



THE BIRTHPLACE OF CALIFORNIA

Old San Diego — Founded 1769

" OLD SAN DIEGO "

MISSION VALLEY,
MISSION SAN DIEGO
DE ALCALA 6 MILES
K-L-U.S.H.I. 80

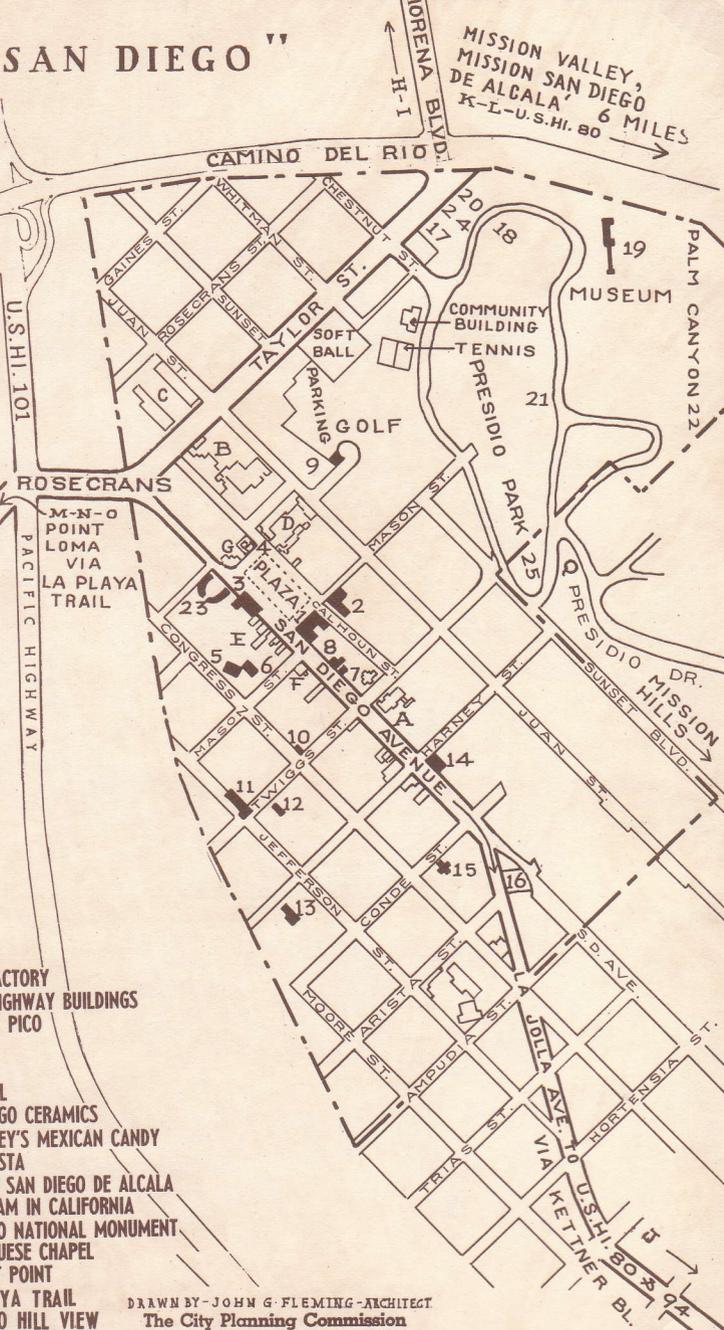
LEGEND
Numerals and letters prefixing items in Legend also appear on corresponding illustrations throughout the book

- 1 CASA DE ESTUDIOLO
- 2 CASA DE BANDINI
- 3 CASA DE MACHADO
- 4 SITE OF MASONIC HALL.
- 5 CASA DE STEWART
- 6 SITE OF FIRST AM. SCHOOL
- 7 CASA DE ALTAMIRANO
- 8 CASA DE PEDRORENA
- 9 CASA DE CARRILLO
- 10 SITE OF CASA DE COTA
- 11 CASA DE LOPEZ
- 12 EMMETT HOUSE
- 13 PENDLETON HOUSE
- 14 WHALEY HOUSE
- 15 OLD ADOBE CHAPEL
- 16 EL CAMPO SANTO
- 17 SERRA PALM
- 18 SERRA CROSS
- 19 SERRA MUSEUM
- 20 PRESIDIO RUINS
- 21 FORT STOCKTON
- 22 PALM CANYON
- 23 FREMONT MARKER
- 24 FRANCISCAN GARDENS
- 25 PRESIDIO PARK

