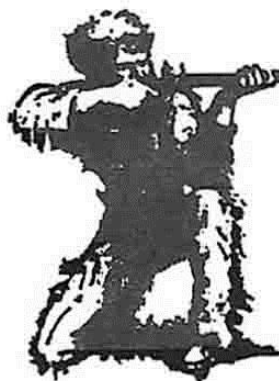


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# ODYSSEY

City of San Bernardino  
Historical & Pioneer Society

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2



MAY TO AUGUST 1996

## Rediscovering Wyatt Earp's Desert Campsite

by

Nicholas R. Cataldo

MUCH has been written about Wyatt Earp and his adventures in Wichita, Dodge City, and Tombstone. Little, however, has been written about his life at his Happy Days Gold Mine campsite located in the remote southeastern corner of the Mojave Desert. This campsite was home to Wyatt and his wife, Josie, for about twenty years. In 1910, Wyatt's good friend, Ted Ten Eyck, dictated the information for Glenn Boyer's book, *Wyatt Earp's Tombstone Vendetta*, while at the campsite. This little-publicized episode in Wyatt's life has intrigued me for a long time.

Fortunately, I met up with fifty-two-year-old Mike Stubbs, a business manager at Crest Chevrolet in San Bernardino, who shares my interest in delving into this little-known era in the life of one of the most identifiable men in the history of the Old West. Mike, who has a good deal of prospecting experience dating

back to 1958, and his son Brett, a twenty-five-year-old college student, had a general idea of the location of Earp's campsite in the Mojave Desert. They also had found a small section of land labeled "Lucky Day Mine" on maps of that particular area of the Mojave Desert. They decided to try to find the mine and the campsite as well.



(Continued On Page Three)

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# Editor's Column

IN THE last issue of *Odyssey* I wrote about the excellent collection of material on local history available to the public at the Norman Feldheim Central Library's California Room. Another outstanding place to do research is the San Bernardino County Archives. The quantity of public records that date back to 1853 when San Bernardino County was founded is absolutely amazing. In fact, San Bernardino County is recognized as having one of the best archives in the state.

The records include: assessor books and maps, auditor ledgers and reports, Board of Supervisor minutes and records, deed and homestead records, Great Register of Voters, Superior Court Case files, birth, death, and marriage records, mining records, survey records, and even a register of cattle brands.

With the professional expertise of archivist James D. Hofer and his assistant, Anne Brandt, the researcher is able to select just the right public record from the enormous collection of books and documents.

The San Bernardino County Archives is located at 777 East Rialto Avenue in San Bernardino and is open to the public free of charge Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M.

Nicholas R. Cataldo

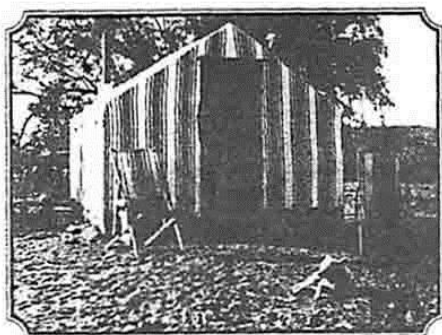
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*(Campsite Continued From Page One)*

Mike and Brett planned to use a photograph for reference while scouting around for the location of the old campsite. They had found a photograph of Wyatt and Josie standing in front of their tent cabin in Bob Boze Bell's *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wyatt Earp*. They were excited by the fact that somewhere out in that quiet and unmolested desert was the place where, for about 20 years, Wyatt and Josie slept, ate, and talked with friends for months at a time. Despite all the fact and fiction written about the famous man, and all the places that Earp enthusiasts have visited, it was quite possible that in recent times nobody had visited the campsite.

