Kindle Theater's Barn Beginnings

Barn restoration was made possible by a *Save America's Treasures* grant in 2011, and by City of Carlsbad matching funds

Barn c. 1977

Barn c. 2011

You see Leo in every single building, in every single detail.

—Eileen Magno, Architectural Historian

Adobe is My Birthstone

Leo Carrillo's *Rancho de los Quiotes* 1937-1961

Crumbling walls of sun-baked clay, telling tales of yesterday.

—Leo Carrillo

Welcome to a photo exhibit about Leo Carrillo's Ranch of the Spanish Daggers. Our spotlight shines on the built environment. Meet the people who lived, worked and preserved this historic valley ranch where water flows and cattle roamed.

Leo built a working rancho honoring his Spanish-*Californio* heritage. At the root is his love for adobe—a simple brick of clay, water and straw—infused with an elemental passion for "the simple things, the true things, the good things."

Quotes within *Adobe is My Birthstone* are from Leo's memoir, *The California I Love*, published shortly after his death in 1961.

Thank You *Gracias*:
Friends of Leo Carrillo Ranch, Inc.
City of Carlsbad
The Hungtington | Maynard L. Parker Collection

The large black and white images of Leo's ranch are by Maynard L. Parker, a mid-century Los Angeles–based architectural and garden photographer, published in Sunset magazine in 1945.

In 1906 the Kelly family gathered at their 1882 Los Kiotes home. Matthew Kelly's nine children had inherited the 13,000-acre *Rancho Agua Hedionda* by this time.

The Kellys & Los Kiotes

Did you know? Much of Carlsbad lies within the 13,000-acre *Rancho Agua Hedionda*, originally a Mexican land grant that passed to Robert Kelly in 1870. Robert and his brother Matthew emigrated in 1844 from the Isle of Man.

Matthew and his family homesteaded the adjoining ranch and named it *Los Kiotes* for its hillside yucca plants. Leo Carrillo's ranch was a combination of *Los Kiotes* and land from the rancho.

Emily Porter Kelly (center), widow of Matthew, enjoys a day by the sea in Carlsbad with her children and in-laws. c 1909

The next generation of Kellys horsing around on their porch. c 1920s

These adobe bricks were formed by hand by Kellys, Mendozas and Carrillos, generations of families who loved this place and whose history lives on at the ranch.

—Sara Kelly, Park archivist and descendant of Matthew Kelly

The Kellys & Los Quiotes

Leo Carrillo not only preserved traditions, he cherished friendships. He attended William Sherman Kelly's 50th Wedding Anniversary (left of Leo). William was one of Matthew's nine children. c 1945

Enter Leo Carrillo, Los Angeles-born stage and screen actor and seventh generation *Californio*. In 1937 the Matthew Kelly homestead had passed to other hands when Leo acquired the abandoned *Kiotes* property. Leo renovated the crumbling 1882 house, moved in and called it *Rancho de los Quiotes* for Ranch of the Spanish Daggers.

Two Kellys stand by the original 1882 home built with adobe and covered with wood panels. Leo removed the second floor and kept much of the home's footprint. c 1920s

Los Kiotes in 1906 reveals the view Leo would have admired on his first visit in 1937.

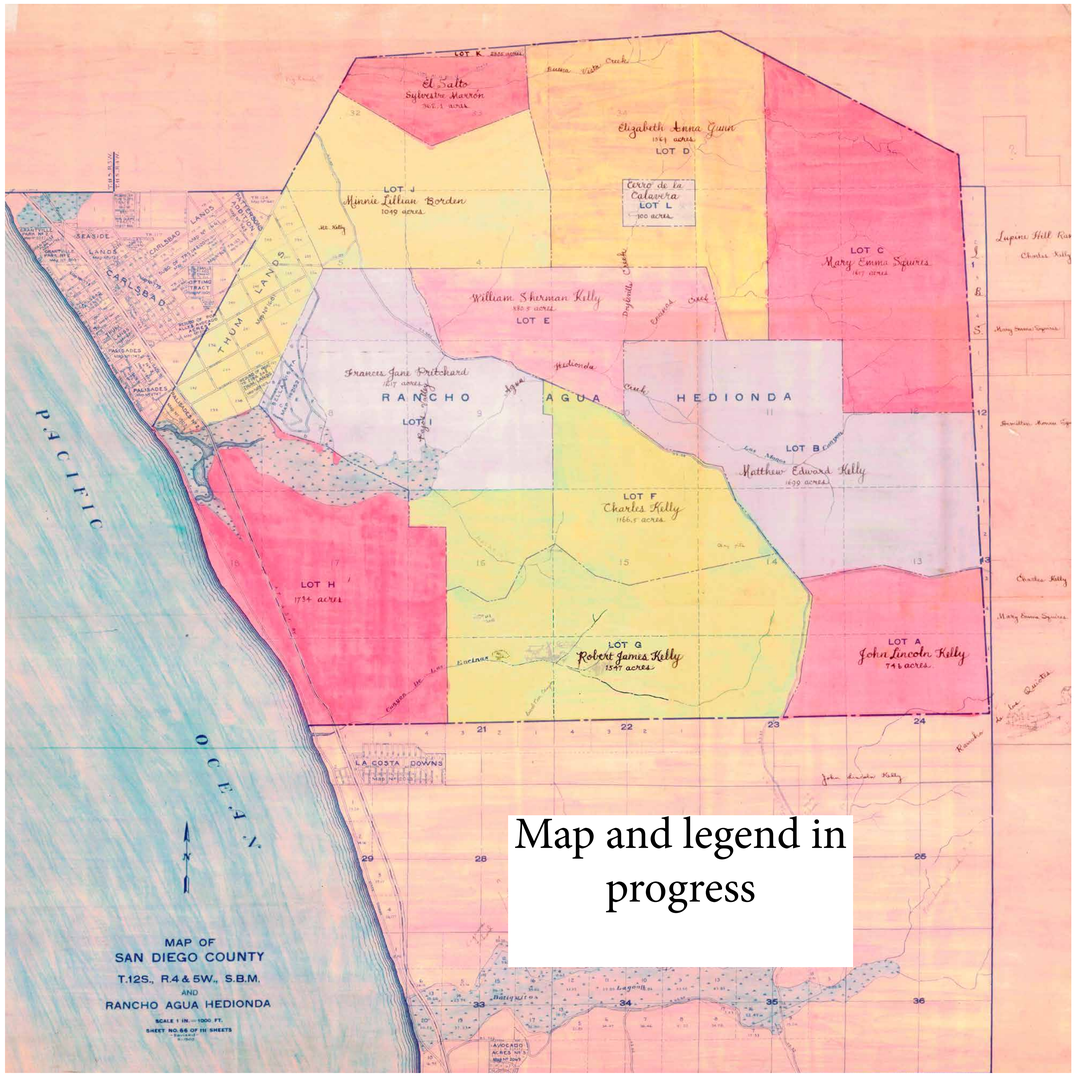
Shadow silhouettes of Father Boniface, a padre from San Luis Rey Mission, and Leo Carrillo standing on the hill at the 1939 blessing of Leo's ranch.

