**Founding Day a Great Success**

**BY ROB GLASGOW**

Our Founding Day events were as wonderful as ever with Mass at noon and the concert held for the first time in the afternoon. Refreshments were served in La Sala and the honor of cutting the cake was given to Iris Rickard, Joan Stevenson, and Joan Maddock. Both Joan's were in the docent class of 1981.

**Photos by Maria Hunt**

Artistic interpretation views from La Sala. Photo on left was selected as one of top five in California State Parks photo contest.

**Docents Joan Stevenson and Joan Maddock**
La Purísima Mission Salutes "The Mission Walker:" A Stage 4 Cancer Survivor

BY ARDIS NIELSON

Edie Littlefield Sundby, author of *The Mission Walker*, delivered an inspirational lecture about her healing walking journey to missions throughout California and Baja California at Mission San Antonio’s annual Fiesta Celebration on Sunday, June 12, 2019.

Docent Ardis Neilsen presented La Purisima’s Mission Walker medallion to the engaging author just before she spoke to an audience of approximately 60 persons in the mission’s chapel.

Julie Campos, former Noticias editor and photographer, requested that the recognition award be given to her.

Edie Littlefield Sundby with docent Ardis Neilsen

Edie toured La Purísima during her 800-mile walking trek from San Diego to Sonoma. Traveling by foot in California and by horse and mule in Baja California, Edie eventually completed a grueling 1,600 mile journey spanning two trips separated by several years. Edie was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer twice which prompted each journey. After each cycle of treatments, Edie felt that her healing would only be strengthened by walking to all of the California missions, where she found strong spiritual support. She said that her journey along the California Mission Trail helped her to survive the mental and physical challenges that she confronted during multiple surgeries, massive radiation, and chemo treatments.

The Mexico portion of her journey especially tested her endurance. Spiritual strength and focused determination made it possible for her to conquer Baja’s dangerous terrain along with the help from the local vaqueros. They guided her along the El Camino Real de las Californias, where roads frequently didn’t exist, so trails had to be cut through the dangerous desert and mountain landscape. While camping in the Mexican wilderness, she endured frequent encounters with poisonous snakes, scorpions, and drug cartel members along with challenges in finding the food and water needed to survive.

Edie is a remarkable survivor. Her story is truly inspirational. If you are interested in reading *The Mission Walker*, it is available in La Tienda and at Amazon.com.

Did you know? Prelado docents donated 14,896 hours to La Purísima Mission State Park in 2019!
Potential Discovery of Mission Well & Water Works at La Purísima Concepcion in Lompoc: Part 2 of 3

BY TIM WAAG

After Dr. Farris’s presentation ended, I asked the docent to show me the site. She and her young son showed me the site, and it appears likely to be from the mission era - HOW EXCITING!

Overlooking the fields south of Los Berros Canyon, site of the 1813 Mission La Purísima mission, the well was impressively full of water for late fall and appears to supply water year around. Most of these sites provided more water in the mission era then they do now, largely due to the fact that there is less rainfall today.

In addition, there are a large number of agricultural wells in the area sucking up subsurface water.

Before mission era development, the well site is likely to have had abundant surface water and been easy to spot by the missionaries. Even today, there is a verdant channel between the well and the bottom of the embankment, creating a 15 foot impassable wall of mostly poison oak. Getting this irrigation source up and running would have been relatively easy for the indigenous people at this mission site, simply by installing round fire-baked tile interlocked water pipe down the slope and directly into the agriculture fields.

Photo: Partial view of the well facing east on the site.

The desperate move to the new mission site after the failure of the Mission Vieja site during Los Años del Los Temblores of December 1812 would make discovery of a ready to go irrigation source and adjacent fields a welcome break from the terror and tragedy of those destructive events. Just unearth the spring, install stone retaining walls, pipe down the slope and into irrigation channels and start growing!

Calling all Candlelight Docents!

