

PRELADO NOTICIAS

La Purísima Mission State Park Land Acknowledgement: We are on the ancestral land of the Chumash people who have lived here since time immemorial. We honor the Chumash people of the past and present who share their stories and history with us. We thank our Chumash community of today for helping us understand their vibrant culture of the past and present.



Photo: Founding Day Mass on Dec. 8. La Purísima Catholic Church Choir headed up the music. Photo by Rob Glasgow



Photo: Founding Day Mass celebrant Fr. Daniel Martinez (back right) from La Purísima Catholic Church. Photo by Rob Glasgow.



Photo: Cabrillo High School Madrigals performing at Founding Day evening concert. Photo by Rob Glasgow.

Shining the Light on Founding Day 2022

BY ROB GLASGOW

We held our annual birthday party this year after a one-year break. Prelado members decorated the church with wreaths, garlands and candles. About 150 attended Mass delivered by the new priest at La Purísima Catholic Church, Fr. Daniel Martinez. The Church brought a large statue of Mary which, along with the music, added to the ceremony. In the evening, our State Park

Interpreter Kristen McNally welcomed 225 guests to the concert. We were entertained by the Cabrillo High School Madrigal singers whose program included seasonal songs, both old and new. Director Jennifer Peterson blessed us with a wonderful rendition of the Ave Maria. Her beautiful voice complimented the candlelight setting. Guests enjoyed hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies in La Sala as they watched Sheila Libby and Karen Osland perform the honor of cutting the birthday cake with the Mission

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Founding Day (continued)

BY ROB GLASGOW

sword.

I want to thank all the Prelado members who helped with the decorating, lanterns, cart driving, ticket-taking, guest seating and refreshments. Also, a big thank you to Scout Master Jim Hinshaw and Boy Scout Troop 2103 for making quick work with setting up the chairs. And once again, thank you to Susan White who handled all the ticket sales. And to Sandi Montealegre-White for website and Facebook posting.



Photo: Leah, Robin, and Rhonda setting the lanterns out for Founding Day. Photo by Rob Glasgow.



Photo: Shining the light on Founding Day 2022. Photo by Rob Glasgow.



Photo: Boy Scout Troop 2103 set up chairs for Founding Day. Photo by Rob Glasgow.

Mission Life With Padre Rob

BY ROB GLASGOW

I was explaining the Clacker (*Crotalus*) to a group of fourth-graders. I said the sound it made was to replicate the sound of the hammer nailing Jesus to the cross. One boy stepped up and added that it also represented the sound of the thunder when Christ died. I told him that he was correct and he was the first person to ever mention that to me in ten years! He smiled and proudly said, “And I’m Jewish!”



Photo: *Crotalus* (clacker) used during Holy Week and Christ's Passion. Photo by Michele Jimenez-Holtz.

Food for Thought: Let's Do Lunch!

BY PRELADO BOARD

We are most grateful to our docents and volunteers for all you do. You bring the Mission to life for countless students each year! So when it comes to giving thanks, we like to provide our docents with a little something to keep you going throughout the day: a little nourishment. We are in great need of people to help pick up lunches and refreshments, and to set-up and help clean-up the Hide Room. Each task takes about one hour, so 3 different people can divide it up. We want to continue providing this benefit but without your help, we may not be able to continue! Please contact Teresa Marrs, tjmarrs752@aol.com, or (805) 588-7283.



New Tienda Hours

The Tienda is now open Wednesday through Monday, 11am-3:30pm!



Photo: Mary and Rose are happy to help with all your Tienda shopping needs.

Welcome to the Mission Family: New Docents

BY KRISTEN MCNALLY

Congratulations to the new Volunteer Class of 2022! Eight volunteers have recently joined the California State Park Volunteer Program at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park. This six-week training was held on Saturdays in October and November focusing on various topics regarding the history of La Purísima Mission.

