NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Volume 1 Number 3 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail December 1992

Anza's Extraordinary 1774 Trip

Historical Perspective: The two expeditions by Juan Bautista de Anza to Alta California were efforts of tremendous proportion. Although the second trip in 1775-1776 carried with it colonists and livestock, the first expedition chronicled here was an adventure into the desert unknown. It was undertaken in 1774 to determine the feasibility of returning with 240 emigrants and almost 1,000 head of livestock. Watering spots and pasturage, so important to a desert crossing, were carefully charted and contacts were established with the native tribes along the route. So began an adventure to colonize what was to become California.

From a painting by Lloyd Harting, printed with permission of the Copley Library. The painting depicts the 1775 campsite at San Sebastian that Anza named for Sebastian Tarabal.

Anza's Extraordinary 1774 Trip by Marck O. Vaught, State Park Ranger with permission of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association. Condensed by Meredith Kaplan.

Imagine standing within the walls of an adobe presidio, a fortress at the edge of the Arizona desert wilderness. Gazing westward, your dream is to cross the unknown expanse to the great Pacific Ocean. Imagine doing this on horseback in 1774 — no four-wheel-drive vehicles, no freeze-dried food, no motels — only hundreds of miles of desert, filled with unknown adventures.

Such a dream was held by a third generation Spanish soldier, Juan Bautista de Anza, captain of the Presidio at Tubac, in what is now southern Arizona. Under orders of the Viceroy of New Spain, Anza would lead an expedition across the deserts of Sonora and Alta California. Ultimately Anza would shepherd 242 emigrants on the first overland colonizing expedition into California.

The Anza Expedition was once described as being a greater achievement than that of Lewis and Clark. According to the claim, the Lewis and Clark Expedition would compare to Anza's if Lewis and Clark had gone all the way back to their beginning, picked up 240 people and 1,000 head of livestock, and retraced the entire route to colonize the northwest.

In this Issue...

Task Force Work Begins

Notes from Heritage Trails

Results from the California Planning Meetings

"Cartas" - A New Feature

Wanted!

After mass on Sunday morning, January 9, 1774, the expeditionary force of thirty-four soldiers led by Anza left the protection of the Presidio at Tubac heading south to Altar, Sonora. From Altar they traced a route northwest through the barren reaches of the Sonoran Desert. Water and pasturage were scarce. They were assisted in their crossing of the Colorado by Chief of the Yumans, Salvador Palma, and his tribe.

After the Yuma river crossing, the desert would become more difficult as the route traversed sand dunes and headed northwest into the Imperial and Borrego Valleys. Five hundred miles lay behind the expedition by the time it reached the Borrego Desert and a marshy arroyo which became camp. Anza named the spring San Sebastian after his Indian guide, Sebastian Tarabal.

At the marsh of San Sebastian, the group heard tales of a group of horsemen who had passed through some two years before. Anza would discover later that Don Pedro Fages, military governor of Alta California, had traveled from Mission San Diego de Alcala in pursuit of deserters in 1772. Fages had dropped into the desert via Oriflamme Canyon and continued on to Cajon Pass to reach the coast at Mission San Luis Obispo.

From San Sebastian, the Anza Expedition followed San Felipe Wash to the northwest. On the east side of Borrego Sink they set up camp at a small Indian village situated next to a muddy seep. Anza called the watering spot San Gregorio — later known as Borrego Spring.

The journey continued through Coyote Canyon and Nance Canyon descending through Bautista Canyon and on to San Gabriel Mission. Here Anza met Pedro Fages, whose tracks he had seen in the hardened mud of Coyote Canyon. Anza and four of his soldiers completed their journey on to Monterey. Upon their return to San Gabriel, they were accompanied by six of Lieutenant Fages' soldiers for the long trip back to Tubac, where they arrived on May 26, 1774. Anza had covered almost two thousand miles, but he still had to travel to Mexico City to report his adventures to the Viceroy of New Spain, a journey of another three thousand miles.

In Mexico City, plans were drawn up for Anza's return to Alta California, this time in the company of settlers and livestock. Three babies would be born on the trip in 1775-76, and one woman would die in childbirth. The group would settle the Presidio of the village later known as San Francisco. They were the first overland emigrants to settle in Alta California under the flag of New Spain. In later years, Anza's trail would serve the military, settlers, cattlemen, and desert travelers.