The plumes of *los kiotes* glisten in the morning light. They are the Spanish Dagger plants that give the ranch its name, and the roots of which we like so much when roasted.

—Leo Carrillo

País. Agua. Sol

Earth. Water. Sun



Map and legend in progress

Imagine a ranch with fertile earth, plenty of sun and flowing water. Leo envisioned a working ranch honoring his *Californio* ancestry, an era when Spanish soldiers became ranchers on their awarded land grants. Beginning in 1937 Leo would amass 1,750-acres for his *Rancho de Los Quiotes*.

Bienvenidos to the Flying LC: Leo's ranch brand forged by his blacksmith

Acquisitions of *Rancho de Los Quiotes*

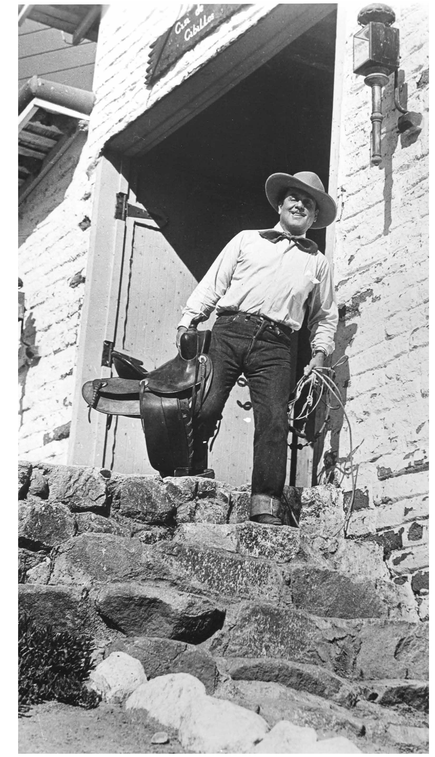
MAP LEGEND
(blue border)—13,000-acre Rancho Agua Hedionda, meaning "stinking waters", and the 9 Kelly children's parcels

(red border—#1)—Carrillo Grant Deed from Western American Finance Company, Leo's first purchase of 840-acres, includes the Kiotes homestead (1937)

(red border—#2)—Carrillo Grant Deed from Charles & Lavinia Kelly (1937)

(red border—#3)—Carrillo Grant Deed from Edward & Nettie Kelly (1939)

(green square)—You Are Here | 27-acre Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park
The first parcel of 840-acres was purchased for about $77 an acre.



The Carrillo family made a living in cattle and sold hides for leather. In the 1800s these hides were called "California dollars".

País means more than soil or earth.
It means something spiritual; that as a man's feet touch his native ground there is a mystic bond between him and the dust from which he was moulded.

—Leo Carrillo

Adobe Oasis

Leo's wife, Deedie, stands in front of her "Indian House". Deedie enjoyed a retreat where she could pursue her love for Native American basketry and arts.

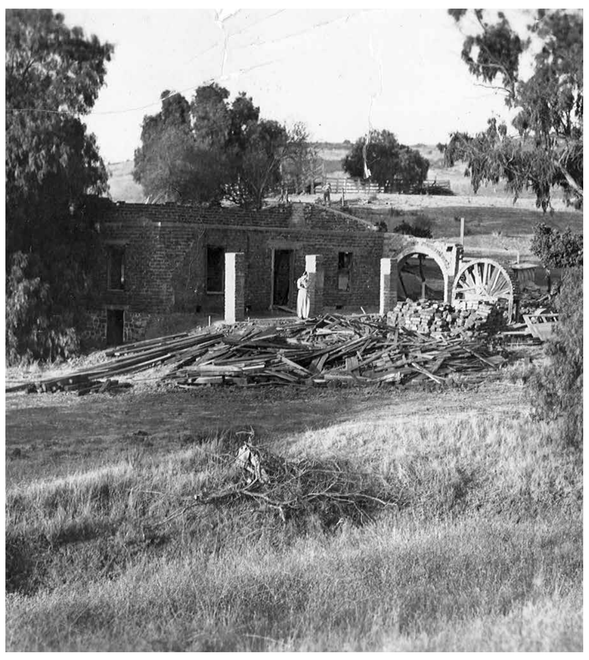
Su Casa Amigo

My house is yours, friend

Take the finest clay.
Add water and straw for strength.
Mold into bricks and dry in the sun.
These are the elements of adobe.

