

# Fort Guijarros Quarterly



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## *Battle of San Diego Bay Fiesta*

## FORT GUIJARROS QUARTERLY

Published by the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization incorporated in 1981 to commemorate and preserve the heritage of Ballast Point and Point Loma. The Quarterly is a journal of research and information dedicated to the promotion of a better understanding of the history of San Diego from 1796 to the present.

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COVER: The cover photograph of last year's battle was taken looking southwest toward Cabrillo National Monument atop Point Loma. The monument on the left is the 1982 monument dedicated to Fort Guijarros. The original site of Fort Guijarros is just to the right of the motorhome at the end of the line of cars. Photo by Mike Nabholz.

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MEMBERSHIP INVITED TO THE TENTH ANNUAL

BATTLE OF SAN DIEGO BAY FIESTA

The Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation and the Casa de Espana are proud to announce the Tenth Annual Battle of San Diego Bay Fiesta! It will be held on March 20, 1988 at noon and everyone is invited.

As in past years, the celebration will be held at the foot of Rosecrans Street on the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, San Diego. The Navy has graciously permitted both the celebration and the Spanish entertainment on the shore of Ballast Point only a short distance from the site of the 1796 cannon battery that has made the point a landmark. Access to the Navy Base is restricted and RSVP is required. Call 294-3262 and leave name(s) of guests and car license plate number.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Maria Olson, President of Casa de Espana. Joining will be Sr. Don Pedro Temboury, Ambassador of Spain. The Keynote Speaker will be Professor Brad Bartel, Associate Dean of the Graduate Division at San Diego State University.

Captain Phil Klintworth, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Submarine Base, San Diego will welcome everyone to the Base. This will be the first Battle of San Diego Bay for Captain Klintworth and his wife Kathy.

Keynote Speaker Bartel is a new Advisor to the Board of Directors and has been co-directing the excavations of the Royal Presidio de San Diego in Presidio Park. His research interest in frontier communities should prove invaluable to the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation.

Following the commemoration, cannon salutes, the U.S. Navy Band, and formal event, the audience will be invited down to the picnic grounds for Spanish entertainment. Casa de Espana dancers, guitarists, and vocalists will perform while guests may purchase paella and other ethnic foods of Spain.

The Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation will move its exhibit case to the picnic grounds as well this year so that more time can be spent viewing the objects discovered in the past seven years of research. A member of the archaeology team will be on hand to answer questions.

Copies of the past issues of the Fort Guijarros Quarterly will also be on hand for those members who wish to obtain them. Questions about the articles or future publications can be answered at that time. Souvenir t-shirts will also be available and proceeds will support the Foundation programs.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BALLAST POINT AND THE BATTLE OF SAN DIEGO BAY

by

Linda Roth  
Research Associate



The earliest commemoration of Fort Guijarros was a plaque reported to have been placed by the U.S. Army in 1902 when ruins were uncovered during construction of a battery. On December 6, 1932, the site received California Historical Landmark Number 69 by the California Historical Resources Commission. General George W. Gatchell, U.S. Army (ret.) and Lt. Col. George Ruhlen, U.S. Army, Commanding Officer, Fort Rosecrans and a group of civilians dedicated a wooden plaque on Ballast Point on September 9, 1933 (1).

The Battle of San Diego Bay was first commemorated on its 150th anniversary on March 22, 1953 (2). This event was celebrated off and on over the years, but not regularly until 1979. An ad hoc citizens committee composed of delegates from Casa de Espana and the San Diego Cannoneers began with a reenactment and by 1981 interest had grown to include several other organizations.

In the Fall of 1980, the U.S. Navy commissioned a bronze plaque from the State of California. It was approved, cast, and delivered for unveiling at the 1981 reenactment. The U.S. Navy then constructed a monument from the cobbles of the fort mixed with beach cobbles and it was dedicated on March 20, 1982.

With the discovery of the site of Fort Guijarros by archaeologists from the San Diego County Archaeological Society in 1981, the annual event assumed substantial changes. No longer a reenactment, a formal ceremony involving the Spanish Consulate, speeches from dignitaries, and a fiesta has marked the format these past seven years.