More can be learned about the interesting story of Juan Bautista de Anza at the Anza-Borrego State Park Visitor Center or by lacing up your boots and taking a hike along the Anza Trail — and back into the colorful history of California. ⸸

Notes from Heritage Trails

Doni Hubbard

(Note: This column is a regular feature of Noticias de Anza.)

Our new president, Bill Clinton can count on an enthusiastic and growing constituency for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail! In the past six weeks, Meredith Kaplan has forwarded me close to 200 volunteer questionnaires signed by eager trail advocates ready to work.

Over forty volunteers signed up at the September 15 meeting at De Anza College in Cupertino, California. The meeting was held at the California History center on the campus of De Anza's namesake college, thanks to the enthusiastic support of **Dr. Robert Smithwick**, founding president of the college district, an avid horseman and history buff. A reception was sponsored by Heritage Trails Fund assisted by the generosity of **Jeannie Ryder** of the Cupertino Historical Society.

The standing room only audience represented numerous hiking, biking, equestrian groups and Scout programs. Featured speakers on the program included **George Cardinet** of Heritage Trails Fund, **Joe Adamo** (organizer of the 1976 Bicentennial De Anza Reenactment in Santa Clara County), and **James C. Williams,** executive Director of the California History Center who gave an inspiring lesson on Juan Bautista de Anza.

Results from the meeting: **Joe Adamo**, **Steve Haze**, and **Joan Throgmorton** are busy doing map work for the Santa Clara County section of the trail; **Jodi Storaasli** has come up with some great video ideas to promote the trail; and **Dot Schreiner**, **Carol Gottlieb**, and **Kathy and Barrie Freeman** are looking into the possibilities for De Anza Days in the Los Altos, California area.

Nancy Dupont, president of HTF, and an avid trail rider, represented HTF at the Anza Days Festival at Tubac Presidio State Historical Park, October 23-25. The enthusiasm she feels for a project that is "far more than just a trail" comes through loud and clear in her letter which follows:

"The haunting strains of the Alabado fill the warm morning air. The sounds of nickering horses and footsteps of many people announce the beginning of the trek, much like that of Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775. In the footsteps of the man who made it happen, in the place that he called home, as Commander of the Presidio. This time, a reenactment; this time, a very short trek from the Mission at Tumacácori National Historical Park to the Presidio of Tubac, over the first segment of completed historic trail.

*This trail exists through the generosity of **Roy Ross** and the **Brasher family**, who literally gave the right of way for the trail.*

***Carmen Nickel** had invited me to join this glorious dedication and shepherded my friend, Joan Jacks of San Rafael, California, and me through a lively two days of 18th century interpretive study and an authentic good time.*

We began our trek in the Tumacácori Mission, where David Shaul, dressed in a grey Franciscan robe, played 18th Century Spanish music on an original harp. The music lilted softly as a cooing dove, then ascended to the fire of flamenco, wrapping my senses in the mystique of the ancient Moors.

Pictured at the public meeting in Cupertino, California, sponsored by the National Park Service and Heritage Trails Fund, are left to right, Meredith Kaplan, George Cardinet, Doni Hubbard, and Joan Throgmorton. photo credit: Jodi Storaasli

Carmen Nickel, the Anza Trail volunteer coordinator for Arizona, models the authentic costume she wore for the 1975-76 reenactment.

We then walked part way on the trail, which is completely signed with the icon of a presidio soldier on horseback. The trail meanders joyfully through Palo Verde Trees, crossing creeks and ravines on its four mile trip to Tubac. The miles are logged on separate posts.

We returned to the Mission to drive to the Presidio and the ceremonies to follow. At the Mission, we met Hilda Alegria whose softly patting hands were creating the most wonderful tortillas which she toasted on a metal plate over an open fire, much as the Aztecs did for hundreds of years prior to the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors. Only these were flour, not the "maize" as cooked by the Aztecs.