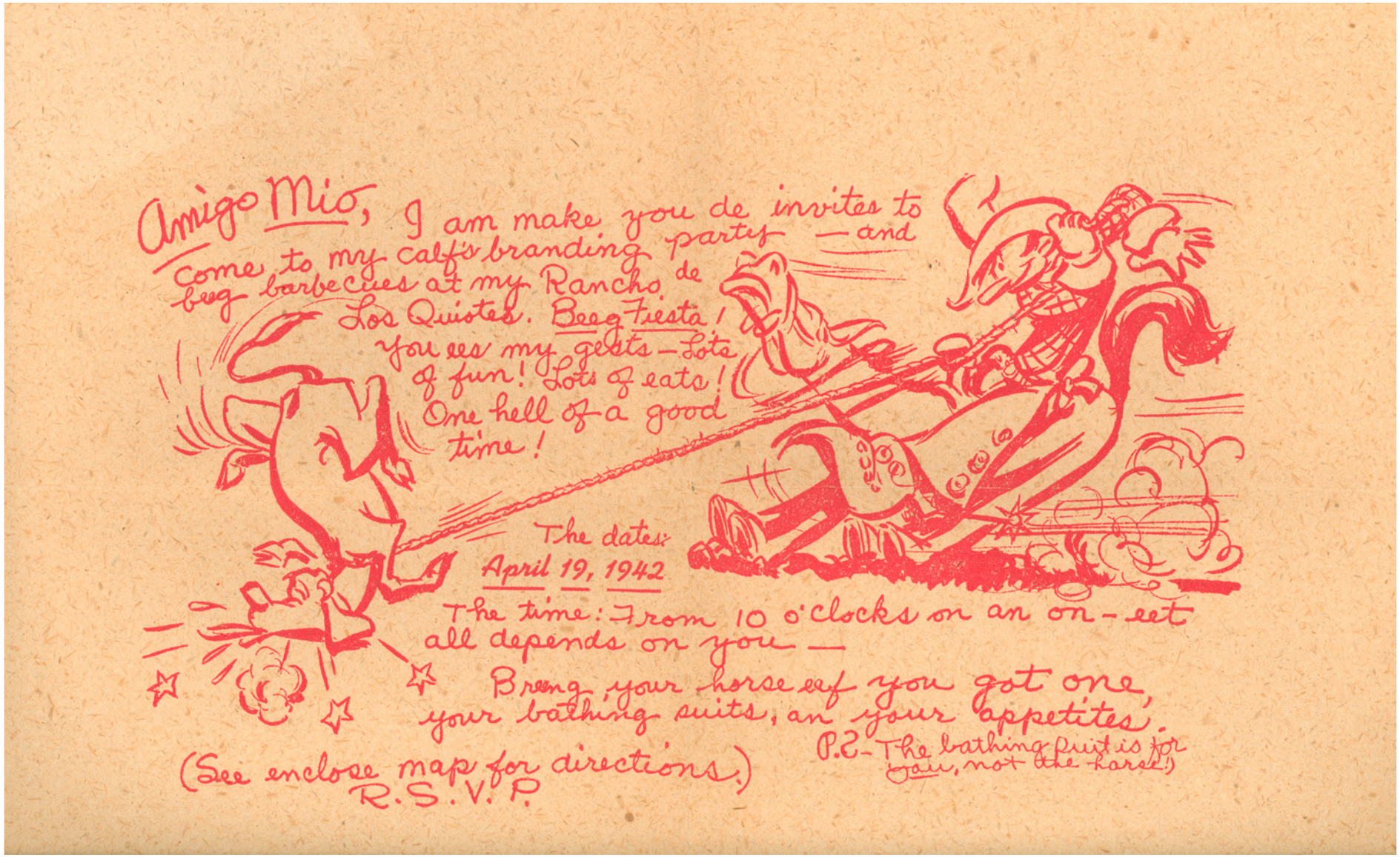
"The water and earth are mixed under the bare feet of man himself," wrote Leo. "The adobe is my birthstone ... they enclose us comfortably. They are our shelter from cold and heat. They enfold us like a mother's arms."

Word spread that Leo purchased *Los Kiotes*. Cruz Mendoza Sr. drove to the ranch with his three sons to introduce their skills in adobe. Together, they modified and expanded *Los Quiotes*.