During the six-week training, both mission volunteers and state park staff presented information to the volunteer class. A few highlights were presentations from mission volunteer Karen Osland who shared information about Chumash life during the mission era. Park Interpretive Specialist Emily Bergstrom led a walking tour of Mission Viejo (original mission location on F street). State Park Interpreter I, Kristen McNally, shared a pictorial history of the



Photo submitted: 2022 Docent training class. Top: Joe Gliebe-Goetz, Mary Graham, Ann Weatherford, Kristen McNally. Bottom: Marianne Madsen, Rachel Mello, Rhonda Sanford.

Civilian Conservation Corps through various photos taken during the era and photographs capturing the decline of the mission buildings over time.

The volunteer class also had the opportunity to take part in various mission-era trade demonstrations, including Blacksmithing (Doug Bradley), Blacksmith Kitchen (Sheila Libby), Candle-making (Leah Braitman), Weaving Shop (Karlana Duran), Gardening (Teresa Marrs & Karen Osland), and Leather making (Emily Bergstrom). Volunteers graduated from the training after sharing their two-minute mission-themed presentations.

Upon completion, new volunteers have been busy helping in the tienda, Students Learning History Days, Founding Day, and learning stations such as weaving and leather-making. We are excited to welcome our new volunteers to La Purísima Mission and look forward to working with you all!



Photo: Docent Sheila Libby demonstrates mission era foods in the Blacksmith's kitchen. Photo by Kristen McNally.



Photo: Docent Doug Bradley demonstrates Blacksmithing. Photo by Kristen McNally.



Photo: Candle-making with Leah Braitman. Photo by Kristen McNally.



Photo: Herb Garden with Teresa Marrs and Karen Osland. Photo by Kristen McNally.



Photo: At the Leather Shop with Emily Bergstrom. Photo by Kristen McNally.

Some Yack about Yop

BY DOUG BRADLEY

Adhesives and sealants are essential technologies hidden in plain open sight that are used for everything from shoes to food packaging to the caulking around doors and window frames. If we didn't have these materials we'd be in big trouble.

Adhesives and sealants were no less important to the Chumash, who developed a remarkable material they called *yop*, consisting of a mixture of asphaltum and pine resin. When visiting local museums, *yop* can often be spotted on Chumash artifacts, used as a glue and as a water-tight sealant for baskets and *tomol* canoe planking. *Yop* was applied hot, one of the first-ever hot glues, and traded far inland. I began experimenting with *yop* a few years ago, and the more I have continued



Photo submitted: Chumash water basket (canteen) sealed with *yop*. Water baskets like this one allowed indigenous peoples to penetrate even the deepest and driest California desert regions.



Photo submitted: *Yop* is seen throughout this modern replica of a Chumash *tomol*, used as caulking for the stitching of planks, as well as a water-tight sealant between the planks themselves. *Yop* has also been used to adorn the *tomol* with decorative shells. Modern replicas like this one have been used to prove the seaworthiness of *tomol* watercraft.

experimenting with *yop*, the more amazed I am at just how well it works. One of the most common tests to evaluate modern adhesives is called the lap shear test, which measures the ability of an adhesive to keep two overlapped test strips (or "coupons") glued together. The test strips are glued and clamped together, allowed to fully cure, then the end of each strip is attached to a calibrated tensioner, and tensile forces are applied in opposite directions until the glued lap breaks apart. The yield point (assuming the wood strips do not fail first) indicates the lap shear strength of the glue. There are other ways to test adhesives, but the lap shear test provides a quick and easy method for comparing different adhesives with each other.

And so it was that I decided to test *yop* against a number of modern adhesives, just to see how well it stood up. The competition was

fierce: modern adhesives developed with modern chemistry and laboratory technologies, competing with an adhesive developed centuries ago through trial-and-error experimentation and meticulous observation. I shear lap-tested a *yop* mixture of 50% beach tar/50% pine resin against five other modern adhesives: carpenter's wood glue, duct tape, subfloor adhesive, hot glue, and white glue. Each adhesive was applied to two sets of identical wood strips, clamped together and allowed to cure for a few days, then submitted to two rounds of shear lap testing at about 70° F.

