

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Two hundred and fifty years ago, in 1769, Gaspar de Portolá led his party of Spanish soldiers and Franciscan missionaries north

from San Diego, in route to Monterey. After several weeks of marching, he paused long enough to name the Santa Margarita River and for the missionaries traveling with him to perform the first Christian baptism in Alta California. So began the recorded history of the land we know today as Camp Pendleton.

CPHS is assisting a young man, Garrett Blandford, with his Eagle Scout project by underwriting the expenses for materials. His objective is to prepare display cards for each exhibit in the Camp Pendleton Mechanized Museum. The cards will identify the equipment, provide pertinent information about it, and give some interesting historical facts. It is a win-win situation: we are helping to make the Mechanized Museum more meaningful to visitors while assisting a high school student earn one of the most significant honors achievable for someone his age.

The passing of an era may soon be approaching. Building 1133, built in 1942 as a temporary headquarters for divisions training at Camp Pendleton during World War II, has served as the headquarters of the 1st Marine Division since that division returned from the Pacific Theater in 1947. The

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Gaspar de Portolá's Travels Through Camp Pendleton

by Richard Rothwell

Author's note: This year, 2019, marks the 250th anniversary of Spain's colonization of Alta California, then an immense, unexplored territory of Mexico. In turn, Mexico was one of Spain's vast holdings in the New World collectively known as Nueva España. Gaspar de Portolá led the expedition. But, by 1769 Spain had already been in the New World for over 250 years. During 86 of those years there had been a Spanish presence in Baja California. What took them so long to colonize Alta California and why did they finally come at all? Who was Gaspar de Portolá and why was he chosen to lead the expedition? Finally, how did his journey affect Camp Pendleton?

Spain colonized the New World through a partnership between the government, meaning the king, and the Catholic Church. The two parties had different, though complimenting aims. The king wanted colonies for their resources, particularly gold. The Catholic Church, represented in Mexico by four orders: the Augustinians, Dominicans, Franciscans, and Jesuits, focused on Christianizing and



Oil painting of Gaspar of Portolá, circa 1770

civilizing the heathen natives. They did this through a series of missions populated by clergy, newly baptized Indians, called neophytes, and a surprisingly few soldiers. The latter provided defense and served as sheriffs to find and return converted Indians who bolted after objecting to the rules of the mission.

By 1697 the Dominicans, Franciscans, and Jesuits, had begun extending their missions into Baja California.

In the high stakes competition for territory played by 18th Century European monarchs, King Carlos III of Spain held a bad hand. When he ascended the throne in 1759, the once magnificent Spanish Empire had been in a slow, but steady decline for over 100 years. The new

Continued page 2, Portolá

Portolá, cont.

king faced daunting challenges at home and abroad.

At home the royal treasury was woefully bare after funding a series of costly wars. He was not amused when told that Jesuits in Nueva España were operating gold and silver mines, huge ranches, and other business enterprises in violation of their agreement with the crown. Jesuits diverted profits to their own uses rather than pay taxes. Carlos' humor did not improve when in 1766 he had to crush a revolt at home; Jesuit inspired many said.

Abroad, his massive, far-flung empire was increasingly vulnerable. Of particular concern was Alta California. Except for brief coastal explorations by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542 and Sebastián Vizcaíno sixty years later, Spain had shown little interest in the region. As far as was known the land had no gold or silver for the King's treasury. Ironically, that judgment could not have been more wrong.

Imperialistic nations of the age abhorred a vacuum. If Spain could not control Alta California, another high-stake player would. England, whose navy sailed supreme, lurked. Carlos' emissaries in Moscow reported that Russia also had an eye on the land. Clearly Spain needed a strong, creditable presence in Alta California to protect its interests.