In colorful costumes, we joined the gathering at Tubac Presidio, a group of 200 enthusiastic participants. ***Richard Williams****, President of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, had organized a dramatic dedication followed by a Cultural Festival.*

The importance of the day was evidenced by the presence of Representative ***Ed Pastor****, Congressman from Arizona,* ***Ron Morriss****, County Supervisor, and the owners of the property,* ***Roy Ross*** *and the* ***Brasher family****. The trail dedication began with a blast of the Presidio canon, signaling the arrival of the De Anza troops and the mounted units. Richard Williams welcomed the participants.*

Carmen Nickel, Arizona's lively HTF representative for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, spoke of her reenactment experience in 1975 as a "life-altering experience." The experience continues and drives her to reach the ultimate goal of a completed trail to the Arizona/California border, and then all the way to San Francisco, so that her children's generation can feel the great open spaces, and oneness with Earth that she felt riding horseback across stretches of her great State.

Don Garate as Anza and David Shaul as Father Font discuss trail plans in front of Tumacácori Mission after David's harp recital.

When I came to the speaker's podium, I looked out at more than 25 mounted and uniformed riders in formation, and peasants dressed in the colorful garb of the 1700's. I will always remember the people at this Presidio, not just dressed in costume but living the part. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza gave his speech in Spanish and in English. I am sure that Anza's spirit lives in the soul of Don Garate for he portrays the part courageously.

Anza (Don Garate) presents his Soldados de Cuero at the dedication ceremony.

I came home from this weekend experience a believer in the passion for reality of the Anza Historic Trail in Arizona. I am impressed with how much they have done and how willing their volunteers are to do more. I am a believer in the need for historic trails — to unite a people, to preserve our past, to serve a nation of people hungering for a rewarding experience of connecting with their roots, of discovering and understanding other people's cultures, of conserving wildlife — and to provide the horseback rider with the chance to saddle up for a great adventure! - Sincerely, Nancy Dupont'

Results from the

California Planning Meetings

To inform people of the trail planning and to understand local opportunities and concerns, beginning in September, 1992, the NPS conducted twenty-three meetings in twelve California counties: Riverside, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Benito, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Imperial, Alameda, and Contra Costa.

Over 350 people attended these meetings offering information, enthusiasm, and valuable information. Following is a brief summary of some goals, opportunities and concerns noted in these California meetings.

Goals

Broad goals for the management of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail were expressed. These goals, which follow, will be added to or refined during the development of the plan:

- Mark the historic route whether it is a major highway, road, or trail.
- Make it possible to ride on horseback the entire trail.
- Preserve the surroundings of the trail route.
- Develop a balance between preserving what is there and providing access.
- Interpret Spanish colonial history connected with the Anza

expedition broadly, including the descendants of the expedition.

✦ Interpret the story of the indigenous peoples along the route from their perspective, including the names of their trails as much as possible.

Criteria

Criteria expressed for defining a retracement route, which may be parallel to the historic route but not on it, are the following:

✦ The experience the trail provides.

✦ The views the trail provides of the historic route and of a historically similar landscape.

Opportunities

Existing Recognition

Many sites in California already recognize the expedition or its leader.

✦ Imperial County has two markers on Bureau of Land Management land.

✦ State of California Registered Historical Landmarks, which recognize expedition campsites, appear in three counties: Riverside, San Mateo, and San Diego.

✦ The De Anza Caballeros of Riverside have marked the trail from Calexico to Riverside.

✦ De Anza College campus and the Cupertino expedition campsite are marked in Santa Clara County.

✦ The cities of Riverside and San Francisco have statues of Anza.

✦ Imperial, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and Santa Clara Counties have markers placed during the 1975-76 reenactment.

✦ San Luis Obispo County identifies the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail by name on its county trails plan. Currently, it is proposed as an auto tour route with future potential for a bicycle route. A strong vision was expressed in the public meetings for a walking and equestrian trail that would parallel the historic route.

✦ During its grand opening celebration in October, the Imperial County Historical Society Pioneer Museum featured a display on Juan Bautista de Anza called "The Father of California's Future." The Museum would like to provide a permanent interpretive display on Anza.

Planned Recognition

✦ The San Francisco Bay Trail Project Board of Directors passed a resolution to support and cooperate with the National Park Service to identify areas where signs can mark both the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Bay Trail.

✦ The 1992 Uvas Creek Park Preserve Master Plan in the City of Gilroy proposes an interpretive stop along the creek's regional trail which will highlight the significant contribution of Anza in developing the first overland route to California.