- A CHURCH
- B OLIVE FACTORY
- C STATE HIGHWAY BUILDINGS
- D CASA DE PICO
- E SHOPS
- F STORES
- G EL NOPAL
- H SAN DIEGO CERAMICS
- I MCKENNEY'S MEXICAN CANDY
- J ALTA VISTA
- K MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA
- L FIRST DAM IN CALIFORNIA
- M CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT
- N PORTUGUESE CHAPEL
- O BALLAST POINT
- P LA PLAYA TRAIL
- Q PRESIDIO HILL VIEW

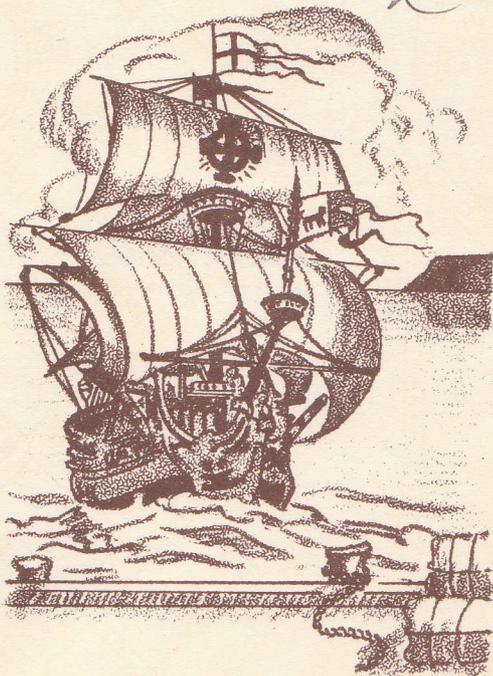


DRAWN BY JOHN G. FLEMING-ARCHITECT
The City Planning Commission



Old Town San Diego
State Historic Park
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, CA 92110

*Research
Library
Log Note
Kenrose*



Caravel of
Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo
Entering San Diego Harbor
September 28, 1542

Old Town San Diego
State Historic Park
4002 Wallace Street
San Diego, CA 92110

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The Birthplace of California

Old San Diego . . . Founded 1769

An accurate pictorial presentation of present day charm in the original city on the Pacific Coast of the United States . . . together with carefully verified historical data of interest.

Illustrated by 102 photographs, 26 sketches and a guide map.