BY MARION ROCHA CARLOS

This year’s production of the Candlelight Tour will be on Saturday, Sept. 20. We will have an informational meeting after the general membership meeting on March 28 in La Sala. We’re looking for docent participation, so if interested, please attend the meeting or contact one of the production managers: Marion Rocha Carlos (805) 705-2005, idget96@aol.com, or Sheila Libby (805) 736-6803, slibby6770@aol.com
DOCENT CORNER SPOTLIGHT: Growing the Next Generation (Part 2) - Igniting a passion for State Parks

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

These next three employees were students who grew up with a passion for La Purísima and the outdoors. All are State Park employees.

Josh Janecek
Josh attended kid’s camp since the age of seven and was recruited to be a counselor for the same in 2014-15; he joined junior docents the following year. Ever since childhood he’s loved the outdoors and has wanted to be a ranger. An avid hiker, surfer, and kayaker he landed a job with State Parks (Gaviota, Refugio, and El Capitan) last summer as a park aid. He enjoys interacting with people and sharing his knowledge with park visitors.

A senior at Cabrillo HS, he learned about the challenges of juggling academics while working weekends. Josh also excels academically, and one of his many passions is marine science and the school Aquarium.

His eyes lit up when he talked about the jellies and other sea creatures he helps maintain. There’s a lot to the Aquarium: feeding the sea life, cleaning tanks, maintaining proper water temperature, science quests for younger students, projects, and aqua-tourism.

Parker Grand
Parker’s enthusiasm for state parks shines through when he talks about La Purísima and youth programs. He’s been a park interpretive specialist for the past two years. One might say that state parks runs through his veins; during family camping trips, he sought out all the junior ranger activities he could find. Since childhood, he’s loved the mission and visited all twenty-one missions and four presidios by the second grade. He’s volunteered since age nine and joined the junior docent program in 2008.

Parker enjoys all the youth programs and exploring the park with them. He’d like to see more youth involved and be interested in parks through junior ranger, junior docent, and living history programs. Thrilled to see them excited, he wants them to return and explore even more.

In his spare time, he’s completed an AA degree in math/science at Hancock College, and currently attends Oregon State University majoring in Natural Resource Science, specializing in education. His dream job is to be a full-time state park interpreter and eventually move toward a leadership position.

After graduation, Josh plans to attend Santa Barbara City College for general ed, then transfer to either Cal Poly San Luis Obispo or CA State University-Monterey Bay to major in Environmental Resources or Biology. He has his eyes set on becoming a State Park Ranger, fulfilling his childhood dream.
Parker is grateful to both parents for their support, especially his mom who has inspired him through her preschool program. Ed and Shelly have helped him with programs and outreach; both are also docents. For those contemplating a state park career, he shares this youthful insight: have integrity, be hard-working, enthusiastic, and honest with yourself; have fun and create an exciting experience for visitors. He sees a bright future for state parks from incorporating innovative ideas and new technology and digital resources to teach students to think critically.

**Jesse Aguilar-Perez**

History buff Jesse has been coming to the mission since childhood. Straight out of high school he began looking for jobs and became a park aid. Since 2016, he’s led mission tours and helped with the junior ranger program. He completed the EMS academy at Hancock College and is a certified EMT. Add some fire technician classes to the repertoire, and he has interest in pursuing a career in wildland fire or as a state park ranger.

He enjoys meeting people from around the world and notes their enthusiasm upon realizing just how much history lies at the mission. Jesse constantly dives deeper into mission history and attributes his effectiveness to training and wanting to know more. That’s a great recipe for someone who wants a career with state parks. His advice: don’t let anything hold you back, you’ll learn a lot on the job. Jesse is also grateful to his co-workers who have encouraged him to learn more and research on his own, and introduced him to others. He’s also thankful to his parents and for the support from all the docents.
Las Posadas

