



# City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

## LIBRARY NEWS August 2007

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

### Library Acquisitions

Those of us who heard Neal T. Baker speak before the Historical and Pioneer Society earlier this year will remember that the main subject of his talk was his lifelong friend Glen Bell. At that time he donated two signed copies of Debra Lee Baldwin's book, *Taco Titan: the Glen Bell Story*, published by Summit Publishing Co., Arlington, Texas, 1999. Baker mentioned several times how San Bernardino was the fast food capital of the world when it comes to creativity: McDonald's, Taco Bell, Taco Tia, Del Taco, Der Wienerschnitzel, and Baker's Burgers, all of which either began in or had a major tie to San Bernardino. I remember all of these places from my teenage years. Plus I recall another local fast food chain, Hedleston's (two outlets I think; is that a chain?). The son of the founder was the 1959 Senior Class President of Pacific High, Bill Hedleston. Alas, the franchise did not survive.

Nick Cataldo donated a copy of his Masters Thesis, *Hospital in Transition: How and Why Patton Hospital Changed From An Institution For The Mentally Ill To An Institution For The Penal Code Offenders*, California State College, San Bernardino, 1983. This is a significant contribution to a local topic and a very nice addition to our Library.

Allen Bone donated a fine copy of a **1939 Directory of San Bernardino**. City directories are very important for a well-stocked library, and this volume is in unusually nice condition. We now have a respectable beginning, a shelf and a half, of these irreplaceable reference volumes. Of course the mother lode of directories is the California Room of the Feldheim (City) Library, but it is nice for us to have back-ups in case of fire, flood, theft, etc. The water pipe that burst in the California Room a few months ago drenched an area just a few feet from the shelves where the directories are stacked. Disaster was narrowly averted.

Two of our Society's indefatigable workers, Steve Shaw and Tom Marek, teamed up to reproduce a classic 1910 San Bernardino book entitled, *From Desert Land To Fairy Land*. This was originally published by the San Bernardino *Evening Index* to celebrate the Centennial of the founding of San Bernardino. Now with the bi-centennial fast approaching, this book reminds us how our predecessors celebrated the event. Steve took an original edition, his own personal copy, scanned it and produced one copy for the library. Tom had a handful of additional copies run off, but the demand overwhelmed the supply. Now he has printed a substantial run which should make sufficient copies available to those who are interested in San Bernardino history and literature. The book features the original distinctive color cover with artwork depicting an Indian maiden overlooking the city, with the Arrowhead landmark pointing to the hotel beneath it.

Dr. Brian Elikier donated a copy of Dr. Roger A. Smith's *Portraits In History: The San Bernardino County Medical Center 1855-1998*, published by Act I Publishing, 1999. Dr. Smith spent a lot of time

on this book. I know he worked with Arda Haenszel (and no doubt others) for many decades in producing this remarkable history of the San Bernardino County hospital system.

Alice Eby Hall previously donated two of her books to the Historical and Pioneer Library, and she is working on a new book about the history of Devore. This is a work in progress and the current title is *Devore—A Scrapbook*. She was recently at our library doing research, and she gave a rough draft copy to Nick Cataldo, with whom she had been conversing. Not being shy about such matters, I asked her if she would provide a copy for our library as well, and she recently complied. Actually, a rough draft copy by Mrs. Hall has the appearance of a completed book, and this one has the look of a professionally published book. With hundreds of photographs and oral histories of many old-timers, her book stands to fill quite a vacuum in the lore of San Bernardino. (I asked her if we could include Devore as part of San Bernardino, and she said she did not mind.)

Recently I was made aware of a pamphlet on Muscoy, published by developer J. B. Roof, Inc, in the late 1920s. It is a fold-out brochure and the cover page is titled "Muscoy Income Homesites." Inside, the title is *Muscoy: 11,000 Acres of Income Country Homesites Adjoining the Gate City of Southern California*. Last year a fellow came to the library asking if we had anything on the history of Muscoy, and we had to say no. I mentioned this to Alice and now, thanks to her, we have a photocopy of this interesting piece covering the early development of Muscoy. Mrs. Hall has thus filled the gaps in our knowledge of two major areas in the northwest part of our city, Devore and Muscoy.

