

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: Arrival of the new sheep on Founding Day, Dec. 8. Photo by Colleen Newkirk.



Photo: Adobe is very curious about the new sheep. Photo by Colleen Newkirk.

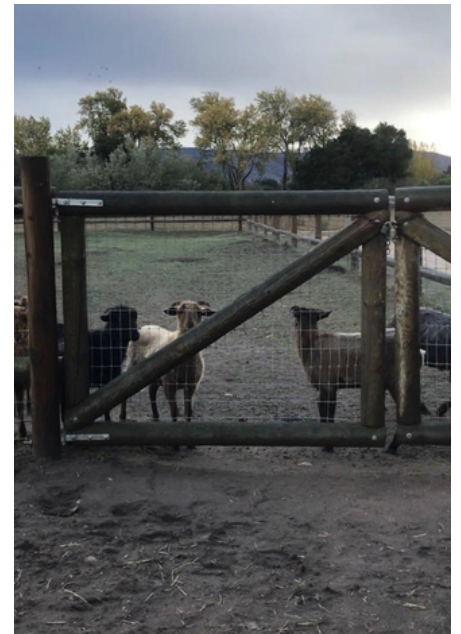


Photo: New sheep awaiting their happy meal. Photo by Colleen Newkirk

**Welcome
New Kids
on the Block!**

Founding Day Greet New Arrivals

BY IRIS RICKARD

Our new sheep were acquired through a previous contact from Marin, CA. She recommended *The Outlaw Valley Ranch* because they are local and she didn't have any sheep to sell us. The local ranch

folks were super helpful. We absolutely love the new additions to the flock. They are so sweet and friendly! I made sure to choose a variety of wool colors so we could have different yarn colors for mission projects. They were nine months old in December with the exception of a six year-old. She didn't get along with

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New Arrivals (continued)

BY IRIS RICKARD

the dogs on the ranch, but she is so sweet for us. And I think Pismo wants to be a sheep. He's always running with them along the fence line and sitting as close as he can to them when they are all sun bathing. We now have a great herd of livestock!

Happy Tails: Mission Animal Update

BY COLLEEN NEWKIRK

Steers Pismo and Adobe have settled down nicely! They know their feeding routine so any initial aggressiveness (in the early weeks) related to wanting food as we walk through their corral to feed sheep and pigs has diminished. But we're still on the lookout. They are inquisitive and go to the side fences to check out visitors and dogs.



Photo: Adobe and Pismo hanging out at the fence line during feeding time. Photo by Colleen Newkirk.

Babycita seems to be doing fine. We all try to walk her with a halter outside the corral and let her eat grass which she loves. Thank goodness she has Goatie for company.

Pigs Peanut and Butter are getting big. They've been with us about five months. They're still young and limber enough to romp all the way across their field when we bring food.

Chickens (hens plus huge black Goliath) are all doing fine. The hens usually take a break from egg-laying Dec-Jan except for the occasional single egg in their laying boxes. They'll start up with regular egg-laying in a month or so.

Turkeys: the 2 young males (hatched July 13, 2021) are just about full-grown. Neither the males or their father have shown aggression. We'll see how they do when breeding season begins later in February. The three hens (one or two of them are mothers of the 2 young turkeys) will begin laying eggs in Feb/March.



Photo: Animal caretaker Betsy Lasswell enjoys taking Red out for a stroll. Photo by Colleen Newkirk

Horses Madre and Red have good shaggy winter coats and are doing well. We're picking out their hooves to make sure they don't have thrush or problems from the recent heavy rains.

Sheep, the six new ones are adorable! The older five females (Juana, Julia, Chocolata, Princess and Ewe) were very hesitant with the young ones but never aggressive. They're all settling in nicely.

With this breed of sheep, all of the females have horns like males. Three of our older sheep had their horns removed when babies so they just have little nubs where their horns would be.