✦ The Squibob Chapter of E Clampus Vitus plans to place a California Historical Landmark marker on the Anza Trail in Imperial County within the year. The group placed the existing monument at the Santa Catarina campsite in San Diego County.

✦ A new display at Pacific House in Monterey will feature the de Anza Expedition, 1775-76 and the re-enactment, 1975-76.

✦ The Ventura County Transportation Commission will work to align and implement the Anza Trail within that County.

Existing Interpretive Trails

Some trails exist which interpret the Anza expedition and may become components of the national trail.

✦ Several miles of trail are noted in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park brochures.

✦ An interpretive "walk in the footsteps of Anza" from Mountain Lake to Fort Point in the Presidio of San Francisco is offered by the National Park Service.

✦ The Delta-De Anza Trail in Contra Costa County contains an interpretive overlook.

Potential Interpretive Trails

Since the national historic trail program is primarily one of marking and interpretation, a major goal of the management plan is finding existing or proposed trails which are on or adjacent to the historic route. The following trails along the route in California may become components of the national trail and interpret the Anza expedition:

✦ The San Felipe Corridor trail from the Plaster City area to Highway 78 in Imperial County proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District.

✦ The San Felipe Wash Trail within the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area.

✦ Bautista Canyon Road, man-

aged by the San Bernardino District of the U.S. Forest Service.

- Trails within the San Jacinto Wildlife Area managed by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- The Schabarum Trail and the Rio Hondo River Trail in eastern Los Angeles County.
- The proposed LA River Trail and the Elysian Park Trail between El Pueblo, Elysian and Griffith Parks in the City of Los Angeles.
- Trails proposed by the LA Transportation Commission Greenways Program which uses rail rights-of-way to link historic sites, parks, and schools.
- The Los Robles Trail, a joint project of the Conejo Open Space Agency, the City of Thousand Oaks, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
- The proposed California Coastal Trail within Santa Barbara County.
- Trail opportunities within Fort Ord, made possible by the conversion from military use.
- Existing and proposed open space corridors within the City of Salinas which provide links from Fort Ord to San Juan Grade Road.
- Old Stage Road in San Benito County, which is closed to vehicular traffic.
- Portions of the Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Bay Area, which includes the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa.
- Fifteen miles of trail in Henry Coe State Park in Santa Clara County.

Concerns

Concerns expressed at the meetings focused on private property issues, trail funding, environmental protection, and the logo.

Private Property Issues

The chief issue for landowners is the liability they might incur if they allow public access over their land. In addition, they are worried about users straying off the trail and damaging the natural environment or their property. Landowners wanted assurance that trail marking and any brochures and public information would not unintentionally invite the public onto their land. Some large landowners, under pressure to provide public access to their land, seem interested in providing limited access with permits or docent-led tours.

(Continued on back page)

Cartas

Our article, "To de or not to de," created more than one response. In this issue, we feature the following letter from Robert Franco, a native speaker of Spanish, born in Mexico and educated in Mexico, Spain, and the United States. He is a linguist and a professor of Spanish language and culture, having taught for years at the Army Language School in Monterey.

"Although your advisors from Arizona and the editorial staff of your publication appear to be openly partial to the plain Anza choice, given the title of your paper and the unilateral omission of "de" some forty times in its eight pages, . . . [my opinion] is that the omission of the preposition "de" should have never been considered and should not be permitted for the following reasons: In Spanish, . . . the preposition "de" primarily denotes origin or possession, and once it has been included in a family name, it becomes an integral part of the patronymic, permanent and traditional, not subject to the likes and dislikes of people outside the family. It is true that the motives for the adoption of "de" may be different and varied, and perhaps open to debate, but the official name should be respected.

My family name is Franco, but there are "de Franco" families. There is a "Vega" and a "de Vega," as in Lope de Vega, and even "de la Vega." Some choose to include the Spanish definite article in combination with the preposition, as in "del Castillo," or "de la Bodega." It is their business!

Every official document that I have read in which Juan Bautista's last name is given, it is clearly written "de Anza." He signed his name "de Anza," not "Anza" alone. These are the facts!

In conclusion, it would appear improper and illegal for me, or Mr. Garate, or the editors of your publication to change anyone's family name; and especially not that of the important historical figure we are honoring with the dedication of an important national historic trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. LEAVE DE ANZA ALONE!" ⸸

In the next issue we will print a response from Don Garate.

ANUNCIOS

As we develop the Draft Comprehensive Management Plan, we need county contacts to express your interest and involvement. Below are listed the chief volunteer contact(s) for each county along the route. Get in touch with these people whatever your interest — history, culture, trails, promotion — to get you involved in preparing the plan.

ARIZONA	Carmen Nickel (602) 297-7114 (Overall volunteer coordinator for the state.)
YUMA	Gwen Robinson (602) 329-0471 work
CALIFORNIA	Doni Hubbard (415) 948-4118 (Overall volunteer coordinator for the state.)
ALAMEDA	Geoffrey Carter (510) 568-5812 Alice Quinn (510) 447-0749
CONTRA COSTA	Stuart and Mary Christopherson (510) 634-4888
LOS ANGELES	Linda Palmer, President Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council (818) 222-4531
MONTEREY COUNTY	Helen Shropshire, California Heritage Guides (408)373-6454
SAN BENITO COUNTY	Joan Throgmorton (408) 636-5337
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	Kelly Jorgenson (619) 767-3662
SAN FRANCISCO	Milo Schmidt (415) 621-5339
SAN JOAQUIN	Sheila Candell (209) 835-8733
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	Myra Douglas (805) 466-8061 Patty Hawes (805) 929-5592
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY	Vie Obern (805) 682-3175
SANTA CLARA COUNTY	Joe Adamo (408) 252-6065 Stephen Haze (408) 737-5261 work Joan Throgmorton (408) 542-5570

Heritage Trails Fund (HTF) is trying to identify key contacts in Imperial, Riverside, and San Mateo counties. If you are interested in being a HTF contact for your county, please call Doni Hubbard (see above).

Task Force Work Begins

With the public scoping phase nearly completed, the next step in the management plan process is preparing the Draft Plan. Volunteer Task Forces within each county will complete the mapping of the historic and recreational routes, identify possible interpretive sites and themes, and identify cultural, historical, and natural resources within the trail corridor. This work will be completed by the end of March, 1993.

The NPS will provide background information to each Task Force including USGS maps, copies of Font's journal for the county, prints of the conceptual maps used at the public meetings, and other pertinent information.

The Task Forces will be comprised of those people who filled out Interest Surveys at the public meetings or otherwise have shown interest. If you could not attend the public meeting, but would like to participate on a Task Force, write or telephone Doni Hubbard or Meredith Kaplan.

(California Meetings, continued)

Other Issues

- The lack of funds for trail development, maintenance, and management is a limiting factor.
- The potential impact on wildlife migration routes requires careful location of the retracement trail.
- The official logo for the trail should somehow reflect the settlers and not only a presidial soldier.

Thank-you!

These California meetings could not possibly have been held without the help of the following people: **Steve Fiala** and **Bob Bouska** in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; **Jesse Soriano** and **Randy Rister** in Imperial County; **Linda Palmer, Phyllis Jones, Kit Williams,** and **David Palma** in Los Angeles County; **Ed Piper, Helen Shropshire,** and **Rich Brandau** in Monterey County; **Bill Jennings, Dave Felix, Helen Miller,** and **Jeff Weinstein** in Riverside County; **Rob Mendiola** in San Benito County; **Judy Myer** with the *Borrego Sun* in San Diego County; **Tim Gallagher** and **Pete Jenny** in San Luis Obispo County; **Bob Emert** in San Mateo County; **Vie Obern, Rich Rojas,** and **Claude Garciacelay** in Santa Barbara County; **Ron Blakemore** and **Teresa Lubin** in Ventura County. See the HTF article for Santa Clara County helpers.⚓

Wanted!

Anza-Borrego State Park would like donations of reenactment costumes to be used in a living history program. Perhaps you have outgrown your costume or would like to find a good home for it. If you have a costume which the park could use, please write or call Dave Van Cleve, Superintendent, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, P.O. Box 299, Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0299. Telephone: (619) 767-5311. ⚓

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive a copy of this newsletter, or if you have questions about the comprehensive management plan for the Anza Trail, please contact: Meredith Kaplan, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, telephone: 415/ 744-3968.

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The Newsletter of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

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