NOTICIAS

Santa Barbara Historical Society

Indians building a canoe on Carpinteria Beach.

Carpinteria Valley Issue

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"Carpinteria Bay from the Upper World" (Wash drawing by Neville Ussher).

NOTICIAS

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Portolá Visits the Carpinteria Valley

By WILBERTA M. FINLEY

Carpinteria Valley, whose written history began with the arrival of Cabrillo in 1542, had long been a favored dwelling place, as is evidenced by the findings of men of science in recent years. With origins not yet determined, it is known that the Chumash Indians who occupied the area in 1542 were the third and last civilization to dwell here before the coming of the white man. These were the same type of people who met the expedition commanded by Captain Don Gaspar de Portolá upon its arrival on these shores on August 14, 1769.

Cabrillo had been impressed with the friendliness exhibited towards his men by the natives, by their generous sharing of the various foods brought to them, and by the skill of the Indians in maneuvering their well built plank canoes. And though the Indians seemed extremely primitive, they were of fair intelligence.

These same qualities also were made note of by the diarists in Portolá's party. Four excellent diaries of this expedition have survived, containing such a wealth of detail concerning this first overland journey that it is possible to visualize the event with no great difficulty. Portolá, the military leader, kept his accounts brief, as he had too many details of the march to concern him. Costansó, the engineer, kept a record; and Fray Juan Crespí (Father Serra's deputy, missionary, and chaplain of the expedition), was also its official chronicler. Lieutenant Fages, second in command, in 1775 wrote an account of the trek which is of great value.

Portolá had a two-fold purpose to fulfill—finding and occupying the magnificent Bay of Monterey (discovered and named by Viscaíno in 1602) to prevent further British and Russian aggression in California—and the Christianization of the "gentiles" by the Catholic missionaries. The company of 65 men, with a train of one hundred pack mules, left San Diego in July, 1769. They arrived at the mouth of the Santa Clara River, a little below what is now San Buenaventura, on August 14. Here they were met by a large population of natives with great friendliness, received a large quantity of fresh fish, exchanged gifts with the Indians, were impressed with the well ordered houses of the rancherias, and particularly so, with the skill and dexterity used in making and managing the plank canoes. Fr. Crespí wrote; "They (the people) are of good figure and disposition, active, industrious

and inventive" . . . though Fr. Engelhardt questioned this latter virtue, saying "they had made no improvement in any line" (since 1542).

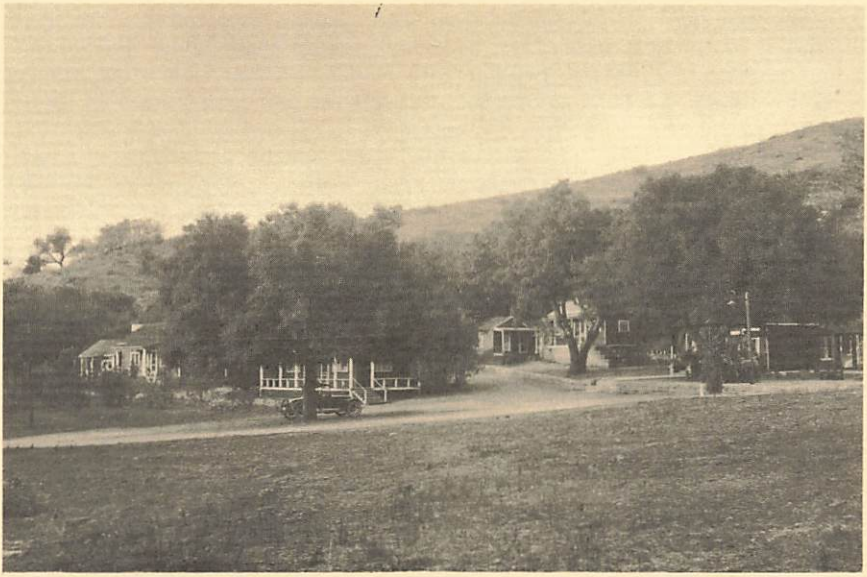
Following an overnight rest in camp, established "a short distance from the pueblo near the bank of a river the waters of which coming from the sierra reach the sea", the two Fathers held Holy Mass. It was the first solemn act of divine worship offered in that region, and was on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin; therefore the name *Asuncion de Nuestra Señora* was bestowed upon the site, with the observation that, in their opinion, it would be a most suitable location for a mission. (Mission San Buenaventura was founded Easter Sunday, March 31, 1782 at a site a little north of this area, by Father Junipero Serra).

Crossing the Santa Clara River gave the party some little difficulty as the river bed was quite rocky, and the water flowed with some force over the stones, but by 2:00 in the afternoon, they were on their way following the coastline in a westerly direction. A march of two hours brought them to a village of eight houses (a small fishing village) where a halt was made. Unfortunately, there was no water or good pasturage available. It did bring them to a place, however, where they could begin to see the curving coastline which lay ahead of them—probably Pitas Point, the start of Rincón Beach. A disturbed night was spent at this camp, for while the natives were extremely kind and friendly, they felt it necessary to entertain their visitors through the night by "playing weird melodies on their flutes or pipes", so wrote Fr. Crespí.

On the morning of August 16, the expedition proceeded along the beach and after three hours found a place which offered good pasturage for the mules. Here also, they found a village containing more than 300 natives, some of whom had come over from the islands to see these strange white men. Crespí counted seven canoes, "well made, eight varas (yards, approx.) in length and one in width, the boards fastened together with cords in lieu of nails, and caulked with tar. They were given many fish by the natives. This village had 30 or more houses of spherical shape, made of tules, and was located on a good creek with fresh running water which emptied into the sea," forming a small estuary. This place the soldiers named *El Pueblo El Ballerin*, because the chief, "who was a man of good stature and regular features, was a great dancer." Crespí, however, adhering to his custom of naming the rancherias for the saints whose feast day it was, called it *Santa Clara de Montefalco* (The Indians called it "Xucu", we know it as El Rincón). Many willow, alder, and live oak trees grew along the banks of the creek, making it a pleasant place.

Thursday morning, August 17, "at half-past seven o'clock, the company began its westward march, ascending gently sloping hills with good pasture land, which ended in steep cliffs at the seacoast, with sand dunes between the cliffs and the sea. Continuing, they came to a neck of land from the point of which they could look back and see the curve of a shallow bay. Here were 38 huts, some large enough to accommodate many families, and over 300 Indians. Camp was pitched near the rancheria on a plain of good, rich, black soil." Crespí gives quite accurate measurements of the Carpinteria Valley—"one league (two and three-quarters miles) from north to south by three leagues (11 miles) in width from west to east. Many willow, cotton-

(Continued on Page 28)



Shepard's Inn.

Shepard's Inn

By GEORGIA STOCKTON

During the year on each side of the turn of the century visitors came to Carpinteria Valley drawn not by its scenic setting, its wide spreading oak groves or its smooth stretch of beach, but by a group of unassuming frame buildings nestled in a deep canyon known as Shepard's Inn.

When James and Belle (Wyant) Shepard moved with their family to their newly acquired ranch in Rincon canyon in 1876 they set out a large acreage of small fruits and berries, both of which responded to the soil and climate of the canyon with bountiful yields of fine quality.

Then the problem of marketing, which plagued the valley fruit growers for years, had to be faced. Although their produce brought premium prices in Santa Barbara and Ventura markets, there was much loss due to transportation by team and wagon over the rough roads. Until the Casitas road was opened in 1878 the trip to Ventura was made along the beach at low tide, with a watchful eye for rocks and boulders along the cliffs.

Soon after the road's completion the stage line from Los Angeles and a short line from Ojai were routed over Casitas Pass. The company manager came to the Shepards asking to use the ranch for a rest stop for changing teams, and they agreed, glad for the extra income it promised. At the suggestion of the proprietor of an Ojai hotel Mrs. Shepard began putting up lunches for the travelers, which were immediately popular. Then when a passenger became ill and occupied the spare bedroom for several days, it dawned on Mr. and Mrs. Shepard that they had, on their own ranch, the setting for a profitable business.