Johnnies-on-the-Spot

BY IRIS RICKARD

Our new porta potties were delivered and our Maintenance Crew got them all assembled and ready for use. Thank you to Prelado de los Tesoros for making that happen!



Photo: New Porta-potties are available for school groups & special events. Photo by Iris Rickard

Welcome to the Mission Family: Leah Braitman

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Responding to a job posted on *Indeed*, Leah joined our mission family as a park interpreter. Having grown up in Lompoc, she thought how cool it would be and it sounded like fun. She already knew a few docents from a mutual club. She shared, “I would have never guessed to be doing this job. But it’s perfect!”

She admits that as a child, she was a little spooked by the mission. It seemed so dark. But that is no longer the case. With deep roots in Lompoc, she’s enjoying being back in the community since 2017. Her great-great grandad was the first fire chief in town and she and her husband live in her grandpa’s house built in 1959 on what was the old mission area.

When chatting with Leah, one



Photo submitted: Leah just spun yarn from our sheep. Here she is displaying in on a drop spindle.

instantly feels comfy and at ease. She’s got a great sense of humor and a bubbly smile. She really enjoys talking to people and social interaction. It’s no wonder; after all, she was a waitress for thirty years.

Leah is particularly interested in the restoration work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). While in college, she took a capstone class in Depression history, thus the interest in the CCC. She used to make pancakes for her father-in-law Bernie. He was in the CCC in WA doing forestry, and they ate a lot of pancakes!

She holds a BA in Politics/Philosophy/Economics (Poly-Sci) from the University of Washington at Tacoma. She enjoys interpreting the mission and wants to make it much more to visitors than just buildings.

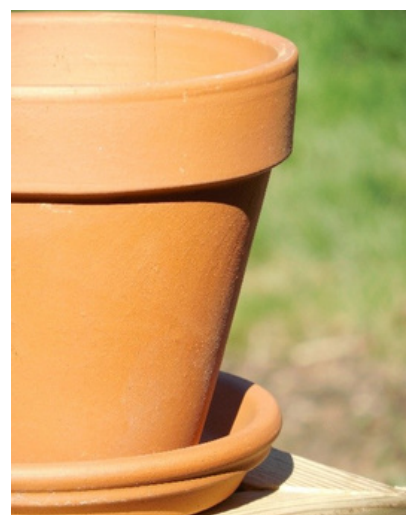
She advises those interested in working for State Parks, “Definitely don’t do it for the money! It’s a great place to work if you like the outdoors and nature, and very nurturing. She’s most grateful to Ann Boggess, her parents and husband for their support. Her husband tells her, “You’re so cute putting your snacks in your backpack. I can tell that you’re so happy!”

In the future, she looks forward to retirement. In the meantime, stop by and get to know her. No telling what next she’ll be “serving up!”

Can You Dig it?:

BY TERESA MARRS

Prelado’s Herb Garden Crew is looking for a few good “green-thumbers” to help out in the Jardín (Garden). Medium and large clay pots (used are fine) are also needed for planting. If you’d like to get your hands dirty, contact Teresa Marrs, tjmarrs752@aol.com or (805) 735-8160. Donated pots can be taken to the Herb Garden and left on the bench inside the garden. You can find Teresa hanging around the garden on Thursdays and the crew meets on the last Friday of the month when there are no events/school groups planned. Gardeners can arrange their volunteer times with Teresa.



Remembering a Legend

BY ANN BOGGESS

La Purísima Mission State Park has lost an iconic member of our staff. Retired blacksmith Moises Solis passed away Tuesday, January 25. For over thirty years, Moises served as an award-winning second-generation blacksmith at La Purísima Mission.

The following is a re-print of an article in autumn 2020 edition of Noticias.

"Moises was born in Cadereyta de Montés in the state of Querétaro, México. He learned the art/skill/trade of blacksmithing at the age of six or seven from his father, Victorio Solís Barrera. During an interview last year, he recalled attending school in the morning followed by a two-hour break, then working until five o'clock running the bellows for his dad in the shop.