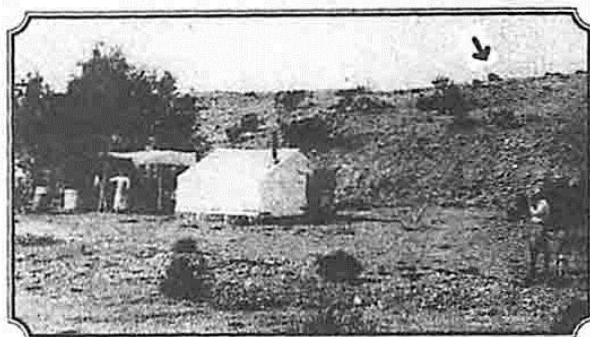


*Wyatt Earp's Campsite*

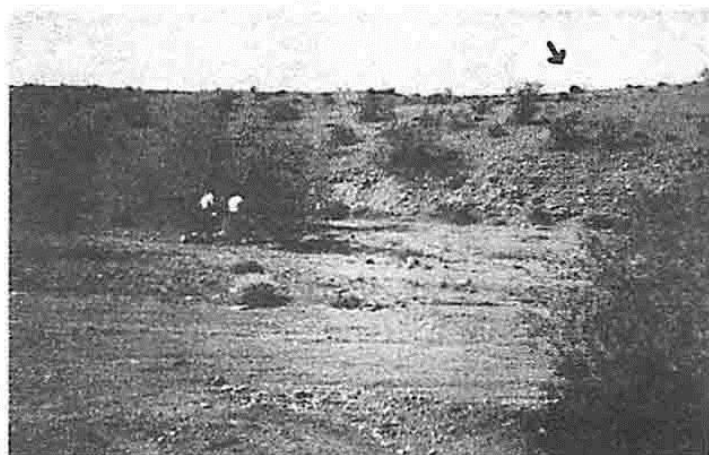
Early one Saturday morning, Mike and Brett started out. Using maps and the photograph as guides, they traveled halfway between Vidal Junction and the California and Arizona border, along Highway 62. Putting Mike's Suburban 4 by 4 to the test, they then took off cross-country on rugged dirt roads in hopes of finding the mine. Finally, after a couple of hours in which they scouted out several miles of land, they came upon an abandoned telephone road which led them to one of the mine's entrances. Soon, they found two more entrances, one of which still had remains of the rail used for hauling out the ore.



*Exploring the Lucky Day Mine.  
Left to right--Nick Cataldo and Mike Stubbs.*



*The photo used to identify the campsite. Compare to the present day photo below. The small arrow in each photo indicates the two large, volcanic rocks.*



After a couple more hours exploring inside the mine, Mike and Brett set out to find their primary goal--Wyatt and Josie's campsite. Now that the father and son team had established a reference point, they drew upon their experience in desert travel and camping to figure out where Wyatt and Josie might have set up their camp. They decided to drive in a northwesterly direction from the mine. Feeling certain that the campsite wouldn't be more than 1,000 feet or so from the mine, they stopped at about that distance and turned northeast. They ended up heading south and finally north toward the aqueduct around 4:30 P.M.

Eventually Mike and Brett got out of their vehicle and took off on foot. Splitting up, they searched the arroyos and washes. As Brett hunted, he constantly referred to the campsite picture attempting to visualize where it had been taken. Mike had found what appeared to be an old rusty oil drum and was digging out of the ground. About seventy yards away, Brett stood on top of a bluff, gazing with exuberance at the photograph. Suddenly he yelled out, "Dad, get here quick! I found it!"

Looking toward another bluff across from where they were standing, Mike and Brett recognized two distinctive outcroppings of volcanic rock shown in the photograph! Peering down, they saw the campsite. The trees in the photograph were still standing. Oddly enough, the location of the Earps' tent cabin as shown



in the picture appeared to be in what now is a wash; perhaps the ground was higher at the time the Earps lived there.

Later that day, as the sun was setting, Mike and Brett reminisced about the many sunsets Wyatt and Josie probably enjoyed at that very spot. For the first time in 70 years, someone was there to share an event that had been a daily part of the Earps' life.

A short time after this expedition, I was introduced to Mike Stubbs through my good friend, Russ McDonald. Excited about the news of their discovery, I immediately made plans with Mike to visit the site again. In April, the two of us, along with another friend, Wayne Heaton, set out for Wyatt and Josie's desert home.

Upon arrival at the old campsite I noticed an old trash dump that appeared undisturbed for quite some



time. Poking through the remains, I noticed many items including some old rusty cans, a flour sifter, tobacco cans, an old oil drum, broken bottles, and plates. It was exciting to think that we were holding things that Wyatt and Josie may have actually used at their campsite. Soon Mike, Wayne, and I found more important evidence that this was the right location. We spotted a rock ledge built partially around a tree and the remains of an old tree house. Although Josie didn't specify this location in her memoirs, collected and edited by Glenn Boyer in his book, *I Married Wyatt Earp*, she did mention a treehouse that Wyatt and Jim had built for her. We wondered if this was the same treehouse. Most people would never associate such things with the legendary lawman, Wyatt Earp. We enjoyed the thought of Josie and Wyatt playing here like kids.

While many might question the importance of the rediscovery of the Happy Days Gold Mine campsite, the real significance of this site is that, although Wyatt spent more of his life here than in the more publicized settings such as Dodge City and Tombstone, virtually nothing has been written about it other

than what is mentioned in *Vendetta*. Additionally, much information regarding Wyatt's life and events in those other locations was discussed (at least with Ted Ten Eyck) at this site and later recorded. Thousands of people visit the well-known "Earp towns," museums, and tourist sites each year hoping to find for themselves some connection to the famous man. Yet, this campsite in the remote southeastern corner of the Mojave Desert is about as close as anyone can be to a place where Wyatt Earp lived--a place virtually untouched since the day he left about 70 years ago. We felt that this rediscovery could be compared to someone innocently sitting down to lunch under a tree and finding Kit Carson's knapsack inside a nearby cave.

As we headed back home, I thought about how so few people knew that the legendary Wyatt Earp spent many years working as a miner in this remote corner of San Bernardino County and that the twenty years he spent here far outnumbered the few years he spent as a lawman. Then I asked myself two questions regarding Wyatt Earp, the desert miner:

1. Would thousands of people flock annually to the hot, desolate Mojave Desert in order to visit the former home of a miner grub staking in the dry mountains of the Mojave Desert?
2. Would Hugh O' Brien or Henry Fonda have been willing to portray Wyatt Earp, the desert miner?