The first step was to remodel their own simple frame cottage, enlarging the dining room to accommodate a dozen or more small tables and adding a long porch which became popular with luncheon guests. Then the first of several cottages was built among the orange trees and a barracks-like building erected with single rooms. Of necessity, in those days, the rooms were plain with painted furniture; no running water and no plumbing until later years. Chairs and hammocks were set up in inviting groups under the oaks and the ranch, which they had named Mountain View Inn, was ready for business.

Then, as now, a pleasant drive and good food attracted parties to the Inn from both directions. The fame of Mrs. Shepard's cooking spread to Ojai where Mrs. Hunt of the Foothills Hotel brought horseback parties across the mountains for lunch. In Santa Barbara the leading hotels, the Potter, the Arlington and the Miramar made standing reservations for tables for their guests. At first the long drive was made in carriages; later the parties boarded one of the several local trains running at that time and were met at the Carpinteria station by surreys from the Inn.

Names of many early Santa Barbarans are listed in the first registers of the Inn; the Dibblees, de la Guerras, Fithians, Underhills, Taylors, Bainbridges and Sidebothams. From across the mountains in Ventura county came C. C. Teague and his family from Santa Paula, the Bards from Hueneme, Tom Clark from the Ojai. Edward S. and William L. Thacher were frequent visitors from the upper Ojai and boys from Thacher school often rode their horses over for lunch.

Well known Chicagoans who spent winters in Santa Barbara or at their estates in Montecito discovered the Inn. The register lists the names of the Mitchells, Otis Chatfield-Taylors, Carter Harrisons, Swifts, Armours and Cudahys and the Alfred Bakers. From New York were the Goulds, who came from their estate on a Montecito hilltop, and the Vanderbilts who spent winters in Santa Barbara.

Famous Californians who registered included Carrie Jacobs Bond and Ruth Comfort Mitchell. The budding movie colony in Hollywood sent Mary Pickford and Theda Bara. From abroad were Padraic Colum from Dublin, Captain and Lady (Violet) Astor and the Earl of Minto from London, and General Otis from Manila.

Members of Mrs. Hunt's horseback parties registered the names of their mounts beside their own. Later, when automobiles came into common use, their owners wrote the name of the manufacturer of their car in the big book. They included the Stoddard-Dayton, E.M.F., Winton, Chalmers-Detroit, Lozier, Mitchell, Haynes, Peerless, Pope-Hartford, and Ford Model W, cars now found only in the garages of collectors.

Some time in the late 1890's one of the guests, a woman from Chicago, came to Mr. Shepard and suggested that the Inn's name be changed. There were so many Mountain Views, she said, none of them measuring up to the Inn. The Shepards themselves had made the place famous, she told him, and it should be officially known as Shepard's Inn. The name caught on at once; it had been used unofficially anyway, and from that time to the present day, when it is only a memory, the Shepard family has been memorialized.

In these days of modern conveniences and quick transportation it is hard to imagine the amount of work behind the scenes necessary to maintain

the Inn at a standard demanded by the wealthy traveling public of that day. An army of women, mostly local girls, was recruited during the busy season. All vegetables and fruits served had to be gathered from the garden and orchard; there were bushels of peas to shell, potatoes to peel, beans to string and dozens of other tasks before a meal could be served. The old fashioned wash tubs ran full time laundering the linen tablecloths and napkins which were ironed by hand to a satin finish with the stove-heated sadirons.

The kitchen was a long, narrow room attached to the rear of the house. Its central feature was the huge French wood-burning range with oven capacity to roast twelve turkeys at once, brought to Santa Barbara from San Francisco by Felix Jesse years before for use in the restaurant he operated on lower State Street. Mrs. Shepard herself superintended all the operations of the Inn and kept a close watch on the kitchen. A close watch was necessary sometimes; one of the cooks, a big Swedish woman with a hot temper, frequently took after some of the male employees with a butcher knife. Local girls waited on the tables; the heavy work was done by two bus boys, Bill Mackrel and the Indian, Catalino.

The ranch was largely self-sustaining with its own beef and poultry, vegetables, fruit and dairy. The meals might have been described as regular farm fare but the food was of such quality and served in such an attractive manner as to please the eyes of the guests as well as their appetites. The tables were always centered with bouquets of garden flowers. Strawberries, for which the ranch was famous, were served on the stem, to be dipped in powdered sugar. Only the blossom ends of cantaloupes were sent to the table and vegetables had come from the garden the same morning. Mrs. Shepard originated the baked orange dish which has been used by Carpinteria hostesses down the years. Guests were permitted to pick oranges from the trees, always a thrill for eastern people who found them very different from the fruit they bought in home markets.

As the fame of the Inn spread many parties made reservations, some asking for special menus. The Shepard's son, Frank, arranged these, sometimes sending a boy to whip the upper waters of Rincon creek for trout for breakfast, sometimes arranging a quail dinner from the coveys which made their homes in the hills. With Santa Barbara's growing consciousness of its Spanish heritage, barbecues under the huge oaks became popular, with as many as 350 guests being served. Frank Shepard became an artist at cooking the steaks. Spanish girls from the valley waited table in costume and a small orchestra composed of a local group of Spanish boys furnished the music.

Frank Shepard also arranged camping parties for the more venturesome guests. A favorite route was a horseback trip across the mountains to the Santa Ynez Valley, returning by way of San Marcos Pass to Santa Barbara. Most of the guests enjoyed the primitive camp life but a few demanded luxuries such as air mattresses, and one party called for a folding table and chairs which were carried by muleback.

The Shepards sold their ranch in 1927 and moved to a new home in Carpinteria. The *Santa Barbara News* voiced the sentiments of unnumbered people in the following editorial:

"Another Santa Barbara county landmark is gone! Shepard's Inn, the last sticks and stones of which are being removed this week, gained

nation-wide fame for its hospitality and fine cuisine, and hundreds of local citizens as well as hundreds throughout the country still recall the 'good old days' when huge barbecues were held there and the 'best families' made use of its spacious grounds and dining hall to entertain their guests. Established in 1890, it was equipped to handle dinner parties of such size as to have become almost a myth.

"It was at Shepard's that the 'Spanish atmosphere', so popular today, was found in another era and there were wined and dined there many famous personages.

"The passing of Shepard's Inn brings sighs of regret, but it has fallen victim to the development of the citrus industry. Though the Inn has not been actively operated for a number of years, it has been the hope of many that the future would see it reopened and again dispensing good food and warm hospitality."

Notes on Henry Chapman Ford

Compiled by FRANK G. WEBSTER* *and* NILS HATLAND

Henry Chapman Ford, my uncle, lived first in Carpinteria, California, in the old Ford House, which was a three story frame building. It was located near Carpinteria Creek on the old 101 highway and is now known as the Peterson Place. I was born there in 1882. I do not remember much about the place except that there was a deep ravine back of the house, and there was a large variety of flowers and shrubs around the place. (Much of the information available concerning Mr. Ford emphasizes the love of flowers on the part of the artist.—*Editor's Note*).

Mr. Ford moved to Santa Barbara in the early 1880's. His first studio was on the second floor of the Odd Fellows' Building on State and Haley Streets. I remember that he had lots of paintings on the walls there. Later, he moved up to State and Victoria Streets, and he lived there until his death.

While in Carpinteria, my father, George D. Webster, drove Mr. Ford and his party behind a four mule team to the Yosemite Valley, where the party stayed for several months. Mr. Ford painted all the time that he was there.

