



# Culturally Speaking

The Cultural Resources Newsletter of California State Parks

Produced by the Archaeology, History & Museums Division

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## Museum Collections Relocation Gets Underway

### New State of the Art Facility

For the past five years, the Archaeology, History & Museums Division (AHM) has been at work planning and developing a new consolidated museum collections facility to replace outmoded and overcrowded warehouses in West Sacramento. Important milestones are in place. The project was approved for funding in the 2010 fiscal year budget and a contract was signed in September 2011 with McClellan Business Park in Sacramento for the long term lease of a 265,000 square foot facility that will house a state of the art collection storage facility as well as other depart-

ment functions. There will be more news on the plan for the facility in future issues of Culturally Speaking, including a new approach to sustainable building operation that directed the design of a high quality and energy-efficient preser-



Historic Wagons Being Prepared For The Move

vation environment.

### The Move To McClellan

The impetus for this early article is to announce that the move to McClellan has

begun, twelve months in advance of our scheduled occupancy of the finished facility. Leases on current West Sacramento facilities expired and could not be renewed under favorable terms. Facilities at McClellan, immediately adjoining the new collection storage facility were available and the Department supported the decisions of the Capital District and the AHM Division to pool resources to rent interim space and begin an early move to McClellan. The California State Railroad Museum prepared a diverse collection of large and small railroad artifacts and archival material for relocation. The AHM Division

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Editor's Corner

### The Parks Team

Spring is here and with the nicer weather comes an increase in State Park visitation. Cultural resources specialists and others have worked diligently to make the visitor's experience more enjoyable in all of our parks.

As you read this edition of

the Culturally Speaking Newsletter, it's important to note the passion and dedication that State Parks employees have for their profession. All of these projects are a team effort. Behind the scenes in our parks are a number of people with a wide range of valuable skills. I'd like to take this opportunity to

express my gratitude to all of the dedicated employees who make it happen.

*Chris Corey*

[ccorey@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ccorey@parks.ca.gov)

Associate State Archaeologist  
Archaeology, History &  
Museums Division



## Museum Collections Relocation



Railroad Signs Being Loaded For The Move

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implemented the transfer of a large collection of the horse-drawn vehicles that were in storage in West Sacramento.

### Diverse Collections Accommodated

We were fortunate to have Athowe Fine Arts Services work with our crews of staff, students and volunteers in the transport of objects as diverse as 5,000 pound railroad utility vehicles and fragile Chinese ceramics. The Department's collection of 52 horse-drawn vehicles presented

special challenges due to the brittle nature of some of the aged wooden parts. For six weeks, beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>, more than 80 of the 48-foot vans and flatbed loads of 937 pallets- the equivalent of over 22,000 boxes of artifacts -safely made the thirteen-mile trip from West Sacramento to McClellan. This has been an encouraging beginning for a very large project, with seven more facilities to go. Once relocated to McClellan, the collections

will be out of the flood plain and will be afforded a more stable temperature and humidity- controlled environment.



Some Very Large Items Have To Be Moved

**T**wenty-eight grave markers were selected as being in the most immediate need, and were straightened, reset and repaired as needed

Ross McGuire, Museum Curator III- Archaeology, History & Museums Division

## Bodie's Historic Cemetery Conservation Program

### Prop. 84 Money Funds Vital Cemetery Project

The three cemeteries at Bodie State Historic Park have long needed specialized care due to the ravages of time, vandalism, and lack of funding. With money allotted from the Cultural Stewardship Program of Proposition 84, the cemeteries at Bodie and in other State Parks have been undergoing a systematic program of conservation.

### Conservation of Markers

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the term conservation, conservators are professionally trained material scientists with a wide



Carving the Stebbins marker at Bodie's Historic Cemetery

range of specialties in particular materials. They adhere to the best current practices of cleaning, repair and stabilization of historic objects and materials and many have very specialized, highly advanced technical skills. The standards are strict and it is an ever evolving field. Conservation meets the highest standard of The Secretary of Interior Standards for the preservation of historic properties, and meets DPR policy standards for appropriate management of museum collections. A tenet of conservation is that work must be reversible without doing damage to the original fabric; unlike restorers who are often self-taught and use aggressive techniques or materials that can cause irreversible



Oleg Lobykin With The Finished Stebbins Marker

range of specialties in particular materials. They adhere to the best current practices of cleaning, repair and stabilization of historic

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Bodie's Historic Cemetery

(Continued from page 2)

ble, permanent damage, conservators strive to preserve as much as possible of the original material, and ensure that their work minimizes the impact on the original.