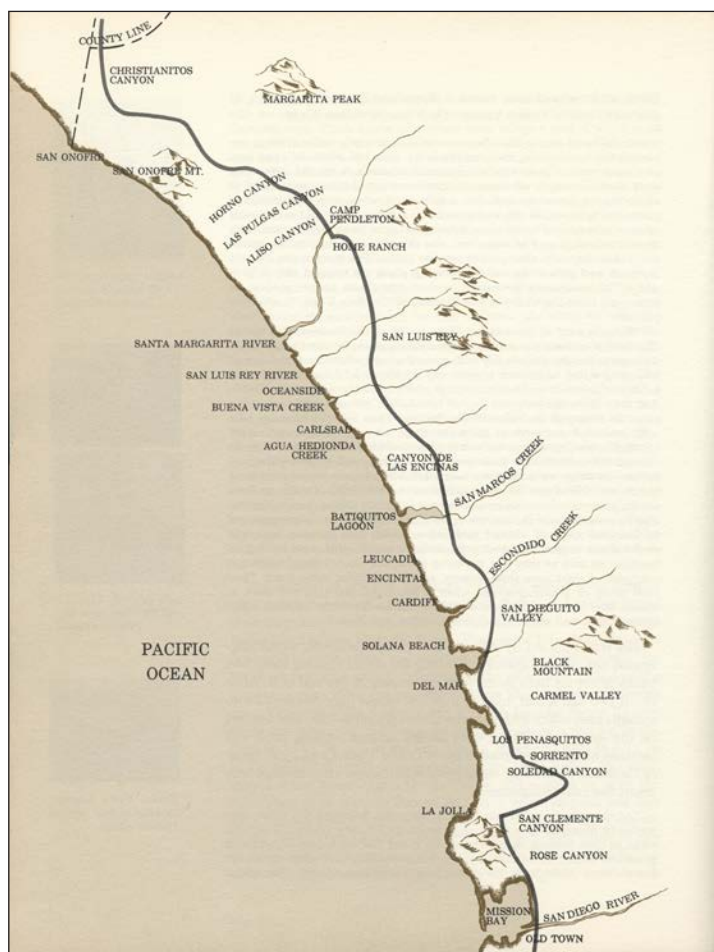
While the need to defend the realm was clear, the means were less so. Colonization of such a large territory would be expensive. Fortunately, the

King's nemesis, the Jesuits, offered a solution, although not in the sense they would have hoped.

In just 24 hours on Feb. 3, 1768 under secret orders from the king Spanish provincial governors arrested all Jesuits in Mexico. They transported them to Vera Cruz where they were placed aboard ships and sent back to Europe. Their lucrative business and financial assets became property of the king. Suddenly, Carlos' exchequer cupboard was no longer bare.

in the mother country identified him as a Peninsular -- the highest level of a complex cast system in New Spain society. Only Peninsulars could hold the highest governmental positions in Spanish colonies.

Portolá entered the Spanish Army as a young man and rose through the ranks, reaching the grade of captain after 30 years of service. He was sent to New Spain and appointed governor of Baja California in 1767 to oversee the Jesuit expulsion there.



Route of the Portolá Expedition through San Diego County, 1769. From the book, *The History of San Diego: v.1 The Explorers, 1492-1774* by Copley Press (1960).

Gaspar de Portolá, the newly appointed governor of Baja California, had carried out the king's expulsion order in his province. Don Gaspar came from a noble Catalanian family. Catalonia is a region in northeast Spain around Barcelona. Being born

With his newly acquired wealth Carlos could afford to stave off England and Russia by beginning the colonization of Alta California. Continuing the long tradition of colonializing, the expedition would be a joint effort by the church and crown. In recognition of Portolá's service during the Jesuit expulsion, Carlos appointed him to represent the crown as expedition leader. The Dominicans and Franciscans jointly agreed that the Franciscans would carry the cross to Alta California while the Dominicans would take up the void in Baja California left by the Jesuits. Franciscan missionary, Father Junipero Serra, would lead the Franciscans. Together, this government-church alliance was known as the Sacred Expedition.