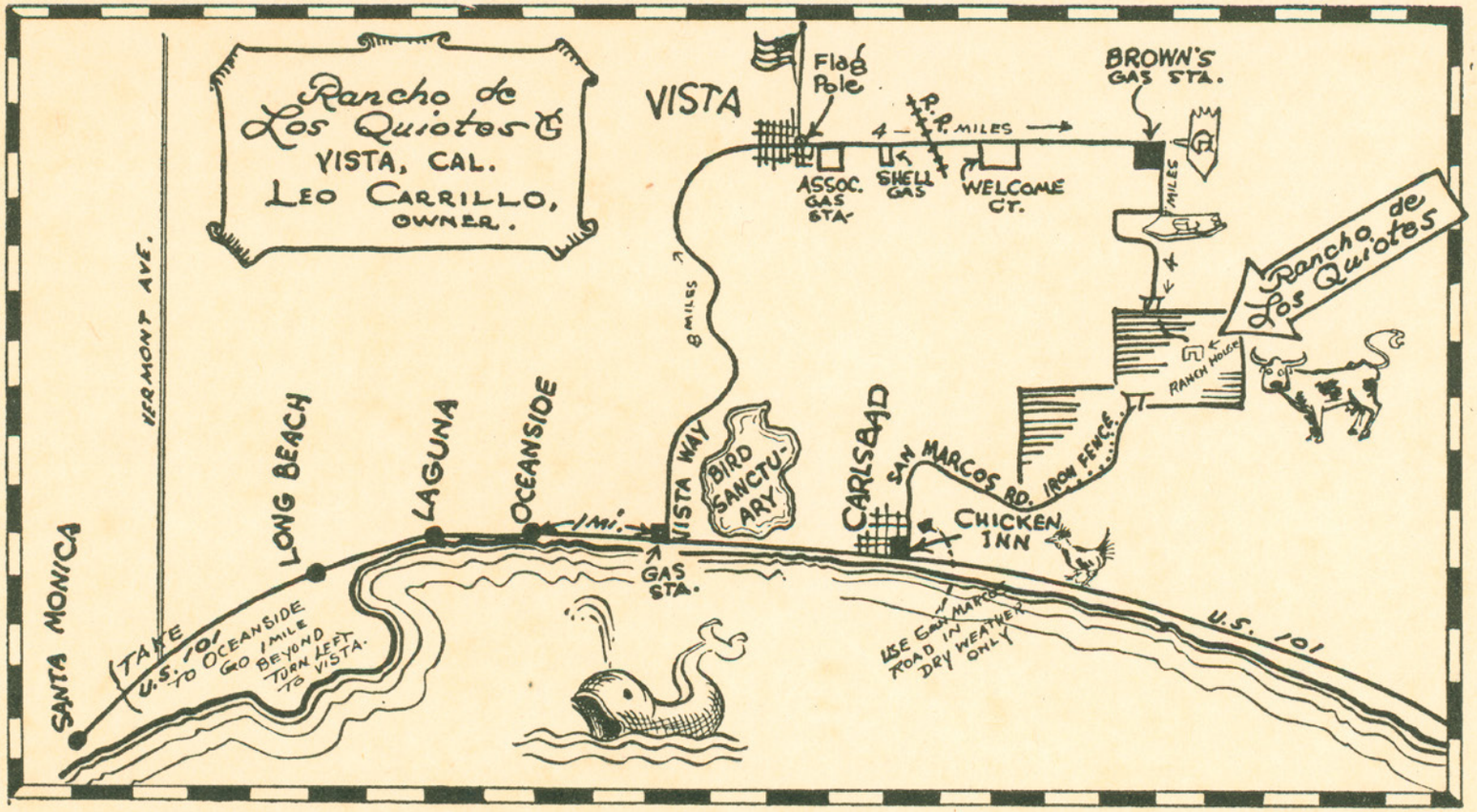


The second story was removed from the Kelly adobe house. See the wooden frame used to support the Spanish style arch during construction?

I would like to get an old adobe and put it back where it was one hundred years ago. —Leo Carrillo



In the early 1900s Leo started in entertainment as an editorial cartoonist for the *San Francisco Examiner*. Imagine receiving his hand-drawn invitation to be his guest at *Rancho de los Quiotes* in 1942.



The ranch is west of Brown's Gas Station, noted Leo in his hand-drawn map. Look for Leo's writings around the buildings and his caricatures on Deedie's House.

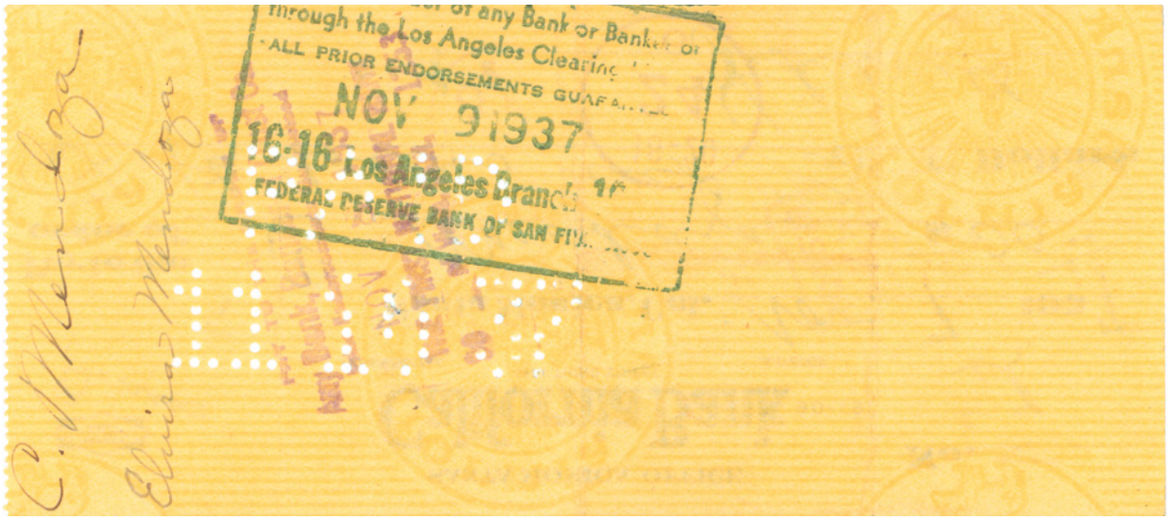
Bienvenidos, welcome! One of Leo's many visitors enters the ranch mid-century.

Hollywood stars Clark Gable and Carole Lombard spent part of their honeymoon here in 1939. Gable is in the saddle of SuiSan, Leo's horse.

Leo, their daughter Tony, and Deedie are settled into the ranch by 1942, in front of the completed Deedie's House.

