

COSMOPOLITAN CHRONICLE

True tales from the annals of history, archaeology, construction, and restoration of the Casa de Bandini and Cosmopolitan Hotel.
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

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Who Stayed at the Cosmo?

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Most of the guests staying at the Cosmopolitan Hotel during the 1870s were passengers traveling on Seeley's stages to and from Los Angeles or local visitors from the outlying areas with business and personal ties to Old Town.

Buildings are often links to living memories of the past. This was certainly the case with the surviving members of Juan Bandini's family, who often stayed at the hotel when visiting Old Town. They included his wife and widow Refugio, his sons-in-law Cave Coutts and Charles R. Johnson, his daughter Arcadia, and sons José María and Juan Bautista. On June 12, 1874, members of the extended family gathered at the hotel to attend the funeral of Coutts, who had passed away at the Horton House on June 10th.

Miguel de Pedrorena, Jr., another Old Town resident, frequently stayed at the hotel to visit his sister Isabel, who still resided in the family's adobe a block away on San Diego Avenue.

Colonel William J. Gatewood, former publisher and owner of the *San Diego Union*, and Edward "Ned" Bushyhead, his part-Cherokee partner, checked into the Cosmopolitan on at least three occasions in 1870 and 71, most likely because the weekly newspaper had relocated downtown to Horton's Addition.

Tomasa Pico, the elderly widow of Francisco María Alvarado and sister of Governor Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor, stopped at the hotel on March 25, 1872, probably on her way home to Rancho Peñasquitos.

Two individuals, who stopped frequently at the hotel, sometimes for days at a time, were Andrew Cassidy, a Soledad Valley rancher and county supervisor, and Moses Mannasse, a storekeeper and farmer from San Pasqual. Cassidy visited

Old Town regularly in 1870-1871, most likely, to review records in the county courthouse at the Whaley House. Mannasse, in turn, probably came to Old Town to see his cousin Joseph.

Military officials in transit to their frontier posts often stopped at the hotel; among them, A. P. Greene, the agent at San Pasqual Indian Reservation, and General George Brown Dandy, the commander of the U.S. Army depot at Yuma in the Arizona Territory. Dr. John S. Griffin of Los Angeles, a well-known veteran of the battle at San Pasqual in 1846, registered at the hotel on March 25, 1872, probably to tend to his brother-in-law Benjamin Hayes' invalid wife Adelaida, the daughter of José Antonio Serrano.

Charles Nordhoff, a well-known New York journalist, and his wife spent an evening at the hotel while touring San Diego in April 1872, to put the finishing touches on his soon-to-be-published, best-selling guidebook, *California for Health, Pleasure, and Residence*.