### The Historical Context

As a result of discoveries by Cabrillo in 1542 and Viscaïno in 1603, all land in California belonged to the King of Spain. Viscaïno's voyage was primarily concerned with exploration for a port in California which would be suitable for providing supplies and repairing galleons traveling between the Philippine Islands and Mexico.

When Viscaïno returned to Mexico, he made plans for eventual colonization of California. Even though the diaries from this expedition favorably described San Diego Bay and the surrounding environment in terms of their potential for Spanish empire building, it was over one hundred and fifty years before occupation of San Diego was to occur. It was to be twenty-seven years later for Ballast Point or Punta de los Guijarros would be the site of a military cannon battery.

At the close of the Seven Years War in 1763, King Carlos III of Spain feared that the unprotected northern borders of the Spanish empire were being threatened by the presence of British and Russian ships in the North Pacific. Unlike most imperialistic colonial expansion, the final decision to occupy California and hold the port of Monterey was defensive in nature. These token communities served as notice of Spain's claim.

In 1769, a decision to advance to the port of Monterey was put into action. The mission and presidio, proven and successful frontier institutions, were to be used in the unsettled area. The plan, advocated by Jose' de Galvez, Visitor General of New Spain, included settlements in San Diego, near the Channel Islands, and at Monterey. In a few short

years, with religious and military vigor, a chain of missions was established, a land route opened, and settlement of California began.

On July 16, 1769, Father Junipero Serra officially founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá within the compound of the Presidio de San Diego. Problems with the soldiers later led to closing the brush church and establishing a new location several miles east in Mission Valley at the Kumeyaay Indian village of Nipaguay. On January 1, 1774, the Royal Presidio de San Diego de Cosoy was dedicated. This government seat served to defend the Spanish population against hostile foreign intruders.

That same year, angry Kumeyaay Indians revolted against the Catholic Church and burned the brush chapel at Nipaguay. They killed a priest and a blacksmith and then departed. The San Diego Mission at Nipaguay was rebuilt over a period of forty years to become the only fortified church complex in California.

Ideally, the presidios were to become economically self-sufficient with little support from Spain. Supply ships from western Mexico were to bring payrolls, furnishings, and supplies. The missions and presidios were to establish crafts, industries, and agriculture to support the inhabitants.

The decades which followed, however, were not ones of continued expansion and construction. Alta California did not have high priority in Spain or Mexico. Not until 1792 does it appear that Spain became concerned with its token facade. Officials were aware of the inability to protect so large a territory with so small a force. However, the government in Mexico could not populate the frontier sufficiently to provide the necessary security.

On July 16, 1792, Interim Governor of the Californias, Jose' Joaquin de Arrillaga, sent a report on the state and needs of California's defenses. Arrillaga admitted that the presidios

throughout California were in bad condition owing to the storms, that the volunteers were gone, and that the artillerymen were in great isolation. The governor further stated that Monterey had eight cannon and three swivel-guns; San Francisco had two useless cannon; Santa Barbara had two cannon and one swivel gun with no soldiers to operate them; and San Diego had three unmounted cannon.

Governor Arrillaga noted that the presidios had been designed for forces of thirty-five soldiers, but reductions had left only one to two men to each fort. He recommended a force of 264 men assigned to California to be posted among the presidios. He also recommended a vigorous repair program for the presidio at San Diego.

The Viceroy of Mexico approved fortification of the presidios and ordered artillery and other materials to be shipped. Timber from Monterey was to be cut and transported to the southern defenses. Concern was expressed that English ships would discover the weakness of the Californias. Viceroy Revilla Gigedo strongly urged Arrillaga to strengthen the defenses, including the entrance to the port of San Diego.

In November of 1793, an English Naval force under George Vancouver sailed down the California coast and arrived in San Diego. He later reported the condition of San Diego to have been in bad repair and that the presidio was a good five miles from the port.

It appears that the Spanish government learned of Vancouver's report, for in 1794, Governor Don Diego de Borica turned his attention to plans for the improved defense of the coast. Four coastal batteries had been considered for the ports at Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. The one at Santa Barbara never materialized in the 18th century.