ORIGINATED AND PRODUCED BY

Maryloyd

CABRILLO

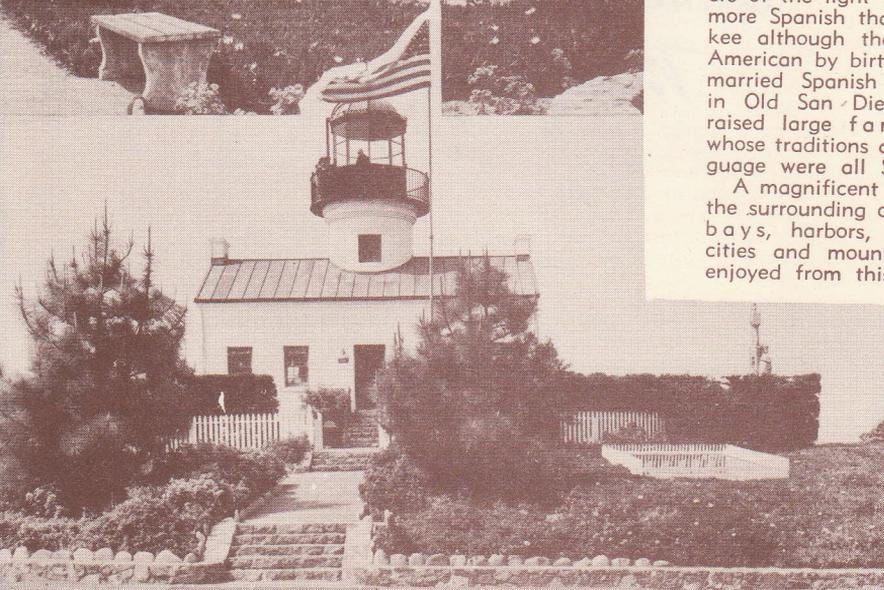
National Monument

Here, at Point Loma Head, on the afternoon of September 28, 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, distinguished navigator in the service of Spain, commanding the flagship "San Salvador" made his first Alta California landfall and thus discovered what is now the State of California. This was the first contact of Europeans with this part of the New World. The smallest National Monument in the United States . . . about one-half acre, is to be enlarged to encompass 60 acres of the headland.

The "Old Spanish Lighthouse" on this point, built in 1855, gained its unofficial name from the fact that the labor and the major portion of materials entering into its construction were either Spanish, Mexican or Indian. Keepers of the light were all more Spanish than Yankee although they were American by birth. They married Spanish women in Old San Diego and raised large families whose traditions and language were all Spanish.

A magnificent view of the surrounding ocean, bays, harbors, islands, cities and mountains is enjoyed from this point.

M



The Spirit of Old San Diego

Although San Diego Bay was discovered by Cabrillo only fifty years after Columbus first set foot on one of the West Indies islands, and the sea-rover Sebastian Vizcaino dropped anchor in and named San Diego Bay sixty years later, the real civilization and development of California did not begin until the arrival of Don Gaspar de Portola and Fra Junipero Serra, president of the California missions, in July 1769.

Thus the real beginning of the California we know today . . . and the beginning point of the entire Pacific Coast development . . . was in the section now known as Old San Diego.

It was the first San Diego and was so known until "Father" Alonzo E. Horton laid out the new (and present) San Diego in 1867. For many years after Horton's advent the community was known as "Old Town" as distinguishing it from the newer development.

However, the appellation "Old San Diego" is the name preferred by citizens of today, and the community . . . which is an integral part of the City of San Diego . . . has been so designated by the Post Office.

It is with Old San Diego this book is concerned. In its pages endeavor has been made to portray, somewhat, the beauty of its setting . . . the charm of its friendliness . . . the gayety of its people . . . the glory of its verdant semi-tropic climate . . . the fidelity with which its denizens strive to maintain the traditions and hospitality of its pioneers.

Until 1821 Old San Diego . . . and all of California . . . lived under Spanish rule. In 1822 the Spanish Flag was replaced by the emblem of the new Mexican Republic. The first Mexican governor, Jose Maria Echeandia, chose San Diego as his capital, although the actual capital was at Monterey. He said the San Diego climate was better for his health. But it was whispered that love for a sparkling-eyed Senorita was the real cause holding him here.

Mexican rule ended July 29, 1846, when the American flag was raised in the Viejo (old) Plaza of Old San Diego.

The fiesta spirit of the early Spanish dons and their ebullient families . . . the love of beauty . . . the inherent generous courtesy and almost overwhelming hospitality . . . still constitute the dominating note in this section which so strongly breathes of the historic past.

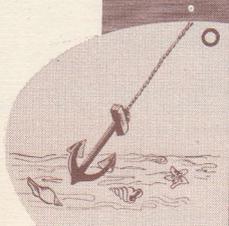
To portray all these intangible delights with the camera and pen is really a task of high ambition and not easy of accomplishment. If these pages succeed in giving some small measure of the joy experienced in their preparation the task will not have been in vain.

The work is not intended as a guide book for travelers, nor a historic tome for students . . . although place directions are given plainly and historical data has been verified by topmost authorities.

The real purpose of this book is to pass along to others a measure of the happiness experienced in Old San Diego by

Potrero, California.
June, 1950

The Author



Ballast Point

Don Sebastian Viscaino was the second European to set foot on California soil. He came November 12, 1602 . . . sixty years after Cabrillo's visit of discovery. Camp was established on Point Loma at what is now known as Ballast Point. Spanish name for this spot was "La Punta de Guijarros," the point of round stones.