Going into the Valley there was a very steep grade. My dad told me that, when the party came to it, they had to rough lock their wheels and to tie a tree behind the wagon to help hold it back. When they were going down this grade, with the wheels locked and with the tree dragging behind, they had to stop often because the dust was so thick that they could not see the wheelers. When they reached the bottom, they had to continue to drag the tree for another mile before they could throw it off the road. The road was lined for this distance with the trees that other people had used and then thrown to one side.

Uncle Henry had a large collection of paintings in his studio, but, at the time, I was too young to remember much about any of them except

*Nephew of Henry Chapman Ford.

three: One was a watercolor of the big redwoods in Sequoia Park. Another was a moonlight picture of the Merced River. There was a log in the center of the stream, with the water rippling around it and a full moon coming over the mountains. Another was the one I still have. It was taken looking up the Valley from Inspiration Point.

Uncle Henry was a kind man who took a great interest in many things. As a child, I used to go swimming a lot, and on these occasions I watched Uncle Henry painting a scene of the beach and the wharf or of Montecito and the mountains or of the old Island schooner, the "Restless", which was owned by Captain Burgen. Mr. Ford usually rode on the mule cars to the west beach. (It was on one of these excursions that he painted the beach and wharf that now is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Nils Hatland.—*Editor's Note*) but occasionally he drove about Santa Barbara in a rented buggy and horse.

In the early 1880's, Mr. Ford made a tour of the California Missions. The result of this tour was a series of twenty-four etchings, which constitute the best record that we have of the Missions in this period. After returning to Santa Barbara from this tour, he made many etchings of the Santa Barbara Mission and the surrounding countryside.

The painting that he made of the giant redwoods, a large picture, about eight by twelve feet, as I remember it, hung for many years in the Arlington Hotel.

Uncle Henry died of tuberculosis. With Aunt Nellie, I attended his funeral in the Episcopal Church on State and Micheltorena Streets. I think he is buried in the Santa Barbara Cemetery.

Finger Rock, Carpinteria Beach (Etching by Henry Chapman Ford).

Carpinteria Valley Agriculture

By Augusta Young Lyman

Agriculture was probably non-existent among the early inhabitants of Carpinteria when the valley was covered with a heavy oak forest. This provided acorns; the easy-going Indians caught fish, ate wild berries so that planting of crops was unnecessary.

My grandfather, Daniel M. Whitford, was one of the early American farmers, coming here about 1871 after farming for some years near Woodland, Yolo county, where he raised grain and livestock. After remaining a bachelor for some years he married Harriet Rebecca Mering who found the heat of the Sacramento valley unbearable and they sought a new location. A Dr. Hollingsworth told my grandfather that he had found "the paradise of the Pacific" at Santa Barbara and the family moved here, coming by boat from San Francisco and staying at a boarding house near the present Miramar Hotel.

Many places were considered and a farm at what is now Milpas Street was decided upon. However the deal fell through as the owner refused to deliver a carpet which he had agreed to include in the purchase.

Later my grandfather purchased the ranch which remains in the family, which was originally about 70 acres. This ranch consisted of about five little "rancherias". We had the abstract which showed each parcel of land and the names of the owners but it was borrowed and never returned, much to my regret.

After providing a house for his family and another for a brother, William Whitford, a veteran of the Civil War, my grandfather looked about for profitable crops, meanwhile clearing the land of the oak growth. He kept four or five horses and several cows, raising hay and corn to feed them. The family lived on home grown vegetables, chickens, eggs, potatoes, beans and whatever could be raised. With the exception of tea, coffee, sugar and flour very little was bought at the grocery. Pigs were raised and butchered; my grandmother was noted for her delicious sausage.

In the meantime cash was needed for taxes and crops were planted for profit, with many failures and some success. At one time my grandfather tried growing castor beans as the oil was said to be in great demand. Nothing came of it except that my grandmother and her sister almost died from eating the nut-like beans. To this day castor beans still come up in the orchard, descended from plantings in the 1870's.

In the meantime Mr. O. N. Cadwell, on a neighboring ranch since 1868, had experimented with various fruits, many of them sub-tropical. He raised apples, pears, loquats, guavas, figs and many other varieties. Mr. Sexton of Goleta and he tried many varieties of exotic plants from all over the world. Nothing proved really profitable until English walnuts were tried. My grandfather planted 30 acres, all raised from seed. Some did very well, others refused to bear.

What a time they had preparing them for market! They had to be washed and bleached, dried on trays and sacked. They were shipped by boat to San Francisco where they were sold by commission men, some of whom proved to be less than honest. My grandfather sent the finest crop

The Big Grapevine.

he had ever raised one year and in return received a bill for freight and expenses and nothing more.

About this time lima beans were introduced and Carpinteria became an important center for seed beans. These were handled by the Henry Fish Seed Company and a warehouse built where they were culled and graded. They were sold by contract to the Burpee Seed Company in Pennsylvania. A crew of men was employed in the fields to "rogue" the beans, pulling out any that were not true to variety.

In early days bean threshing was a great event. A threshing floor was cleared at each ranch, an area kept throughout the year, sprinkled and swept to make a hard floor. The beans, well dried, were piled in the middle of the floor and all the family and hired help drove over them with discs, wagons, buggies and spring wagons to thresh out the beans. They were then gathered up, straw and all, and put through a fanning mill to blow out the chaff. They were then sorted by hand and all broken or discolored beans removed.

In the meantime the women of the ranch family were busy baking pies, cakes and bread and preparing huge quantities of meat and vegetables for the threshers. Woe to the family which was termed a "poor provider" for they risked being the last on the list to get their beans threshed. This was a cause for great anxiety for early rains or heavy winds often appeared and the whole year's work destroyed. I well remember an early Fall rain that soaked the piles of beans thoroughly; the sun came out turning warm and humid, and in spite of frequent turning long sprouts pushed up in the piles

and the crop was a total failure. Later threshing machines were introduced and the work was less tedious, but the threshing season remained an exciting event.

By this time there were many walnut orchards planted and after several years of "processing" by individuals and a small group at the Bern Franklin ranch a cooperative was formed and what was known as "the walnut house" was built. My father, John W. Young, a retired school teacher, managed this house each season for many years. The schools were given a "walnut vacation" and nearly every child earned his Christmas money by picking up walnuts. Many people worked in the bean house or the walnut house; I earned part of my education at $1.25 per nine-hour day. What rejoicing there was when the law was passed cutting the time to eight hours and increasing the daily pay to $1.50.

During this time apricot orchards had been planted and the job of pitting the fruit brought in spare cash. Mr. Will Norlin, Mr. L. T. Webster and some others had built pitting sheds to handle the crop. Miss Lulu Cravens, Nell and Bess Franklin and I thought it would be fun to camp out in the orchard while we made some money. We camped for three weeks and worked from dawn to dark; my total earnings were $13.75. Most of the girls did much better; I decided I was much too slow.

Lemon orchards had been planted on a small scale including a profitable grove at Shepard's Inn and on the Cravens Ranch. It was not until blight and worms struck the walnut orchards and they ceased to be profitable that many lemons were planted. The Fithian ranch had extensive olive groves and even had equipment for making olive oil. Apparently this did not pay for only a few scattered trees remain.

Many other smaller fruits were tried. The Lyman family raised strawberries, winter tomatoes and peas which were sold to Diehl's grocery in Santa Barbara, well known for its fancy foods. It was said that five sacks of peas would flood the Santa Barbara market at that time.

There was a golden era when lemons were very profitable and two cooperative marketing plants were opened, which are still active. Through the years costs of picking, spraying and hauling have soared and many of the older orchards have been taken out. The use of lemons in the East has declined, largely because the market is flooded with canned juice which is prepared with greater ease than by squeezing fresh lemons.

Up to this time an occasional avocado tree was planted. Mr. Cadwell and Mr. Sexton developed a number of varieties, including some from Mexican seedlings. The fruit has gained steadily in popularity and many growers have interset lemons with avocados, taking out the lemons when the other trees outstripped them. Stanley Shepard of Carpinteria has long been a successful grower and has developed new varieties.