### **Work Begins**

In September 2010, the first round of work on Bodie's historic cemeteries began. The work was performed by conservators with Jablonski Building Conservation, Incorporated. Twenty-eight grave markers were selected as being in the most immediate need, and were straightened, reset and repaired as needed. In most cases, gravel, rocks or tamped soil were sufficient to level the markers; in one case, a small concrete footing was poured to replace the crumbling original and the marker was reset on it.

Two unique stones proved a bit challenging to reset. The Fouke and Perry markers are stone monuments carved to resemble natural rock outcroppings. Both markers are single, massive stones, unlike the more typical stack of several blocks with smooth sides. Their edges are fragile and cracks threatened their structural integrity, so they required special handling.

The famous "Angel of

Bodie" marker, in memory of Evelyn Myers, was also reset. Evelyn was a toddler of three years who was killed in a tragic accident.

### **The Second Phase**

The first year allowed us the chance to look more closely for further damage, and in September 2011, a second round of conservation work was conducted on an additional twenty two grave markers. This round of work was performed by Conservation Solutions, Incorporated. Two of the more challenging stones were conserved this year. In the early 1970s, the Martha Lecher stone was broken and the family decided to preserve it by putting the multiple parts in a bed of concrete. The cemeteries did not yet belong to State Parks at that time, and many families did their best to repair damage and try to prevent further vandalism and theft. The concrete caused further damage, besides obscuring the beautiful marker. This year, with painstaking care, conservator Joe Sembrat used chisels, drills, scalpels and even pressurized ground glass to remove the concrete and carefully reassemble and repair the stone. Thanks to his expert work, Martha Lecher's grave marker is now fully assembled and upright once again.

The Solomon G. Stebbins marker presented a different challenge. The tall, tablet-style marble stone was broken into several pieces. Though it was reassembled in 2010, a key fragment was missing and couldn't be found.

The replication of that fragment was carried out by a skilled Russian-trained sculptor named Oleg Lobykin, using traditional hand tools. Mr. Lobykin re-created the missing piece, complete with the first part of the name and the missing portion of the Masonic symbol. He brought his extensive experience from working on cathedrals and sculptures all over the world to his work on the cemetery markers at Bodie. He was able to nearly match the original stone; conservation standards require that any replicated pieces be identifiable so that later researchers can identify original material for study and testing. So the replicated piece is of slightly different marble, lightly stained to blend. The marker now "reads" well visually, but close examination can readily identify the new piece as a later replacement. Mr. Lobykin carved the missing piece on-site, providing a rare treat for park visitors who were able to watch him practice his craft.

(Continued on page 4)



The Martha Lecher Marker Prior To Conservation

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The Completed Martha Lecher Marker



Stabilizing the "Angel of Bodie" Marker

## Bodie's Historic Cemetery

(Continued from page 3)

### Future Projects

Additional conservation work on Bodie's historic cemeteries is planned for this coming summer, when wooden grave markers and plot fences will be assessed, treated and reassembled as appropriate. The commitment in Bodie is to preserve things in a state of "arrested decay". All

efforts to conserve the cemetery features keep that commitment in mind, so evidence of natural wear is retained and replacement of missing components is kept to a minimum. Best of all, many descendants of Bodie's inhabitants still visit the graves of their loved ones, and have expressed their gratitude for the care

that has been given to the cemetery.



Completed Kennedy Marker

Donna Jones, Museum Curator III (RA)-  
Archaeology, History & Museums Division

**E**vidence of natural wear is retained and replacement of missing components is kept to a minimum

## OHP Seeking Historic Preservation Nominations

### Governor's Historic Preservation Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards. The deadline for the receipt of nominations this year is May 11, 2012.

### Nominations Welcome

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) welcomes nominations of individuals who have made a difference; organizations that are helping California communities recognize and celebrate, interpret, or educate the



larger community about the stories and artifacts that make them unique; and companies and public agencies that have exceeded expectations and contractual obligations in preserving the heritage of California. What's happening in *your* community

that may be worthy of a Governor's Historic Preservation Award? For more information about this awards program, including links to the items mentioned above, visit [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/governorsawards](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/governorsawards); or contact Coordinator Diane Thompson at (916) 445-7026 or [dthompson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:dthompson@parks.ca.gov)

Jenan Saunders, Acting Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Preservation of Cemetery Wall - La Purísima Mission State Historic Park

## Preservation Month Is Approaching

### May is Preservation Month

Did you know that May is Preservation Month throughout the nation? What will you be doing to celebrate Preservation Month? Now is a good

time to start thinking about it, and check the Office of Historic Preservation's website periodically to get updates on plans for the month and ideas about what you can do to help promote

preservation in your parks and in your community.