It is said the crooked streets of Old Boston were paved with cobblestones loaded on trading vessels discharging cargoes here, which would otherwise have had to sail home empty had it not been for this handy ballast . . . hence the present name.

The day of Viscaino's landing was the feast day of San Diego de Alcalá, patron saint of the flagship . . . so Viscaino named the bay in the Saint's honor. Cabrillo had formerly given the name "San Miguel" to the Bay. First Christian service in California was held here.

For many years Ballast Point was the whaling and beef-hide center of shipping activities on the Pacific Coast.

Lower photograph is Don Sebastian Viscaino, as portrayed in period costume by Clayton O. Heffner, business man of Old San Diego, in the Historical Days Pageant of 1949.





Portuguese Chapel of the Holy Ghost, on Point Loma, decorated for the annual (September 28) Cabrillo Celebration.

The Portuguese of San Diego . . . more than five thousand strong . . . are proud of their illustrious countryman who first discovered this spot and thus started the civilization of the Pacific Coast. Each September 28 they hold a gala festival commemorating the event. Their colony on Point Loma, just inside the harbor entrance, began more than a century ago and has been growing ever since. Because the early Portuguese settlers were mostly fishermen, from the charming villages which dot the island shores of Portugal, they naturally turned to fishing when they came to California. Now more than 90 percent of all fish brought into this port are caught by colony members, with their marvelous fleet of great tuna clippers.

Blessing the Queen of the Portuguese Pentacostal Feast held each May . . . one of the myriad festivals held by the San Diego Colony.





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La Playa Trail

Upper photo is of the patio at the Ramona Motel in Old San Diego . . . site of the Casa de Wrightington, where General John C. Fremont made headquarters in 1846. In the center of the patio is a palm bearing a historical marker. This palm was planted by six-year-old Serafina Wrightington . . . daughter of Dona Juanita Machado de Wrightington . . . in the General's honor. An annual historical procession is made between Old San Diego and La Playa on Point Loma. In 1850 La Playa and Old San Diego were rivals as a site for the San Diego of the future. Today modern shops, homes and gardens line the trail over which the early settlers so slowly drove their cattle for shipment of the hides from Ballast Point. Lower photo is a nook in Andersen's Gardens, illustrative of the present day beauty to be found along the famed La Playa Trail.



P



18

Statue of
Fra Junipero Serra
and
The Serra Cross
in
Presidio Park

California's Birthplace

This beautiful bronze statue of Fra Junipero Serra ("The Padre," by Arthur Putnam) . . . a monk of the Franciscan Order who walked overland from La Paz in Lower California and founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá, July 16, 1769 . . . is close to the identical spot on which the first crude cross was raised in California. Figure of the present day Franciscan padre shows the fidelity with which the Order has maintained the original habiliments. The Serra Cross, shown in the adjoining picture, is but a few feet distant from the statue. It was erected in 1913 by the Order of Panama and was made of fragments of floor tiles from the first buildings in California. These two charming mementoes of the historic past . . . of the birth of California . . . are in a beauty surrounded location in Presidio Park, close to the magnificent Junipero Serra Museum.



Presidio Hill Park

This beautiful park of more than 50 magnificently landscaped acres marks the first white settlement on the Pacific Coast. Here Serra established the first mission and Spain maintained a garrison for half a century. Early settlers' earthwork defenses became Fort Stockton. Here the Mormon Battalion completed the longest infantry march in history. Here is the famed Serra Palm, the oldest planted palm in California, now 75 feet 6 inches high. The Serra Palm marks the beginning of El Camino Real (The King's Highway) which led from mission to mission up the California coast. Shown here, also, is a bit of the Franciscan Gardens, known to Spanish pioneers as "El Jardin del Rey," the King's Gardens . . . living monument to more than 60 soldiers and sailors, the first pioneers to be buried in California soil.



Indian statue in Presidio Park, below Serra Museum, by Arthur Putnam. Presented to Museum by E. W. Scripps Estate.