The avocado has been regarded as a pest-free crop, but has lately developed serious diseases among them a root rot called cinnamon disease which is deadly, and for which no remedy has been found as yet.

During the years irrigation has been developed and the Cachuma dam has supplied much needed water to the valley. Formerly the entire lima bean crop was matured without irrigation through intensive cultivation and the aid of fogs that prevailed in spring and summer. In early days artesian wells were common in the lower valley. I remember a stream gushing from

a pipe on the Henry Fish property in the townsite. Another well was on the Hogue place on lower Linden Avenue. Through the years the water table has been greatly lowered and there are no more artesian wells.

Now the beautiful walnut orchards have disappeared the last one on the Edwards Estate ranch was removed over a year ago, and lima beans and tomatoes planted in its place. Tomatoes have been grown all over the valley in increasing quantity. They are planted in late summer and shipped green to eastern markets. The former Fish bean house is now a tomato packing plant.

Carpinteria Valley has seen many changes, with the freeway passing through much of the farm land and the popularity of the "World's Safest Beach" increasing each year. Many predict that in a few years farming will cease to exist in Carpinteria which will become another San Fernando Valley on a smaller scale. With steadily increasing population new schools are being built on some of the oldest ranch land, drive-in theaters, bowling alleys and smokeless industries are being planned and the old way of life is fast passing.

Sometimes a group of old timers will meet in the supermarket rejoicing to find someone they knew in the "good old days", when Carpinteria was just a farming community. It is still, and always will be a beautiful valley lying between the mountains and the sea. Few places can equal it for natural beauty and mild climate.

The Carpinteria Tar Pits

By CAMPBELL GRANT

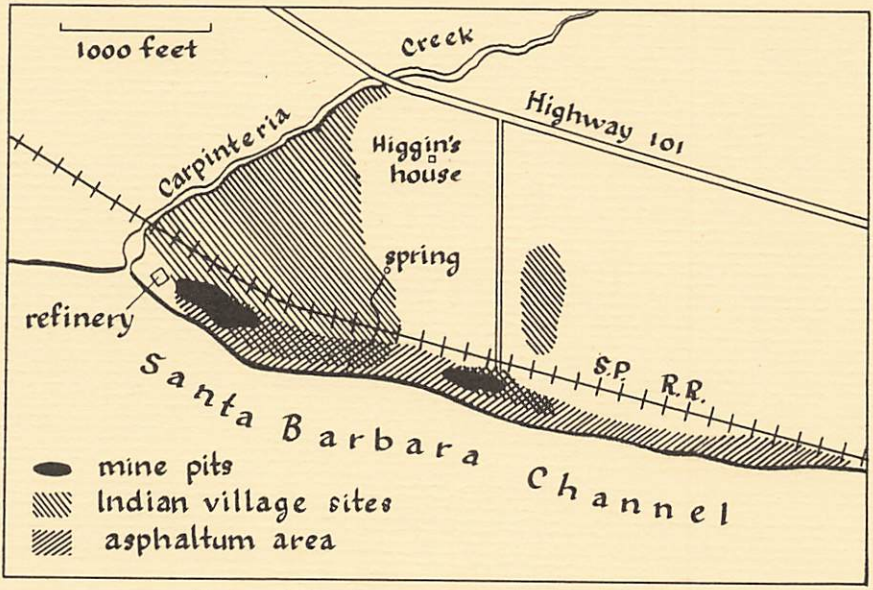
Research Associate, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

The Carpinteria Valley was first seen by white men on the 14th of October, 1542. On that day, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo anchored his two small ships, the *San Salvador* and the *Victoria*, off the present site of Carpinteria. On the following Saturday, they continued on their course—anchoring in front of a magnificent valley densely populated, with level lands and many groves. A diarist aboard the flagship wrote:

> "Here came many canoes with fish to barter; the Indians were very friendly—all the way there were many canoes—and many Indians kept boarding the ship. They pointed out the pueblos and told us their names."

The name they told him for the big village at Rincón Point was Xucu.

The next European to sail by Xucu was Sebastian Viscaíno, in 1602. He did not land in the area but noted again the wonderful Indian canoes. We owe much to Viscaíno, for the devout explorer had the pleasing habit of naming geographical features after the saint on whose day he happened to see them. So, having entered the great channel between the islands and the mainland on Saint Barbara's Day, he named the channel "The Santa Barbara Channel", from which our city one day would take its name.



The large Indian site is the ancient village of Mishopsno.

After Viscaíno passed through on his map-making voyage, the Indians saw no more of the Spaniards for 167 years—167 more years in which to enjoy a truly idyllic life. Hunting, fishing, singing, dancing, and playing simple games filled the days of the Chumash as one season slipped into another as imperceptibly as they do today.

In 1769, the Spaniards were back to build a mission system, and to bring the advantages of civilization to the pagan Indians. On August 16th, Captain Gaspar de Portolá set up camp on Rincón Creek. With him was the padre, Juan Crespí, who wrote:

> "As soon as we arrived all the people came to visit us and brought a great supply of roasted fish until the canoes arrived with fresh ones . . . afterwards they brought us an abundance of bonitas and perch . . . a few miles to the west was a town of 38 houses (Mishopsno, on Carpinteria Creek). Not far from the town we saw some springs of pitch. The Indians had many canoes and at the time were building one, for which reason the soldiers named the town 'La Carpinteria'."

Here is an extremely interesting entry—the first account of the tar springs and the naming of Carpinteria. All the diarists were astonished at the fine canoes made by the Chumash and at the major part that the asphaltum played in their construction. Perhaps the best account is that of Father Pedro Font, who came by with the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition in 1776, and who watched the construction of a canoe or *tomol*.

"They were very carefully made of several planks which they work with no other tools but their shells and flints. They join them at the seams with very strong thread which they have and fit the joints with pitch . . . Some of the launches are decorated with little shells and all are painted red with hematite.

In shape they are like a little boat without ribs, ending in two points . . . In the middle there is a somewhat elevated plank laid across from side to side to serve as a seat and to preserve the convexity of the frame. Each launch is composed of some twenty long and narrow pieces. I measured one and found it to be thirty-six palms long and somewhat more than three palms high (the palm measurement varied from three to four inches). In each launch . . . ordinarily not more than two Indians ride in each end. They carry some poles about two varas long (roughly, six feet) which end in blades, these being the oars with which they row alternately now on one side and now on the other of the launch."

The major villages along the Channel were at Rincon Point (Xucu), Carpinteria Creek (Mishopsno), Goleta (Gelo, Saspili, Geliec, and Alcasch), and Dos Pueblos (Mikiw and Kuyama). All of these were built near large asphalt seeps, for the culture of the Chumash was heavily dependent on this material. It was collected in lumps from the land seepages and along the beaches from the submarine seeps and stored in baskets. It was used as a calking material, as an adhesive, and for waterproofing and decorating. To apply it to the edges of the boards used in the canoes, a spatula-shaped rock was heated and held against the lump of asphaltum, making it run onto the desired place in the manner of the soldering technique. Arrow heads and spear heads were set in asphaltum before the wrapping was applied; pipe mouthpieces of bone were fitted to stone pipes with the sticky, black stuff; and it was constantly in use for the mending of broken implements. Much inlay work was done by pressing asphaltum into prepared holes and grooves and then forcing bits of shell into the pitch while still soft.

Probably the most ingenious use of the asphaltum was in water-proofing baskets for use as water bottles. The best description comes from George Nidever, who watched the famous "lost woman of San Nicholas" working on such a basket.