Soon, he'd pick up his skills watching and helping Victorio make whatever agricultural tools were needed: plows, knives, machetes. At age eighteen, he came to the USA as an immigrant farm laborer mostly working on cattle ranches. He traveled to Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

His father acquired the seasoned anvil (family heirloom) sometime in the 1930's and later in 1985, Moises traveled to México and brought it back with him. Thus, its appearance in La Purísima's blacksmith shop. For thirty-five years, Solís worked for the maintenance division at La Purísima State Historic Park. A gentle smile reflected in his eyes when he described what he liked most about his job, "Everything!" But he was most fond of Mission Life Days, Student Learning History Days, and blacksmith demonstrations where he could share his passion for history with students

and visitors. Over the years, he was also known to frequent and demonstrate blacksmithing at the Santa Barbara Presidio and Mission San Antonio de Padua.

For anyone considering a State Park career, he offered this wisdom, "State Park units are very diverse in natural and cultural history. Be prepared and come with a background and set of skills that can benefit the park that you'd want to work at." Early in his career, he was grateful for the park superintendent and maintenance supervisor for believing in and encouraging him. Solís received awards for his many contributions to the mission: the Silver Gavel, Golden Bear, and Director's Ingenuity."

On a personal note, I remember learning about blacksmithing from Moises when I first started working for State Parks some twenty years ago. I will never forget the magic of watching him turn a rod of metal into a skeleton key. He was a true master of his craft and loved sharing his skill with others. Thank you, Moises, for all you contributed to our mission community as well as your beautiful craftsmanship throughout La Purísima Mission. ¡Vaya con Díos, amigo! You will be missed.



The Passing of Mamacita & Pretty

BY ANN BOGGESS

I am so sorry to announce the passing of our beloved white donkey, Mamacita and our precious sheep, Pretty.

Mamacita and Babycita (her baby, who was fully grown) joined the animal farm here at La Purísima Mission in 2007. I remember their arrival and how fun it was to have these adorable donkeys join our crew. Mamacita was the friendlier of the two and would come over and give fist bumps with her nose. I loved to scratch her long fuzzy ears and forehead because they were so soft.

Mamacita brought joy to many docents and visitors and will be dearly missed. She was thirty years old according to the vet which means she lived a very long donkey



Photo: Mamacita by Molly Machin.

life and it was a good one. ¡Vaya con Díos, Mamacita! May you have big grassy pastures to run through in donkey heaven!

Along with Mamacita, our beloved sheep Pretty, passed away. She was fifteen years old and is the last of the sheep that were hand-raised here at the mission. She, too, will be missed. Oh, it has been rough for those who love the animals!



Photo: Babycita and Mamacita by Molly Machin.



Photo: Mamacita, Babycita, and docent Marie Schlueter. Photo by Molly Machin.



Photo: the next day Mamacita went to donkey heaven. Photo by S. Blewis.

Founding Day Thanks

BY ROB GLASGOW

Thanks to all for the help decorating the church and helping with the refreshments. A local scout troop helped with setting up chairs in preparation for Founding Day Mass on December 8. The service was so special and the church looked very festive. We had a quiet turn-out and a few folks came from the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area just for the occasion. Our mission is so lucky to have people like you!



Photo: Founding Day decoration helpers. Photo by Rob Glasgow.



Photo: A priest from Vandenberg Space Force Base and deacon from La Purísima Church celebrate Mass. Photo by Rob Glasgow.

Passing of a Dear Docent Friend: Teney Leary

BY ANN BOGGESS

Teney Leary was an amazing outdoor enthusiast having grown up in Colorado where she enjoyed playing outdoors, fishing and hiking. She never lost her love of hiking and biking. She inspired me to never stop doing what you love as she biked well into her 90s. She also loved and taught history at Allan Hancock College and was our resident volunteer archivist for many years at La Purísima.