Leo's favorite drink? Bourbon. Deedie sets up the fully stocked cabaña bar.

SANTA MONICA OFFICE
California Bank 90-191
1401 THIRD STREET
COMMERCIAL SAVINGS
No.
Santa Monica, Cal. Nov 7 1937
Pay to the order of C. Mendoza $ 50.00
Fifty dollars and 00/100 Dollars
16-20 24 6


through the Los Angeles Clearing
ALL PRIOR ENDORSEMENTS GUARA
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16-16 Los Angeles Branch
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF SAN FR
C. Mendoza
Elvira Mendoza

These are some of the earliest checks issued to Cruz Mendoza, Sr. for his adobe and construction work in the first year of *Rancho de los Quiotes.*

Cruz Mendoza, Jr. visited the ranch in 1976. He shared, "My brothers' names were Laurance and Richard. Their skills were masonry, adobe and woodworking. [In 1937] I was learning the skill of plastering."

Fiestas and Family

A five-thousand acre ranch with a ten-foot fence around it to keep my friends in.

—Leo Carrillo

Carrillo and Handley families: Wallace Handley was the first ranch foreman. *"My family lived on the rancho for 11 years. I was very lucky to have lived here as a child in those early times,"* said Leona Handley McDonald in 2016 (center child on lap).

Que Comen Bien Amigos

Eat well, friends

You're a welcome guest here. Many friends entered the gates to his humorously embellished "5,000-acre ranch", the second home for the Carrillos and first home for caretakers' families and ranch hands.

Hollywood friends, businessmen and politicians partied here. Laughter, pool splashing, music and the tinkling of ice in *cabaña* drinks were the soundtrack for social gatherings. After work or *fiestas*, peacocks called the day's end as stars brightened the country sky.

The scents of sizzling meats filled the air when Leo cooked for guests at his custom-made BBQ by the *cabaña*. The grill is fired up today for park events.

Why do you think his Great Dane is named Goliath? Leo loved his dogs that had the run of the ranch over the years. He and Goliath are in the living room of his *hacienda*, the estate house.

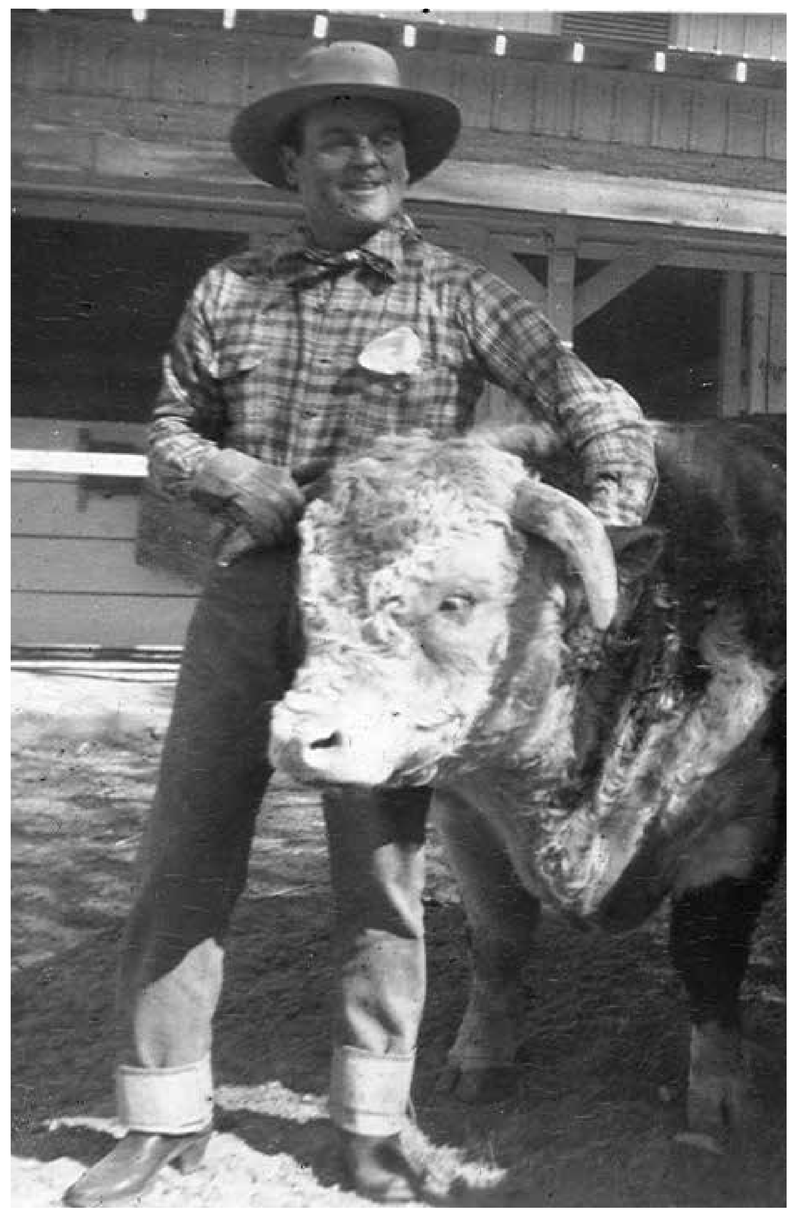
Dusty
and Sweaty

A triangle rang at meal times to bring in hungry workers and guests. Plates of steaming vegetables with grilled meats scented the air. This was a fragrant ranch yielding oranges, grapefruits, lemons, peppers, barley and tomatoes.

The bellow of cattle and whinny of horses echoed in the valleys. Leo liked the custom of *siesta*, or afternoon rest. Ranch hands relaxed and refreshed in the *cantina* bar after a day of dusty, sweaty and satisfying work.