"She built a fire and had several small stones about the size of a walnut heating in it. Taking one of the vessels, which was in shape and size very like a demi-john, excepting that the neck and mouth are much longer, she dropped a few pieces of asphaltum within it and as soon as the stones were well heated they were dropped in on top of the asphaltum. They soon melted it, when, resting the bottom of the vessel on the ground, she gave it a rotary motion with both hands until the interior was completely covered with asphaltum."

In 1833, the missions finally were secularized and stripped of their power and property. The remnants of the Chumash were turned loose to fend for themselves in a white man's world, where they remained a cheap labor source until they died out.

J. D. Whitney, State Geologist and, later, to give his name to the highest peak in the United States, made a survey of the Coast Ranges in 1861 and had this to say about the Carpinteria asphaltum:

> "The shales are black and highly bituminous where the outcrop strikes the sea, 3 miles to the southeast of Carpinteria, and large quantities of tarry asphaltum flow from them. For a mile or more along the shore the banks abound with it and it saturates the beach sand and flows down into the sea. An establishment for distilling oil from asphaltum was started shortly before our party visited the place (March, 1861) but access to it was not allowed nor information given. It is believed, however, to have been a failure, both as regards the quality of the oil produced and the profits of obtaining it."

After this pioneer attempt to exploit the asphaltum deposits, nothing further was done for many years.

In 1875, word reached the east coast of vast amounts of Indian artifacts being found in the aborigional cemeteries near Santa Barbara. Inquisitive Yankees now began to dig up the Chumash, trying to reconstruct the culture the Spaniards had so ruthlessly destroyed. In their wake came the true grave robbers, the pothunters who looted the cemeteries of countless tons of Indian tools and utensils to satisfy the Victorian craving for relics to fill their "what-not" cabinets.

Mishopsno, the great village site east of Carpinteria Creek, did not escape the curio dealers and, possibly, their operations, uncovering much asphaltum under the midden and reawakening an interest in the deposits. The site had been occupied over a period of thousands of years by three distinct

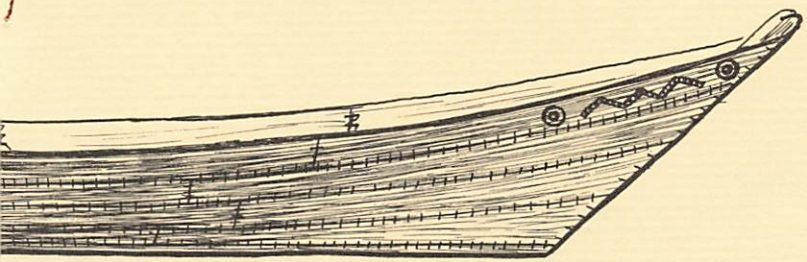
Indian cultures, called by Rogers, the Oak Grove People, the Hunting People, and the Canaliños. These last named are synonymous with the Chumash. The immense quantity of camp debris, or kitchen-midden, eventually covered all of the surface asphalt to a depth up to five feet. When Whitney saw the area, only seeps on the beach and the cliff edge were visible.

In the 1880's, getting stuck in the mud during the rainy season and being choked with dust during the dry season had become part of the way of life out west, but the idea of all-weather roads was beginning to take hold. A small but steady demand for refined asphaltum inspired the formation of a company, which built a refinery on the east side of Carpinteria Creek. At one time, over 40 men were employed in this operation. The method used was hydraulic mining, the powerful jets of water sluicing away vast accummulations of midden to expose the asphaltum. It was then refined, barrelled, and shipped out, either by sea from the Smith Brothers' Pier at Carpinteria or south on the newly completed (1887) Southern Pacific spur line to Los Angeles.

This mine was abandoned in 1903, because of the competition with a cheaper product from Chile; but, by 1907, several oil wells hopefully had been put down on the Phineas Higgins property to the east and along the north face of the asphalt. The operators, the Columbia Oil and Asphalt Company, had no luck with their oil wells and started mining the asphalt in a cheaper way—using hot shovels, it was dug out of the open pits. The shovels were constantly reheated in a nearby hotbox, and the softened material, cut in blocks, was transferred to the waiting railroad car. It was then ground up and mixed hot with gravel—the ancestor of our hot mix blacktop of today. Later, the operators used steam shovels.

In the winter of 1926-7, a discovery of major importance was made. Fossils were found on the Lucien Higgins ranch, which included a part of

A Chumash planked canoe. (Based on early accounts).



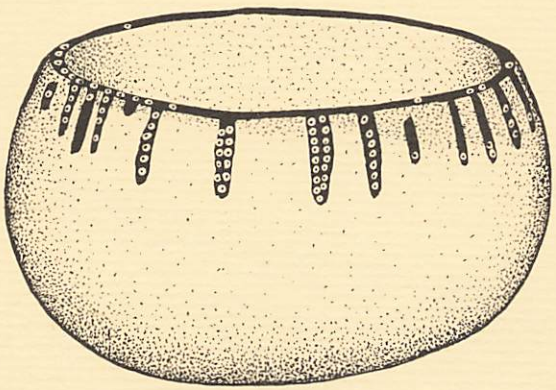
Flint spearhead. Note the impression of cord and wooden shaft in remnant of asphaltum at base. (Patrick Finerty and Bryan Pearson collection).

the asphalt deposit. Dr. Ralph Hoffman, Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, sent a preliminary collection of fossil plants to Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, of the Carnegie Institution in Washington. During the summer, extensive collections of plant and vertebrate material were made from both pits and sent east for study.

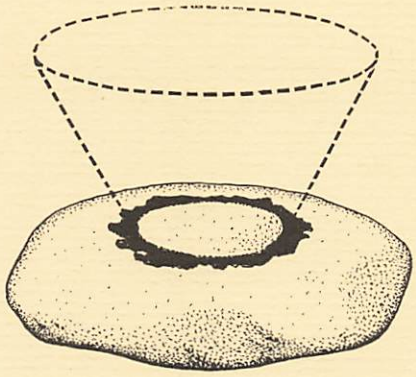
The fossil plants comprised 25 species, including 1 fern, 8 conifers, and 14 dicotyledonous plants, all but one of which, (Pyrus hoffmanni) still are living in California. The conifers were the Bishop Pine, Monterey Pine, Santa Cruz Island Pine, Digger Pine, Douglas Fir, Coastal Redwood, Gowen Cypress, and California Juniper. The Douglas Fir and Coastal Redwood were water-worn specimens of wood and probably were carried to the location by ocean currents. The other conifers were represented by seeds, wood, needles, and cones; and they seem to have been carried down from higher ground by flood waters. Other plants were the California Live Oak, Wax Myrtle, Pine Mistletoe, California Laurel, Ceonothus, and Manzanita.

The coniferous forests of the channel region were here during the Great Ice Age—the Pleistocene—a period lasting over a million years and ending some 25,000 years ago. Today, forests made up of exactly the same plants are found 200 miles to the north, on the Monterey Peninsula, in a region cooler and more humid than that now found in Carpinteria.

A further check on the age of the plant fossils are mammal and bird fossils recovered at the same site. These include typical Pleistocene forest dwellers—the dire wolf, horse, coyote, deer, fox, rabbit, and chipmunk. The more spectacular mammals, like the saber-tooth tiger and the



Large sandstone storage bowl with shell inlay decoration. (Diameter about 18 inches).



Basket mortar with hopper indicated by dotted line.
(Diameter of pounding surface 5 inches).

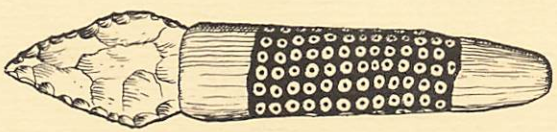
giant ground sloth, found at La Brea tar pits, are missing; but this seemed to point up a difference in environment and not in time.