It didn't take long for me to come up with the answer to both questions--probably not! As with most of our heroes, we are drawn to the romance and excitement of their lives, not the day-to-day existence of just plain living. However, such discoveries aid us in knowing and understanding the real Wyatt Earp as opposed to the larger-than-life dime novel character or the celluloid mirage of the silver screen. ❖



*Diocesan Heritage Series*

# Father Brady and the 1910 St. Bernardine's Church



by

R. Bruce Harley, Archivist

BY THE time St. Bernardine's parish was just past 40 years of age, the first pastor to be assigned in the twentieth century arrived in San Bernardino. He was Rev. John Brady, appointed on July 9, 1903. Fr. Brady had not been in the United States very long, but already his abilities had marked him as a man capable of administering a growing parish well past its difficult pioneer days.

He was born in Longford, Ireland, on April 30, 1866, and completed his philosophical and theological studies in All Hallows College, Dublin, where he was ordained in December 1896. He was then sent for higher studies to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. His curriculum continued for two years and led to the granting of a degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

After graduation, he traveled to Los Angeles for assignment, arriving on July 2, 1898. Within a month, he obtained his first appointment as an assistant to famed Fr. Anthony Ubach, pastor of St. Joseph's Church (1866-1907), and superintendent of St. Anthony's Indian School (1887-1907). Fr. Ubach had been the inspiration for the character of Fr. Gaspara in Helen Hunt Jackson's epic novel, *Ramona*, published in 1884.

Fr. Brady remained in San Diego until May 1901, at which time he became rector at the outlying community of Hanford. On October 31, 1902, he was named pastor at what the diocesan newspaper in the 1920s called "...the then difficult mission, the parish of Needles..." (St. Ann's founded by 1888). To this responsibility was joined the care of Tehachapi (St. Malachy Parish, founded 1887) and way stations along the Southern Pacific tracks. Because of the extreme heat at Needles in the summer, it was traditional for the pastor to live there during the winter and commute by rail once a month to Tehachapi. The process was reversed for the summer months. Serving such a large territory under adverse conditions required a great deal of energy and devotion to successfully meet the unusual challenge. To ease the



*Father Brady circa 1903-1918*

hardship somewhat, he built a rectory at Needles in 1903 and no longer lived at the railroad hotel.

As a reward for his administrative capabilities, Fr. Brady was appointed July 9, 1903, as the pastor at St. Bernardine's Church in San Bernardino, succeeding Rev. Juan Caballeria, who was reassigned to Los Angeles' Plaza Church.

Almost immediately, Fr. Brady found that the 1870 church structure, though recently refurbished, would soon be unable to accommodate a growing parish. Likewise, St. Catherine's Convent School (1880) was inadequate for a growing number of pupils. Quickly, he set to work on a fund-raising campaign for a new school building. He was successful, and St. Catherine's grade school, built to serve 200 pupils, opened for classwork in early 1907. It employed the same teaching order, The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, destined to serve the Catholic community for almost a century.

When Bishop Thomas J. Conaty (1903-1915) came to California, his first educational move in the Monterey-Los Angeles Diocese was to erect St. Catherine's Parochial School. Continued interest in his first school was evident in his frequent visits to San Bernardino. The children, their parents, and the non-Catholic population looked forward to his presence at commencement exercises. The Bishop remained delighted with the progress of the school. He complimented the zealous pastor for his untiring efforts in procuring better equipment and also the teaching Sisters for their progressive work in the classroom. As the diocesan newspaper stated in 1921, "Great credit is indeed due to Fr. Brady whose interest in the school, whose fatherly supervision, whose helpful suggestions, whose charitable and kindly advice, and whose exhortations in the classroom rendered attendance...a pleasure to the teachers and



pupils alike." As did Fr. Stockman before him, Fr. Brady taught religion and science classes at the school.

After he came to San Bernardino, Fr. Brady learned of the story told in 1902 by his predecessor, Rev. Juan Caballeria, concerning an expedition that ventured east from Mission San Gabriel to establish a chapel somewhere in the greater San Bernardino area on St. Bernardine's day, May 20, 1810. Although there was no proof of the tale, it seemed plausible enough and was used as justification by the city to celebrate its centennial on May 20, 1910, rather than in 1919 or waiting until 1951. Fr. Brady used the occasion to drum up support for building a new, larger St. Bernardine's Church at the same time.

The building fund drive succeeded admirably, and the cornerstone was laid at the empty lot immediately west of the 1870 structure at 6th and F Streets on May 20, 1910. The centennial edition of San Bernardino's *Evening Index* described the scene as follows:

More than 1,000 people crowding on the sidewalks and into the churchyard witnessed the impressive ceremonies....

The ceremonies were in charge of Bishop T. J. Conaty of the Diocese of Los Angeles and Monterey, and were beautifully impressive.

They opened with the blessing of the crowd which will be placed on the (future) church altar by the bishop. Then the eighty-third Psalm was changed and this was followed by a prayer of blessing for the cross. The "Miserere" psalm was next chanted and several other psalms followed this. While the bishop, surrounded by a number of priests, silently looked on as the cornerstone (with the words "Mission San Bernardino de Sienna; Founded May 20, 1810; Restored May 20, 1910) was dropped into place.

