



President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Plans for our Oct. 17 "Afternoon at the Ranch House" event are well underway.

There will be live music, food and drink vendors, war dog demonstration, military vehicle display, docent tours, opportunity drawings, and much more. I hope to see you there.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to Judith Burns for her recent substantial donation to CPHS. You may recall from my last report Judith held a fundraiser on our behalf in Temecula in April. Her donation was related to that event.

With great sadness I report that Yuriko Frantz died on August 24. Her husband, Cal, is member of our Board and has been the editor of this newsletter. In order to care for Yuriko during her illness Cal resigned his duties with CPHS. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cal and his family, and I extend my deep appreciation to Cal for his friendship and tireless work on behalf of CPHS.

Beginning with this edition Deb Hellman has assumed duties as editor of the Groundbreaker. She had originally intended to relieve Cal in 2016, but has graciously agreed to step in early. I look forward to working with Deb and am confident that she will

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CPHS Board Members aboard Camp Las Pulgas for their bi-monthly meeting Sept. 10.

Camp Pendleton: First Contact

By Richard B. Rothwell

This is the second in a series of stories about the history of Camp Pendleton

Long before Spanish explorers and missionaries arrived, Camp Pendleton was home to Native Americans. No one knows for sure when they first arrived, but 12,000 years ago is a reasonable estimate. Over the ages, wars and changes in food supplies caused a churning of the population, making it unlikely that the people who lived here when the Spanish arrived in 1769 were direct descendants of those earliest travelers.

Today we know the people who lived on Camp Pendleton when the Spanish arrived as Luiseños and Juaneños, but those are not Indian names. Western people assigned them to identify Indians associated with either Mission San Luis Rey or

Mission San Juan Capistrano. As far as we know, Indians did not have a name for themselves; they were merely The People. Joyce Stanfield Perry, tribal manager of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, suggests that they may have called themselves Payomkawichum, a name she pronounces with amazing dexterity. She says it means Western People. Archeologists think that it was a general word, not a proper noun, used by inland Indians to identify those who lived nearer the ocean.

So, who were the Native Americans living here before the white man arrived? It is a difficult question to answer. The People had no written history. Unlike their brothers and sisters in the East, they did not band together in large tribes. They lived

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in small, family villages – clans – each with its own territory marked by piles of stones and vigorously protected from encroachment by uninvited visitors.

Archeologists link The People through a common root language. That does not mean that all Indians in a language group could understand one another. Camp Pendleton Indians belonged in a group whose territory extended along the coast from Carlsbad's Hedionda Lagoon, north to Aliso Creek in Orange County. Inland, it stretched from the coast into the Palomar Mountains. Depending on the researcher, estimates of the Native American population in this area vary between 4,000 and 10,000.

Archeologists have found evidence of seven villages on Camp Pendleton that were likely inhabited when the Spanish arrived. For the most part they were clustered along the Santa Margarita River and Las Flores Creek. One village, Ushme, was located near the present day junction of Interstate 5 and Las Pulgas Road. In the native

language Ushme means "Wild Rose." It is pleasant to speculate that The People's name for their village pre-dates the Spanish word for the same area, Las Flores, so given because of the wild flowers found there. Unfortunately there is no evidence that is so. The Indian name could just as easily be a translation from the Spanish. We will hear more about Ushme and Las Flores as our stories progress.

There may have been between 1,000 and 3,000 Native Americans living on present day Camp Pendleton when the Spanish arrived. They led a hunter-gatherer life. During warm weather men and children went naked. Women wore front and back aprons of reeds or bark. Men hunted small animals and fished in the rivers and ocean. Clans gathered acorns together, sometimes traveling considerable distances into the mountains for the harvest. Women pounded the acorns into a meal that was a staple of their diet. Villages had hereditary leaders and shamans who passed their skills down to their sons. They held instructions and rights of passage for their children. They traded with their neighbors. It was a simple life that worked well for hundreds, even thousands, of years.