I met Teney my first year here at a Visitor Center Committee meeting when we were still designing the exhibits and working out the text for each one. Teney was always easy to be around and had good insight to share.

I always loved her sweaters most of which were New Zealand or from



Switzerland. She traveled all over the world but she loved New Zealand and said she would have moved there if she could. Teney was at least a foot shorter than me but she packed a punch of solid spirit in her small frame.

I will miss my friend who championed life for 101 years. What an amazing gal. God Bless and see you in heaven, my friend! Hugs to all of you who also loved Miss Teney!



Photo submitted: Teney Leary with Ann Boggess at her 100th birthday in 2021.

Nature Notes Du Jour

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ



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

Tues., 3/1 3:15pm -1.3 ft.

Wed., 3/2 3:49pm -1.0 ft.

Mon., 4/18 5:41am -0.8 ft.

Tues., 4/19 6:33am -0.8 ft.

Wed., 4/20 7:33am -0.7 ft.

Tues., 5/17 5:36am -1.4 ft.

Wed., 5/18 6:29am -1.4 ft.

Thur., 5/19 7:27am -1.2 ft.

Fri., 5/20 8:29am -0.9 ft.



Full Moons: March 18, April 16, & May 16



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13, so change your clocks Saturday evening, March 12. *Spring forward!*



Easter is on April 17.



Gray Whale Migration: Northbound Grays 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.

And don't forget wildflower blooms and migratory birds!

Butterworth Files Part 2: Birth of the CCC

BY DOUG BRADLEY

The story of the CCC's genesis is the stuff of legend: President Franklin D. Roosevelt had been sworn-in just five days earlier when he met privately with a handful of his newly appointed cabinet members, including the Secretaries of War (today's Dept. of Defense), Agriculture, and Interior. For two hours, the President presented a plan using a sketched-out box diagram drawn on a piece of paper for a series of public projects to save the country's natural resources, and to rescue millions of idled young men from unemployment. He envisioned putting no fewer than a half-million young men immediately to work, which was a fraction of the then-calculated total of some five million unemployed males between the ages of 18 and 25, but still a significant blow against unemployment.

Alongside young men, older military veterans were to have their own special "companies," as well as African American and Native American companies in what were some of the first-ever large-scale employment programs for American minorities.

Selection was to be competitive

and eclectic. The Corps would loosely run along a paramilitary model to be overseen by the Dept. of the Army but without military training per se. Men were to be housed in camp barracks near their worksites and they would receive extensive training in basic skills, education, and trades.

Opportunities for the nurturing of "character" were to be provided by assigning members responsibilities for their projects and for their fellow enlistees' safety and well-being while being supervised by mostly reserve military "federal men" and civilian technical personnel.

CCC members would be housed, clothed, fed, and medically attended at government expense in exchange for their labor, but a significant portion of their earnings, \$22-\$25 out of a monthly payment of \$30, was required to be sent directly to dependents back home as financial assistance. In 1933 dollars, \$30 is roughly equivalent to \$633 today. Most remarkably, after Roosevelt outlined this vision for a Civilian Conservation Corps, a plan was sketched out on paper, legally reviewed, then drafted by 9:00 p.m.



that evening and sent directly to both houses of Congress. Within three weeks, the Emergency Conservation Work Act officially created the CCC, which Roosevelt put into action by Executive Order 6101 on April 5, 1933. This in an age of paper, typewriters and telephones, six decades before desktop computers or email. To you, I leave the question of whether such stunning bipartisan-ship would be possible in today's America, but even in 1933 it was a truly impressive political feat. By the time that Al Butterworth joined the CCC in the spring of 1937, the project to restore La Purísima Mission had been running for almost three years. The Corps had been running for four years but was still expanding its mission. Only eight months after Roosevelt's private meeting to form the CCC, one of America's worst-ever environmental disasters began to spin out of control. In what would become known as the Dust Bowl era, huge areas of mid-west cropland overplowed and damaged from years of drought began to blow away in massive dust storms that carried soil aloft from Midwest farmlands, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of miles to the East Coast. Some 850 million tons of topsoil were eroded from what had previously been prime farmland,

averaging losses of 480 tons of soil per acre.