Many thanks go out to Dave and Donna Rutherford, who have been doing some great work on the library computer. Donna retired in January from the S. B. Police Dept., where she did IT work on the computers. Our file collection was in much disarray, and Donna has been getting it in order. I don't know how she does it midst the usual Saturday mayhem, but she does.

# Tour of Historic *Underground* San Bernardino Thursday - October 11, 2007



**9 AM until Noon**

See evidence of past above ground waterways like *Town Creek*, *Warm Creek*, and *Lyle Creek*. We will explore what is left above ground and with the help of the San Bernardino County Flood Control Agency, see where they are now underneath the city.

Tour hosted by the *City Of San Bernardino Historical & Pioneer Society* and will start at their location at the corner of 8th & "D" St

Cost  
**Only \$10**

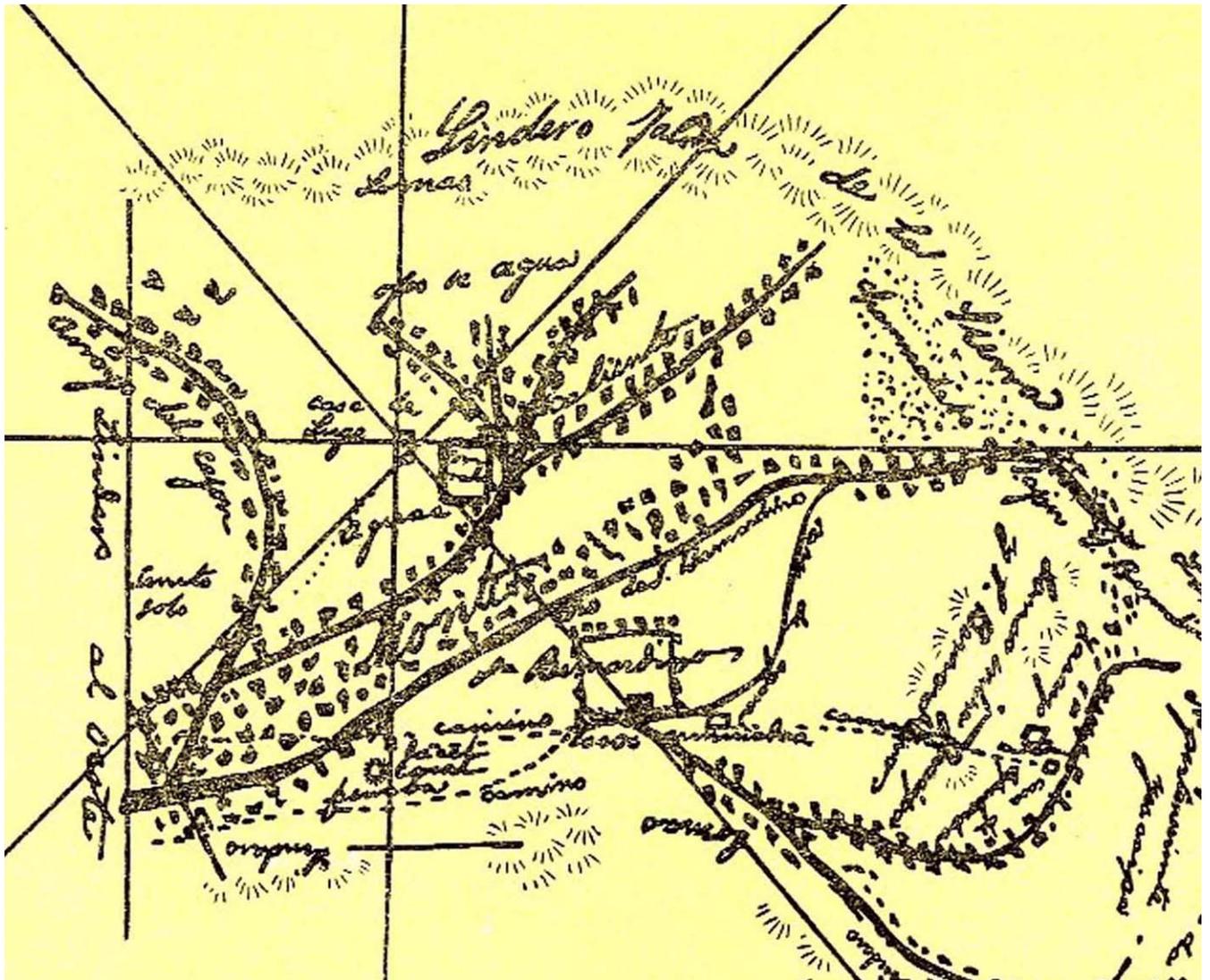
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**Space is Limited - Reservations Close September 5th**