BY MICHELE PITTENGER

First of all, I want to say thank you so much. Not everyone who helped is listed here. I don't have everyone's correct email at present. Thank you for your patience with me as I put this together for the first time. Thanks to Michele Jimenez-Holtz and Sandi Monteleagle-White for their cultural guidance. Everything we did right regarding the traditional observance of Las Posadas can be credited to the two of them. I would also like to thank Bonnie Bigelow and Betsy Lasswell for helping me to not go crazy trying to pull together the reception. Bonnie delivered our churros and tres leches cake. Betsey took over portioning out the cake. I am personally much better at pulling together pageants and processions than at handling hospitality. Thanks to Leslie for help with organizing the English language version of the script and for pulling double duty as a Spanish speaker. Thanks to Karen Cobb for helping me to remember to speak slowly and distinctly. thanks to Molly Cobb and Monte Tagulu for stepping into the crucial roles of Mary and Joseph. Thanks to Leslie and Greg and Nancy and Molly Beth and Aron, Clare, and Rose for turning the holy family away with such vigor and then joining in the entourage. Thanks to Michele and her husband for providing everything needed for the piñata.

A Tourist's Question

BY TIM WAAG

Some tourists recently asked me what this symbol meant carved into the furniture piece in the Sacristy of the Church. 1799 is also carved into the piece.

The Christogram IHS is a monogram symbolizing Jesus Christ. From Greek it is an abbreviation of the name ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (Jesus). In Eastern Orthodox Church the Christogram is composed with letters Χ, Ρ, Ι and Χ arranged into the cross.

Thanks to Rob Glasgow, henceforward known as 'fearless leader,' for his general knowledge, good humor, and all-around handiness. You made a wonderful master of ceremonies. Thanks to everyone who helped to set up and clean up La Sala. Thanks to all servers. Thanks to the staff for being supportive and helpful and allowing a newbie grace and not too much rope to tangle myself.

Photo: Christogram
Which room was this photo taken in?
A Little Trivia: Prelado de los Tesoros roughly translates to Keepers of the Treasures.

Our mission: We are a non-profit, volunteer organization that assists the staff of La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in the preservation of history and provides quality educational programs for park visitors.

Calendar

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<th>Event</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
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<td>Board Meeting: 10am, La Casita</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>Friends &amp; Fundraising: 10am, La Casita</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Garden Committee: 9:30am, La Casita</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>General Membership Meeting: 9am, La Sala</td>
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<td>Noticias Article Deadline</td>
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<td>Pottery Class: 1-3pm, La Casita</td>
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<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Sewadoras: 10-1, La Casita</td>
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<td>Station Tour</td>
<td>5 &amp; 19</td>
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<td>Student Learning History Day: 10am-2pm</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9 &amp; 23</td>
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<td>Tortilla Making: 9am, Hide Room</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8 &amp; 22</td>
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<td>Earth Day Hike, 9-10:30am</td>
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<td>Mission Life Day</td>
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<td>Mountain Men</td>
<td>27 &amp; 28</td>
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<td>Natural History Day Training</td>
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<td>Natural History Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep Shear Day</td>
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<td>Junior Rangers: 10-11am</td>
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<td>Little Rangers: 9:30-10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday Mondays VC &amp; Tour</td>
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Mission Pear Tree

This pear tree was grafted from the original pear orchard of La Purisima Mission. It is one of the few surviving trees associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps’ 1935-38 reconstruction of the mission garden.

From the Editors’ Desk

BY BONNIE BIGELOW, MICHELE PITTENGER, & MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Yes, we’re trying a new format and new guidelines for article submission. We also invite you to Go Paperless and opt in to receive your next Noticias electronically. Send a note to: noticias@lapurisimamission.org

Noticias article submission guidelines:

- 600 words or less
- 2 photos max
- Hi-resolution photos from camera, not cellphone
- Photos lose resolution the more they’re transmitted
- Articles may be edited to fit format

Next deadline: May 1

Send to: noticias@lapurisimamission.org
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