My test rig consisted of a fixed overhead beam to which I screwed one end of each lap-glued strip. Then the other end was drilled and attached to a 5-gallon plastic bucket. Water was slowly added in carefully measured increments to the bucket until the lap joints came apart. Because water weighs about 8.3 lbs. per gallon, I was able to



Photo submitted: *Yop* was often prepared over fires in steatite mixing bowls such as this one, then applied hot with sticks or rocks.

determine each adhesive's lap shear strength with a fair degree of precision. Each adhesive, including yop, was tested in two rounds — one dry, and the other after 1 hour of soaking in water — to see how well they performed under real-world, wet-dry conditions. The results were impressive.

In a nutshell, yop proved to be stronger than both modern duct tape (two wraps) and white glue, and only slightly weaker than carpenter's glue and modern hot glue. Not surprisingly, the subfloor adhesive, which is my personal favorite for go-to shop applications, came in first place, but it is designed for the very toughest jobs and formulated to be waterproof. It is also worth noting that other ratios of asphaltum-to-pine resin might yield a better, stronger yop, along with alternate sources of asphaltum and pine resin. Beach tar that has lain in the sun loses some of its lighter volatiles, making it harder, whereas fresh, land-based tar seeps contain more of these petroleum constituents and is softer. Some pine resins, depending on tree species and age, might also prove to be chemically different enough to yield different results. Other Native American glues (such as pure pine sap) were often mixed with fine

fibers found in the dung of herbivores to yield composites; microfibers added to yop should likewise yield material changes. Temperature also matters significantly, as yop is a hot glue and softens when heated by fire or direct, intense sunlight. As an undergraduate in the 1980s, one of my professors at UCSB noted that Chumash tomols made the majority of their mainland-island crossings during early mornings when seas were at their calmest. The yop caulking of their tomols probably also performed best then, when temperatures were low enough to keep the cordage stitching and caulking between wooden planks water-tight. Cooking yop for longer periods of time and at different temperatures may also yield unique material properties. Future tests beckon.

Yop is what we call today an "enabling technology": it significantly improves and drives other technologies. In fact, some Chumash innovations, like the tomol, and yop-sealed water baskets (canteens that made it possible to carry and store drinking water in arid environments), might never have been



Photo submitted: Chumash stone points (top and bottom) secured to arrow shafts with sinew and yop. Field tests at Purísima showed that yop adhesive helped arrowheads stay firmly attached, even after penetrating several inches into practice targets at high speed.

developed without this remarkable material. Yop was frequently used to repair cracked and broken stoneware such as steatite bowls, greatly extending their service lives. It was used to secure stone points to arrow shafts, on fishhooks, and to add shell adornments to common housewares like knives and pipes, enhancing the aesthetic beauty of the Chumash material culture. It was the perfect all-purpose, waterproof adhesive, especially well suited for maritime environments. The yop found on many ancient Chumash artifacts appears to be as strong today as when it was first applied, making this a remarkably long-lasting adhesive as well.

Safety Warning!

I typically mix tiny batches of yop outdoors, over a low flame in repurposed coffee cans. If you're thinking about making yop on your own, exercise extreme caution. Both asphaltum and pine resin are highly flammable, and when cooking yop over open flame the results can burst into flame and stick to your skin and eyes. Personal protection equipment is a must. Yop-making is dangerous! Better yet, contact me and I can provide more safety information and pointers.

Welcome to the Noticias Team

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ & MICHELLE PITTENGER

It's so nice when people answer the call for help! We reached out for assistance and *Oila!* help arrived. Thanks for new docent Mary Graham and other docents Cathy and Jeff Clark for your help with picking up, delivering, and mailing out *Noticias*. And a HUGE shout out to Karen Hill for her help as additional writer/editor. Your willingness to help us is very much appreciated. We look forward to your input on how to improve *Noticias* creatively and in streamlining its distribution. We welcome fresh, new ideas!

High Five!



