



Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Carmel Mountain Preserve
Del Mar Mesa Preserve • Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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Peñasquitos Creek Crossing Eagle Project

Chad Doran, Eagle Scout Candidate

Have you ever been in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, tried to cross the stream at the Peñasquitos Creek Crossing, and found that the bridge didn't quite reach the other bank? Well, thanks to a recently completed Eagle Scout Service Project, you don't need to worry about that anymore!

I am Chad Doran of Boy Scout Troop 1212 in Mira Mesa. I completed my Eagle Scout Service Project on March 9, 2014. As an Eagle Scout candidate, I built a 24-foot extension (three eight-foot spans, made from the same materials as the existing spans) to replace the bridge that had washed away.

Prior to this installation, the only way to cross the creek was to rock-hop after the bridge ended or slog through the water. The partial bridge crossing not only affected hikers, but it also greatly affected the many bikers who had to dismount to continue their ride.



The City of San Diego is responsible for most of the Preserve including Peñasquitos Creek Crossing. After a couple of emails and coordinating phone calls, I met with Senior Park Ranger Gina Washington and reviewed my plans for the extension. While she liked the idea, Gina had a few suggestions about the actual design based on her years of experience in this area.

Ranger Gina let me know that the creek often floods after even small amounts of rain and suggested the new bridge span be elevated to prevent flood waters from backing up and washing away the new spans. Her vision involved angling the last span of the existing bridge up as well as adjusting it to allow the new spans to go directly across to the south shore of the creek. She also explained that the project needed to be completed by March 15th due to the beginning of the Least Bell's Vireo bird mating season. This was a major concern, as Ranger Gina again related her experience in building bridges across the creek and recommended the use of a pneumatic post driver to drive in the new bridge supports, as the creek bed beneath the bridge consists of solid ground and rocks. I quickly changed the design, updated my bill of materials and design drawings, and explained the new plan to all the stakeholders.

One of the required approvers of the plan was my Eagle Project Counselor, Keith Trahan. Keith helped me work on the budget for the project, asked about required permits and bridge design, and

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went over some of the challenges of leading a team in accomplishing such a big task. After collecting approval signatures from my Scoutmaster, Parent Committee, Senior Park Ranger, and Eagle Project Counselor, I was ready for the building phase of this project.

The second phase was handled in two stages over two weekends. On March 1, 2014, three school friends and a few adults helped with the building of the bridge spans, cutting the raw lumber and fastening all pieces together according to my AutoCAD drawings. On the following weekend, the Troop 1212 Scouts, the Scoutmaster, and a couple of Assistant Scoutmasters helped with the installation of the newly built bridge spans. Preparatory work involved hauling in and setting up the pneumatic post driver, and the removal of a dead tree stump that was preventing realignment of the last existing (See page 6)



Activities, Hikes, and Volunteer Opportunities

All of our hikes are free. There is a fee for the Tracking survey classes. See below for details.

Wear good trail sneakers or boots and sun protection (hat, sunscreen or both), and bring plenty of water. Call 858-484-3219 for more information.

Repeating Events

Every Saturday and Sunday:

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Ranch House is located on Canyonside Park Driveway off Black Mountain Road between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Every month:

Introduction to Wildlife Tracking

Sat. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Apr. 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug 9, Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

Join a knowledgeable San Diego Tracking Team instructor for FREE informal "dirt time" lessons in the art of wildlife tracking. All experience levels are welcome. Learn how to identify the tracks and scat of coyotes, bobcats, raccoon, deer and other wildlife in the area! Information at www.sdtt.org. No reservation necessary. Rain cancels. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Drive and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Every two months:

Black Mountain Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9, Mar. 13, May 8, July 10, Sept 11, Nov 13

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Park Driveway, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Peñasquitos Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee

Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 16, Mar. 20, May 15, July 17, Sept. 18, Nov. 20

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tues. 7 p.m. Jan. 7, Mar. 4, May 6, July 1, Sept. 2, Nov 4

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Park Driveway, Rancho Peñasquitos.