Many things have to be done: the feeding of the horses, the checking of the cattle during this calving season, the feeding of the chickens, putting out of grain for the peacocks, all the little things which mount up on a ranch."

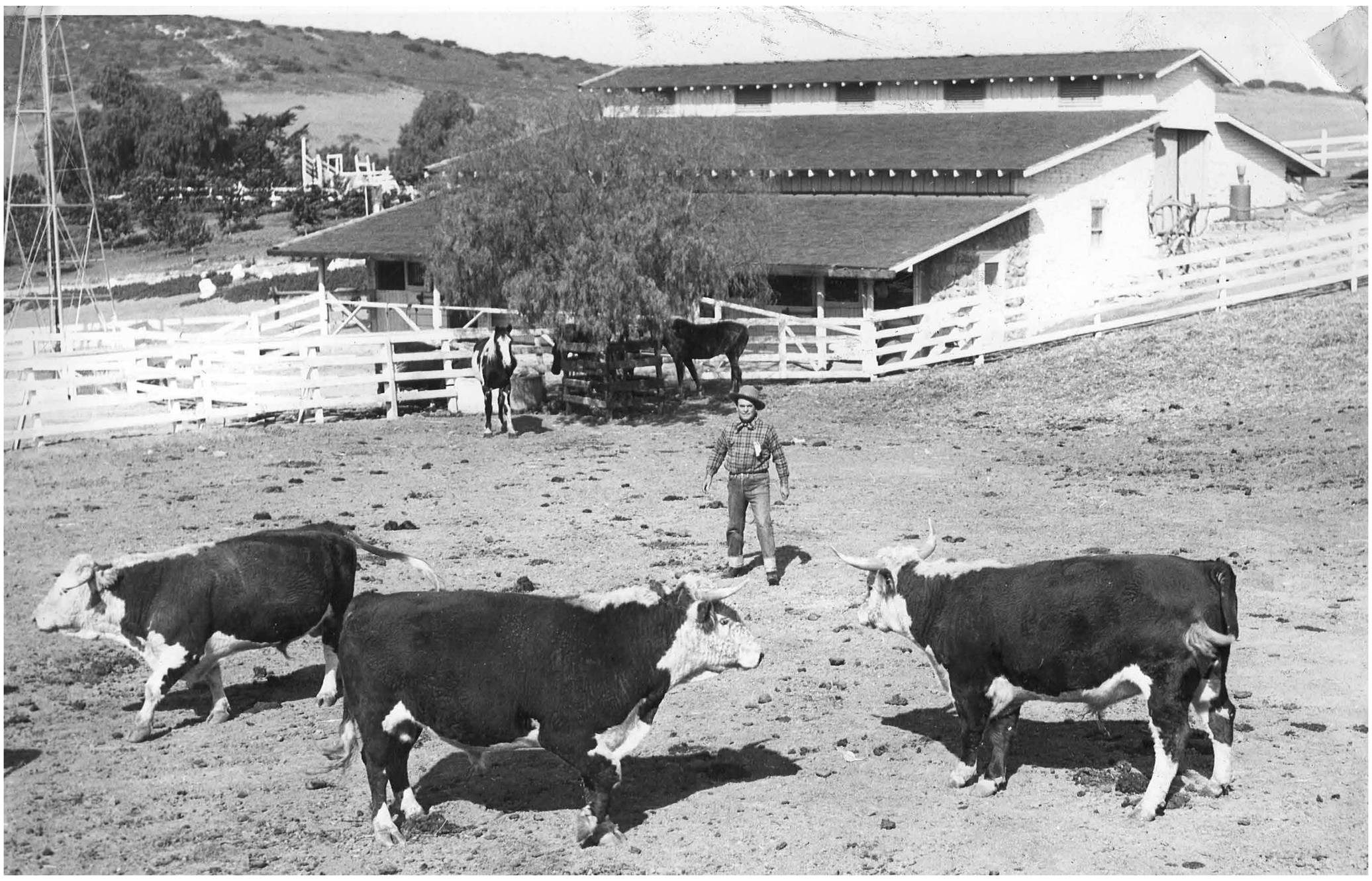
—Leo Carrillo



Leo raised Hereford steers. Columbian Red Top (pictured) is the name of a prize steer purchased for Leo.

The Flying LC Ranch brand was hand forged by his blacksmith for ranch cattle. Leo brands a steer with the assistance of visiting ranchers.

The Ranch of the Spanish Daggers was home to horses and hundreds of cattle, reminiscent of his family's tradition.



Peek Inside

See the tie rods stabilizing the exterior wall? These rods provide seismic reinforcement in the event of an earthquake. Sistering, which is the placement of new lumber next to old lumber, adds more support inside. It's why you see darker beams with newer cedar panels. Barn restoration was funded by a grant from *Save America's Treasures*. The adaptive reuse of the barn became the Kindle Theater in 2011.