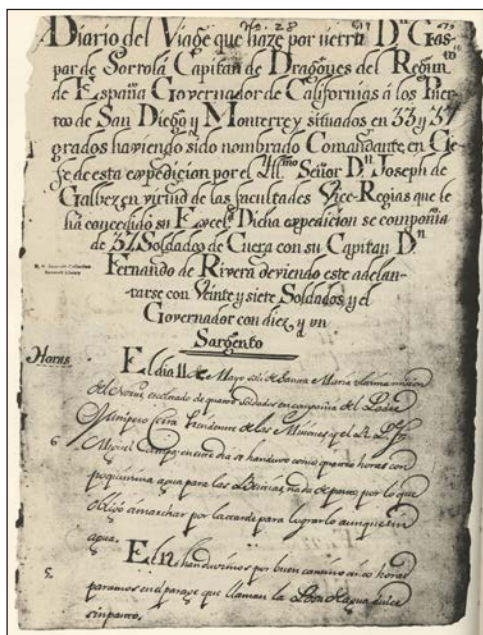
The Sacred Expedition's strategic goal was to establish a mission at Monterey. It would be the second in a series of missions to be connected by a route known as El Camino Real. The plan to do this was complex and well thought out. The first step was to assemble the force at San Diego. Four separate elements left Mexico

Portolá, cont.

in early 1769 to meet there, two overland and two by sea. Because of navigation errors, storms, and the slow pace of overland parties, the forces did not fully assemble until June 29. Once there, Father Serra founded San Diego de Alcalá, the first of what would become 21 missions in Alta California. After a brief pause, Portolá divided his group into two elements. One would travel to Monterey by ship, while Portolá would lead the other overland. He set out on July 14 with 63 soldiers, a gathering of missionaries, and 100 pack mules. Father Serra boarded a vessel and sailed for Monterey Bay to await Portolá's arrival. One of the missionaries traveling overland, Father Juan Crespí, was a gifted diarist. Much of what we know of Portolá's venture comes from his writings.

Six days after leaving San Diego and some 40 miles north, Portolá's party camped on the banks of a river flowing through present-day Camp Pendleton. Since it was the feast day of Saint Margaret of Antioch, they named it Rio Santa Margarita.

Two days later the party reached the northern part of present-day Camp Pendleton. There they encountered a small group of Indians who had with them two, very ill young girls. One was badly burned; the other lay very still in her mother's arms. Using signs and gestures the Franciscans convinced the Indians to let them perform a ceremony for the girls. As



Title page of Portolá's diary. From the book, *The History of San Diego: v.1 The Explorers, 1492-1774* by Copley Press (1960).



The first recorded baptism in Alta California. From the book, *San Juan Capistrano Mission* by Engelhardt, Zephyrin (1922).



Santa Margarita River, Camp Pendleton

the parents watched, the Franciscans made mystical movements with their hands and arms, sprinkled water, and uttered strange words. Afterwards, the Indians returned to their village with their dying children, no doubt without understanding what they had experienced. The Spanish continued their march north, probably feeling quite satisfied at having performed the first Christian baptism in Alta California. The place where that took place is known to this day as Cristianitos.

Although Portolá and the Sacred Expedition paused at Camp Pendleton for only three days, the effect of their passage was lasting. His overland force reached Monterey to link up with Father Serra and establish the second Spanish mission in California. Others followed. Twenty-nine years later, in 1798, the Franciscans opened the 18th mission in the chain, San Luis Rey de Francia, just east of present-day Oceanside. It would become the largest of all Alta California missions with a sphere of influence that included all of present-day Camp Pendleton along with Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Fallbrook, Temecula, Pala, and Warner Springs.

The 21 Franciscan missions made possible by the Sacred Expedition created a visible Spanish presence in Alta California and helped keep the British and Russian expansion aims at bay, while instilling the rich Hispanic heritage we enjoy today.

Continued front page, Message

building, affectionately known as "the White House", is steeped in history, but long past its obsolescence as a modern-day command post. It now appears that in the next few years the Marine Corps may build a new command post for the 1st Marine Division, perhaps at Camp Margarita.