## SAN BERNARDINO UNDERGROUND

Our first tour (in a while) is coming up. It will be on Thursday, October 11, 2007. We will meet at the Heritage House at 9:00 a.m., where we will have a short presentation by Flood Control engineers, including the Director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, Vana Olson. After that we will board buses and travel to the historic watercourses of San Bernardino. I don't want to give too much away, but these watercourses had a large influence on the way San Bernardino developed, including why the city is located where it is. We will visit the very birthplace of the City of San Bernardino.

Many of these watercourses are entirely underground, or in the ground in concrete channels. We will visit some creeks, and channels that have not been seen by most people for decades. Unfortunately we will not be allowed to enter the structures (too dangerous), and it turns out even the Flood Control people don't go into them anymore. Steve Shaw has prepared a flyer for the tour (see previous page) showing a robot camera. This is now used for inspections, and we will be viewing some brief videos of the underground drains.



Diseno representing San Bernardino of the 1840s

The above *diseno* of San Bernardino shows the importance of the waterways back when it was Lugo's Rancho San Bernardino. It is from *Heritage of the Valley*, by George and Helen Beattie, who date it as 1841. We will be visiting the watercourses north of the Santa Ana River, which is shown running northeasterly below the horizontal line on the map, and is identified as the Rio de S. Bernardino. North of that are *montes* (thickets or woods).

Left of center on the horizontal line, at the intersection of all the lines, is Casa de Lugo, and to the right of that is a box with lettering that cannot be read. The box is located adjacent to the creek and is probably a farm plot where they grew their vegetables. To the west of Casa de Lugo is Arroyo del Cajon, and we will visit Cajon and Lytle Creeks. More or less paralleling Rio de San Bernardino on the north is "Aguas Caliente," hot (or warm) waters. This watercourse today is called Warm Creek, and it will be a major part of the tour. At the very north of the map is Lindero [illegible] de la Sierra, or "edge of the mountains." Just below that are the "ojos de agua," a term meaning freshwater springs. Beattie thought it was Arrowhead Springs, but they seem to spread out wider, and I think they might be the springs that create Town Creek.

This tour will be part historic and part engineering technology. The latter is masterful and has transformed the City of San Bernardino. Every day we drive over flood control culverts without a thought. Pretty soon there won't be any citizens left who remember the days when the city often shut down during major storms because of impassible flooded streets. The combination of history and engineering is not usually done, so this might require a Vulcan mind meld.

The buses will hold 15 people, which includes the driver. Wear your walking shoes, because we will possibly want to walk a short way to see some of the sites. The Flood Control Department has asked that we have a count by at least September 5, 2007, so that they can reserve the vehicles from the motor pool. Please have your reservation in before then.

## HISTORY

Interest in San Bernardino's origins is being rekindled as the city's bicentennial year 2010 approaches. The term "rekindled" is apropos, because debate on the actual year of the city's founding has become pretty fiery. The date of the city's founding was established as 1810, based on an account in the writings of one man, Father Juan Caballeria, which is the source of the controversy. We need to go back in time to see what was going on in San Bernardino in 1810 in order to shed some light on the subject.

## SAN BERNARDINO IN 1810

Local resident Father Juan Caballeria wrote a series of newspaper articles in 1902 in which he stated that the town of San Bernardino, originally the Indian village of Guachama, received its name during an 1810 expedition headed by Padre Francisco Dumetz of the Mission San Gabriel.<sup>1</sup> There are those who doubt that such an expedition occurred.

Documentation regarding a Dumetz expedition has not been discovered, other than Caballeria's narrative, but accounts of the history of San Bernardino in 1810 have appeared in major historical works.