Prior to the ceremonies incident to the laying of this cornerstone there were several impressive features. The Catalina band heading a procession of girls and boys of the church marched around the (intersection) playing national airs. The girls were dressed in white, which had been draped with blue and red ribbons.

Earlier in the morning, high mass had been celebrated in the old church in the

presence of the bishop. The celebrant was Rev. Fr. Florian Hahn, and he was assisted in the ceremony by Rev. Fr. McGrath of Arlington, Rev. Fr. Cain of Riverside, Rev. Fr. T. J. Fitzgerald of Redlands, and Fr. Brady.

Prior to the opening of the cornerstone ceremonies, a specially erected grandstand had been filled with members of the Princess' court, the members of the Spanish Court and members of the committees besides the Centennial officials and several city officials.

Shortly after 9 o'clock the procession of priests, headed by altar boys and Rev. Fr. Blackwell (associate pastor) marched solemnly to the cornerstone and surrounding it, commenced the ceremony....

Before the laying of the cornerstone a number of articles were placed in it among which was the attest of the bishop containing the names of church officials and pastors, also the State and National officials, and the history of the valley written by Fr. Juan Caballeria and a list of members of the Altar Society, the L. B. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, and a number of other articles.

After this ceremony had been completed, the bishop and several of the priests mounted a specially erected platform which had been prettily draped with purple and white bunting.

Then Bishop Conaty made the address for the occasion. Before opening his remarks he made the statement that he wished to thank all who had assisted in making the (future) erection of the church possible. He also asked for a generous offering with which to help support the church and announced that the silver trowel used in laying the stone, would be presented to the person contributing most liberally.

Handsome gold and white colored buttons bearing a picture of the church as it will look when completed and of its pastor...had been gotten out specially for the occasion and a song specially written, entitled, "Hail, the Twentieth Day of May," was sung by a chorus of young people during the services.

Among other priests present from the inland area





were: Rev. P. J. McGrath of Arlington, Rev. F. K. Beeker of Ontario, Rev. T. J. Fitzgerald and Rev. Michael Scanlon of Redlands, Rev. S. F. Cain of Riverside, and Rev. William Hughes of San Jacinto. Other visiting priests came from the Los Angeles area (including the pastor's brother, Rev. Edward H. Brady), San Diego area and Bakersfield.

Notably absent were the three living pastor predecessors of Fr. Brady. Two were in their declining years--no longer able to travel long distances and participate in large ceremonies. Bishop Peter Verdaguer was Vicar-Apostolic of Brownsville, Texas, from 1890 to 1911, and had served three non-consecutive assignments at St. Bernardine's during the 1863-1874 period. Rev. P. J. Stockman had succeeded him from 1874 to 1895 and then retired from Santa Barbara in 1908. A much younger man, Rev. Juan Caballeria had served from 1895 to 1903 before reassignment to Los Angeles' Plaza Church; however, he had medical difficulties at a comparatively early age and was forced to retire to Spain in 1911. Consequently, he declined to participate in the main ceremonies on May 20, 1910, but did journey out from Los Angeles that day to bless an El Camino Real bell which was moved to Mission San Gabriel's colonial outpost of the 1819-1834 era, an estancia, which was later misidentified as an "asistencia." (He did, however, at a later small ceremony, bless the new church bell in 1911 before retiring to his homeland.)

The parish committees in charge of the cornerstone laying ceremony included:

Executive--Mrs. A. L. Mespelt, chair; Mrs. Richard McInerny, Mrs. Charles Longmire, Mrs. R. J. Ochs, Mrs. George F. Hewins.

Decoration and Reception--Mrs. A. L. Mespelt, chair; Mrs. J. C. Huber, Mrs. Charles Longmire, Mrs. R. McInerny, Mrs. S. J. Hennessy, Mrs. Timothy McInerny, Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. George F. Hewins, Miss Marie Gessell, Miss A. Sacramella, Miss Minnie McQuilken, Mrs. George Brooks, Mrs. S. Mecham, Mrs. Martin Kohl, Mrs. J. Johnston, Mrs. Teresa Corcoran.

Committee on Parade and Public Safety--George F. Hewins, chairman; Andrew Thompson, A. L. Mespelt, J. C. Huber, Joseph Jager, Mrs. Poser, Hugh Muldowney, Richard McInerny, John Linderman, Timothy McInerny, Frank

Schmalhefer, John Scanlon, James Murray, William Cullen, W. Engelauf, J. C. Belarde, Charles Longmire, Patrick Donahue.

Collection Committee--S. J. Hennessy, chairman, J. F. Parker, M. J. Coughlin, C. J. Hofstetter, J. M. Oberly, W. R. Zimmerman, George Geissel, Al Gabel, W. R. Bowes, M. Farlington, Richard McInerny, R. J. Ochs, J. J. Sullivan, W. E. Bryne, N. Davenport, Jr., of Colton, A. L. Casey of Colton, James Murray, James Doyle, W. Cole.

Grand Stand and Platform Committee--J. F. Parker, chairman, Peter Thompson, assistant.

At the close of the ceremony, Bishop Conaty with Fr. Brady and chorus headed the automobile parade which ended at the site on Colton Road to lay another cornerstone for a proposed museum. This spot was designated to commemorate the first penetration of San Bernardino Valley by Mission San Gabriel, presumably in 1810. It was also planned that a new chapel be erected as a part of the "...founding Fr.s..." building complex. A proposal was discussed that this capilla be a reproduction along reduced lines of the surviving main mission building at San Gabriel, although "...this had not been definitely settled as yet."

The ground for the complex was "...generously given..." to the people of Colton and San Bernardino by O. L. Emery of Colton. He set aside an acre of land on "...almost the highest point of the ridge..." deeding it to a committee in trust made up of Elizabeth C. Wilkins, Josephine Ferguson, Maude Adams Roberts, and Alma M. Oakly, to hold until such time that the site could be turned over to an organization charged with the building of the museum and chapel. Together with the land, Mr. Emery also gave a right-of-way for a road (now called Hillcrest Ave., near Bunker Hill) leading out to Colton Avenue, plus the right to a well for a water supply. The *Evening Index* remarked that, "The gift is regarded as one of the most generous acts recorded in the history of the valley, and Mr. Emery has been praised on every side by the people of the entire county."

R. E. Swing, as president of the San Bernardino Valley Centennial, opened this second ceremony by presenting Bishop Conaty with a huge cross to be used in the exercises. The bishop, in turn, placed the cornerstone on which was inscribed, "Mission San Bernardino de Sienna; founded May 20, 1810; restored May 20, 1910." He then dedicated the site of the future chapel and proceeded to deliver an address "...which was one of the best delivered eulogies of the



(Franciscan) padres and their works that has ever been spoken."

Construction on the new St. Bernardine's Church, located immediately west of the old brick edifice, continued apace. Within 18 months the structure was available for whatever services exceeded the capacity of the 1870 church. On Sunday, May 5, 1912, Bishop Conaty again came from Los Angeles to dedicate the new edifice. (His schedule did not permit the ceremony being held on May 19th or 20th.) The bishop was assisted by Fr. Brady, Msgr. Thomas Fitzgerald of Redlands, Rev. W. F. Quinlan of Pasadena, Rev. R. Ferrer of Colton (although it would be yet another year before San Salvador would become a full parish), Rev. Thomas Nealand of Fresno, Rev. T. Blackwell of San Bernardino, and Rev. T. Lilley, Rev. C. Molony, Rev. Edward Brady, Rev. L. Golden, and Rev. F. J. Conaty (the bishop's nephew), all of Los Angeles. The diocesan newspaper described the situation, "For many years the people have been anxious for a new church....(the edifice with its Romanesque style) is one of the many very beautiful churches of the Diocese."

Meanwhile, the other project of erecting a museum and companion chapel failed to progress. Contributions were both small and slow; lacking a large "up front" gift made it well-nigh impossible to begin construction. Furthermore, authenticity of the story about an 1810 expedition journeying east from Mission San Gabriel continued to be seriously questioned by area historians, considering that no proof had been offered and none could be subsequently found. By the time of Fr. Brady's reassignment in 1918, the project, despite good intentions, had never become a viable one. The old cornerstone, however, remained in place and became known as the "De Sienna Monument." Finally, in 1975, as a bicen-ennial project, the stone was moved east from De Sienna Springs to a location near St. Elias the

Prophet Greek Orthodox Church on the renamed Inland Center Drive, where it still remains as a historical marker for a non-event.

Fr. Brady's clerical career continued to ascend even if the museum notion failed to reach fruition. He had been made "Consultor Episcopi" prior to 1910; on May 31, 1914, he was named as Rural Dean for the deanery comprising the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial. By June 25, 1918, he had become a "Prosgrodal Examiner." On November 13, 1918, Fr. Brady went to Los Angeles for a time as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. After three months, he was named both pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in San Diego and Rural Dean for the San Diego District. Soon, he was made a monsignor. After a distinguished assignment there for a decade, he died on May 20, 1929. Burial took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego. ❖

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## The Day California Lost 5,000 Horses

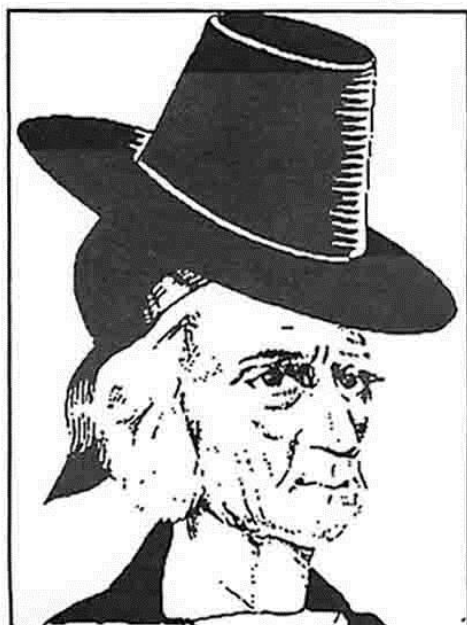


by

Russ McDonald

Don Antonio Maria Lugo had plenty of horses grazing on the vast, lush acreage of his Rancho San Bernardino. In fact, about 5,000 of the animals ran free on southern California ranchos at San Bernardino, Yucapia, Riverside, Chino, and Los Angeles. A man could ride for days through this area without seeing another person and if his mount tired he could simply exchange it for a new one. Neither Lugo nor his two sons, Jose and Vicente, would consider the incident worth notice, as a Lugo horse was always available to any Spaniard, Mexican or visiting American who needed a mount. But Lugo was not hospitable in May 1840 when an invading band of Ute Indians decided to take the entire herd.

Ute Chief Walkara believed that a war chief could never have enough horses. He had taken a few from the California herd before without any real problems,



Don Antonio Maria Lugo

but now he wanted the entire cavallard--all 5,000 horses and mules.

Walkara was born in what is now Utah in 1804 at a Timpanogos village on the Spanish Fork River. A neighboring tribe of desert Indians killed his father while Walkara was a young boy and he and his brothers, Arrapeen, Sanpitch (San Pete), and Tobiah (Tabby), dedicated their lives to vengeance. For the next few years, Walkara rode the desert searching out the secrets of the sun-scorched plains, mountains, and isolated water holes.

Walkara became a chief of great ability who cleverly planned raids on ranchos throughout the 1840s and 50s. His flawless strategic planning prompted many whites to call him the "Napoleon of the Plains." Walkara, however, preferred his own title--"Hawk of the Mountains." His two hundred some battle-hardened braves rode in Spanish saddles, carried the best American guns, and were ready to kill at Walkara's command.

Walkara was vain and presumptuous and gloried in his own power. He was reportedly six-and-one-half feet tall, his deeply sunken eyes sharp as gimlets, his chin chiseled like an arrow, his nose a beak-like reminder of his namesake, the hawk. Walkara rode the best and fastest horses available and his attire usually consisted of a loincloth, several shell necklaces, and a blanket. He was both graceful at sign language and an excellent linguist who spoke English, Spanish, and several Indian tongues. Walkara kept a polygamous household and always had one or two women present to wait on him. Frequently he had more women in a traveling harem as he was a principal slaver to Navajo and Mexican traders seeking young, strong Indian women and healthy children. For each slave the Navajos traded one good horse.

Walkara had allied himself with the Mormons and several mountain men, but he held Mexicans and Spaniards in contempt. He considered them slow and stupid in the art of following a trail.

Planning his great horse raid that spring, Walkara demonstrated his tactical cunning by having his Utes ride through the Cajon Pass into the San Bernardino Valley posing as innocent traders. The disguise was perfect. Because of the strategic location of Cajon Pass and San Geronimo, San Bernardino Valley had become a thriving trade and supply center. Each November and April, caravans from Santa Fe, New Mexico, met in the area just south of present-day San Bernardino near what is now Colton. The traders bought or sold Mexican goods such as serapes and frazadas for as much \$250. Usually, however, little money changed hands as traders often used horses and mules for barter. The caravan skippers who plied the trails favored California animals because of their size and stamina.

For years Walkara and his followers had exacted



*Chief Walkara and Arrapeen*

tribute from the Santa Fe caravans, but now they were crossing the desert to steal stock in California. They could easily sell the horses in New Mexico and the Indians of the Southwest prized the mules for their meat.

In late April 1840, citizens of the ranchos heard rumors that Chief Walkara was headed for the San Bernardino Valley with 180 armed warriors. People were alarmed—they well knew the Ute's ferocity and realized that it would take a great number of armed whites to resist them. Governor Pico sent word to all the nearby rancheros; soldiers, and resident volunteers held themselves in readiness.

After several weeks, Don Antonio Maria Lugo sent a letter from Chino saying that the Utes had arrived. Instead of the anticipated 180 Ute warriors, there were only about forty men with their families and sundry trade goods. Lugo thought they were not troublesome and advised that the troops not be sent against them. After all, Indians would not take their wives and children on a raid and the smiling Chief Walkara said he wanted only to trade and remain at peace with the Mexicans. A relieved Pico countermanded the call for soldiers and volunteers and returned the animals and arms he had borrowed.

Walkara's amiable demeanor and the presence of the women deceived Lugo. Several weeks earlier, Walkara had teamed up with mountain men Pegleg

Smith and Jim Beckworth. The two mountain men scouted the ranchos and sent word to Walkara about the locations of the prime horse herds. Walkara divided his warriors and sent them to various locations to await orders. On signal, they struck the various ranchos under cover of darkness. By dawn they had rendezvoused and funneled the tremendous herd of horses and mules up the narrow, steep trail of the Cajon Pass.

The enraged Californians moved more quickly than Walkara anticipated. The Mexicans drafted every man available and even released some prisoners from jail for the chase. Vicente and Jose Lugo and more than eighty men armed with whatever weapons they could hurriedly collect joined the chase. When the posse reached the summit of Cajon Pass and started across the high desert floor, they found the trail exceptionally easy to follow.

With the Utes relentlessly driving them, the fast-paced herd moved like a desert storm across the boundless, shimmering wastelands of the Mojave. A billowing cloud of dust swirled hundreds of feet into the hot sky. The thunder of pounding hooves echoed across the arroyos and gullies as the herd laid open a wide path of sand, rocks and uprooted yuccas and smaller cacti. Even more obvious were the dead or dying horses strewn beside the path. Along the 200-mile trail to the Colorado at Needles, 1,500 horses died from exhaustion and thirst—an average of one dead animal every 704 feet. The grisly trail of their prime stock reduced to bloated carcasses saddened the Lugo brothers; they pushed on, determined to catch the rustlers.



*Pegleg Smith circa 1860*



Jim Beckwourth

Catching up with the raiders did not prove difficult. A few miles past present-day Victorville, the posse rode within rifle range of the Utes. However, fighting them was another matter. The posse suffered a quick and serious defeat in the ensuing battle; the Utes' deadly accurate gunfire toppled fifteen posse members and many of their mounts.

The posse quickly fell back out of range; several of the survivors were ready to abandon the chase. The Lugos talked them into continuing, however, and for several more days they followed the trail across the desert.

Walkara and some of his warriors hid among some willows around a Mojave water hole and waited for their pursuers, certain that they would stop there to rest and replenish their water supply. The Mexicans, unaware of the trap, rode up and dismounted. Walkara gave a blood-chilling war cry, and his warriors stampeded the Mexican's horses. The combatants exchanged fire but the Hawk of the Mountains had no intention of fighting at that time. He ordered his men to withdraw. They caught the fleeing posse horses and added them to their vast, stolen herd. The Mexicans struggled back across the Mojave on foot, suffering from thirst, heat, and the humiliation of defeat.

The Mexicans never saw their herd again. There was no word of their horses and mules being offered for sale in either New Mexico or California and a rumor persisted that the Utes had successfully taken the surviving horses across the Colorado River only to lose them to enemy Chemehuevi warriors waiting in ambush.

For years thereafter Walkara was a scourge to the region, his marauding bands coming both from Cajon Pass and the Mojave Trail over the mountains. In fact, early American pioneers began calling the latter road "Walker's Trail" because of the dreaded chief.

San Bernardino was never again the peaceful horse and cattle ranch the Lugos dreamed of. Not long after the raid they sold the entire valley to the Mormons. The Lugos had had enough of horse thieves and decided to let the valley's new owners worry about them.❖

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*San Bernardino County Museum Quarterly*  
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## From a Mustard Seed: The Catholic Church in California's Inland Empire, a Brief History of the Diocese of San Bernardino and Its Forebearers, 1774 - 1995

By R. Bruce Harley



\$12 By Mail

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## PIONEER PAGES



*Weekly Courier*

Saturday May 14, 1879.



**J. H. TITTLE**, foreman of the Pioneer Hose Company, took passage this afternoon, in company with Tom Hooker, for Lincoln, Neb, via the Santa Fe.

**CONSTABLE** Reeves arrested a man yesterday afternoon for selling whisky to Indians. When caught the man was drinking and then passing the bottle to an Indian.

**PEOPLE** who saw Haniman yesterday morning running about the streets thought he had caught a shark in the Santa Ana, but upon investigation it was learned that it was a girl Mother and child doing well and the father slightly excited.

**LAST** night while the dancing was doing on in

armory hall, the doors in the stores of E. H. Showers and Jos. Marks were rattling in a terrible manner, causing people to stop on the street and approach the doors to see what was going on.

**MISS** Ella Ames, who was so popular in the post office department, has been appointed Librarian of the new city library. A better selection could not have been made.

**IF** you wish to examine some fine patterns of carpets, oil clothes, mattings and rugs, call on E. J. Leeds and if he can't suit you, you may as well hang your harp on the willows.



**YOU** may be sure as long as E. H. Showers sells hardware at his present schedule of prices you will always find him busy, and you must not get out of patience if you have to wait a short time for your turn.

**THE** silver medal which was offered by the shooting gallery on Third Street as a prize to the best shot with



a rifle, was won by Arthur E. Perris. It is a very neat prize and on it is inscribed, "Awarded to Arthur E. Perris for the best rifle shooting." Arthur feels proud of his prize, and why should he not be?

CONSTABLE James Farris and W. B. Reeves are to sign with the Oaklands. They are both safe for three baggers. You should see them play.

ATTEND the Gun club shoot at the new grounds at the end of the E-Street car line on next Sunday. The shoot commences at 9 A. M.

CONSTABLE Farris arrested as a vag the fellow who stole Bob Davis' robe a short time ago and got thirty days. The fellow has ben bumming about the city ever since his term expired.

Last night about 8:50, an alarm of fire was turned in from box 14, corner of C and Third streets. The occasion of the alarm was a little blaze in the New York bakery, caused by the range falling. The Fire department was quickly on the scene. Very little damage was done.

#### By Mistake

YESTERDAY morning the news was about town that a man had committed suicide near the depot, by taking a dose of poison. A *Courier* reporter was quickly on the scene along with the coroner's jury,

where the full facts of the case were gathered. The names of the deceased was Pasqual La Nevi; he lived in a little house north of the railroad shops, next door to the house of Police Officer A. J. Baker.

Police Officer Baker was first sworn and testified as follows: "Have known deccased about eight months; I live next door to him; know no cause why he should kill himself; Heard of his death about 7:30 this morning; I went in the house and a young man showed me what he had taken. He told me it was quinine, but I told him it was strychnine. A little while after that I heard a strangling noise but I thought it was a goat they have fastened in something. La Nevi was dead before I saw him. I see no reason why he would commit suicide unless it was despondency. He was a quiet, peaceable fellow."