In 1929, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History undertook to remove the trunk of an ancient Douglas Fir that protruded from the face of the cliff not far to the east of the asphalt mine. In the operation, involving digging down from the top with a steam shovel, mammal bones of large size were discovered and, later, identified as elephant, ground sloth, and bison. These had not been trapped in the tar and were in a clay material. The Carpinteria tar pits apparently were not large enough to trap the larger mammals, and these museum finds had met their deaths in some other manner.

An exact dating from the Douglas Fir trunk, by the radiocarbon method is possible; and Phil Orr recently indicated that this was being considered.

Some 55 species of birds have been identified. Among these and the 26 species also found at La Brea pits, are the Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, California Condor, Turkey Vulture, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Raven, Yellow-billed Magpie, Bluebird, and Meadowlark. There is a large preponderance of predatory birds, and so there can be no doubt they were trapped in the asphalt pools while hunting.

The Pleistocene was the age of the glaciers, when there were great changes in climate and vegetation. As the ice masses built up, absorbing an immense amount of the world's moisture, the ocean levels fell some hundreds of feet. During such periods, according to Chaney, the Channel Islands were connected with the mainland, and Carpinteria was near the base of a large bay. The colder weather had brought pine forest flora far to



Flint knife set in shell and asphaltum decorated wooden handle. (Length 8½ inches).

Hot shovel mining operation at the asphalt deposit, 1912. (Photo by George G. McLean).

Fossil Monterey pine cone from the Carpinteria asphalt pits.

the south of its present location, and stands of Douglas Fir grew on Santa Cruz Island.

The winter flood waters carried by a counterpart of the Carpinteria Creek deposited up to 20 feet of sand and gravel, with the high water mark accumulation of plant material, on top of the Miocene-Monterey oil-bearing formation. This overburden, also, was the result of the sand being blown over the area by the prevailing, westerly winds. The faulting and fracturing of this underlying formation allowed innumerable seeps of asphalt to reach the surface. This seeping asphalt impregnated the sand and gravel, preserved the plant matter, and formed pools to trap the unwary bird and beast. The extent of the asphalted sand is quite large—over a mile long, a hundred yards wide, and, in places, extending under the beach.

The later history of the Carpinteria asphalt deposits is depressing enough: After the mine was abandoned, the pits served as a county dump. The western end was absorbed by suburban houses.

The great site of Mishopsno was obliterated first by the 20-foot-wide railroad cut and then by a large subdivision (Concho Loma), the fourth culture to occupy this site. It is to be hoped that some small part of the original tar seep area will be developed into a protected pool, with appropriate explanatory signs, before it is too late. This has been done with great

success at La Brea tar pits in Hancock Park in Los Angeles, a site that yearly is visited by thousands.

Today, on the edge of the spring-fed marsh, tar oozes out of the tops of two four-inch pipes and flows with glacial slowness to the sea, engulfing en route a dozen or so beer cans and lapping the fenders of a half buried jaloppy—midden of the master race!

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Sandyland

By Selden Spaulding

The long stretch of white beach and the salt marsh, or slough, immediately behind it that now are widely known as "Sandyland" were "discovered" and named by Stewart Edward White not long after the turn of the present century. Up to this discovery, the area was generally considered to be waste land and valueless from the human point of view. So much was this the case that one of the early purchasers of ranch land in this part of the Carpinteria Valley expressly stipulated that, while he was assuming ownership of the land that now lies to the north of the Southern Pacific Railroad's right-of-way, the marsh and beach to the south of the track were excluded from the deal.

Stewart Edward White, a native of Michigan, had done much hunting and fishing in the lake country on both sides of the Canadian Border before the White family became permanent residents of Santa Barbara; and so it was that he arrived here with a strong predilection for canoe travel. In the Carpinteria marsh, with its surprisingly many miles of channels and shallow passages, in which at most seasons of the year there were large flocks of waders and swimmers of many species, he found the ideal place in which to employ his skill with the paddle and to satisfy his fondness for the out-of-doors.

Rincon Mountain. (Photo by Karl Obert).

He enjoyed the magnificent and isolated beach, too, with its long reaches of warm, shallow water and light surf, and the hot, dry sand of the dunes. (It was on this beach about this time that the first surf boards to be seen in Santa Barbara County were used.) But, most of all when he first saw the place, he was drawn to the marsh with its many channels and its teeming wildlife.

He built a modest beach house on the firm land between the southern edge of the marsh and the beginning of the verbena and primrose covered dunes strip; and to this house, during those periods when he was here, he often invited his friends to beach parties. During his many absences from Santa Barbara (his residence was on East Los Olivos Street where now is the Convent of the Poor Clares) he generously gave the key to this beach house to a few of his most intimate friends; and these good people, in turn, often invited their friends to bathing parties there. In this way, the beach gradually became known to an ever widening circle of bathers for the magnificent bathing and swimming area that it was. As none of these people possessed Stewart's knowledge of and fondness for canoeing, however, the interest in the marsh and its abundant bird life tended to decline.

About this time, William Leon Dawson, an ornithologist of some eminence with two considerable works, "The Birds of Ohio" and "The Birds of Washington", to his credit, came to Santa Barbara and, settling here, began work on his magnus opus, "The Birds of California". In Mission Canyon near his home, he housed a modest collection of bird eggs to which he gave the sonorous title of "The Museum of Comparative Oology". (This small museum was destined, after several changes in name, to grow to our present Museum of Natural History.)

Dawson visited Sandyland in the course of his studies and at once he recognized in it an unusually favorable place in which to observe and to

photograph the avifauna of our shore areas. In addition to the sandpipers and the curlews that searched and probed the wet sand for food, he found Snowy Plovers nesting on the open dry sand all along the beach; and a small colony of Least Terns led him to their nests just above the reach of the high tides near the outlet to the marsh. On the marsh itself, in addition to the Dowitchers and Willets and Herons, there was an occasional small flock of Blacknecked Stilts, and even an Avocet or two. Lightfooted Rails, though he seldom saw them, he often heard; and he found the tracks of their long toes in the mud at the side of every channel. In the most secluded areas, Cinnamon Teal and others of the webbed-footed fraternity nested in the pickle grass; while flocks of gulls and terns, attracted to the place by the immense number of tiny fish in the warmish water, cried shrilly as they flew lightly back and forth through the air or when satuated, sat motionless on the mud.

Mr. Dawson spent many and long hours with his camera at Sandyland, and from this it happens that some of the best pictures that we have of the beach and of the marsh are found in the waterfowl section of the profusely illustrated volumes of "Birds of California".

About the time of the beginning of the First World War Mr. White became so immersed in his writing of books that he found less and less opportunity, as the weeks passed, to relax at Sandyland; and so he decided to cut down on his holdings there. In 1915, he offered for sale a strip of beach one thousand feet long, with the marsh land immediately behind it, for four thousand dollars. This offer and the subsequent sale established a price of four dollars a foot on this beach property. On this basis, much of the property was sold to people well known to Mr. White and acceptable to him. Several new houses were built by the new owners on these large plots, yet the area as a whole still retained its atmosphere of wildness and isolation.

When these large plots, in turn, were broken up into smaller ones, the beach seemed to be less isolated; and, as this process continued, as it did with the passing of the years, more and more houses, some of them of considerable size, were built along the line of the dunes. The largest of these new beach houses was that of Mr. Albert Isham, at the extreme western end of the property. This house was built in the Moorish-Turkish style of architecture, and it was painted a bright yellow. It was conspicuous not only from the marsh and beach, but from the highway as well; and so it became a sort of land mark to all who passed that way. By this time, the value of the frontage had risen to the high figure of four hundred dollars the foot. Many bathers held that the beach at Sandyland was the best bathing beach in all of California.

So much sought after had the beach become that, near Serena, a tract was opened that bore the name of "Sandyland Dunes"; and to the east, on the other side of the outlet of the marsh, the beach became known as "Sandyland Cove". Both areas quickly were covered with beach houses and, before the passing of too many years, the whole district was spoken of as "Sandyland".