Galloping into Glory

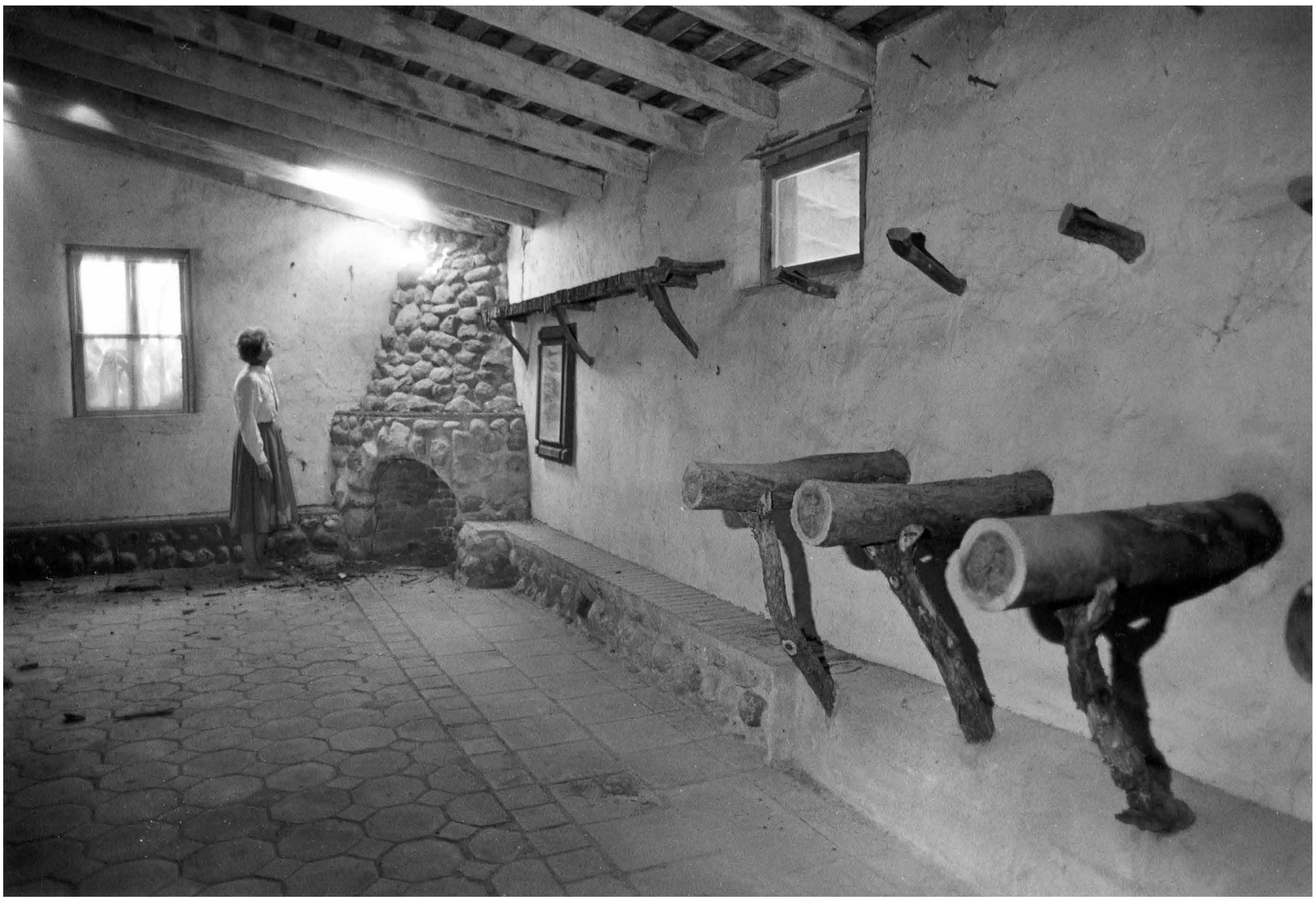
Leo wrote that Conquistador was buried beneath a cross on a hill, but no grave has yet to be found (Joan Kindle, volunteer curator, pictured).

Conquistador, meaning conqueror, was a Palomino horse given to Leo by Santa Ynez Valley breeder Dwight Murphy.

Early each morning the stable was abuzz with equine energy. Leo's horses were brushed, fed and readied for a day in the hillsides for riding or ranch work. Leo rode his favorite show horses in hundreds of parades, including as the Grand Marshal in the 1938 Pasadena Rose Parade. His favorite horse was the prize-winning palomino Conquistador.

The tall Cross on the hill at my rancho marks the resting place of my greatly-beloved Palomino horse, Conquistador. I do not consider it strange that I thus hallow the grave of a horse.

—Leo Carrillo



Joan Kindle, volunteer curator, explores the stable bunkhouse. Alan and Joan Kindle started the nonprofit organization The Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc. in 1990 to educate and advocate for ranch preservation and restoration.

Mr. California

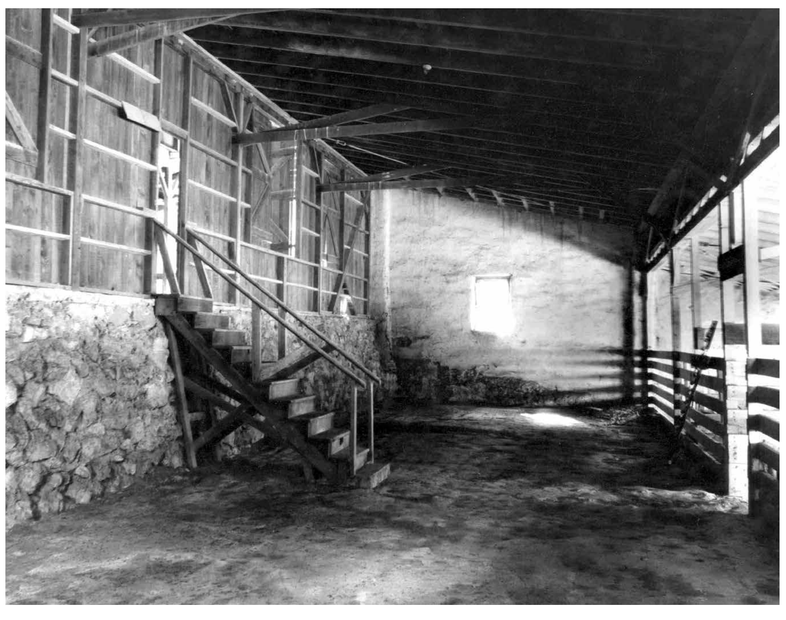
We are grateful for the cultural legacies Leo Carrillo passed on to us. Leo loved California, history and beautiful places. He cultivated the dedication of public lands and beaches for future generations. Today, his work is carried on by the City of Carlsbad and The Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc., and you, as a supporting visitor. Leo Carrillo Ranch is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Leo is honored for his 17 years of service on the California Beaches & Parks Commission. Leo Carrillo State Park in Malibu also commemorates Carrillo's preservation efforts.

