

June 2011

La Lavandería



Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

Meet the Keepers of Rancho Guajome's History

Monica Stolt: Keeper of the Loom

Monica is somewhat of a covert volunteer and contributor to the adobe. She often attends special events and will arrive weeks before an event to prepare the loom for weaving. She is an award winning weaver (1st place at San Diego County Fair), who first learned about weaving from her mother while growing up in Sweden. She has sold her intricate, woven rugs or wool and cotton to art galleries, but admits she only weaves for the satisfaction it gives her. Monica first began "whipping the loom into shape" back in 2000 and still keeps it in working condition. She is also a member of the Palomar Handweavers' Guild; look for their booth at "Adobe Days" in June.

www.palomarweavers.org



Monica Stolt preparing the adobe's loom for the next event, by putting on a new warp (lengthwise set of yarns).

Wendell and Linnea Shoberg: Keepers of the "Countess"

Wendell and his daughter Linnea are both experts in reed and pipe organ repair, building and restoration. Their most recent visit to the adobe was in May, when they came



Linnea and Wendell replacing the reeds.

to install the new reeds for the Mason Hamlin reed organ. Of course, our dedicated docents Jerry Colling and Chris Magallon were on hand to assist with the operation.

The small reeds (pictured on next page) are the heart of the organ; creating the sounds that emanate from the organ. Forced air passing over the reeds creates their unique sound.

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History's Stewards (Cont.)



Reeds from the Mason Hamlin organ

According to docent, Jerry Colling, “the organ has 12 separate and unique sets of metal reeds, each set with its own tone and sound. At 65 reeds for each set, that makes 780 reeds in the organ. Reed organs were really an important artisan’s craft in the 19th and early 20th century, and are still very much appreciated by a lot of people all over the world who love to hear their music.” Wendell is a church organist as well as a restorer and builder of pipe organs. He and Linnea recently restored the 1920’s pipe organ in the Balboa Theatre in Horton Park, San Diego. As you may know, Wendell restored Guajome’s Mason & Hamlin organ, doing the work in his Ramona studio over the 2 years before 1997. He and Linnea diligently continue to keep “the Countess” in good condition.

Shoberg Organs

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Ranger’s Report: Paleo Food

Recently, I learned how to eat like a cave-man. Meat, vegetables, fruits and nuts are all part of a caveman diet. It is actually called the “primal” or “paleo” diet. The primal food pyramid omits such foods as rice, bread, pasta and beans (although roots like potatoes are allowed in small amounts). The main idea is to avoid eating refined carbohydrates and sugar that the body converts easily to fat. Paleo humans existed 10,000 years ago or more, which was before the advent of agriculture. Therefore paleo humans subsisted on foods that would have been readily available to them in their natural environment, not on foods that would have been stored as surplus, such as, grains. Let me tell you, after one week of living like a paleo human it is much like going on a backpacking trip—you are almost always hungry, but you feel like you are in good shape.

So....how does this relate to our park? Well, I think food is a great way for people to learn about the past. For example, on a school tour I will often talk about what types of food the Coutts family would have eaten on the rancho. The family would have mostly eaten fruits, vegetables, fowl, beef, eggs and other foods that were raised, grown or produced on the rancho. They would not have eaten foods that were processed, prepackaged or convenient by our modern standards. Of course, much more time would have been spent raising and preparing food, which meant less time for other activities. Anyway, I hope that’s some food for thought on your next tour.

Chromolithograph # 5 Now on Display

Chromolithograph #5 has been restored and is on display at the San Diego County Park's History Center, located at the Dept. of Parks and Recreation headquarters (5500 Overland Dr., San Diego). Members of the public are welcome to view the newly restored chromolithograph. Call ahead to schedule a visit at (760) 966-1305.

The History Center also has a variety of historic photographs and other information regarding Rancho Guajome Adobe and other historic sites managed by the County Parks Department.

Chromolithograph #5 is paper mounted on canvas, mass produced using polished stones to print separate colors. The chromolithograph set dates from 1870 to 1880.



Student Drawings from Guajome Park Academy



In May, art classes from the academy next door visited to gather inspiration from the park; here are some results.



Important Dates and Events @ RGA

June 7th: Docent Meeting 10am @ Graham House/ Ranger Office

June 8th: Furniture Committee Meeting 9:30am @ Graham House/Ranger Office

June 11th: Adobe Days, 10a-7p



*Sign up now for school tours, weekend tours and gift shop shifts! Make it simple, just call the park or email us. 760-724-4082/ Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Kudos, Praise and Acknowledgement

If you would like to send a shout out to any docents, volunteers, staff, friends, groups etc. associated with Rancho Guajome Adobe send them to me via email or snail mail: jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Kudos for May:

- ◆ Kudos to Park Attendant, **Danny Adikes** for discovering two irrigation leaks in the park. Park Attendants do a lot of the laborious, dirty work around the park and deserve credit for their hard work.
- ◆ Kudos to California Conservation Corps Interns, **Johhny Roman and Daniel Driggs**, for spreading tons of gravel, planting numerous plants, mowing, painting, cleaning and everything else they do at the adobe!



- ◆ Docent Meeting @ the Graham House @ 10am on the 1st Tuesday of every month
- ◆ Furniture Committee @ the Graham House @ 9:30am on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

Park Projects & Updates

Trail Work

California Conservation Corps members cleared brush from along the trails in the open space area, cleared brush along the park perimeter and planted over a dozen pepper trees along the office driveway.



California Conservation Corps members from Los Angeles working on RGA's trails

Roving Ranger to Join RGA Staff

Roving Ranger, **Gina Martinez**, previously stationed at Felicita County Park, will now be part of the staff at Rancho Guajome. Expect to see more of Gina, especially with the expansion of park hours, starting in June.

River Rock Project

Staff installed river rock at the base of several exterior adobe walls to help prevent backsplash during rain, which can erode and stain adobe walls.

Volunteer Work Project

On May 11th and 15th volunteers and students from Mira Costa College participated in our National Preservation Month volunteer project. Docent Danny Rupp also stopped by to lend a hand. Volunteers limewashed adobe walls and helped with trail maintenance. Thanks for your help!



Students Sangho, Joe and San Young (Angie) getting ready to limewash



Danny prepping walls for lime wash



General County Info



Main Office Address:

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Dr. Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

General Information & Questions:

Dept. Phone: (858) 694-3030
Park Office: (760)724-4082

County Parks History Office

(858) 966-1305
History.DPRCenter@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail:

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San Diego County Parks Society

P.O. BOX 957
Bonita, CA 91908
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Reservations:

(877) 565-3600; M-F 8am-5pm
or on-line at: www.sdparcs.org



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A legacy preserved