That same year, engineering cartographer Miguel Costanso recommended La Punta de los Guijarros

as a suitable place for a cannon battery in San Diego Bay. His report of 1795 recommended eight twelve-pounder cannons with eighty artillerymen for each port to protect the communities from pirates. Defense against military invasion was deemed impossible.

By the end of 1794, the Viceroy expressed a desire to have a fort built at San Diego that matched the one just completed at the entrance to San Francisco Bay. When word of the war with France reached California in 1795, the government was forced to step up the program of defense. California ports were ordered closed to foreign shipping.

During 1795, Punta de los Guijarros was inspected and the actual location for the construction was laid out. The placement was strategically located to place the cannons at broadsides with the narrow passage off the eastern tip of Ballast Point. The place was at the base of the hills of Punta de Loma, just as the cobble and sand point jutted out toward the bay.

Several men and a supply of lumber were immediately ordered from Monterey to begin the project. They brought with them 103 planks measuring approximately twenty-two feet long. Carpenters at Santa Barbara provided the axle-trees and wheels for ten carts. Depending upon how one reads the correspondence of that period, the tiles for the fort were either made in Santa Barbara or San Diego. A flat boat hauled the tiles across the bay to Punta de los Guijarros. Armorers, cannons, and munitions were ordered from Mexico.

Progress on the construction took almost one year. It was not until the winter of 1796 that an inspection of the progress had been completed by engineering lieutenant Alberto de Cordoba. It is believed that he ordered two wings added to the construction so that the battery could support ten cannons. Judge Benjamin Hayes later reported in 1875 that the fort and powder magazines were made of stone and the barracks

of brick (3). A reservoir with a dam of stone and mortar was observed by U.S. Topographical Engineers behind the fort in 1867. The location of the fort was plotted as recently as 1902 on American military maps (4).

In addition to the construction activities which were occurring at the Presidio de San Diego and Fort Guijarros in 1796, the troops in San Diego were increased by the addition of six artillerymen and fresh professional soldiers. A detachment of Catalonian Volunteers comprised one lieutenant, one sergeant, two corporals, and twenty soldiers.

Convinced that English invasion was imminent by 1797, \$9,020 pesos were warranted to construct a flatboat, complete the battery, magazine, and barracks. Commandante Antonio Grajera of the Presidio de San Diego de Cosoy carried out all these projects. However, no invasion ensued.

In 1798, there was a project under construction to open a road around the bay that would connect the fort by land with the presidio. In 1801, \$183 pesos were spent on repairs to the fort. Food and water was transported to the fort by boat.

When peace with England and Russia was announced in 1802, fear of foreign military action subsided. The American ship Enterprise carrying ten guns and a crew of twenty visited that year. However, the American merchant brig Lelia Byrd sailed from Hamburg with European merchandise with the intent of violating Spanish trade prohibitions in the Californias. A swift business had developed with foreign ships among the padres and local communities in trade for otter pelts, vegetables, and other goods.

The great incentive for foreign trade in the Californias were the otter pelts. One piece could sell for as high as \$40 American dollars in China. Of course, the merchants brought spices, silk, and porcelain in return. It was not unknown for Spanish military authorities to ignore their own rules and engage in

the smuggling trade. The arrogant attitude of American and British captains during the early 19th century inevitably led to friction with the more honest authorities.

In San Blas, William Shaler, the brig's master and co-owner Richard J. Cleveland were informed that a large quantity of contraband otter pelts were confiscated and held in a warehouse at the Presidio de San Diego de Cosoy. Apparently, the Alexander was seized for illegal trade one month earlier and 491 pelts were taken. Unknown to Shaler and Cleveland, those pelts were taken from San Diego and later dumped into the sea.

On the evening of March 17, 1803, the Lelia Byrd sailed into San Diego with a crew of nine. They slipped past Fort Guijarros and set anchor in the bay off La Playa. Alfrerez Manuel Rodriguez, Acting Commandante of the Presidio de San Diego de Cosoy and twelve soldiers boarded the ship. Shaler requested three cattle, nine arrobas of flour, one and a half fanegos of salt, and twenty-four chickens. Rodriguez instructed the ship to depart immediately after the order was filled. Sergeant Joaquin Arce and five soldiers were left to ensure that no illegal trade occurred.