An intense love of colorful flowers, verdant trees, music and joyous life possessed the early Californians. The semi-tropic climate of this favored land worked hand in hand with them to accomplish their desires. The abounding beauty of Presidio Park today is one of the glorious heritages we have gained from the unselfish efforts of those early dwellers in this land. Long years are required to produce towering, majestic trees and luxuriant plant growth. We would not now be enjoying these pleasures had they not been started by the folk of long ago and nurtured by their descendants.

Music, too, was an important factor in early Mission life and Mission San Luis Rey de Francia . . . in San Diego County . . . early gained an outstanding reputation in this art, as was mentioned by Helen Hunt Jackson in "Ramona." The resonant choir of Franciscan monks adds to the happiness of the annual celebration each July 16th in Presidio Park.

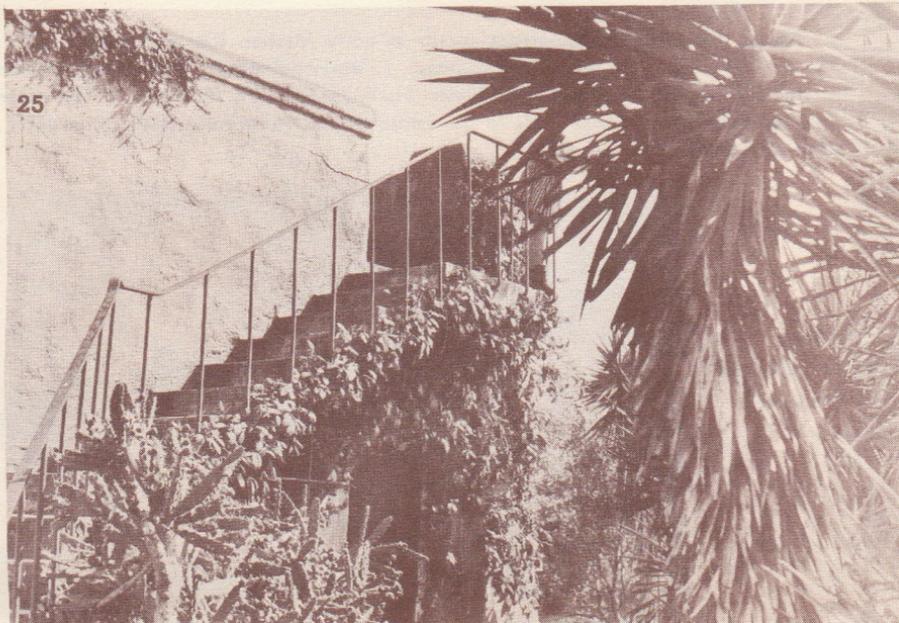
Mission
San Luis Rey
Franciscan
Choir





The crowning architectural feature of Presidio Hill is the Junipero Serra Museum, home of the San Diego Historical Society and depository of the historical collections pertaining to San Diego County and the Southwest. Designed by William Templeton Johnson and built by George W. Marston it was presented by Mr. Marston, a gift to the City of San Diego. The museum was dedicated July 16, 1929, the 160th anniversary of Fra Serra's establishment of the first of the California missions. It is open to the public daily from 9 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. Admission is free.

At the south corner of the old walled square, below the Museum, stands the reconstructed bastion watch tower of early presidio days, in memory of Sylvester Pattie, head of a trapping expedition which arrived in Old San Diego during 1828.



Fort Stockton . . . A'top Presidio Hill



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For a marvel panoramic view of Mission Bay, Old San Diego, San Diego Bay and Point Loma guarding the harbor entrance, Presidio Drive south of Old Fort Stockton is a real vantage point. Here, at the highest point of Presidio Park, the first fortifications were rude earthworks thrown up by the San Diegans in 1832. Commodore Robert F. Stockton made it a fort in 1846. In 1847 the famed Mormon Battalion here completed the longest march in history. Here may be seen "El Jupitar," a Spanish cannon with a romantic history, cast at Manila, Philippine Islands, in 1783 and originally mounted in the first fort at Ballast Point on Point Loma.

Other specially fine viewpoints are from the terrace and tower of the Museum building, and from the "lookout" near the Indian statue below the Museum.