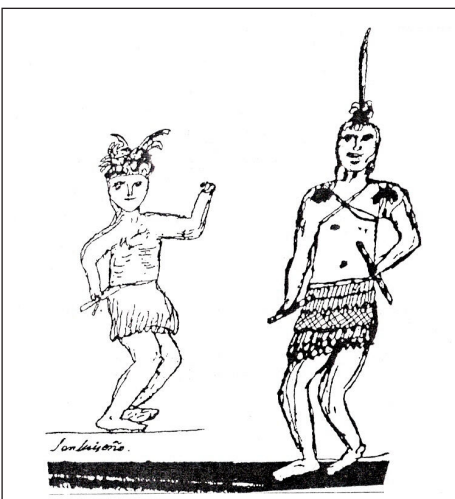
On July 22, 1769 a group of Indians in the northern part of present day Camp Pendleton encountered a strange party of men. Some wore colorful cloth and armor. Others wore dull brown robes. It was a friendly meeting. The Indians carried two very ill little girls with them. One had been badly burned. The other, an infant, lay still in her mother's arms. Communicating as best they could, the strangers asked permission to perform a ceremony for the children. The Indians agreed. A man in brown



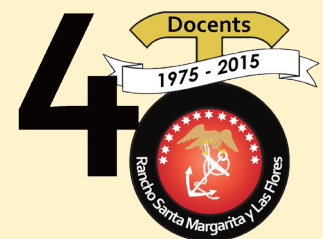
Artist rendering of Christian baptism.

robes sprinkled water on the children, made gestures with his arms and hands, and spoke words the parents did not recognize. When it was over, the strangers continued their journey north, no doubt feeling very satisfied at having performed the first Christian baptism in this new land. The Indians returned to their village with no understanding of what had happened or that their simple life would soon change forever.

Next: The Spaniards.



Pablo Tac, a Luiseno who lived at Mission San Luis Rey in the 1820s and 1830s, penned this drawing depicting two young men wearing skirts of twine and feathers.



Congratulations to the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents as they celebrate 40 years of service to Camp Pendleton through tours, presentation and interpretation service of the histories of the Santa Margarita Ranch House National Historic Site and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Join us at the CPHS Annual Fundraiser

"Afternoon at the Ranch House"

October 17, 2015
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Make plans to join us this year at the historic Ranch House located aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. We hope to see you there!



The CPHS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the addition of LtGen Edward Hanlon, Jr., USMC (Ret) to its Council of Advisors. Among the many assignments during his 40 years in the Marine Corps, General Hanlon was the Commanding General of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton from August 1998 to June 2001.

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continue Cal's efforts to produce an interesting and informative newsletter.

Robin Hutton, our partner in the SSgt Reckless monument project has found out that her offer to place the monument aboard Camp Pendleton has reached the office of the Secretary of the Navy where it is undergoing legal review. This is the last review level in the tortuously slow approval process. I am hopeful that we will soon have

a positive outcome for this worthy project.

I hope to thank many of you personally at the Ranch House on Oct. 17 for your continued support. If you are not able to join us please know that it is your caring that permits us to continue our efforts to help the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

Richard B. Rothwell



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal and continuing support of our efforts to tell the Camp Pendleton story.

Dick and Mary Ann Davidson
Steve Fisher
Vytautas Mockus
Bill Parsons
Allen and Wanda Prosser
Gordon Romine
Richard Rothwell
James Tusing
Jim Williams

A special welcome to the following new members who recently joined our cause.

Carol Childs
Douglas Collis
Peter House

Changes to Membership Donation Levels

As a result of a decision by the CPHS Board of Directors, a change has been made to the membership donation levels. As of Sept. 1, 2015, the following are the new membership donation levels:

Active Duty/Reserve Military - Free

Eligible: All active duty and reserve military personnel, no matter the branch of service or where the individual servicemember is stationed/serving.

Individual - \$35

Family (2 members in same household) - \$50

The three categories above will receive the Quarterly CPHS Groundbreaker newsletter.

All other individual membership levels (Vaquero, Ranchero, and Commander's Circle) remain unchanged.

*** Please visit the CPHS membership page for additional information. ***
(www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/p_membership.html)



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