boyce had to windmill company



Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> found representatives of the San Dieguito River Park, Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead participating in Rancho Bernardo's "RB Alive!" annual street fair. We met many interested trail users and networked with other members of North County's historic preservation community.

Below, one of our dedicated volunteers, Ron Hall, indicates a feature on a trail map for one of the many passersby. Ron served as a docent at the Sikes Adobe, and has written a book about the descendants of the Sikes family. Thank you to the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society for including the San Dieguito River Park in this annual event!



We stepped into the kitchen and entered the world of food preservation for the next event of the Summer of 2009. The Museum Manager did some research and found recipes for watermelon pickle. Participants joined Anne at the offices of the San Dieguito River Park on July 18<sup>th</sup>, to



share recipes and stories of pickling. We learned about spices and the “do’s and don’ts” of preserving food in glass jars.

Most recently, archaeological investigations were back on the calendar of Sikes Adobe activities, as we are working toward the goal of finding as much information about the site before reconstruction of the farmhouse begins. Toward that goal, Dr. Phil de Barros of Palomar College secured the services of



Donn Schwartzkopf, Principal Geologist and Geophysicist and consulting engineer of Terra Geosciences. Mr. Schwartzkopf met Dr. de Barros and Anne Cooper at the Sikes Adobe early in the morning last week. Terra Geosciences provided a two box “Gemini 3” metal sensitivity device, a Schonstedt “MAC 51Bx” metal detector (you may have seen them at the beach) and Ground Penetrating Radar, or GPR. A survey of the areas around the farmhouse was conducted. We were looking for changes in the ground below the surface, and for concentrations of metal debris.

Our results indicated that finding historic below ground surface changes will be problematic, as the subsurface scars may have “healed” over time. We did find the trace of some old pipes, however! Our appreciation goes to Mr. Schwartzkopf and to Dr. de Barros for their time and use of the Terra Geosciences equipment!



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