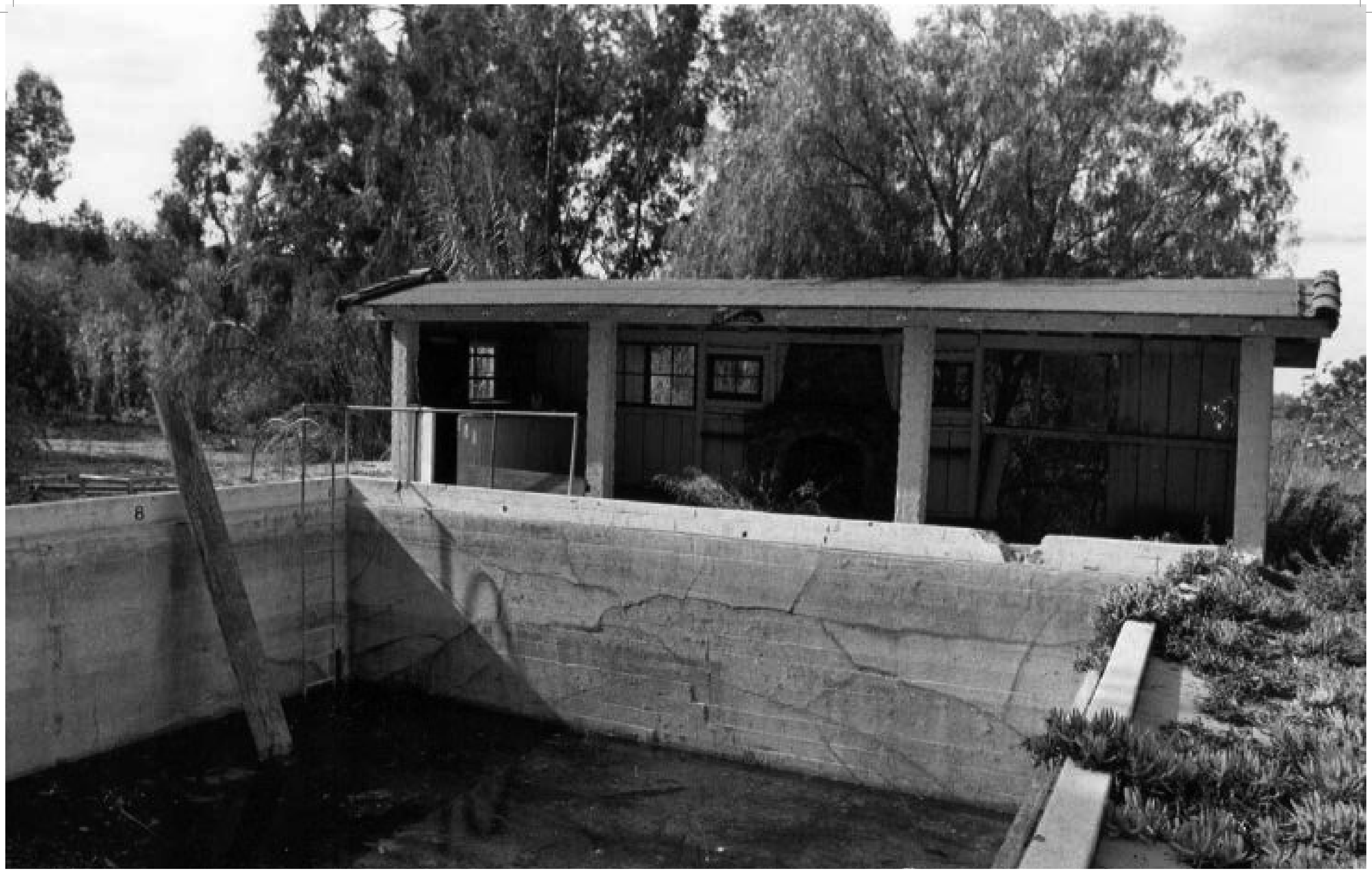
Beauty spots, historic sites and notable buildings should be conserved for future generations ... never used for any purpose except the benefit of the citizens and the education of children.

—Leo Carrillo

Coming soon: Envision the restored rustic stable as a welcoming place for educational events and social gatherings.



View of historic hay barn mid 1940s.



The City of Carlsbad acquired the 10.5-acre ranch in 1977.
There was much to restore, like the abandoned pool.
Building restoration continues today in the 27-acre park.

The restored swimming pool is now a reflecting pool.

18W x 30H

Saddle Up and Join Us

This typifies the kind of thing that we are carrying on here—the new aiding the old, the present conjuring up splendid images out of the past and continuing traditions so that we can enjoy them today.

—Leo Carrillo

Join	Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc.
Volunteer	Docent tours for school children and weekend visitors
Explore	Each season brings new views and events at the ranch

Ask us about upcoming events, summer camps and our 4th-grade state history and interactive art curriculum. Private events are available here at the ranch.

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City of Carlsbad

Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc.