



BULLETIN

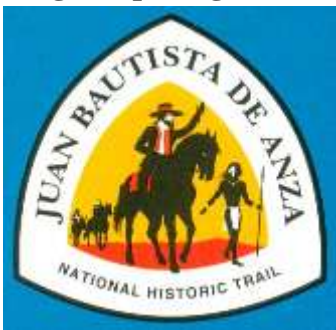
FALL 2010

TWO ANZA TRAIL EXHIBITS TO VISIT IN MARTINEZ

Opening August 29 and closing November 30, 2010, an exhibit at the History Center will feature the accomplishments of Concord's George Cardinet in the 20th century and of the Anza Expedition in the 18th. The title is "**Trailblazers, Past and Present: Juan Bautista de Anza and George Cardinet.**" There will be information about the meeting of the Spanish and Native Californian cultures during the 1775-1776 expedition, Cardinet's efforts to commemorate the Anza Trail, and today's Delta de Anza Trail in the County.

Location: CCC History Center 610 Main Street, Martinez Hours 9-4, Tuesday – Thursday, 10-2 third Saturday. **Reception: August 29, 1-4 p.m.** Contact at 925-229-1042 or info@cocohistory.com

On September 25, 2010, you are invited to attend the gala opening of the NPS Anza Trail exhibit at the Martinez adobe on the John Muir



National Historic Site from 10 am to 2 pm. In honor of National Public Lands Day, the day's admission is free. This opening and exhibit will cover the

entire Anza expedition from Sonora, Mexico to San Francisco, provide interactive displays, music and activities for children.

Location: John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez

Website for the Anza National Historic Trail is nps.gov/juba

The Anza Colonizing Expedition, 1775-1776

In the last half of the 18th century, Spain was struggling to secure its outposts in northern California from Russian and English exploration and colonization. Existing land and sea routes from Mexico were dangerous and difficult, and the Spanish sought a new overland route for moving settlers, livestock and supplies up from Sonora.

In 1774, Joan Bautista de Anza, Captain of the Presidio of Tubac in Sonora, led a small exploratory expedition to scout out a new inland route from New Spain to Alta California. He found a safe and predictable route and established friendly relations with the Yuma tribe at the important junction of the Gil and Colorado Rivers.



Anza, his father and grandfather had been military leaders for Spain in the new world. He brought impressive talents and experience to this colonizing expedition.

With direction from the Viceroy of New Spain to found a mission and presidio at the port of San Francisco, Anza enlisted soldiers with families from Culiacan and other small communities as he headed north. On October 23, 1775, he set out from the frontier in Tubac with an expedition of nearly 300 settlers and their escorts -- cowboys, translators,

mulepackers, Indian guides -- and over 1,000 head of livestock.

He was joined by Father Pedro Font who, along with Anza himself, kept in-depth diaries that painted a vivid picture of a pre-European contact landscape. The journals also describe the old varied and distinct American Indian cultures stretching along the entire length of trail. This epic journey and the route it established are memorialized today by the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

(From the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail brochure)

Anza in Contra Costa County...

After Anza's expedition arrived safely in Monterey in 1776, disagreements with the military commander of Alta California, Fernando Rivera, led to a delay in the founding of the San Francisco presidio and mission.

In the interim, Anza organized a 20-man excursion to San Francisco's East Bay which included his second in command Joseph Joaquin Moraga and chaplain/cartographer Father Pedro Font. This Spanish exploration followed a similar route to that of Capt. Pedro Fages and Father Juan Crespi in early 1772 and used Crespi's diary as a guide.

They went along the east side of San Francisco Bay, skirted the Strait, and traveled through East County along the Delta and returned to Monterey. Anza wanted to investigate the area and confirm whether the north side of San Francisco Bay could be reached by land.

Leaving Monterey on March 23, 1776, they reached today's Richmond by March 31, Palm Sunday. Font's diary tracks the expedition. On April 1, he commented on the fog and said a "plague of long-billed mosquitoes" pursued them, while "all the country was very green and flower-strewn, with an abundance of lilies."

He mentions seeing "four bears which, according to all accounts, are very plentiful through here also, for we saw several Indians badly scarred by bites and scratches of these animals." Some Indians who saw them ran and hid but others met them, exchanging gifts of glass beads for roasted cacomites and soap root. Indians throughout this expedition were

particularly interested in trading for clothing and fabric.

During the trip Font wrote about many Indian contacts. On April 2 in the Pacheco area he says a village had "some four hundred persons, with singular demonstrations of joy, singing, and dancing." Food was offered, including salmon. Font indicated that he "interrupted by chanting the *Alabado*, as we did every day on beginning the journey." At one village to which they were welcomed, the Indians had "long poles with feathers on the end, and some long and narrow strips of skin with the hair on, which looked to me like rabbit skin, hanging like a pennant, this being their sign of peace."

The men climbed to the top of several hills, including Willow Pass, and observed the Sierra Nevada to the East. Font: "in fact, in all my life I have never seen and I never expect again to see another horizon with so extended a view." While Crespi had identified the delta as a rivers-fed body of water which flowed to the Bay, Font was adamant that San Pablo Bay and other waters were part of a fresh water lake. His diaries spend pages on this assertion.

Their return to Monterey took them through the communities of Antioch, Brentwood and Byron to Livermore Valley on April 4. They were unable to continue east or north because of the tule marshes. In all, their trip from and to Monterey took 16 days. The map of the Bay by Father Font was one important result.

After a short rest, Anza, Font and twenty-nine persons returned to New Spain, as poignant good-byes were said. Lt. Moraga led the colonists and missionaries north from Monterey to found the presidio and Mission Dolores during the summer of 1776.

The Anza expedition to Alta California and through Contra Costa can truly be characterized as the beginnings of modern Californian society, using Indian trading trails and supported by Indian beneficence at every step. In Contra Costa County the Delta de Anza Trail traces about 20 miles of their exploration in 1776.

By Beverly Lane

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and Trail Advocate George Cardinet



Today this important expedition's route is commemorated as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail and is administered by the National Park Service. Contra Costa County's trail advocate

extraordinaire George Cardinet provided persistent leadership over many years to get the Anza trail recognized. He was an effective advocate for the National Trails System Act of 1968, chaired a bicentennial reenactment of the Anza Trail in 1976, and partnered with the NPS to designate The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in 1990. **Join us for our exhibit opening August 29th!**

In Contra Costa County a specific trail alignment for this trail has been adopted by the National Park Service and the East Bay Regional Park District. The Delta de Anza Trail is an EBRPD regional trail which currently extends from Oakley to Concord, a distance of 19.21 miles.

Foto Flashes



By Lee Taylor

Back in late June we came across a box of unprocessed L. L. Stein's "truly oversized photographs" (accession 95-56, received only 15 years ago!) The following are examples:



No. 13313-View west from El Cerrito Hills, 1912. Includes S.P. Stege Station, Easter Hill, Eastshore Park, Stege Home & School



No. 13323—photo by Cheney of Oakland, 1923. View west with Albany Hill and Point Isabel in view.

It took about a month of Thursdays (amongst serving client history needs) to add over twenty photos to the CCCHS Database, including segmented scans of panoramas which will be viewable on the web site. Louis Stein, a founder of CCCHS, lived in Kensington and used his photos and at times those by Cheney of Oakland to create coastal views out over El Cerrito and surrounding areas.

You can preview other panorama segments on the web in the range of Photo numbers 13309 -13331. However, some of these numbers are not viewable except at the CCCHS History Center in Martinez.

No.13331 is a 48" rolled negative w/o date! The southerly view is of St. Mary's College's early buildings and the O.A. & E. Railroad tracks. We are looking for interested parties to participate in the costs and research effort needed to benefit from the processing of the negative.

If you would like to volunteer at the History Center in Martinez, please contact us. We've still got lots of photos in backlog waiting to be processed!!

History Center Wish List

- Desktop Computer
- Large format scanner
- External hard drives (2) for added security
- Laptop for carrying our message to the community

If you are able to donate to this cause, either one time or on a monthly basis, or if you know anyone or any business that would be of help to us, please let us know. Be aware that we are now able to take Visa and MasterCard as well as PayPal.

Marlene Thompson earns prestigious award

Each year the Conference of California Historical Societies recognizes outstanding accomplishments relating to California's past by presenting awards of merit as its way of honoring individuals, groups and businesses *whose contributions to California history add luster and significance to the lives around them. They help nurture and preserve our priceless heritage.* Recipients are presented with their awards during a special luncheon in their honor at the annual meeting each June.



One of our own, Marlene Thompson, was one of several nominees selected this year to receive an Individual Award for her many years of indispensable work with Martinez Historical Society. Her hundreds

of hours of labor and willingness to tackle whatever needs doing are clearly what the awards are all about.

This year's awards luncheon was held in the high desert country of San Bernardino County and the San Bernardino Mountains. Marlene was unable to attend. One of my numerous functions as Regional Vice President is to accept awards for Contra Costans who cannot do so in person. This job was easier than usual because many at the luncheon remembered Marlene from the 2009 annual meeting in Martinez so knew who I was talking about. They were impressed by learning of her accomplishments as a volunteer at the Martinez Museum and pleased that she has been recognized for her efforts. So am I.

Congratulations, Marlene. Martinez is duly proud of you. We share their pride.

You can help select the next award recipient. Think about colleagues who consistently go the extra mile to assure the continuing success of your

organization. One or two surely stand out in your mind as deserving of special recognition.

An explanation of the 7 categories of awards including criteria for eligibility, rules for nominators and nomination forms are on the CCHS website. Go to www.californiahistorian.com and click on About the CCHS. Then click on Awards of Merit Information.

Compiling the necessary supporting documentation for a successful nomination is vital. It takes time, usually more time than you expect it to take.

Inquiries should be directed to:
John Anicic at anicicjr@aol.com or 909.823.6163
or

Christina Essex at chriscalover@yahoo.com or
310.821.0108

The deadline for nominations for 2011 awards is February 28. Check with John or Christina early in the year for any change in the deadline.

The CCHS annual meeting in 2011 will be held in Berkeley which makes accepting awards in person especially convenient. There are many dedicated workers for history in Contra Costa County so a lack of nominees is not an issue.

Mary-Ellen Jones
Conference of California Historical Societies
Regional Vice President
Contra Costa County

Workshop on Volunteerism

By now you should have received a flier regarding the workshop on volunteerism, August 25 at the Shell Clubhouse in Martinez. Anyone working with volunteers should be interested in attending this information-packed event. Registration deadline is August 20, so don't delay! Call 925-254-2295 or 925-372-7146 for more information. Or visit:

Californiahistorian.com

While You're On the Web ...

Check out what's happening in Contra Costa County! If you haven't already noticed, we have posted a new link on our website called *On Tap* that suggests fun historical outings, local lectures and featured celebrations for members of the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Past editions have highlighted local graveyard tours, history talks at the Lafayette Library and even directions about how to get a tour of Port Chicago. Most of these outings are free and they are always in our county and always historical. You'll find familiar faces and perhaps some descriptions of places that you have been or have wanted to visit for some time.

Visit *On Tap* by going to <http://www.cocohistory.org/> and click the *On Tap* link. August is a special summer edition that highlights local historical activities for kids such as the John Muir Day Camp. We'll keep September a surprise, but in October look for details about the Richmond Home Front Festival.



Think about sending a photo of yourself, a family member or a friend who is out enjoying a historical event in Contra Costa County and we'll post it *On Tap*. And, if you have an event suggestion or a historical activity that you particularly enjoyed, please send them

my way.

Enjoy those last few days of summer and start marking up your calendar with events from *On Tap*!

Melissa Jacobson, Editor, *On Tap*
Email: on-tap@cocohistory.com

Students Work with Clippings Files

During the past few weeks, a crew of high school and rising college students has worked with our newspapers to help bring our Clippings files up to date. These clippings files go back to our founder, Louis Stein. He had collected clippings by town in three-ring binders and had many file folders of clippings as well. After the clippings came to the Center, they were put in folders and then into archival boxes. They became part of our more than 40 linear feet of clippings files that are now available to our members and other researchers. These clippings have not been put into the database or onto the website.

Pictured, left to right:



Alex, Daniel, Hera, Emily, Josh, and Brian

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renew Gift Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please check here if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail—saves money and trees

DUES:

Individual \$30 Couple \$50 Sponsor \$75

Patron \$150 Corporate \$500

Benefactor \$1000 Student \$15

(Your renewal date is printed on the address label of this newsletter)

From the Executive Director:

Dear Members,

It has been an eventful few months since our last *Bulletin* was published.

The building at 610 Main Street has been sold. We have been talking with the owner of the building about the future of the History Center. He seems inclined to *help* with the rent, which is now being paid by the County @ about \$3,300 per month for our 5,000 square feet. We are hopeful that the County will continue subsidizing the rent beyond next April, but there are no guarantees. I will certainly keep the membership posted on further developments.



At the end of June, I attended the Western Archives Institute, co-sponsored by the California State Archives and the Society of California Archivists. It was a two-week intensive course held at UC Berkeley, which included all of the information necessary to managing an Archive. I have come back to the Society full of energy and, with the help of volunteers, have embarked on the project of producing a complete inventory of all of the Archives. We have an impressive and valuable collection. I invite you to come in and participate as a volunteer in making the collection available to our many constituents, or just to come in and take a tour of the materials in the Archives. I enjoy giving such tours.