San Diego Tracking Team:

Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training

Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Apr 26, July 19, Oct 11

This FREE class prepares you to participate in surveys that monitor the wildlife in major open space preserves and other critical areas. Learn about basic track and scat identification animal gaits, habitat fragmentation, survey transects, data collection protocols, and conservation. At the end of the class, you can sign up to join experienced trackers on some of SDTT's wildlife surveys throughout the San Diego area; please bring calendars to class. Preregistration is requested to reserve your spot. Dress prepared to spend time outdoors and bring a sack lunch and water. More information and preregistration at www.sdtt.org. Email info@sdtt.org or call 760.715.4102 to register. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Class

Class: Wed. 7-9 p.m. Sept 17, Oct 15

Field: Sat. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sept 20

Field: Sun. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Oct 19

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides you with information and skills to identify tracks, scat, and other sign from wildlife that inhabit our local nature preserves. Classes involve one weekday evening of classroom instruction and one Saturday in field for "dirt time" instruction.

Beginning class topics include: levels of tracking, the six arts of tracking, sensory awareness, journaling, the process of track identification, common species encountered locally, and introduction to gaits. Cost \$50. Preregistration required. More information at www.sdtt.org. Email info@www.sdtt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Carmel Mountain Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Park are available at www.Peñasquitos.org

Intermediate Tracker/Naturalist Class

Class: Wed. 7-9 p.m.. Apr 23, Oct 22

Field: Sat. 8 am - 4 pm, May 17, Nov 15

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides information and skills to identify tracks, scat, and other sign from wildlife that inhabit our local nature preserves. Classes involve one weekday evening of classroom instruction and one in the field for "dirt time" instruction.

Intermediate class topics include: beyond the track - connecting the track to the animal, speculative tracking,, advanced aspects of track identification, additional species, and track aging, Cost \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Preregistration required. More information at www.sdtt.org. Email info@sdtt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register.

Advanced Tracker/Naturalist Class

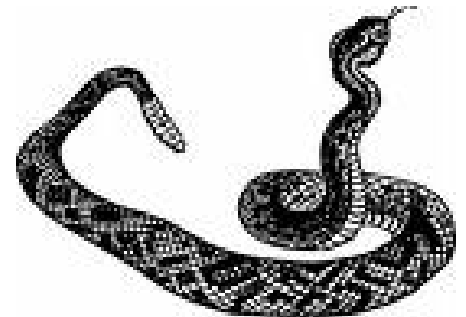
Class: Wed. 7pm - 9 pm, May 14, Nov 12

Field: 8 am - 4 p.m., June 21, Dec 6

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides information and skills to identify tracks, scat, and other sign from wildlife that inhabit our local nature preserves. Classes involve one weekday evening of classroom instruction and one Saturday in the field for "dirt time" instruction.

Advanced class topics include: advanced gait interpretation, additional species, and further study of track-debris-substrate interaction and track aging.

Cost: \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Pre-registration required. More information at www.sdtt.org. E-mail info@sdtt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register.



Please watch where you are stepping when out in the canyons. Snakes, lizards, and other wildlife are abundant on warm days.

Hikes & Volunteer Opportunities

April

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain Open Space Park

Sun., Apr. 6, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Join naturalist Arne Johansen to hike the Miner's Loop trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Meet at the parking staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of the intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Waterfall Loop History & Nature Hike with naturalist Mike Kelly

Sat., April 12, 9-11 a.m.

Flat terrain. Learn what some of the major trees in the Preserve are, see wildflowers, and visit the waterfall. On the return hike we'll walk the original "immigrant" trail, the first transcontinental mail delivery, and the road Kit Carson took after the battle of San Pasqual. Meet at the kiosk on the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Herb Walk with Will Bowen

Sun., April 27, 4-6:00 p.m.

Learn to identify the different trees, plants, and shrubs of Carmel Mountain Nature Preserve. Find out how they were used for food and medicine by Native Americans, Spanish, and Anglo American settlers. End up with a grasp of the native flora of this mesa top preserve. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way at Shorepoint Way.

May

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain Open Space Park

Sat. May 3, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Join naturalist Arne Johansen to hike the Miner's Loop trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Meet at the parking staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of the intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Waterfall Loop History & Nature Hike with naturalist Mike Kelly

Saturday, May 17, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Flat terrain. Learn what some of the major trees in the Preserve are, see wildflowers, and visit the waterfall. On the return hike we'll walk the original "immigrant" trail, the first transcontinental mail delivery, and the road Kit Carson took after the battle of San Pasqual. Meet at the kiosk on the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Herb Walk with Will Bowen

Sun., May 25, 5-6:30 p.m.