#### Mutilated Books Recovered

AT THE meeting of the board of city trustees last Tuesday evening H. Goodcell Jr. reported that the Public Library association of this city as an organization, was defunct, and the books and property of said association belonged to the city, and were property and legally under the control, management and disposition of the board; that they were in the possession of John Isaac, who claimed that they belonged to him and Lewis Jacobs because they were life members, and now constitute the association; that Mr. Jacobs made no claim to said property. Mr. Goodcell asked that the board delegate and authorize



some person to get possession of and take said property into custody and to report the same with his doings in the premises to the board: and thereupon, on motion of Mr. Kenniston, seconded by Mr. Whitney, the following order was passed: "It is ordered by the board that the city marshal be and he is hereby instructed and empowered to ask, demand, receive, take into custody, and recover all said books and property, and report his doings in the premises to said board."

Pursuant to the above order Marchall Thomas proceeded to the home of John Isaac on Ninth street and demanded the books. Mrs. Isaac turned over about 406 books, 200 of which were badly mutilated, the mutilation having been done by John Isaac, who defaced the books belonging to the library by rubbing out the names so that they could not be identified. Mrs. Isaac admitted that her husband had defaced the books.

Mr. Isaac was in very small business.



*Annals of San Francisco, 1850*



AUGUST 1854--Organization of the "SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS." The objects of this society were declared, in the words of the constitution, to be "to cultivate the social virtues of its members, to collect and preserve information connected with the early settlement and conquest of the country, and to perpetuate the memory of those whos sagacity, enterprise, and love of independence induced them to settle in the wilderness, and become the germ of a new State." The society "shall be composed of native Californians; foreigners residing in California previous to the conquest; and natives of other States and other countries, if citizens of the United States, resident here prior to January 1st, 1849, and their male descendants, who shall constitute the FIRST CLASS; and honorary members, who may be admitted in accordance with what may be prescribed in the by-laws." The admission fees, which

are now ten dollars, and a monthly subscription of a dollar, payable half-yearly in advance, and all funds arising therefrom or by donation, shall be safely invested, and the income arising there from shall be appropriated to charitable purposed, exclusively for the use and benefit of the widows and orphans of pioneer immigrants, members of this society." A list of the members in April, with the dates of their respective arrivals in California, their present residences, and the office bearers of that year, appear in the Appendix. Here we may only name the first office-bearers of the society. They were as follows:

President--William D. M. Howard

Vice-Presidents--Jacob R. Snyder, Samuel Brennan, G. Frank Lemon

Recording Secretary--Joseph L. Folsom

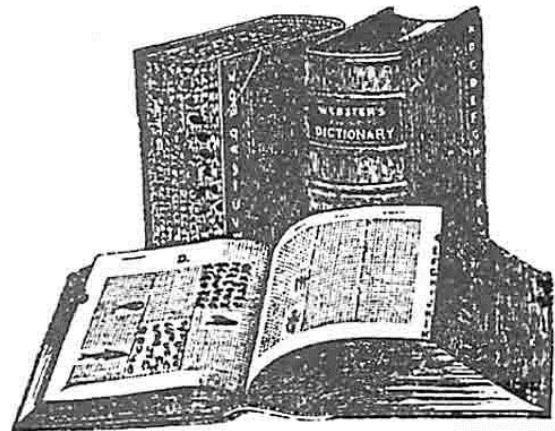
Assistant Recording Secretary--J. C. L. Wadsworth

Corresponding Secretary--Edwin Bryant

Treasurer--Talbot H. Green◆

## WANTED!

SANDY HOCKADAY, and her husband, John, are in the final stages of editing their book *Trails and Tales of Cajon Pass: The Rocky Bed of Arroyo Muscupiabit*, and they are already planning another. Sandy is seeking photographs or sketches of one-room school houses that were part of San Bernardino County's past. If you can help Sandy, please call her at (909) 823-0227 or write to her at 4385 Lytle Creek Road, Fontana, Ca. 92336. All photographs and sketches will be returned and everyone will be credited.





## Historical Society Meetings

*7 P.M., Thursday, September 5*

*FLOYD McDONALD, an avid citrus label collector, will entertain us with 'Button Up Your Overcoat,' a presentation that combines slides with recordings of radio broadcasts from the old fruit frost broadcast days. Local citrus labels used in those broadcasts will be shown.*

*7 P.M., Thursday, October 3*

*DR. LEO LYMAN, history professor at Victor Valley College and author of the highly acclaimed book, San Bernardino--The Rise and Fall of a California Community, will talk about the Mormons who settled in San Bernardino back in 1851.*

*7 P.M., Thursday, November 7*

*The Western Educators, Shooters, and Troopers (W.E.S.T.), a living history group that has performed all over southern California for several years, will present 'A Look At the Old West.'*

*7 P.M., Thursday, December 5*

*CHUCK PALMER, long time Sun columnist and local television personality will entertain us with a look at famous Hollywood celebrities who have either lived or visited San Bernardino over the years.*



Dr. William R. Coleman

OPTOMETRISTS

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