And, speaking of tours, I will be happy to give one to anyone who comes on August 29 to the opening of our autumn exhibit—"Trailblazers Past and Present: Juan Bautista de Anza and George Cardinet."

As always, I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. Please read my article regarding computer purchases for the Center. I am told that one must ask for what one needs. I am asking *you*.

Lastly, Congratulations to volunteers Bill and Tillie Larkins, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July. Way to go!

Priscilla

President's Message:

Summer is here and, with it, sunny days as the History Center is open one Saturday a month and we plan for a new exhibit opening Sunday afternoon, August 29.



Executive Director Priscilla Couden and some great volunteers are holding the Center open every third Saturday from 10 to 2. In August they opened during the Martinez Peddler's Faire as well. Regular hours are 9-4 Tuesday-Thursday and volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Don't miss our September 11 membership pot luck, a joint meeting with Orinda Historical Society. See the special article in this Bulletin.

We are facing some interesting challenges as the Society's History Center building has been purchased by a new owner. Your Board sincerely thanks the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for their past support and believes that the County should / will continue to support the History Center beyond that date. The Center is the official Historical Society of Contra Costa County. It is the repository of many of the County's original records and the caretaker of many Superior Court records. It regularly offers exhibits on County history in its display windows.

If you want to help keep the Center in this perfect location, contact the History Center: 925-229-1042.

Important Notice: Due to the recent resignations of two of our directors, we now have two board openings which must be filled. Those interested must be members, in good standing, of the Contra Costa County Historical Society. We are looking for people who are able to devote time and effort to the furtherance of the goals of our society. If you are interested in applying, please call me at: **925-837-7715.**

Beverly

YOU ARE INVITED

The next membership meeting and luncheon of the Contra Costa County Historical Society will be on **Saturday, September 11, 2010**. The meeting will be co-hosted with Orinda Historical Society. Luncheon will be a **potluck**.



Our speaker will be **Tyche Hendricks**, author of *The Wind Doesn't Need a Passport: Stories from the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*, published in June by UC Press. Hendricks is a journalist who spent a dozen years with the *San Francisco Chronicle* where she covered immigration and demographics. She is a lecturer at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley.



WHAT: Membership meeting & luncheon
WHEN: Saturday, September 11, 2010.
11:30 AM: Wine (complimentary) and conversation
Noon: Luncheon

WHERE: Orinda Community Church
10 Irwin Way (Off Orinda Way in
Village, up the hill, opposite Safeway)

COST: \$12 per person plus a dish to serve eight
Reservations are required.

WHAT TO BRING (by **surname**):

A-G: Hot dish; **H-J**: Rolls or bread; **K-O**: Salad; **P-R**: Cold drinks, soda, etc.; **S-Z**: Dessert
Please bring serving dishes and serving utensils

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010
GUESTS ARE WELCOME
QUESTIONS? 925.254.2295 or 925.372.7146

NAME(S) _____ NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____

_____ TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED _____

PHONE: _____ I WILL BRING _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO CCCHS. MAIL TO:
CCCHS
610 MAIN STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Mark Your Calendar:

- August 14 **Richmond Plunge Opens!**
- August 21 History Center open 10-2
- August 25 Workshop on Volunteerism
- August 29 **Anza/Cardinet exhibit reception at History Center 1-4 pm**
- **September 11 Membership Meeting** (see details page 7)
- September 18 History Center open 10-2
- September 25 Anza Trail Exhibit opening at the John Muir National Historic Site
- October 16 History Center open 10-2
- November 20 History Center open 10-2
- December 18 – Gen. Membership Mtg.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Contra Costa County Historical Society is the dissemination of knowledge about the history of Contra Costa County and the State of California through publications, lectures, workshops, and through the acquisition and preservation of pertinent historical documents.

Contra Costa County Historical Society

Officers (and Directors):

President.....Beverly Lane
 1st Vice President.....Andrea Blachman
 2nd Vice President.....vacant
 Secretary.....Webb Johnson
 Treasurer.....Audrey Katzman

Directors:

Donald Bastin	Lucille Irish
Melissa Jacobson	Mary-Ellen Jones
Kathy Leighton	Mario Menesini
Traci Parent	Paula Wherity
Betty Maffei – Member Emeritus	

Executive Director: Priscilla Couden

Newsletter Editor: Donald Bastin

The History Center

610 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 925-229-1042 fax: 925-229-1772

Open Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm

Now open 3rd Saturday, 10am – 2 pm!

Email: info@cocohistory.com

Website: www.cocohistory.com

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