Learn to identify the different trees, plants, and shrubs of Lopez Canyon. Find out how they were used for food and medicine by Native Americans, Spanish, and Anglo American settlers. End up with a grasp of the native flora of Lopez Canyon. Meet at the West End Parking Staging Area.

June

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain Open Space Park

Sun. June 8, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Join naturalist Arne Johansen to hike the Miner's Loop trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Meet at the parking staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of the intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Wildlife Night Hike with naturalist Mike Kelly

Sat., June 14, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Enjoy the Preserve at night, meet Mule Deer (usually), bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk on the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Herb Walk with Will Bowen

Sun., June 22, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Learn to identify the different trees, plants, and shrubs of Peñasquitos Canyon. Find out how they were used for food and medicine by Native Americans, Spanish, and Anglo American settlers. End up with a grasp of the native flora of the west end wetlands and riparian habitats. Meet in the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

San Diego Tracking Team Volunteer Appreciation Event

The San Diego Tracking Team could not function and excel without you, our dedicated volunteers and generous donor members. We would like to show our appreciation by inviting you to our annual volunteer/donor lunch on Saturday, April 26, at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House from 11:00 a.m. to 2 :00 p.m..

After lunch, Anza Borrego Desert State Park Ranger and annual Sheep Count Coordinator Steve Bier will give a presentation on the status of Anza Borrego's sheep population and talk about the important part volunteers play in monitoring this unique population. This is a great chance to meet new volunteers and connect with other tracking team members you may not have seen in awhile!

I hope you can join us! Please RSVP to info@sdt.org or 760-715-4102 by April 15. See flyer at www.sdt.org for more information.

Denise Harter, President
San Diego Tracking Team

Hike Leaders Needed

Do you have a passion for birds, plants, or animals? Do you find the history of the Preserve fascinating? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others?

Volunteer to be a hike leader for the Friends of Peñasquitos. The Friends are setting up a training program for new hike leaders. We will bring you up to speed on the history of the Preserve, fill in gaps of your knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area, and show you the ins and outs of leading a hike.

The Friends want to offer more hikes in Peñasquitos Canyon and the surrounding open spaces. We need your help to make that happen. If you are interested, or just looking for more information, please contact Mike Kelly at mkelly1@san.rr.com or 858-342-8856.

Delfina Cuero: The Life of a Kumeyay Indian Woman

Will Bowen, PhD

Delfina Cuero was a Kumeyay (Digueno) Indian woman who was one of the last of her people to lead a traditional lifestyle of foraging throughout San Diego County--from Torrey Pines out to the Cuyamaca Mountains, down to Rosarito Beach, and eastward out to La Rumarosa and southward to the old village site of Ha-a, in present day Mexico.

Cuero was interviewed in the 1960s by anthropologist Florence Shippek. Her story is told in the wonderful little book called *The Autobiography of Delfina Cuero*, which should be on every nature lover's bookshelf. Through this book, we can get a picture of what life was like and how local people related to nature before and just after European contact.

Like her parents, Cuero was born in Mission Valley, and is a descendant of the Indians associated with the San Diego Mission de Alcalá. The Franciscan Fathers had a keen economic sensibility and turned the Missions into thriving businesses, partially by working their Indian parishioners extremely hard, under the threat of physical punishment. The Kumeyay, however, were not easily domesticated and were known for their resistance to Spanish enculturation.

When they were not working for the Missions or as domestics for local ranchers, the Indians practiced a foraging/hunter gatherer life style based on a division of labor between the sexes.

Men hunted deer, rabbits, opossum, raccoons, gophers, wood rats, otters, and certain species of birds, with bow & arrow and throwing sticks. They also sought out honey and fished with spears and with abalone fishhooks (some of which have been recently found in Sorrento Valley) and caught grunion by hand on the beaches in the spring and summer. Favorite fish were sheephead and bass. Sometimes the Indians fished in tule boats in San Diego and Mission Bays and even made forays out to the La Jolla and Point Loma kelp beds. Often they traded their fish

to the Spanish soldiers and settlers at the Presidio on the hill above Old Town.

Women gathered shellfish like clams, caught ghost shrimp at low tide in the bays, and searched the tide pools for octopus. Abalone were pried off the rocks at low tide and dried in the sun.