Marker
of the
Mormon
Battalion



The Spirit of Don Diego

Don Diego, whose guitar strumming sketch appears on this page, is a personification of the gay fiesta spirit ever bubbling in the hearts which have dwelt and are dwelling in Old San Diego's friendly atmosphere.

Proud, indeed, are these people of the customs, joys, costumes and traditions which have come to them out of the historic past. They need but small reason, at almost any time, to instantly drop the mundane tasks of present day life and gaily enter into fiesta activities great or small.

This happy, generous, good-neighbor spirit was constantly manifested by the fine folks of Old San Diego in their splendid cooperation with the author of this book.

Never were they too hurried to graciously don their precious Spanish period costumes to provide precisely the right atmosphere for desired photographs.

As a result, throughout this book the period costumes are modeled by modern San Diegans in fiesta mood, and in fitting settings.

The members of the Pan American League were particularly gracious in their helpful suggestions and willing cooperation. The author is most grateful for having had the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with this fine spirit.



Casa de Carrillo

The adobe building now serving as the clubhouse of the Presidio Golf Course is a restored portion of the Casa de Carrillo . . . oldest of the great adobe houses built by the Spanish aristocrats in Old San Diego.

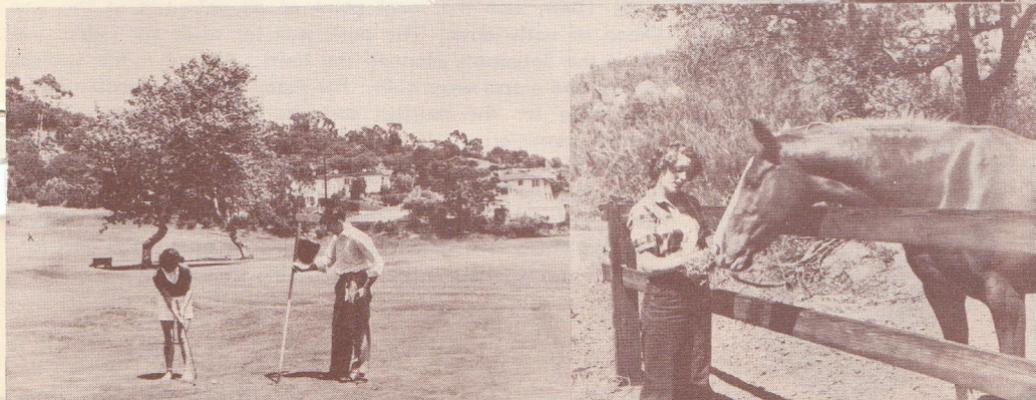
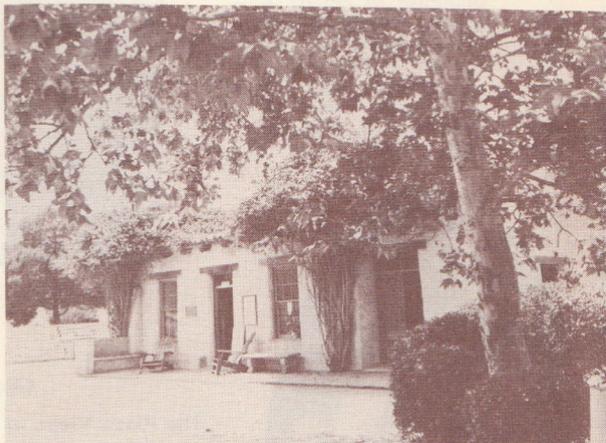
Originally built by Don Francisco Maria Ruiz about 1820, it later became the home of Don Joaquin Carrillo. During its occupancy by Ruiz it became famous as the "Pear House" because of the splendid pear orchard surrounding it. This orchard, grown by Don Ruiz, is said to have been the first private planting of fruit trees in California.

Following the celebration of a double wedding, held in this house by the Carrillo family, nearly all San Diego set out in the spring of 1827 on a joyous pilgrimage from ranch to ranch, Mission to Mission, until in the early summer it arrived on horseback at the doors of Monterey, then the capital of California.

The present eight-acre golf course park provides a variety of out-of-door relaxation for Old San Diegans and visitors.