“Sunshine Person” (Commissary) Needed for Docent Support

BY PRELADO BOARD

The “Sunshine Person” is that special individual who spreads good cheer to all our mission docents. Do you ever wonder who is the Unsung Hero that provides coffee and other refreshments for our programs, Docent/Volunteer meetings or Prelado General Membership meetings? Then you must know it’s that gracious person behind the scenes who is the host/hostess with the “most-est!” Most recently, it’s been Suzy Griggs, but she’s had to retire these duties to take care of her knees. Thus, Prelado is in great need of someone (or more than one) to step forward to fill the need. Duties include purchasing supplies such as coffee/tea, cups, plates, utensils, water, snacks, and other supplies in support of our programs. If you’re interested in being that special “Sunshine” person, please contact Teresa Marrs, tjmarr752@aol.com, (805) 588-7283 or Bertha Lebel, blebel@impulse.net, (805) 588-1016.



Nature Notes Du Jour

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ



Some good spring low tides are on the horizon for *tidepooling*:

- Fri., 3/17 1:57pm -1.0 ft.
- Sat., 3/18 2:20pm -1.1 ft.
- Sun., 3/19 3:18pm -1.1 ft.
- Fri., 4/14 12:33pm -0.5 ft.
- Sat., 4/15 1:20pm -0.5 ft.
- Mon., 5/8 6:40am -0.8 ft.
- Tue., 5/9 7:37am -0.8 ft.
- Wed., 5/10 8:39am -0.6 ft.



Full Moons: March 7, April 6, & May 5



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12, so change your clocks Saturday evening, March 11. *Spring forward!*



Easter is on April 9.



Gray Whale Migration:

Gray whales are making their appearance off the coast in the Santa Barbara Channel. The peak of the northbound migration is March with mamas and calves. Check out a local whale-watching excursion with *Condor Express* out of Santa Barbara or *Island Packers* out of Ventura & Oxnard.

Las Posadas and St. Francis

BY MICHELLE PITTENGER

Editors Note: This is a re-print from the Winter 2021 Noticias and is included to inform our new docents about Las Posadas' background.

Church legend tells us that St. Francis of Assisi, the namesake of the Franciscan order whose friars founded the missions in Alta California, created the first living Nativity scene in 1223 C.E. According to his official hagiography, written by St. Bonaventure, Francis received papal permission to create an observance for “the kindling of devotion” to the birth of the Christ child. He created the now familiar scene of shepherds with their animals gathered to adore Baby Jesus while Mary and Joseph look on by recruiting villagers and livestock in and around the village of Greccio. There was even a doll that cried and “seemed to be awakened from sleep when the blessed Father Francis embraced Him.” If the crying doll were not miracle enough for the townspeople, St. Bonaventure goes on to report that the hay the child had lain in had healing properties. Church lore indicates that it was used to heal sick livestock and prevent disease.

By 1291, Nicholas IV, the first Franciscan pope, called for the permanent erection of a nativity scene at Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. What does all of this have to do with the Spanish colonial era celebration of Las Posadas? We know that the Franciscan brothers paid attention to the ceremonies celebrated by the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica. Papal law recognized early on that evangelization would happen more easily if missionaries sanctified what they could of the indigenous traditions of their converts. Much of the trappings we associate with Christmas have come to us this way. It made sense to them to import the Las Posadas traditions from Spain which culminate in the recognition and adoration of the Christ child by the peregrinos, or pilgrims. In this way, the Franciscans brought the tradition of nurturing adoration for the holy infant to New Spain. The work of St. Francis lives on into the present day.

Source Material:

Corcoran, Vanessa (Georgetown University). “How St. Francis created the Nativity scene, with a miraculous event in 1233,” www.theconversation.com.



Photo: 2022 Las Posadas event. Photo by Linda Schiff.

12/18/2019.

St. Bonaventure, *The Life of St. Francis*.

Speigel, Flora. “The ‘tabernacula’ of Gregory the Great and the conversion of Anglo-Saxon England. *Anglo-Saxon England*, Vol 36. 2007. Cambridge University. pp. 1-13.

Las Posadas Thanks

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Thanks to all for a fun event! Those in attendance had a good time.

This special event is common Latin American countries.

Thanks for all your efforts in making this a successful event: Christopher and Eislyn Barber for portraying Joseph & Mary; John, Karlena, & Deb as Innkeepers; Michelle for the play script & coordination; Rob, the piñata guy; Karlena, Marianne, and Deb for serving refreshments; Linda for the photography; Rachel, Craig Scott, and Joe for setting up & decorations; Joe for starting the fire; Rob, Linda, Deb, Marianne, Michelle, and Karlena for clean-up; Sandi for posting the event on our website and Facebook page; Cydnee for sending our special use permit on its merry way; and Randy for transporting visitors who needed special assistance. You all made it very special for the families in attendance!