In 1926, "The Year after the Earthquake", work on the construction of a small boat harbor was begun at Santa Barbara. At first, this project was hailed with enthusiastic approval by almost all Santa Barbarans even though the widely known engineer, Mr. Chapman, predicted that the sea wall, when finally in place, would work havoc with the beaches to the east of it.

Then, one beach after another successively was denuded of sand and so was made unfit for pleasant bathing, murmurs of disapproval in ever increasing volume began to be heard. Eventually, the creeping destruction reached even to Sandyland. Here, as had happened earlier on the most westerly beaches, the shore was eaten back by the high tides. The houses that had been built well back from the reach of the waves now found themselves undermined and, in most cases, delivered to the full force of the crashing, swirling breakers. Some houses were saved from destruction by being moved far back on the sand before the waves could reach them. A few were moved long distances to other and safer sites. Along with East Beach, Montecito Beach, Miramar Beach, and Summerland Beach, Sandyland Beach, once held to be the best bathing beach in California, presented a sorry spectacle of ruin and neglect.

During this period of destruction, the marsh at Sandyland, as was to be expected, suffered little or no damage; but, by this time, the marsh had ceased to be of much interest to the owners of the houses, and so the fact that it remained in excellent condition did little to alleviate their distress.

To add to the difficulties and discouragements of the beach-lovers, the opening of the Second World War caused the most stringent curtailment of civilian use of gasoline; and so it happened that very few bathers indeed were able to make use of so isolated a beach as was Sandyland. For the next half decade, Sandyland was all but deserted.

Eventually, the sand building to the west of the Breakwater became in some measure stabilized; and so the retrogression of the eastern beaches was halted. Eventually, too, the War came to an end and the restrictions on the civilian use of gasoline were removed. In large measure, people returned to their former relaxations and amusements. Almost at once, interest in Sandyland revived and bathers again were seen in numbers along its beach. Before not too many years, it reached its former peak of popularity and even passed that high mark. Today, it is the tremendous growth in population, a growth so great in some quarters of Southern California it is termed an "explosion", that is the chief menace to the Sandyland of Stewart Edward White's day. It even had been seriously urged that the lovely slough, that still is the resting place of many flocks on seasonal migration along our shores, be filled in and the land thus made be put to some "good" use. One man has gone so far as to propose that the area be used as a public dump for the town of Carpinteria.

THE WINTER ISSUE OF "NOTICIAS"

The Editors wish to express their pleasure and appreciation for the assistance given us in the preparation of this issue of *Noticias* by the members of the Carpinteria Valley Historical Society. As every reader will see at a glance, their contributions are of major importance and of wide interest. The officers of the Carpinteria Society are: President, Marcus Cravens; Past President, William Birss; Vice-President, Dr. Ott Coshow; Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Milne; Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Paluch. Directors—Dr. Henry Brown, Lawrence Chapman, Mrs. Ruth Luckey, Mrs. Lua Safwenberg, Nelson F. Smith, Charles A. Catlin, George Johnson, John Menegon, John H. Shepard, Mrs. Guy Stockton.

Director's Report

Under the leadership of Dr. Hilmar O. Koefod, 1962 has been the most important year in the history of the Society.

The plans and specifications for The Santa Barbara Historical Society's new home, by Robert Ingle Hoyt, architect, have been approved by the Building Committee and the Board of the Society. The architect has selected the contractors who will bid on the plans, and it should not be too long before actual operations begin on the site at De la Guerra and Santa Barbara Streets. The drive for funds for the building, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Wilson Forbes, has reached a point where we feel encouraged to proceed with the building project. It has taken over a year to plan the museum and library so that it will be efficient and can preserve from fire and earthquake the large amount of valuable material in its possession. It is designed to be compatible with the Covarrubias and historic adobes next door and should act as a connecting link between them and the Orena adobe and the Spanish-Colonial architecture of El Paseo.

The master plan for the City of Santa Barbara, by Mr. Simon Eisner, has been submitted to the City Council and the community. It is of special interest to The Santa Barbara Historical Society as it advocates the restoration eventually of the Santa Barbara Presidio. In the April-June, 1956, issue of *Noticias* a master plan was suggested by the Society for the restoration of the Presidio and the creation of El Pueblo Viejo. El Pueblo Viejo is now a reality.

In 1957 the Society introduced legislation in Sacramento for the restoration of the Santa Barbara Presidio. This was sponsored by the late Senator J. J. Hollister and Dr. Aubrey Neasham, at that time historian for the California Division of Beaches and Parks. The Bill was enacted and followed by a State study and approval of the feasibility of this project.

For several years we have been collecting microfilms, microfilm prints and manuscripts relating to the history of the Santa Barbara Presidio. These records are gradually being translated from Spanish to make them more available for research, and in this way revealing details of the building, its activities, the actual life and problems confronting this military establishment, its commandantes, and soldiers. We consider this research of the greatest value, because these records are the historic beginning of our community.

There recently has been formed in Santa Barbara an important organization to help in the preservation of Santa Barbara's heritage. This is the *Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation*, a non-profit organization, with John T. Rickard, descendant of distinguished early Spanish ancestry, as chairman. Its immediate purpose is to purchase "El Quartel", an original adobe of the Presidio, now occupied by the Boy Scouts of America. This, when purchased, is to be presented to the California Division of Beaches and Parks. In Monterey there exists a similar trust that has been responsible for the saving of many of that city's historic adobes by making loans available for that purpose. We congratulate Santa Barbara's new Trust and wish it every success. It can be of definite value by providing financial assistance to the county and city landmarks in danger of demolition.

It is to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Whittaker that our gratitude must go for their restoration of "El Caneda" adobe and to whom credit should be given for demonstrating the feasibility of recreating the Presidio. Elmer Whittaker a few years ago outlined a plan to restore the Presidio in a park-like environment with a surrounding street on which would be attractive shops in compatible Spanish-Colonial or adobe architecture. This was the most interesting suggestion made for the Presido area. Mr. Whittaker's actual work in the moving and preservation of the Assistance League's Hunt-Stambach house and Judge Charles Fernald's home leaves no doubt of the great service he has rendered to his community in historic preservation.

There is a great wave of interest all over the United States to preserve buildings and sites of historic importance to attract and educate the ever growing flow of tourists interested in seeking knowledge of the past.

The Society received recently a notable acquisition to this Presidio material, a new book, an historical biographical study entitled "El Gran Capitan" by Fr. Joseph A. Thompson, O.F.M., which is the first of three volumes to be published on the life and times of Don Jose de la Guerra, a long time Commandante of the Presidio of Santa Barbara and his family. The author's work is based on what he describes as "a vast collection of family documents in my possession". These are the originals which in the 1870's were in the library of Thomas Bloodgood Dibblee and were transcribed by Edward F. Murray for Bancroft Library at Berkeley in seven volumes. These transcribed copies are now in the Bancroft Library. Three years ago this Society obtained microfilm copies of these priceless records. At that time Mr. Francis Price, then President of this Society, stated, "They practically covered the history of early California". Based on original source material, Father Thompson's new book is a must for all interested in California history. The book may be purchased through the Santa Barbara Historical Society for $5.00, plus tax and postage; and a copy may be seen in the Society's library.

Because of The Santa Barbara Historical Society's leadership in the preservation of "El Pueblo Viejo", we have many requests for information regarding our architectural control ordinances and asking for advice and suggestions as to procedure in preserving historic areas. Most of these are from Eastern historic centers. From two of America's most important historians, Jacob H. Morrison of New Orleans' "Vieux Carre" Commission and John Codman of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, came a request asking for three copies of every Architectural Board of Review Ordinance from 1925 to 1960 and El Pueblo Viejo Ordinance. Both men are authors of books on historic preservation laws and historic preservation of areas. They are collaborating on a revised edition that will include a detailed account of the history of Santa Barbara's preservation legislation. From St. Augustine, Florida, where a State Commission is planning to restore the Old City, has come a request for six copies of El Pueblo Viejo Ordinance, to be studied by the members of that Commission. Historic Savannah Foundation of Savannah, Georgia, sent a request for a written story of Santa Barbara's historic preservation to help their Foundation acquaint its citizens with the benefits of restoration and preservation.