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<sup>1</sup> Articles in San Bernardino *Daily Times-Index* ran from Jan to Sept, 1902, in 23 installments. Later published in book form as: Caballeria, Father Juan. *History of San Bernardino Valley: From the Padres to the Pioneers*, Times-Index Press, 1902

Hubert Howe Bancroft, a prominent California historian, identifies the year 1810 as a period of Indian unrest throughout Spanish California, and in this paragraph he describes the call put out to the Spaniard's main Indian fighter, Alferez (Ensign) Gabriel Moraga, for help at Mission San Gabriel:<sup>2</sup>

The Indians were somewhat more troublesome in 1810 than they had been before, both in the north and south; Alferez Moraga, preeminently the Indian-fighter of the time, was kept very busy in the Spanish acceptance of the term. [There follows a description of the difficulties up north] In November there was trouble at San Gabriel, where an attack was deemed imminent, and Moraga was ordered south.

In a separate chapter, Bancroft covers the same incident but here he describes the source of the problem in Southern California:<sup>3</sup>

In the south at San Gabriel the Indians were still uneasy and troublesome. Neophytes [a word that in this case applies to American Indians who had newly converted to Christianity] and gentiles operated to some extent in concert, stealing cattle and even breaking open the mission store-house. Some Indians implicated in past hostilities were still prisoners at the presidios, a fact which caused much bitterness of feeling among the rest; and rumors of impending attack from the Colorado River tribes were current to increase the general alarm. The missionaries were often called upon for additional force, which was sent on several occasions, so that the danger was averted without fighting. On one occasion, however, in November, if we may credit the padres' reports, a body of Yumas, also called Amajavas, with other savages actually approached to the number of eight hundred, with the intention of destroying San Gabriel and San Fernando. The arrival of reinforcements prevented the attack.

A footnote in Bancroft's book describes additional details which show that on November 27th, Moraga went to Mission San Gabriel to investigate the causes of disorders and the rising of a man named Martinez, who with 50 men "held" that place. By December 31st, Moraga had imprisoned 21 Christian Indians of San Gabriel and 12 gentiles for complicity in the revolt. Six months later, in June 1811, Moraga had captured all the leaders and proceeded so wisely that 400 gentiles were converted. The hostile Indians were the Amajabas (Mojaves), who had come within two leagues of San Gabriel, but retired on hearing the mission was defended, killing one neophyte on the way.<sup>4</sup>

San Bernardino historians George and Helen Beattie, in their book *Heritage of the Valley*, add even more details:<sup>5</sup>

The cause of this uprising is not known, but apparently the neophytes of San Gabriel were parties to it, if they were not the instigators; and it has importance for us because the campaigning connected with it extended into the San Bernardino region. Fathers Miguel and Zalvidea wrote of a move on San Gabriel, in November, by a united force of Mojaves from the Colorado River, Angayabas from the eastern end of the Mojave River, and Serranos from the San Bernardino

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<sup>2</sup> Bancroft, Hubert Howe. *History of California, Volume II*, 1801-1824. Wallace Heberd: Santa Barbara, 1966, pp 91, 92.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 323.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*. Footnote 26 on page 92. I've paraphrased the footnotes in this paragraph.

<sup>5</sup> Beattie, George William, and Helen Pruitt Beattie. *Heritage of the Valley: San Bernardino's First Century*. San Pasqual Press: Pasadena, 1939, pp 8,9.

Mountains, saying that this was their fourth demonstration and that the neophytes of San Gabriel had been involved and were still defiant....

The service record of a Spanish corporal, Jose Maria Pico, shows that in 1810 he led fourteen expeditions from San Gabriel against *insurrectos*. Other documents show that military operations extended through the San Bernardino Mountains and to the desert beyond. Many of the revolting Indians were reported in 1813 as being still absent from their villages, some having fled as far as the Mojave settlements on the Colorado.

Before proceeding with our city's 1810 history, it must be pointed out that earlier, in 1806, an expedition was sent out for the purpose of locating suitable sites for inland missions. Fray Jose Maria de Zalvidea led the expedition, which began in Santa Barbara, went north and then east along the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, over to the Mojave River, south through Cajon Pass to the area of today's Glen Helen Ranch, where the group turned west toward the Mission San Gabriel.<sup>6</sup> So this expedition did not enter the valley, and thus would not have visited the village of Guachama.