Murder at the Mission

BY MOLLY MACHIN

Much of what we know about mission life is inferred from written documents. Court transcripts from a 1797 murder trial held at the Santa Barbara Presidio is one such example. Not only do we learn about the stabbing of a neophyte from Mission San Luis Obispo, but we gain insight into the daily lives of the people at a mission. In the days leading up to the murder, Fr. Miguel Gilbert decided to require single women at Mission San Luis Obispo to marry. At that time, a thirty-year-old farmworker named Silberio was married to Rebeca while having a relationship with a forty-year-old widow named Rosa. According to court testimony, Silberio told Rosa, “If the Father gives you a husband, I won’t see you anymore and I won’t go to your house.” According to the testimony of the blacksmith, Tiburcio Jecha, once Silberio found out that a man named Anselmo planned to ask Fr. Gilbert for



Photo: Santa Barbara Presidio. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.

permission to marry Rosa, he decided it was time to kill his wife. Silberio got permission from the priest to go to the mountains to gather seeds. When he convinced his wife to come with him, she told her cousin to take good care of her children because she didn’t think she would ever return. Several women went on the seed collecting expedition and they testified that Rebeca told them, “Don’t leave me alone with my husband, because he is going to kill me.” The group camped for four days gathering seeds near a Chumash village by Santa Margarita. On the last day, Silberio came running out of the woods shouting that his wife had been attacked by a bear. People at that time were very familiar with bear attacks and everyone agreed that the wounds could not have been made by a bear. Before the trial, Silberio was given a list of men at the presidio who could represent him and he chose Mariano Cota, a soldier of the Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara. Eventually, Silberio confessed and



Photo: A member of the Pomo tribe gathering seeds. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.

blamed Rosa for coming up with the plan to kill Rebeca. She denied any wrongdoing and they were both found guilty. Silberio was sentenced to be a part of a work gang at the San Diego presidio for eight years. Rosa was sentenced to be a domestic servant for the commander of the San Francisco Presidio, also for eight years. The testimony reveals that even twenty-five years after the mission was built, the neophytes were still participating in traditional seed gathering activities. We don’t know if it was to augment mission foods, but we do know that they traveled to Santa Margarita approximately twelve miles away. Court records also confirmed that single women had little agency over their lives. The testimony demonstrated that the entire community knew that Silberio and Rosa were in a relationship and that Silberio might harm Rebeca. No one chose to tell the priest any of this. As we help visitors at La Purísima connect with history, it is good for us to remember that the people who lived at the missions were real people made of flesh and blood and every bit as passionate as we are today.

Source: [Lands of Promise and Despair: Chronicles of Early California 1535-1846](#), edited by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz, 2001.

Rainy Day at the Mission

BY LEAH BRAITMAN

During the recent heavy rains, I kept going out to the buildings to look for leaks. While giving tours I frequently draw attention to the fact that if you stand in one of the rooms in the Shops and Quarters building, you can look up and actually see the sky through the roof tiles. Yet the clay roof tiles (usually) keep the buildings dry during rain. Even with the very heavy, prolonged rain we experienced...very few leaks.



Photo: "I like this picture because you can see how heavy it's raining but the floor is nice and dry." Photo by Leah Braitman.



Photo: "After taking some pictures in the Shop and Quarters I started walking back to the Visitor Center. I saw the sun was coming out, so I turned and snapped this beauty." Photo by Leah Braitman.

Storm Damage Update

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Ann Boggess provided a recent update about storm damage to our Central Coast District State Park units. El Capitán and Gaviota remain closed with water line breaks and significant road damage respectively. Carpinteria and Refugio State Beaches are open. Damage and resource assessments were done promptly after the Hwy 101 corridor re-opened, and clearing occurred expeditiously.

How did La Purísima Mission fend? The creek overflowed and mud flowed over the bridges and into the parking area. Our maintenance staff worked diligently to remove and clear the effected areas. We also received support from a Santa Barbara County Fire Department crew who did an outstanding job of clearing vegetation from the creek area. It's amazing what a 20-person can accomplish quickly!



Photo: Mud and debris flow with vegetation clearing between bridge and parking area. Photo by Michele Jimenez-Holtz.

January Storm Photos

PHOTOS BY EMILY BERGSTROM



Photo: Canal during January storms.



Photo: Full cistern during January storms.



Photo: Creek during January storms.



Photo: Footprint of water flow in the creek. Photo by Michele Jimenez-Holtz.

A Gallery of Founding Day & Las Posadas



Photo: Lighting the way to Founding Day Concert. Photo by Karen Hill.



Photo: La Purísima Catholic Church brought their statue of Mary for Founding Day Mass. Photo by Rob Glasgow.

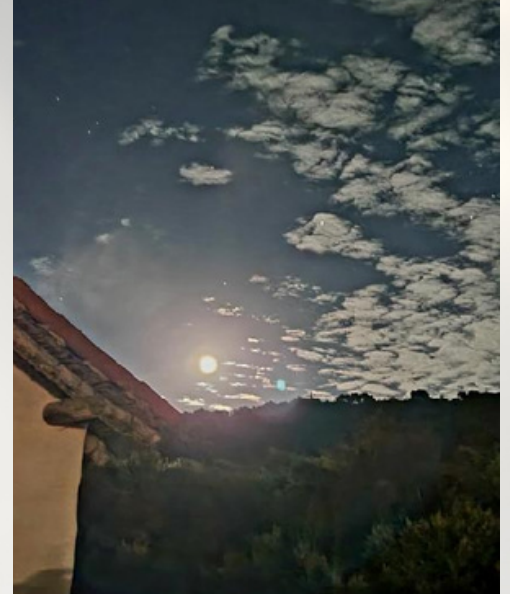


Photo: Founding Day Moonlight Sonata. Photo by Karen Hill.



Photos: Las Posadas procession. Photos by Linda Schiff.



Photo: A few good hits at the Las Posadas piñata. Photos by Linda Schiff.



A Little Trivia: *Prelado de los Tesoros* roughly translates to Keepers of the Treasures.

Our mission: We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. Our members volunteer their time and talent to assist the staff of La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in preserving history and providing quality educational programs for park visitors.

Calendar: Subject to Change

	Mar.	Apr.	May.
Board Meeting: 10am, La Casita	25	22	27
General Membership Meeting: 10am, La Sala	To Be Announced		
Mission Life Day: 11am-2pm	4	15	
Mountain Men, 10am-2pm	18		
Summer edition of <i>Noticias</i> article deadline			1
Student Learning History Days, 10am-2pm	17	21	12
Station Tours	10 & 31	13 & 27	4 & 19
Student Guided Tours	9, 16, 17		
State Park Docent Quarterly Meeting			20

Any changes to Park Interpretive Programs or Special Events will be announced via email by Kristen McNally.

From the Editors' Desk

BY MICHELE PITTENGER, KAREN HILL, & MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Thanks to all who submitted articles and photos for the spring edition. In an effort to drastically reduce costs, we're sending *Noticias* via email and via USPS mail only to those requesting such.

Noticias article submission guidelines:

- 600 words or less.
- 2 photos max: please only submit photos of docents, volunteers, or others for which you have obtained their written permission.
- Hi-resolution photos; photos lose resolution the more they're transmitted.
- Articles may be edited to fit format.

Next deadline: **May 1**

Send to:

noticias@lapurisimamission.org

Stay Connected:

Don't forget to check out the many excellent resources for news and videos. Please share with family and friends. Click on the links below to be re-directed:

- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Facebook page](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park YouTube page](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Virtual Tour](#)
- [Prelado de los Tesoros - Official Non-Profit Partner of the Mission](#)
- [Prelado de los Tesoros Facebook Page](#)



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*Photo: Lighting the Founding Day night.
Photo by Rob Glasgow.*



*Photo: Moonlight glow on Founding Day night.
Photo by Karen Hill.*