On shore, Shaler attempted to purchase 1000 otter pelts from Rodriguez, but was refused. After departing the presidio, Shaler and Cleveland visited Punta de los Guijarros and inspected the fort. Although leaving no written description, they later noted in their diaries that eight brass nine-pounder cannons were mounted on the walls.

On March twenty-first, the ship prepared to depart but two boats were sent out with sailors to make a final attempt to bribe the authorities for the pelts. One group purchased forty pelts, but three men in the other boat were captured and bound at the beach. The following morning, Cleveland and four men rescued the hapless three. The brig then made a run out of the harbor.

The now famous Battle of San Diego Bay occurred that morning of March 22, 1803. Two very different accounts exist, both from leaders of the opposite side. Hubert Howe Bancroft commented some eighty-three years later that Commandante Rodriguez's version should have been given more credence than the disappointed and failed smuggler.

Rodriguez reported to the governor:

" . . . suspicious of contraband trade (Rodriguez) made a round in the evening, surprised the Americans of one boat trading with Carlos Rosa at La Baraca, arrested the three and went on to the battery where we seized some goods left in payment for forty otter skins. Next morning when Cleveland came ashore to see what had become of his men, one of the guards, Antonio Guillen, came also, escaped and hastened to warn the Corporal in command of the battery that the Americans were going to sail without landing the guard. The Corporal made ready his guns, and when the Lelia Byrd started, raised his flag, fired a blank cartridge, and then shot across her bows. Then another shot was fired which struck the full but did no damage. Thereupon Sergeant Arce shouted not to fire as he would be put ashore, and the firing ceased. But when the vessel came opposite the fort on her way out she opened the fire. The battery followed suit and did some damage, but stopped firing as soon as the vessel did, no harm being done to the fort or its defenders (5)."



'From Rodriguez' account, the prime motivation was to force the brig to release the hostages. The procedure described probably was standard warning for the period. Since the soldier hostage on the ship shouted, it would seem reasonable to cease firing. Violation of protocol by the crew of the Lelia Byrd would also have been reason to resume firing.

Unknown to Rodriguez, both Shaler and Cleveland made note of the event in their diaries and years later the latter reported:

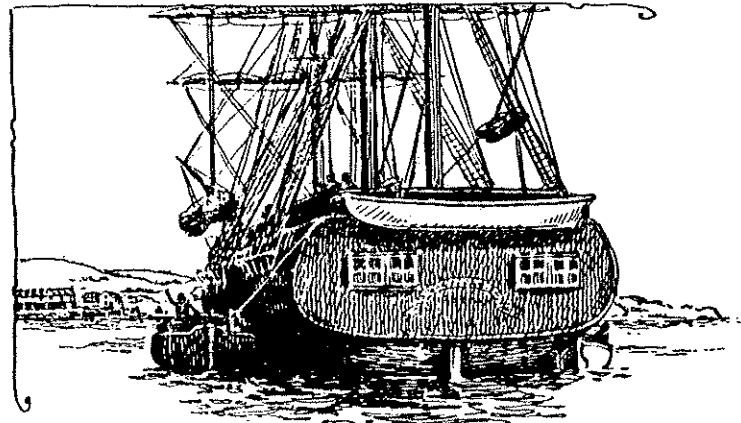
"As soon as our sails were loosed and we began to heave up the anchor, a gun without shot was discharged from the battery and Spanish flag hoisted; perceiving no effect from this, they fired a shot ahead. By this time our anchor was up, all sail was set, and we were gradually approaching the fort. In the hope of preventing their firing, we caused the guard in their uniforms to stand alone in the most exposed and conspicuous station; but it had no effect, not even when so near the fort, that they must have heard imploring them to desist firing, and seen to fall with their faces to the deck, at every new discharge of the cannon. We had been subjected to a cannonade of three quarters of an hour, without returning a shot, and, fortunately, with injury only to our rigging and sails. When we arrived abreast of the fort, several shot struck our hull, one between wind and water, which was temporarily stopped by a wad of oakum. We now opened our fire, and, at the first broadside, saw numbers, probably of those who came to see the fun, scampering

away up the hill at the back of the fort. Our second broadside seemed to have caused the complete abandonment of their guns, as none were fired afterwards; nor could we see any person in the fort, except a soldier who stood on the ramparts, waiving his hat, as if to desist firing (6)."