Golf, tennis and softball are the games played here, but horseback riding is reviving in popularity. Interesting trails cross the San Diego River and follow the Old Friars' Road up the Mission Valley to Mission San Diego de Alcala, six miles distant.

Many riding stables are located in the Mission Valley.



At this point the American Flag was first raised by Lt. Stephen C. Rowan, July 30, 1846. When the Americans left the port the Mexican flag was again flown, but upon the return of American forces the Stars and Stripes were re-raised by Albert J. Smith, November 4, of the same year. The old gentleman shown at the flag halcyards is Albert Henry Smith, son of Albert J. Marcia Smith, great-granddaughter of Albert J. Smith, stands beside "El Capitan," an old Spanish cannon . . . companion piece of "El Jupiter" in Fort Stockton on Presidio Hill.



Old San Diego Plaza

The Plaza Viejo, in which the American flag has daily flown since 1846, was the focal point of all activities in the San Diego of early days. The park was set aside for public use when the Spaniards planned the town. Around it the earliest homes and stores were built. For many years the people gathered here for the musical concerts of which they were so fondly appreciative. It was the site of bullfights and other typical Spanish-Mexican sports. It was the end of the Kearny Trail, the road from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, over which Gen. Stephen W. Kearny led American troops in 1846. Today the Old Plaza is a beautiful, restful park past which the turmoil of traffic flows without disturbing its serenity.



Past and Present

The contrasting beauty of today in and around Old San Diego is graphically shown in the illustrations on this page.

The top picture is reproduction of an old photograph of the buildings grouped around the old Plaza, looking across the San Diego River and Bay toward Point Loma. It was taken from Presidio Hill by Schiller in 1869.

The lower photos were made from almost the same location this year of San Diego's Centennial Anniversary (1950). They do not show the Old San Diego community because the wealth of intervening trees and shrubbery obscured the view, but they do glimpse the charm of present day.

Photo at the left portrays the majesty of the Point Loma headland, standing as eternal guard at the entrance of San Diego Harbor . . . an outlook from which gorgeous sunset colorings are experienced almost daily.

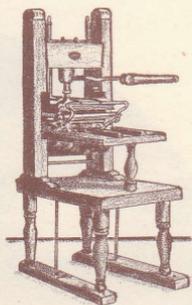
Photo at right looks across Presidio Park, to the Mission Bay Recreational Area and Mount Soledad in the distance. Both are scenes of infinite charm and prismatic joy unknown to the pioneers.

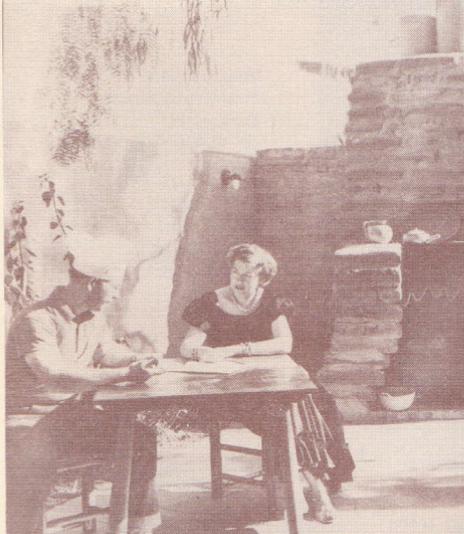


Casa de Altamirano

Jose A. Altamirano, son-in-law of Don Miguel de Pedrona, owned the frame house next door to Casa de Pedrona. In this building on October 10, 1868, the first edition of the San Diego Union was published. This was the Union's home until June 30, 1870, when it moved to New San Diego. John Davidson, executive director Junipero Serra Museum, in the main room of Casa Altamirano, reads the first issue. Pictures on the wall are Douglas Gunn, an early editor, and William Jeff Gatewood, founder of the Union.

Next door, at Manuel's Restaurante . . . Casa de Pedrona . . . Mrs. Gustavo Arriola, Eileen Jackson and Max Miller, journalistic celebrities, enjoy a fiesta dinner in the entrancing patio.