For more information as it becomes available, visit [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov).

## DPR Historian, Curator To Attend Leadership Workshop

### Leaders of the Future

John Fraser, Historian II, Archaeology, History & Museums Division and Ileana Maestas, Museum Curator I, Capital District, were selected to participate in "Leaders of the Future: Museum Professionals Developing Strategic Foresight". The training program is limited to 40 participants

from throughout the state. It is being sponsored by the California Association of Museums (CAM) and funded in part by a 21st Century Professionals Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the James Irvine Foundation.

In workshops taught by professional futurist

Garry Golden, John and Ileana will develop the skills needed to identify future trends and how to use them to create sustainable, more relevant museums.

*Paulette Hennum, Museum Curator III-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*



State Indian Museum SHP-Sacramento

## Office of Historic Preservation's State Plan Update

### Statewide Historic Preservation Plan Revision

Draft goals and objectives developed for the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan can now be viewed on the Office of Historic Preservation's (OHP) State Plan webpage, which is available at:

[www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/stateplan](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/stateplan)

### Participation Welcome

The Office of Historic Preservation welcomes your thoughts on these goals and objectives.

Please email us your comments at [calshpo@parks.ca.gov](mailto:calshpo@parks.ca.gov)

The draft State Plan is expected to be ready for public review and comment in early April. The State Historical Resources Commission will review and adopt the draft plan at their meeting in May in Oakland.

*Jenan Saunders, Acting Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*

The draft State Plan is expected to be ready for public review and comment in early April

## Resources Management Training Opportunity

### Classes Held In April

The Archaeology, History & Museums Division (AHM) is partnering with Natural Resources Division to facilitate and present the Resource Management Training class. This year's class will be held the week of April 15-20, 2012, and is designed for Superintendents and Maintenance Chiefs. Instructors will include both cultural and natural resource professionals from our Department, other agencies, and private industry.



European Beach Grass-Tolowa Dunes SP

### Diverse Topics

Two of the class objectives are to impart a sound understanding of the missions and goals of cultural and natural resource management as conducted by DPR and to instill an understanding of the current directions, trends, issues and priori-

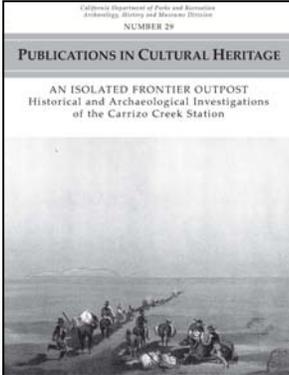
ties of resource management in the Department. Important topics to be covered are: CEQA compliance, vegetation management, forest and fire management-incident command, historic buildings; where cultural stewardship meets maintenance, planning in parks, and Native American consultation.

*Kathie Lindahl, Senior State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*



Leland Stanford Mansion SHP-Sacramento

## New 'Publications in Cultural Heritage' Volume



**I**mpacts to cultural resources can be one of two types; either as a direct effect of the fire itself, or as indirect effects from operational activities



Sayer Fire- Chino Hills State Park

### Archaeology and History in California State Parks

The Archaeology, History & Museum Division's publication series has an honored past and a bright future. The original series, called *California Archaeological Reports*, started prior to 1970, and was produced into the late 1980s. The twenty-five volumes covered many important cultural resource investigations in the State Park System and highlighted several of our world-class collections that are of value to researchers. This hiatus from publishing our work ended in 2009 with the first issue of the revived series under the moniker *Publications in Cultural Heritage*.

### Fire Impacts & Cultural Resources

Wildland fires in California State Parks have the potential for major impacts on park visitors' experience and enjoyment of facilities, and on the park's natural and cultural resources. Impacts to cultural resources can be one of two types; either as a direct effect of the fire itself, or as indirect effects from operational activities. Historic structures are one example of a resource that would be sub-

### Moving Forward

The new title reflects a maturing of views of cultural resources within State Parks and a greater understanding of the breadth and depth of historic resources within our State. It also reflects the shift in responsibilities that requires State Historians to take an active role in cultural resource management that did not exist in the early 1970s.

There are three publications out for your reading pleasure: Number 26 – *Archaeology and History in Año Nuevo State Park*; Number 27 – *An Archaeological Perspective on the Human History of Red Rock Canyon State Park*; and Number 28 – *Archaeological Investigations at CA-NEV-13/H, Locus F & G,*

*Donner Memorial State Park.*

### Anza Borrego State Park Featured

You won't have long to wait for the next installment in the series. Archaeology, History & Museums Division is currently working on the final edits for Number 29 – *An Isolated Frontier Outpost – Historical and Archaeological Investigations of the Carrizo Creek Station*, in Anza Borrego Desert State Park. This should be a very interesting issue about life and events revolving around a stop on a major highway through the southern desert region in the era of horse drawn conveyance.

*Kathie Lindahl, Senior State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*

## Cultural Resources Protection and Fire in State Parks

ject to a fire's direct impact. Rock art is another instance of direct impact to a site from heat spalling of rock surfaces or soot blackening and obscuring the graphic elements of the feature as a result of fire.

Some examples of indirect impacts include application of fire retardants on wood, concrete or stone structures, and brush clearing. Many of the retardants used to control wildland fires contain

dyes that can permanently stain exterior surfaces of structures and site features. Rock art may also be impacted by the application of water or fire retardants to the rock surface. Brush clearing to reduce fuel can expose surface sites that were previously protected from view by vegetation, leaving them vulnerable to acts of vandalism and looting.

Ground disturbance is

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## Cultural Resources and Fire

(Continued from page 6)

also considered an indirect impact on archaeological sites. Impacts from creating fire breaks (hand lines or bulldozer lines) may take a toll on subsurface resources as well as surface artifacts and features. Firefighting staging areas and incident command centers may have an impact on resources from fire equipment, vehicle, and foot traffic.

### Planning Ahead

Impacts to cultural resources can be avoided or minimized by proper preparation in advance of a wildland fire incident. While life and safety take

precedent over resource protection, making sure that certain measures are in place prior to an incident will assure the best protection for the resource when an emergency does arise.

The Archaeology, History & Museums Division (AHM) has six resource specialists trained and equipped to serve as Resource Advisors (READs) in cases of fire incidents in California State Parks. READs can offer your park assistance before, during and after an incident. Sensitive areas or specific resources can be determined in advance of

an emergency, and the sensitive site information can be made available for law enforcement personnel and local fire agencies. If you would like to discuss your park's planning needs, please contact me at [ccorey@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ccorey@parks.ca.gov) or John Fraser at [jfraser@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jfraser@parks.ca.gov)

*Chris Corey, Associate State Archaeologist-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*



Cuyamaca Rancho SP-The Historic The Dyar House Burned in the Cedar Fire in 2003

**O**ur interest in the Howes collection began with a box of unopened correspondence encountered while preparing the collection for relocation to the new facility

## Collection Reveals Pioneer Family's Life

### State Parks Preserves Howes Collection

The Howes collection is one of many items that the State Museum Resource Center (SMRC) is processing in preparation for the upcoming move. The collection was donated in 1969 to California State Parks by Margery Howes. It includes 12 boxes containing over 200 letters and 100 photographs. These documents, artifacts, and photographs represent several years in the life of Virginia Reed Murphy preserved by Margery Howes, a distant relative of Virginia's through marriage. Our interest in

the Howes collection began with a box of unopened correspondence encountered while preparing the collection for relocation to the new facility. While processing the postcards and letters, we were able to trace the Reed and Murphy families' lives from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### The Move To California

Virginia Backenstoe was born in 1833 in Springfield, Illinois. Her father Lloyd died when she was a toddler. Her mother Margaret got remarried in 1836 to James F. Reed. Margaret and James had four more children to-

gether in the ten years prior to the family leaving Illinois to join the Donner expedition's trek westward in 1846. At the time of the Reed family's departure for California, Virginia was thirteen years old. Unlike other expedition members, the entire Reed family survived the ordeal through the Sierra Nevada winter. The Howe collection documents the lives of the Reeds and their families in the post-Donner years. Virginia and her family went on to live a full life, but she would always be associated with the famous "Donner party", as

(Continued on page 8)



Virginia Reed Murphy (L), and Family Members- Photo Taken Approximately 1903

## Virginia Reed



Virginia Reed Murphy -Photo Taken Approximately 1880

**V**irginia and her family went on to live a full life, but she would always be associated with the famous "Donner party"

*(Continued from page 7)*

it came to be known. Her half-sister Patty was a child of eight at the time of the family's travels to California. Today, Patty is perhaps best known as the little girl whose doll is now on display at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. It is a poignant reminder of the hardships faced by the Reeds and others on their trip across the Sierras.

The documents in the Howes collection tell the story of Patty and Virginia growing up, and how they each got married and had several children. In one letter dated April 1849, John writes to Virginia, "... I am ready and willing...to carry out the plans of proposal made by us at a previous meeting." Although we do not have Virginia's response, we do know from the Howes documents that the couple eloped on Jan-

uary 26, 1850, when Virginia was 15 years old. Nine months later, John and Virginia had their first child. They went on to have nine children together; seven of whom survived into adulthood.

The Howes collection includes correspondence to Virginia from all of her nine children. The documents also shed light on the lives and loves of the Reed children, including multiple marriages, adulterous scandals, divorces, illegitimate children, and in one case, a suspicious death. The letters and other documents also tell the story and of Virginia's role in the insurance business as one of the first female agents in California.

### Photographs Augment The Story

Viewing the photographs made us feel as though we were intimately acquainted with the extended Reed-Murphy family.

One of our favorite photographs depicts four generations of Murphys', including Virginia Reed Murphy, her daughter Mollie, granddaughter Virginia, and great grandson George. This photo is representative of the true legacy of Virginia Reed Murphy's life, which is rarely mentioned and often overshadowed by her role in the Donner expedition.

The full story of the women in the Reed Murphy family goes beyond a single defining event, and allows us to see a lifetime full of adventure, intrigue, and love, thanks to the material in the Howes collection.

*Kim Hunter, Student Assistant and Emily Conrado, Sr. Park Aide-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*

## La Purísima Mission Archives

### Historic Documents Housed At Mission

The archives at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park contain materials documenting the restoration of the Mission by the Civilian Conservation Corps, dating back to the 1930s. The collection includes over 600 blueprints, maps, plans and sketches generated by various engineers, archi-

itects, archaeologists, and others who were involved in the reconstruction effort at La Purísima.

These documents, while important for their historical significance, also serve as a reference tool for park maintenance staff to guide them in ongoing improvements and repairs. Recent preservation efforts were undertaken to appropri-

ately house the historic maps and drawings in acid-free folders to protect them from deterioration. In addition, we sought the help of the California Missions Foundation (CMF), who awarded the Mission with a grant allowing us to digitize the collection and secure archival supplies. As a result of this

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Fountain at La Purísima State Historic Park

## La Purísima Archives

(Continued from page 8)  
project, the need to access the original documents will be reduced, thereby decreasing handling and light exposure to the documents.

The collection will then be more widely available to scholars and the public, and allow us to facilitate research requests.

### Preserving The Documents

During the digitization process we will have the opportunity to survey individual documents and identify conservation

needs. We will also catalog the documents and separate the blueprints



Tina Foss (L), CMF Vice Chair Presents Check To Dan Falat, Sector Superintendent II

from other paper types. The blueprint collection

requires additional care because they are produced using a highly acidic process. Rehousing, organizing, digitizing and cataloging the map and drawing collection will ensure that the collections are safe and available for generations to come. The staff at La Purísima Mission SHP is indebted to the California Missions Foundation for their assistance with this project.

*Shyra McClure,  
Museum Technician-  
La Purísima Mission State  
Historic Park*



### Civilian Conservation Corps Day at Mission La Purísima SHP

April 28  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thanks to the Civilian Conservation Corps of 1934 to 1941 La Purísima stands as the most restored mission in all of California!

Join in the celebration of the CCC's achievement as costumed docents and staff offer a chance to observe and take part in the reconstruction activities that put the mission back together again.

Demonstrations of brick making, carpentry, tile making, and blacksmithing, as well as music and cars from the era, will take you back in time to 1934!

and 1937 by the National Park Service, and California State Parks, with labor crews from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Professional historians, archaeologists, engineers, and architects conducted a thorough study to guide the reconstruction.

Construction crews used authentic tools and methods when possible to build what would become the most completely and authentically reconstructed of the California missions. It is the sole example in California of a complete mission complex.

La Purísima Mission State

(Continued on page 10)

## Mission La Purísima National Historic Landmark

### The Early Years

Mission La Purísima Concepción de Maria Santísima (the Immaculate Conception of the most holy Mary) is the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 21 Alta California missions that extend from San Diego to Sonoma. It was founded in December 1787 and completed in 1791.

The first mission to be built in the area was destroyed by earthquake and torrential rains in 1812. The mission's original site was abandoned for a new setting located three miles east of the town of Lompoc. Work on the new structure began in 1815 and was completed in 1818. The new

mission was unique among California missions for its linear layout, as opposed to the enclosed square known as a quadrangle that was common to all of the other California missions.

### Secularization and Abandonment

La Purísima mission was secularized in 1834, along with the others in the system, over the next few years. After secularization, Mission La Purísima Concepción was abandoned and began a decline into ruin.

In a unique collaboration between private, county, state, and federal officials, the mission was reconstructed between 1935

## La Purísima NHL



Padre's Quarters, La Purísima Mission SHP

(Continued from page 9)  
Historic Park is California Historical Landmark number 340, and became a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

Additional information on the Civilian Conservation Corps' work at Mis-

sion La Purísima State Historic Park can be obtained at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24893](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24893)



Church Ruins— La Purísima, 1937.  
Photo Henry F. Withey. HABS CAL, 42-LOMP. V, 1-1

**T**he most effective archaeological research and management of cultural resources is done with the aid of many different people



Brendon Greenaway

## In Our Corner

*This month's employee highlight features Brendon Greenaway, Assistant State Archaeologist with the Channel Coast District.*

### **How did you get involved in Archaeology?**

I had a fascination with what I thought archaeology was all about. I was attracted to the promise of adventure and the discovery of lost cities and civilizations, not unlike a certain fictional character we all admire. History was always my favorite subject, but the archaeology dream was put on hold until I transferred to Humboldt State University as an anthropology major, took some classes and began to realize that a career in archaeology was actually possible. I participated in my first field school in 2004 with U.C. Davis, and I knew without a doubt that this was the career for me!

### **What has surprised you most about working in Archaeology with DPR?**

I came to the Department

of Parks and Recreation almost immediately out of college after a brief stint in the private sector. What has been most enlightening and satisfying is the Department's philosophy of preservation. Starting in the Channel Coast District five years ago, I arrived ready and eager to excavate. As I prepare to move on to my new appointment with the Office of Historic Preservation, I find myself committed to the preservation mission and prepared to take that approach to cultural resource management.

### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

The most challenging aspect of being an archaeologist with DPR is in finding the balance between protection and conservation and public outreach and education. As cultural resource managers we deal with sensitive information that if revealed to the wrong people can cause severe and perma-

nent damage to the historical record, depriving us of a complete understanding of our shared past. We manage cultural resources not for the intrinsic value we archaeologists assign to them but to benefit society, to enrich the understanding of culture and history, and to educate the public. Finding the right balance is challenging.

### **What do you wish people knew about Archaeology at DPR?**

The most effective archaeological research and management of cultural resources is done with the aid of many different people; ours is an interdisciplinary field. The work we do is enhanced when experts from different fields are involved and we work as a team with environmental scientists, engineers, geologists, and soils scientists to name just a few. Proper resource protection can't be accomplished without the help of peace

(Continued on page 11)

## In Our Corner



Malibu Pier, Malibu Lagoon State Beach

**T**he work we do is enhanced when experts from different fields are involved and we work as a team



El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP

(Continued from page 10)

officers, maintenance crews, lifeguards, and the other dedicated DPR personnel we are fortunate enough to work with. I want other people at DPR to know that and to also know that we are all very grateful for their help!

### **Who influenced your decision to work in Archaeology?**

While working for DPR, I've had the opportunity to work closely with Associate State Archaeologist Marla Mealey, who has been there to answer questions and provide guidance, and been a terrific mentor. I credit her, Associate State Archaeologist Michael Sampson, and Senior State Archaeologists Rick Fitzgerald and Kathie Lindahl for instilling in me the State Parks preservation ethic. They all have been very influential in my decision to remain with DPR and make my career here. Dr. René Vellanoweth has had a significant influence on my decision to work in archaeology; he was one of those inspirational professors that sparked my interest in California coastal and island archaeology. He has served as my thesis advisor and mentor. A great deal of what I know about archaeology and past cultures, I have learned from René, and I can honestly say that without him I may not

have chosen the career I have.

### **What would you tell someone considering a career in Archaeology?**

Apart from the advice to enroll in a field school to judge whether or not you really enjoy archaeology, I would advise someone to go to graduate school. Competition for jobs is intense and many candidates are earning higher degrees in addition to field experience. I would also suggest being open to options such as government or contract archaeology.

### **What do you think will change about Archaeology at DPR over the next five years?**

I think the archaeology at DPR will continue to move in the direction of dealing with changing environments in California. Rising sea levels and increased coastal erosion are examples of consequences of changing environment and the resulting threats posed to resources will have to be dealt with. I feel DPR will have to take a more active approach in managing cultural resources and to recover vital information on potentially significant sites before it is lost.

### **What do you do when you aren't working?**

I'm currently finishing my thesis, but when I do have a rare moment of free time, I enjoy the outdoors with friends doing

a number of activities. My hobbies include camping, hiking, and spearfishing. I like to stay active and enjoy mountain biking, snowboarding, and beach volleyball as well. To relax, I enjoy reading a good book, or National Geographic, and catching up on my Netflix queue. I also like to travel and explore new areas. I'm excited to move to Sacramento and to check out a new area of the state!

### **If you weren't working in Archaeology, what might you be doing?**

My grandfather was a carpenter in New Zealand and my father a machinist. There is something attractive to me in skilled professions like those; it's good, honest, rewarding work and I have a feeling if I wasn't an archaeologist, I would have served an apprenticeship, and done something similar to what they did.

### **What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

People are usually surprised to learn that I'm originally from New Zealand and before coming to the United States my family and I lived in England.

*Michelle Bryans & Debbie Gillespie-Archaeology, History & Museums Division*

## Petaluma Adobe National Historic Landmark



Courtyard, Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park-1955

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**T**he *rancho*

headquarters at Petaluma Adobe were unusual in that several working areas were combined into one large building



Courtyard, Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park

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### Rancho Period Estate

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1970. This park is a prime example of the brief *rancho* period in California that occurred between the Mission Period that ended in the mid-1830s, and the Gold Rush of the 1850s. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the area, the Coastal Miwok harvested the abundant resources in the marshes, open valleys, and along the coast for millennia. The *rancho* period was crucial to the introduction of Spanish and American traditions and customs to the post-Mission *Californios*.

### General Vallejo's Rancho de Petaluma

Mission San Francisco Solano was founded in 1823 in Sonoma. In 1834, Commander Mariano Vallejo left the Presidio at San Francisco with orders to secularize the San Francisco Solano Mission, and establish a pueblo (Sonoma). He was also sent to create a military presence near the Russian outpost at Fort Ross. Governor José Figueroa granted Vallejo the 44,000 acre Rancho de Petaluma as incentive to accomplish this order, which was later supplemented with another 22,000 acres.

The Petaluma Adobe

served as the center of Vallejo's 66,000-acre (100 square miles) working ranch from 1836 to 1846. Made from adobe brick and redwood, the Adobe was built in the Monterey Colonial style. The construction of the building is a reflection of the increasing trade in the Sonoma area. The two-story building was originally constructed with tree nails (or "trunnels" - round pins made of wood and used like nails) and rawhide lashings to hold the beams together. These early construction methods were employed on the bottom floor of the adobe. The upper floor was built with iron nails and hinges, glass windows, and hand split wooden shingle roofing. The walls were three feet thick and stood 20 feet high.

The *rancho* headquarters at Petaluma Adobe were unusual in that several working areas were combined into one large building rather than the more typical arrangement of separate outbuildings. Foundations are local fieldstone, and redwood lumber for the supports was obtained from forests nearly 50 miles to the north.

Vallejo lived in Sonoma and visited Petaluma as often as he could. The adobe was still under

construction, with plans to enclose the central courtyard with the addition of a fourth wing, when rebel Americans took Vallejo captive during the Bear Flag Revolt. By the time Vallejo was released, the Gold Rush had driven labor prices up and squatters had taken over portions of the land. The ranch would never operate on the scale that it had previously known. Vallejo eventually sold the building and some property in 1857.

### Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park

After years of neglect, The Native Sons of the Golden West purchased the Petaluma Adobe in 1910. The Adobe was officially registered as California State Historical Landmark #18 in 1932. The Native Sons preserved the Adobe until California State Parks acquired the building and property in 1951. Today, Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park consists of a small portion of the formerly vast *rancho* and the largest adobe building in Northern California. Additional information on visiting the park can be found at [www.petalumaadobe.com](http://www.petalumaadobe.com). The park is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and is scheduled to close in July 2012.

Sara Skinner, State Park Interpreter II-Training Section

## Upcoming Events Around The Parks



The Collis P. Huntington, California State Railroad Museum

**S**howcasing 50 dramatic black-and-white images, the exhibit will feature a selection of railroad photographs taken and published in a new book



Wilder Ranch State Park

### **Railroad Museum**

Museum visitors, rail enthusiasts and photographers alike will take special interest in a visually-enticing new photo exhibit titled Steam: An Enduring Legacy, the Railroad Photographs of Joel Jensen debuting on March 9 at the California State Railroad Museum and in collaboration with the Center for Railroad Photography & Art. The famed railroad photographer will deliver special presentations to Museum guests on Sunday, March 11, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Showcasing 50 dramatic black-and-white images, the exhibit will feature a selection of railroad photographs taken and published in a new book of the same name by Joel Jensen. While the presentations are free to attend, regular Museum admission prices apply. Go to [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org) or [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org) for additional information.

### **Wilder Ranch**

Find out how families lived during Mexican, Rancho and early dairy ranching times at Wilder Ranch State Park's Family Living History Days. Activities include a selection of hands-on activities and demonstrations and may include draft horse wagon rides, branding, horse-

shoes, hand-making tortillas and salsa, chuck wagon style cooking, roping skills and lawn games. Come for a picnic on the lawn and follow it up with a game of tug-of-war, sack races, hoops, stilts, bubbles and more. The event is held from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. Go to <http://www.parks.ca.gov/Events/EventDetail.aspx?id=3139> for additional information.



Plaza Hotel, San Juan Bautista SHP -1875

### **Sutter's Fort**

The annual Trader's Fair, from April 20-22, brings the hustle and bustle of pioneer trading days back to life. Vendors selling pioneer goods, musket and cannon demonstrations, and artisans creating goods for sale will have the Fort full of activity for the entire family. During this three-day event, everyone will have opportunities to make their own crafts, haggle with traders, make dolls, hammer square nails and shop for gifts and crafts. For more information visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org).

### **Big Basin Redwoods**

Celebrate Father's Day on June 17th at 1:00, by honoring some of the remarkable men who lived in, worked in and fought for Big Basin. Living history re-enactments bring you back in time where you'll meet pioneer settlers, Big Basin founders and early park rangers. Stroll through the magnificent redwoods on this half-mile, 1.5-hour guided walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters. The park is located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 at 21600 Big Basin Way. For more information on this event, go to <http://www.thatsmypark.org/cp/calendar/the-men-of-big-basin-a-fathers-day-special-event/#more-1056>

### **San Juan Bautista SHP**

Come join us on Saturday, April 7th from 11 am to 4 pm to meet the characters of early California as costumed docents bring history to life. Visit with mountain men, Civil War soldiers, Victorian ladies and more. Watch cooking and craft demonstrations, and enjoy an old fashioned soda in the saloon. More information is available at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/Events/EventDetail.aspx?id=3761>

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**Our Mission:**

*To provide inspiration and leadership in acquiring, conserving, and managing cultural resources that represent California's rich history and diverse population.*

*To foster an appreciation of the extraordinary value of California's cultural heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations through access, education, service, and stewardship.*

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/ahm>

Culturally Speaking

## Fort Ross SHP Celebrates 200 Years

### California's Russian Colony

This year marks the 200 year anniversary of the founding of Colony Ross by Russian explorers. The settlement was established 24 miles north of Bodega Bay by the Russian American Company. Founded by a group of 20 Russians and 80 Aleutian natives in the traditional territory of the Kashaya Pomo, its purpose was the establishment of a place where food could be produced for the Russian settlements in Alaska. Food shortages in the Russian colony at Sitka had inspired the need to explore more temperate climates for farming. The colonists were also interested in the many sea otters in the area whose fur was a valuable trade item.

Colony Ross was in operation for a mere thirty

years, however their contribution to California's history is extensive. The Russian colonist's accomplishments include building the state's first ships and windmills, and being the first to use glass window panes, and establishing the first brickyard. Russian naturalists recorded California's state flower, the golden poppy.



Orthodox Church, Fort Ross SHP

### Early State Park Status

Though the enterprise was successful on some levels, it was never very profitable for the Russian American Company, and in 1841, it was sold by the

Russians to John Sutter.

Fort Ross State Historic Park was established in 1909 as one of California's first state historic parks. The park is a National Historic Landmark and is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

A number of events are being planned for the 200 year celebration of the park. Information is available at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=449](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=449)

The park is subject to service reductions and will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Further information can be obtained by calling the park at (707) 865-2391.

## Chaw'se Campgrounds Open In May

### Experience Native California

Spring is a great time to get out and go camping at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, also known as Chaw se. The 22-space campground opens the first of May.

The park features a two story Museum designed to reflect the architecture of the traditional Miwok roundhouse. Exhibits display outstanding examples of the technology

and crafts of the Miwok and other Sierra Nevada Native American groups.

The park also allows visitors to experience a reconstructed Miwok village with a ceremonial roundhouse and seven traditional bark houses. Included within the village is the large grinding rock ("Chaw'se") for which the park is named. Every second Saturday of the month you can watch Native Americans per-

form traditional craft making skills such as basket weaving and flint knapping. Please call the museum for more information at (209) 296-7488 or visit the park web site at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/page\\_id=553](http://www.parks.ca.gov/page_id=553)



Indian Grinding Rock SHP