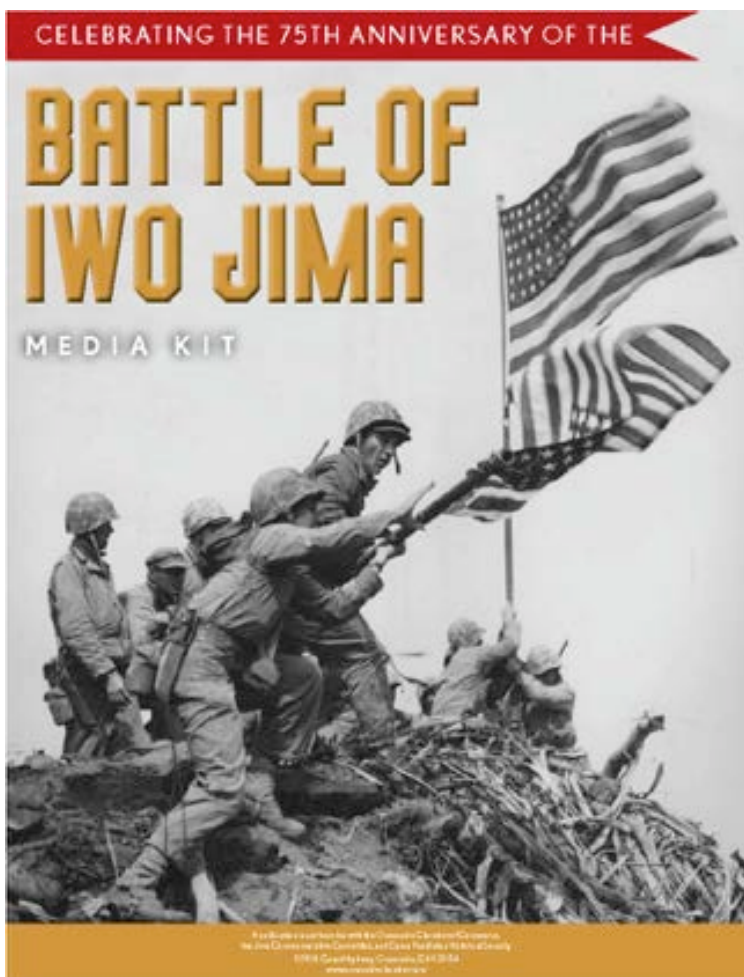
Even though its role may change, the Marine Corps is taking steps to ensure that the Division "White House" will not be forgotten or, worse, lost. Marine Corps Base working to have it designated as a national historic landmark so that generations to come can enjoy learning about the history

made within its walls.

As always, I thank you for your support, which is vital to our work in helping the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

Richard B. Rothwell

75th Anniversary - Iwo Jima Magazine



The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is partnering with the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and the Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee to create and publish a magazine commemorating the 75th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. The magazine will be released in February 2020.

This publication will feature a wide variety of historical articles and photos and individual reflection by those who participated in the campaign, commemorating this pivotal battle in World War II and paying tribute to the United States Marines Corps who fought so valiantly.

If you are an Iwo Jima veteran or know an Iwo Jima veteran who would like to tell their story for this special publication, we are looking for individual stories from those Marines or Sailors.

If you are a business owner or know a business that would like to advertise in this special publication, please contact Kristi Hawthorne at the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce at kristi@oceansidechamber.com or (760) 722-1534 ext 104.

The media kit can be downloaded from this site: www.oceansidechamber.com/uploads/4/4/5/3/44535401/iwojima_media_kit.pdf

Have you seen and read the two 75th anniversary publications honoring the service of Camp Pendleton women Marines?



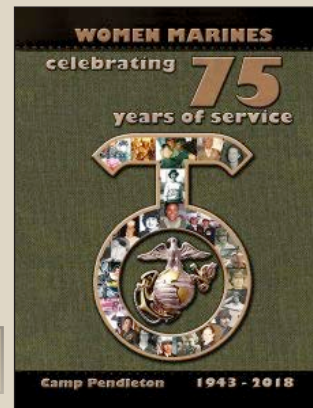
The 56-page commemorative magazine, published by the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, is available for viewing online at: issuu.com/oceansidechamber/docs/2018cp_womenmarinesmag_finallr_issu

Print copies of this free magazine are available at the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce (928 N. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, CA 92054) and aboard Camp Pendleton.

A complementary 64-page publication, published by the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, is also available for viewing online at:

<https://issuu.com/camppendletonhistoricalsociety/docs/cphs.womenmarines.75years.campendl>

Links to the publications are also available on the CPHS website camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/



Donation Highlights - History and Museum Division

Since May 2018, the Camp Pendleton History and Museum Division had received (17) donations from various individuals and organizations. Highlights of these donations include:

- an assortment of military field manual and technical publications;
- (130) 8x10 inch black and white photographs of Camp Pendleton donated by the Oceanside Historical Society;
- a World War II Discharge Certificate and personal letters;
- numerous 4th Marine Division Association newsletters, photographs, and stories;
- collection of (57) issues of the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper covering the Gulf War from August 1990 through April 1991
- a complete Los Angeles Examiner newspaper from Oct 2, 1942 detailing the "secret" trip of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Southern California to include a trip to Camp Pendleton to dedicate the then-new Marine Corps Base;
- a 1915 Army and Navy Review from the Panama-California Exposition at Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.

The CPHS purchased and donated two books about women Marines to the History and Museum Division to help expand the Division's research resources.



Gate at Camp Pendleton (circa late-1940s); photo donated by the Oceanside Historical Society

Member Spotlight

Lillian Kovats Cross is a California native born in San Bernardino, Calif. She graduated high school in Las Vegas, Nev. and attended university there majoring in Business Administration with minors in music and physical and cultural anthropology.

She joined the Marine Corps in July 1967 and after bootcamp and admin school was stationed at MCRD San Diego G-1. In 1969 she transferred to Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan into the G-3 and G-1. She met her husband in Okinawa and is now enjoying 49 years of marriage.

After the birth of her first child she joined the local workforce eventually landing at the Department of Motor

Vehicles in Oceanside and retired there after 22 years of State service. While there she went from part time work to section manager with seven years as the supervisor of the Camp Pendleton outreach office.

Lil joined the Women Marines Association and the local chapter CA7 in 1994. She has held numerous positions including chapter president, vice president and has been the treasurer since 2013, and also held positions with the national organization including Area Director 10 overseeing 15 chapters in California and Hawaii.

Lil joined CPHS in October 2018.



Lillian Cross. Photo courtesy of Lillian Cross

An Overview of CPHS Events for 2019



As 2019 unfolds, the Camp Pendleton Historical Society Events Committee has planned a busy schedule of a variety of events throughout the year. These events are an integral part of the CPHS's continuing efforts to preserve and promote the rich and colorful history of the land that is now Camp Pendleton, spanning the history of the region from 1769 to present day.

Here are the primary events that the Events Committee are currently planning:

- **"History of" pilot with a Commercial Restaurant Program:** This event will occur in March 2019 and will involve a partnership between CPHS and a local commercial restaurant designed to further communicate the history of Camp Pendleton to local citizens while providing mutual benefit to both CPHS and the commercial restaurants. Discussions are on-going with several commercial restaurants regarding this event and will likely include top tier dinner selections with a history program included as part of the evening.
- **Military Children's Golf Clinic.** This will be the third occurrence of this event and involves a partnership between CPHS and Pro Kids/First Tee of San Diego. Targeted at children of military families, this clinic provides instruction in golf putting, golf driving, golf chipping and the history of Camp Pendleton. This event will occur in the afternoon of April 12 at the Pro Kids/First Tee Oceanside Campus located at 821 Douglas Drive. Conducted during the Oceanside School District spring break period, the clinic is designed to foster a better appreciation of golf as a life sport while understanding the history of Camp Pendleton. All equipment will be provided to all participants. This event is supported by Lincoln Military Housing.
- **3d Annual "Golf With A Hero" Golf Tournament.** Planned for April 26, this golf tournament will take place at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. With this third occurrence, each foursome will be composed

of one (1) active duty Marine and three (3) other golfers. This will again provide many an opportunity to converse with Marines who have recent world-wide experience in carrying out the missions of the Marine Corps. The tournament theme differentiates this tournament in San Diego County, where 1,000 charity golf tournaments are conducted annually.

- **Sponsor Appreciation Event:** This event is being planned for a date in August or September 2019 and will be held at the Marine Memorial Golf Course at Camp Pendleton. The primary focus of the event is to communicate our sincere appreciation to our many sponsors and supporters.
- **Military Children's Golf Clinic.** A second Military Children's Golf Clinic for 2019 will be conducted on Nov. 25. This clinic parallels the agenda and purposes from the April event and is being held on this date due to the Oceanside School District Thanksgiving vacation period. At this time, the location has not been determined; further information will be provided as details emerge.
- **Tun Tavern Holiday Event for Members.** A holiday event with a Tun Tavern (birthplace of the United States Marine Corps) theme will occur in early December 2019. This event is designed to share the holiday spirit and appreciation with the CPHS membership. The event is early in the planning stages with the location to be determined.

As is evident, many events will highlight the 2019 calendar for CPHS. These events will focus on fulfillment of the core mission of CPHS and will strive to further engage and strengthen the CPHS community.

Detailed information regarding each of these events will be communicated via the CPHS Groundbreaker newsletter, CPHS web page, CPHS Facebook page, and separate email communication.

Upcoming CPHS Events

Save
the
Date!

March 2019, TBD

“History of ...” pilot with a Commercial Restaurant Program.
Date and location TBD.

Friday, April 12

Military Children’s Golf Clinic. Takes place at the Pro Kids/ First Tee Oceanside Campus located at 821 Douglas Drive. Details concerning online sign-up will be provided via a future posting on the CPHS Facebook page.

Friday, April 26

3d Annual “Golf With A Hero” Golf Tournament. The golf tournament takes place at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. Cost is \$150.00 per golfer and includes breakfast, golf cart and lunch. Registration for the tournament will be online via Eventbrite.



Photo from the 2nd Annual “Golf With a Hero” event at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. Photo by Deb Hellman



From December 2018 through February 2019, the Speaker’s Bureau conducted six historical presentations at locations ranging from Point Loma to Julian to Oceanside, reaching an audience of over 200 people.

A presentation on Women Marine

Reserves is scheduled for Mar. 14 at the Fallbrook Library.

If you know of an organization that would like a presentation about the history of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores or Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, please contact us at cphs.speakers@gmail.com to schedule a speaker and presentation.

We’re looking for a volunteer to take charge of the Speaker’s Bureau and coordinate speakers and presentations. If interested, please send us an email at cphs.speakers@gmail.com.



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A distinguished group of advisors is helping to guide us as we grow. We are pleased to acknowledge their support.

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OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS
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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome aboard to our newest members who recently joined our cause:

Blanche Carpenter
CWO5 Annie Grimes, USMC (Ret)
Scott Phillips
Leona Sachrison

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal:

Richard Althouse
Tommie and Silas Coleman
Janet Coley
Rick Darnall
Dick Davidson

Norman Haven
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A special thanks to our donors:

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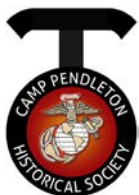
CPHS is looking for volunteers from our membership to be part of our various committees from Events to Speaker's Bureau and others.

If you are interested in sharing your time and talents, please send an email to cphs.secretary@gmail.com. Your assistance benefits CPHS in advancing its support of Camp Pendleton historical programs.



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