Casa de Pedorena

Next door to "Ramona's Marriage Place" Don Miguel de Pedorena built his Casa about 1838. The frame porch on front was added in the 1890's. The adobe building and walled garden patio in the rear are well preserved and tell of the splendid comfort of the old Spanish Dons' homes. Charm of the old place has been enhanced by Manuel and Thelma Mosley, who operate the establishment as a high-class Mexican refectory, "Manuel's Restaurante."



Gustavo Arriola, famed cartoonist, and friends enjoying the festive atmosphere of the exquisite patio garden





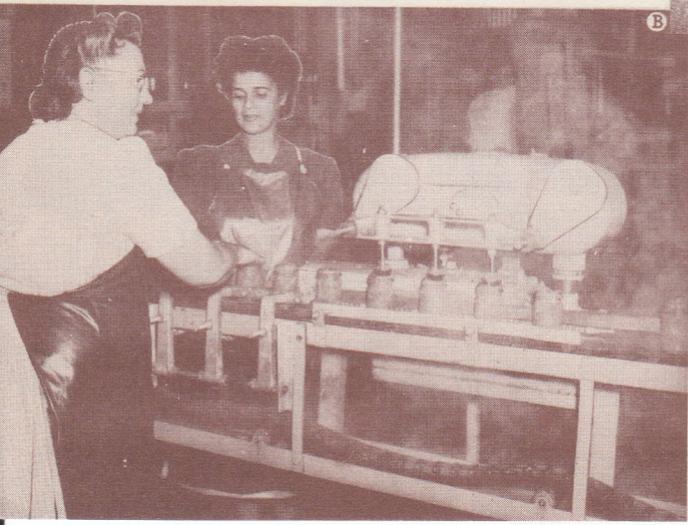
Mission-like in architectural style, the olive factory in Old San Diego carries on an industry which had its inception in the early days of the Mission San Diego de Alcalá

B K

Pictured at the right is one of the few remaining trees in the once famous olive orchard at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. These trees were the first olives to be grown in California. For many years the Mission padres produced olive oil in quantities to supply their own requirements and the need of the early California pioneers. These energetic padres also planted the first vineyards, citrus fruit with seeds imported from Spain, and beautiful pepper trees which add so much to the California charm. The pepper-tree development was, however, accidental, because the pepper-tree seeds were mistaken for those of the spice pepper by a sea captain who secured them for delivery to the Mission fathers.



B



Famous "Mission Brand" olives and pimientos are processed and canned in this modern establishment



"Ramona's
Marriage
Place"



Casa de Estudillo

Because of its excellent preservation and magnificent restoration, this and the two succeeding pages are given to Casa de Estudillo, popularly known as "Ramona's Marriage Place," which fronts on the square of Viejo Plaza in Old San Diego.

It was built about 1825 by the wealthy Don Jose Estudillo as his town house.

Originally the casa was topped by a cupola from which the Don and his guests could watch bull fights in the plaza below.

Walls are two to four feet thick. The tiled roof was supported by heavy, rough-hewn beams . . . brought down from the distant mountains on the backs of Mission

Indians. Beams are bound together with raw-hide thongs, no nails being used.

Casa de Estudillo was a sanctuary for women and children during the American occupation of 1846.

Under the direction of John D. Spreckels the casa was restored in 1909 by the noted architect, Hazel Watermont.

This outstanding landmark of Old San Diego . . . with its twelve rooms, large patio garden, paintings, furniture and the family chapel . . . re-



creates the atmosphere of the old Mexican village. It is a real museum of early California life.

The family chapel in Casa de Estudillo, popularly thought to be the scene of the marriage of Helen Hunt Jackson's fictional heroine, "Ramona," is frequently used for weddings by persons of all denominations . . . pastors and priests of the various faiths coming to officiate.

When used for weddings, the chapel, gaily bedecked with fragrant flowers, stands out in marked contrast to the somber setting in which Ramona and Allesandro plighted their vows, as it was described in Mrs. Jackson's romantic story.

Tommy Getz, of beloved memory in Old San Diego, opened the Casa de Estudillo as a museum in 1924 and entertained many thousands of visitors within its walls and gardens. Since the demise of Mr. Getz in 1934 its popular administration has been con-