In closing may I summarize a few of the accomplishments of The Santa Barbara Historical Society in this past year: a new museum planned, a

Noticias that constantly is growing in interest, many important acquisitions, and a National Award of Merit for historic preservation from the American Association for State and Local History.

W. Edwin Gledhill

Gifts

The Society has received many gifts of historic value since the last *Noticias* was published. We would like to mention each in detail, but space will not allow.

Among these is the large collection of Stewart Edward White photographs recording his travels in Alaska, Africa, California's Sierras, and other parts of the world. These trips were part of the inspiration and basis for many of Mr. White's novels and are a gift from Mrs. Harwood White.

A gift from Mrs. Marjorie Greenwell Overbaugh is a painting of her great grandfather, Charles Jeremiah Cummings, by a noted Washington, D.C., artist of the early 1800's, Charles Bird King. His work today is represented in the White House collection. This portrait was brought to Santa Barbara in 1862 by Captain and Mrs. William E. Greenwell after their marriage. The Captain came to California early in 1855 as head of the Geodetic Coast Survey in California from Mexico to Monterey. The Society has in its possession an oil painting of their camp on the Mesa by Nahl Brothers. The Greenwells later built a Victorian, brick home in the 1870's at the corner of Bath and Montecito Streets, designed by Peter J. Barbour, the architect who built the first Arlington Hotel. There Mrs. Greenwell, a musician and harpist, entertained music lovers of the pueblo town with musicals; among the guests were Judge and Mrs. Charles Fernald, whose home has been preserved by the Historical Society and can be seen each Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Overbaugh is also presenting the harp and music stand used by Mrs. Greenwell and a collection of sheet music.

The Society recently received from Mr. and Mrs. Owen H. O'Neill, now residing in Cambria, four large albums of family memorabilia. This is an important record of a family that traces its ancestry to Jose Francisco Ortega, first Commandante of the Santa Barbara Presidio.

A painting by John Sykes, circa 1890, of the Hiram Pierce home on De la Vina Street is a gift of Mr. Charles T. Pierce. This interesting landmark was the only home to be seen in the 1880 photographs looking toward the Mesa from the Santa Barbara Mission. It also was designed by Peter J. Barbour. Mr. Pierce is a descendent of the early Spanish California Borondo Family.

The Society now owns three charming primitive portraits—the first of Wilson Gleason, born February 6, 1788; the second of Lucy Atherton Gleason, his wife, born October 29, 1791; and the third of their son, Fortunatus Gleason, born April 20, 1824. These portraits of her ancestors were a gift from Mrs. Minnie Cobb Blake and were painted by Thomas Wilder at Westmoreland, New Hampshire, in March, 1842.

An interesting collection of books on California has been presented by Dr. and Mrs. Hilmar Koefod to the Society's library, and Mrs. E. C. Hill has given a book, "Hispanic Studies," by her author husband, Dr. Hill.

"Missions of California," etchings by Marian Hebert, have been a present of her mother, Mrs. Frank Hebert, given in Miss Hebert's memory.

Other appreciated gifts have been received from the following members and friends of the Society:

Mrs. Hugh Boutell
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carrillo
Mr. Robert N. Christian
Mr. George Doan
Dr. William H. Ellison
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gledhill
Mrs. E. C. Hills
Mr. Carl Jorgensen
Mr. Lindley Pyle
Mr. Anthony dal Pozzo, Jr.
Mrs. P. F. Peterson
Mrs. Paul Rea
Mrs. Max Richter
Mrs. Ray Sommerfield

The Santa Barbara Historical Society commemorated the 176th birthday of the founding, in 1786, of the Santa Barbara Mission on December 4th with a luncheon at the Carrillo Hotel. Father Maynard Geiger, O.F.M., Historian of the Old Mission, was the speaker; his subject, "The Cultural Value of Historic Preservation."

Dr. Hilmar O. Koefod, President, in introducing the distinguished historian, spoke briefly of the work of the Society and its interest in the preservation of historic landmarks. Father Maynard Geiger, in his talk, brought out the premise that only in seeing the Old Mission or the De la Guerra Adobe, can a final vivid and accurate impression of their history be realized. Manuscripts, books by Engelhardt or Dana may only prepare one for this experience. In other words, "Father Serra's life is brought closer to me by a visit to his house in Petra, where he lived as a child." In this way, Father Geiger demonstrated the great cultural value of "El Pueblo Viejo", the necessity of future restoration of The Presidio of Santa Barbara and a reason for Santa Barbara's preservation of her historic buildings, apart from the interest of tourists in historic areas and their financial aid to the city's economy.

Reporting for the Building Fund Committee, Mrs. Wilson Forbes, Chairman, said 545 Donors had contributed $205,658.79 toward a goal of $350,000.00. The largest amount came from the society membership, 255 members for a total of $134,247.47. Of this amount, 21 Founder-Donors subscribed $106,000. She said that 268 Friends and Adobe Brick Donors contributed $8005.20; 22 Business Firms $3610; Santa Barbara Foundation $20,000; and proceeds from pre-construction use of El Recinto Stanwood $14,796; Katherine Harvey Bequest $10,000 and $15,000 from a Special Society Fund.

Mrs. Forbes emphasized that it was important many people join in the building of this Historical Museum and Library by buying an Adobe Brick (a brick represents a $5.00 donation). Donations can be made at the Crocker-Anglo Bank at the desk of Assistant Vice-President Kenneth Riley or Mrs. Jean Cochrane or mailed to the Historical Society, Old Mission Santa Barbara.

Arrangements for the luncheon were under the direction of Mrs. Robert Ingle Hoyt, Hospitality Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Hamilton P. Greenough (decorations) and Mrs. Isaac A. Bonilla (reservations).

Portolá Visits the Carpinteria Valley

(Continued from Page 2)

wood, alder, and live oak trees were growing here, providing firewood; the sierra to the north was very high, with some growth, but barren in some places."

Crespí continues: "My companion (Fr. Gomez) went to examine a creek that coursed from the north. He says it has a good flow of water at the foot of the mountain. The soldiers and scouts told us of another large rancheria of gentiles. Not very far from this village we came upon a spring of pitch. The Indians here possess a large number of canoes and they were just building a new one; wherefore the soldiers called this rancheria *Carpinteria,* whilst I named it San Roque. It is only about one league distant from the foregoing (El Rincón). The gentiles brought us a greater number of fresh, dried, and broiled sardines than has been offered us at any of the other rancherias. Opposite this place an island could be distinguished; but owing to the fog it was impossible to make out which one it was.

"Friday, August 18: We left the place at seven o'clock in the morning, traversing the plain already mentioned toward the west and near the beach. The chief of the rancheria which we had left (El Rincón) and one of the village from which he came last night with the scouts, accompanied us, as also, attracted by his example, a large number of Indians, all in the happiest and gayest moods." The next camp to be recorded, was that of Santa Barbara, which they entered this day.

Miguel Costansó adds: "This place (Carpinteria) seemed to all of us very suitable for a mission on account of the innumerable heathen that inhabit those shores within a radius of only six leagues and because it has extensive lands well adapted for cultivation and capable of producing rich crops."

On September 9, 1956, two large boulders bearing bronze plaques were placed on either side of Highway 101 (El Camino Real) near the town of Carpinteria, as California Historical Marker No. 535; the dedication address was given by Fr. Maynard Geiger, O.F.M., Ph.D., Archivist of Mission Santa Barbara, in commemoration of the passage of Portolá's party through this beautiful, fruitful valley.

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