Opuntia cactus and Dudleya were favorite plant foods, as were acorns, pine nuts, and seeds from black sage, chia, wild lilac, and choke cherry. Lemonade berry and manzanita made good berry drinks.

Women gave birth to their children with little of our modern convenience or sanitation, instead relying on washes made from plants like *Trichostema Parishii*, *Rhus laurina*, and elderberry blossom.

Native people tried their best to avoid snake bites which they considered to signify and confer extreme bad luck. When they were bitten, they used a poultice of *Euphorbia* and called in a snake bite doctor.

Clothing was very minimal with women wearing bark aprons and men loin cloths--but as the early Spanish remarked in their writings, they were especially fond of complete nudity. Sandals, made from yucca fibers, were sometimes worn.

Men, women, and children lived in brush huts called wikiups which were made from willow, reeds, and happlopapas. They loved to dance, with dances

held at important events, such as births or deaths.

With all the plants, animals, birds, and fish in the area you would think that the Indians would have been well fed, but the truth is that they were often as not very hungry and had to spend so much time and energy looking for food that they had little interest in cultural outlets such as art or jewelry making.



Trail for All People Update

Jas Arnold

City of San Diego is currently reviewing the entrance sign content. Bench and shade structure design have been tentatively selected. The immediate goal is to complete the bid set so a contractor can be selected by early spring anticipating the beginning of construction for the beginning of winter, 2014.

Please contact me (ziphel@san.rr.com) / 619-889-4348 with your comments on anything about the trail, and for a clearer rendition of the trail plan shown in previous newsletters.

Enriqueta and Ramón López of López Canyon

Alan Rothero

[Alan Rothero here remembers his friendship with the López Family of the same named López Canyon, the second canyon that makes up Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. We have only this anecdotal account and a similar one from the McCoys (Canyon News July 1993) to tell us a little bit about the family that homesteaded López Canyon in 1895. We have several of the paintings Alan did of the west end of the Canyon. There are several dates that are questionable but this is a reminiscence. — Mike Kelly]

The way we became friendly with them (Enriqueta and Ramón López) was some time when I returned after the war in 1945. Weekends we would seek out the quiet places where I would try my hand doing a bit of landscape painting. Once, while painting a picture of the old Peñasquitos Ranch [actually, it was the El Cuervo adobe, now in ruins. It was wrongly thought to be the original land-grant in the Preserve], which at this time was still standing. Margaret, my wife, took a hike up the nearby canyon, and returned to say that it was beautiful, with a little house and fruit trees. Later we walked there and met Ramón and his sister, Enriqueta, an event which became a wonderful friendship.

We would drive out and spend many happy weekends in that spot. They always welcomed us. The road to the top of the hill could be seen from their front porch, so they could see us ahead of time, and be out to meet us. We would joke about the red racer snake standing guard at the top of the hill. When we approached the gate, he would slither off.

Enriqueta always looked so nice and fresh, with her nose powdered, and wearing her ruby earrings. Sometimes she would be working in her small flower garden, or trimming the wicks on the kerosene lamps in the kitchen.

Ramón would be busy with his cows or his horses, chopping wood, or working on the cow skin that he had tanned. He fashioned many things from rawhide. He owned a tractor, which was always giving him trouble. It was the most stubborn piece of machinery. Ramón would spend hours taking it apart trying to diagnose the trouble. Then, eventually, he would get Martin, an old friend from Escondido, to help him. With both of them working on it, the old tractor would cough and growl, and then with a loud bang, rocket blue circles of smoke away up into the sky, and then seemed to be good for a few more days of hard work.

One Saturday morning when we arrived, Enriqueta was very excited, telling Margaret in Spanish, that a baby had been born in the barn the other night. It seemed that two "wetbacks," a man and a woman, came by early one morning; they had been walking all night; could they rest here? So, Enriqueta let them sleep in the clean straw in the barn. But things happened fast; the woman was going to have a

baby, so Ramón galloped off to get some help. A couple of days later, all three disappeared into the night, with one of Enriqueta's blankets, and were never seen again.

In the old days, Ramón's father rode around on his horse keeping everybody on the ranch busy so they never went to school — too much work to be done. But Ramón, once in a while, did have a chance to drive to San Diego, and he would cross the San Diego River near the San Diego Mission. Once, Alonzo Horton (Horton Plaza is named after this 19th century City father) stopped him and asked for a ride.