A few years pass, and what happens next is unclear as to what brought Guachama to the attention of the Spaniards as a possible mission site. The San Gabriel missionaries had learned of the village, according to Beattie, and thought it a suitable place for a mission. They evidently communicated with Father Estevan Tapis, the president of the California missions, because in 1810 he turned down the idea. The only documentation is his refusal in an *informe* (report). What prompted the initial communication to Tapis is unknown. Beattie does comment on the reason for the denial:<sup>7</sup>

A serious obstacle, however, in the way of a mission outpost at this point was the hostility of the Mojave Indians just then; and Fray Estevan Tapis...felt compelled to withhold permission for any mission establishments in the Valley until conditions there were more favorable.

Obviously, if there was a denial, there must have been a proposal. A significant point to consider here is that someone had gone to Guachama and noted the assets of its location in order to recommend it as a mission site in 1810. This is key to connecting to Caballeria's story, yet the documentation is too sketchy to prove anything one way or the other.

In 1984 a research study was published that addressed the question of early Indians in San Bernardino. It was entitled *Man and Settlement in the Upper Santa Ana River Drainage: A Cultural Resources Overview*, with the historical part of the project written by Michael K. Lerch, an anthropologist specializing in Serrano Indians. Lerch is acknowledged by the tribe as being an expert in their culture.<sup>8</sup> He wrote a paragraph that pertains to 1810:

Influence on native culture in the project areas [San Bernardino vicinity] began as early as 1771 with the establishment of San Gabriel Mission, approximately 50 miles to the west. The earliest baptisms recorded at that mission of individuals from villages in the project areas date to 1785. In order to fulfill their objectives of establishing a chain of inland missions, the Spanish mission authorities sent expeditions into the interior, scouting for suitable sites. The first of these to reach the Project Areas was in 1806, and its itinerary was recorded by diarist Father Jose Maria Zalvidea. The second such expedition came in 1810, and resulted in

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 4.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 8.

<sup>8</sup> Altschul, Jeffrey H., Martin R. Rose, and Michael K. Lerch. *Man and Settlement in the Upper Santa Ana River Drainage: A Cultural Resources Overview*. Report prepared for the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Statistical Research, Technical Series No. 1, 1984, pp 58-59.

the valley acquiring the name San Bernardino. Apparently the native inhabitants of both the project areas and the surrounding regions were opposed to the Spanish presence in their territory, for later that same year a united force of Mojaves from the Colorado River, Angayabas from the eastern end of the Mojave River, and Serranos from the San Bernardino Mountains attacked San Gabriel with the help of defiant neophytes there, in what was reportedly the fourth such demonstration.

Caballeria stated that the Indian village of Guachama was renamed San Bernardino during the disputed 1810 expedition. Lerch gives us information that locates the village of Wa'atsava't, or Guachama, and describes some of the linguistics of the region:<sup>9</sup>

The native group which inhabited the San Bernardino Valley was the Wa'achem, a clan which belonged to the wahiya, or coyote, moiety. Their territory, which consisted of the Santa Ana River and adjacent lands from the East Highlands area as far downstream as Agua Mansa near the county line, was known as Wa'atsava't to the Serrano and as wa'achanga to the Gabrielino. The existence of references in the literature to this area in both languages has raised questions as to whether the Wa'achem were Serrano or Gabrielino. The Spanish called the Wa'achem, "Guachama"....

Four years later, R. Bruce Harley, Archivist of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, wrote an essay entitled *Rev. Juan Caballeria: Historian or Storyteller? Rethinking the 1810 Dumetz Expedition*.<sup>10</sup> Harley concluded that no evidence existed of a Dumetz expedition, but he did not exclude the possibility of future discoveries concerning the matter:

Thus, the historian-detective is forced to conclude, albeit reluctantly, that not all of the possible clues to the riddle have been found. On the other hand, some apparently spurious clues have hampered a solution. Quite likely the search will be renewed from time to time on the off chance that location of the missing clues will close the gaps in the puzzle which has challenged various historian-detectives for nearly a century.

## SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE SINCE 1888

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p 57.

<sup>10</sup> Harley, R. Bruce. *Rev. Juan Caballeria: Historian or Storyteller? Rethinking the 1810 Dumetz Expedition*. San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, Summer 1988, pp 30, 31.