The human toll was more than a half million environmental refugees who were forced to flee their homelands for other parts of the country, including many who settled in “ag towns” like Lompoc throughout California. The timing for the CCC could not have been better: the official record shows 1.2 million acres of erosion and flood control projects to its credit, including plantings of vegetation to check soil loss, digging of erosion control ditches and berms, and protection of stream banks in what was termed “emergency conservation.” The CCC’s mission grew to include the building of ponds and campgrounds, waterworks and reservoirs, thousands of miles of roads, trails and bridges, mosquito control and firefighting. The list of projects is extensive and impressive. It was also the true beginning of America’s telephone network, as CCC members planted phone poles and strung more than 25,000 miles of phone lines across the land.



Las Posadas Thanks

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Thanks to all for a fun event! We had 93 people and those in attendance had a good time. Some commented that they had looked for a Posadas and we were the only group in town doing one. A few folks just happened to be at the mission and joined in on the festivities.

Thanks for all your efforts in making this a successful event: Karlena, Karen, and Elizabeth for the poinsettia-making kits; Kendyl, Parker, Christopher, John, Karlena, JoAnne, and Michelle for acting; Michelle for the play script & coordination; Rob, the piñata guy; Betsey and Ann for Babycita handling (she sure was a hit); Karlena, JoAnne, and Linda for serving refreshments; Linda for the photography; Ann, Leah, and Randy for setting up; Randy for helping with decorations and starting the fire; Rob, Linda, JoAnne, and Ann for clean-up; Leah for distributing poinsettia kits; Sandi for posting the event on our website and Facebook page; Madison for sending our special use permit on its merry way.

You all made it successful and several people very happy to have such a special and meaningful event! It's awesome to have family-friendly happenings at the mission.

Ox vs. Bull

BY MOLLY MACHIN

Hello Mission Friends. A park visitor was asking me about Brea, and I realized that I needed to do a little research to give a better answer next time. Here is what I found out. A bull is a mature bovine that is still intact and is used for breeding. A steer is a castrated bovine that is raised for meat production. Brea was an ox which is a steer, trained to be a work animal. Male bovines are castrated before reaching one year of age to make them bigger, less aggressive and easier to train. Oxen were used during mission times to pull the carretas.



Photo: Brea by Molly Machin.



Photo: Carreta by Molly Machin.

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

	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>
Board Meeting: 10am, La Casita	26	23	28
General Membership Meeting: 10am, La Sala	5	2 & 30	
Mission Life Day: 11am-2pm		23	21
Mountain Men, 10am-2pm	25		
Summer edition of <i>Noticias</i> article deadline			1
Student Learning History Days, 10am-2pm	25	8	13
Station Tours	10 & 31	14 & 28	5
Student Guided Tours	9, 16, 17		

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

*Stay tuned for the summer Noticias edition!
Doug Bradley continues with the
Butterworth Files Part 3.*

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](#)

From the Editors' Desk

BY MICHELE PITTENGER & MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Thanks to all who submitted articles and photos for the autumn 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 from camera, not cellphone.
- Photos lose resolution the more they're transmitted.
- Articles may be edited to fit format.

Next deadline: **May 1**

Send to:
noticias@lapurisimamission.org



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Photo: Padre Rob.



*Photo: Kendyl and Parker as Mary & Joseph.
Babycita stold the show!*



Photo: Randy with piñata.



Photo: Los peregrinos (pilgrims) in the procession.

Las Posadas photos by Linda Schiff



Photo: Kendyl as Mary.