Once in a while a dance was held in Del Mar, and after their father was asleep, off they would go on horseback to the dance, and returned before he woke up, just in time to milk the cows.

For one Christmas dance, Enriqueta made a white muslim dress, and to make it look pretty, she gathered some red Toyon holly berries that grow on the hills, and sewed them on.

On the east side of the porch grew a climbing yellow rose. Years ago her boyfriend, whom her farther disapproved, had given her a bouquet of yellow roses. In the glass jar they took root and she carefully planted them in the ground, and one had grown and grown.

Ramón liked to tell stories about when he was a boy. Once some men came through, buying cattle. They had camped where the Pet Cemetery is now. Early in the morning he had gone to see what was going on. They were getting ready to break camp, when one of the men took a shovel to where the camp fire had been, and to Ramón's amazement, dug up a metal box full of money. It had been in a safe place all night under the fire.

Old timers had told Ramón that when the Chinese came to build the railroad, they wore pigtails, and pushed small, two wheeled carts to move the dirt.

Indians lived along Sorrento Valley in little shelters, with a fire outside each entrance. "Mixing with the 'white men,' they would catch colds and die in three or four days."

It was near here on the old road coming down from La Jolla, that Captain Johnson, who lived at the east end of Peñasquitos, and who was married to Alvarado's daughter, enjoyed a few drinks now and then. His horse and buggy had turned over in the ditch. Captain Johnson came to Ramón and his father for help. The beautiful, silver-trimmed harness, Ramón's father thought it was terrible to cut to get the horse on its feet, but Captain Johnson belted out: "Cut the damned harness, and get the horse up."

It was a sad time for us when Enriqueta and Ramón died. López Canyon never seemed the same to us. Often, little, fond memories would come back. Their sister about whom they had told us, had polio, and liked to sit in the sun in her wheel chair. She had made friends with a roadrunner, and one day when she had not (see page 8)

(Bridge from page 1)

bridge span. After almost two hours of hacking at the stump and annoying it with a small reciprocating saw, the quick-thinking Scouts devised a way to use a mechanical come-along to slowly but effectively extract the stump from the stream.

The first step in extending the bridge was to raise the last existing bridge span to a 12 degree angle. While some troop members held the bridge span steady (110 pounds per span), one person used the pneumatic post driver to drive the four supporting Ranger-provided Telspar poles into the creek bed at the appropriate spots along the reoriented span.

After the poles were driven into the creek to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, the bridge span was attached to the Telspar poles using lag screws. With the existing span elevated and secured, the Scouts employed the same procedure with the next three new bridge spans, with the last of the three new spans dropping back down to land on the south side of the creek. The Scouts also removed the existing stepping stones from the creek bed and placed them in another crossing area. After everything was completed for the day, the Scouts and adults cleaned up the work area and checked out with the Ranger on duty.

The following day, I returned for some minor follow-up work and, with help from the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and two adults, made the bridge far more secure. This group replaced all the three inch lag screws that were used the previous day with six inch lag screws to improve the stability of the bridge. This group also took the time to fine-tune the alignment of each of the spans. Even as they were finishing the day's work and resting on the new bridge, they were receiving kudos and thanks from the very first users of the new extension.



The building and installation of the bridge went very well, nobody was hurt, and everyone involved had fun helping the community. Special thanks to Park Ranger Lisa Wilson for coordinating with the group and being a great

help the weekend of the installation.

This project was funded by very generous monetary and food donations from Black Mountain Bicycle, The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Home Depot, Chipotle, Dominos, Vons, Mimi's Café, and Fresh & Easy.

I would also like to recognize Martha Caldwell for her very generous donation (thanks Grandma!). The overall project took a combined amount of about 300 man-hours and was done over the span of four months. Chad's Eagle Service Project is complete, and I hope to see people using it for safe and easy travel across this beautiful part of the canyon for years to come.



Eagle Scout Project at Park Village Elementary

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I just want to thank you again for donating plants to my Eagle Project. The plants look amazing. If it weren't for you, we would have had a lot of trouble finding native plants to put in the garden.

We put in all the plants - and they are doing fine. Now the students at Park Village Elementary get to learn about Native Plants and have a nice garden at their school.

You are a generous and inspiring speaker. Thanks again for sharing your time with us and providing plants for the garden.

Sincerely,
David Paul



Thank You to our Donors

Thank you to everyone that responded to our fund appeal.

Due to your generous donations, we raised over \$4400 to begin the Black Mountain Arsenic Mine restoration and publish the e-book version of *Pieces of History: Prehistory and History of Rancho Peñasquitos*. Hard copies of the book will be sent to those donating \$50 or more as soon as it is available.

*donated \$100 or more

Nancy Jo Acevedo	Michael Kelly*
Karen Adair	Susan and Mike Killen
Gerard and Mary Antekeier*	Thomas Komin
James and Lisa Arnold	Suzann Leininger
Barbara Bartley	Robert and Linda Leiter
Judith Bayer	Steven Lister*
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Henry Beck and Eileen Heveron	Herbert and Lani McCoy
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Edward and Elizabeth Jen	Francisco and Antoinette Wong
Linda Johnson	Anthony Wood*
John and Peggy Keating*	Paul and Barbara Zepf

San Diego Royal Presidio Development Circle

Will Bowen, PhD

On the last Thursday of every month the San Diego Presidio Circle meets upstairs from 6-730 PM at La Piñata restaurant in Old Town. The aim of the Circle is to study all aspects of the Spanish Presidio which was founded in 1769 by Father Sierra and Captain Portola, who walked all the way up from Sinoloa, Mexico.

Penasquitos Canyon was a land grant made to Capitan Ruiz, who was one of the commandantes of the Presidio-- which measured a football field square and housed 600 people, including 76 Leather Jacket soldiers in its hey day.

The Presidio Circle, which is chaired by Dr. Paul Chace, a noted local archaeologist, is free and open to all interested parties. Mexican beer, coffee, chips, and salsa are provided free of charge to all in attendance.

Some of the regular members of the Circle included: Richard Carrico—the foremost authority on local Indian groups, Steve Van Wormer—a top historian of Old California, Aaron Sassoon and Mark Roeder--paleontologists at the Natural History Museum, and Abel Silvas, also known as “Running Grunion”, a Native American performer who is a descendent of residents of the Presidio.

Recent presentations at the Circle have been on the population and resources of the four California Presidios, women’s roles at the Presidio, and the archaeology of the San Diego Mission. An upcoming presentation on the fish bones found at the Presidio, with invited fisheries scientists from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, is planned.

Anyone interested in local history is welcomed. We would like to see the Presidio become a World Heritage Site.



Will Bowen's History Hike visited the ruins of the Don Pedro Bovet Adobe in Carroll Canyon

(Lopez cont., from page 5)

been outside, he had come into the house looking for her.

Once, when we were invited into the house, a small trunk was opened up to show us some family treasures: a black lace mantilla and fan from Spain, belonging to their mother; something of the grandfather's who had been a soldier at San Juan Capistrano Mission. Some photographs, one of which was the burial of true men who had died on the U.S.S. Bennington, which exploded in San Diego harbor, showing Fr. Ubach at the service.

Enriqueta did not live long after Ramón's death; she had gone to stay with a relative in San Diego. She was afraid to be alone on the ranch. But she missed the peace and tranquility of their little home.

A couple of weeks ago after the rain, I walked up the canyon. The green grass was coming up, the Sycamore trees looked handsome with their white bark shining, and I thought the hills will soon be covered again with yellow mustard flowers. I stood where their house used to be, and looked up the road leading to the mesa. The road Ramón had to make because the Peñasquitos Ranch had tried to fence them in. They thought they could drive them out. The water at the Peñasquitos was salty, but the water at López remained fresh.

What was left of their home? Some boards lay scattered in the weeds. The trees in their orchard were all dead, the barn where the baby was born was gone.

I looked for Enriqueta's yellow rose, but I think she must have taken it to heaven with her.



Will Bowen leads History Hike to examine the ruins of the Ramon Lopez Dairy Farm in Lopez Canyon

Membership Application

Membership category: (circle 1 below)

Senior (62) or Student \$10	Individual \$15
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Corporate \$250	Life \$1000
Contribution \$ _____	Patron \$100

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____ Volunteer to help a committee (call to discuss)

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____ Indian Culture

____ Educational Workshops

____ School, Family, Youth Programs

____ Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Please make checks payable to:

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