Comparison of the two accounts suggests that until Sergeant Arce alerted the artillerymen at the fort that he was in the line of fire they may not have been aware of the danger. Cultural differences and ignorance on the Spanish protocol by Shaler and Cleveland may have led to the return fire on the Lelia Byrd as it passed the tip of Ballast Point. The general lack of damage to the fort and the brig suggest that Rodriguez was more accurate and that Cleveland exaggerated.

The last volley from the fort probably caused the two balls in the hull and the wrecked rigging. This makes far more sense than the alleged forty-five minute exchange. Both battery and brig would have had to have been incompetent to have blown off that much munitions and not inflicted greater damage all around.

Legend has persisted over the years that Cleveland reported that his shots caused Rodriguez's men to retreat. However, scrutiny of the above passage reveals that civilians residing near Punta de los Guijarros probably were the figures who ran. The height of the breastworks could



well have hidden the artillerists who were cleaning and reloading the cannon behind the fort. One man did signal the end of the hostilities with a wave of his hat.

The command of the Lelia Byrd released its hostages outside of the harbor entrance and then sailed south to San Quintin Bay for repairs. During those hours, the players in the event discussed their interpretations of what they experienced and the accounts crystalized.

The significance of the Battle of San Diego Bay in 1803 had major implications for the government of Spain in California. It was a test of coastal batteries as deterrents to pirates and smugglers. It signaled foreigners that Spain would fire upon offenders of its policies. Indeed, illicit trade avoided San Diego through most of the ballance of Spain's reign over California.

The records concerning the activities in San Diego for the remaining years of the decade are sparse. Evidently some repairs were commissioned and in 1804 \$688 pesos were allocated to construct a boat. In 1805, the Spanish authorities installed the first lighthouse at the tip of Ballast Point. The following year, a regular launch was operating between Punta de los Guijarros and La Playa.

At that time, Rodriguez had increased the troop strength of the fort by five men. Foreign threats to Spanish ports increased and internal unrest in Spain's colonies caused the California military to become uneasy. The rebellion in Mexico disrupted the internal system connecting the Californias and by 1810 funds and supplies from San Blas dropped drastically. Failure to repair deteriorated walls and treat rotten wood gave the port a shoddy appearance. Storms eroded the buildings and the white-wash faded. Powder became useless, iron rusted, firing mechanisms failed, and cannons lost accuracy or failed.

By the time Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, the comman-

dancia and its troops had turned to agriculture and working with the Franciscans to support the infrastructure. From guards to vaqueros, the soldiers assumed greater role in the mission economy. When the soldiers elected to swear allegiance to Mexico or retire in 1822, Francisco Maria Ruiz was appointed commandante of Presidio de San Diego de Cosoy.

Ruiz and the California government opened San Diego to foreign trade by licensing and regulating British and American firms in the hide and tallow trade. The soldier vaqueros petititoned the government for rancho land grants from the old mission lands and the industry flourished.

Under the Mexican system, the presidios and forts defended the joint economic interests of Mexico and her clients. Fort Guijarros served to defend the hide warehouses at La Playa from pirates and unlicensed merchants. In 1828, the governor instructed the padres to supply the presidio with ten men, food and tools to repair the fort.

It was that same year when American merchant shippers defied the government. Many Anglo-Mexicans had established elaborate merchandising wharfs in San Francisco and San Pedro. They outright ignored Spanish licensing regulations. One such outlaw was Captain John Bradshaw of the 333 ton ship Franklin. Bradshaw put on quite a show in departing San Francisco, angering the authorities. Upon arrival in San Diego in July of 1828, his cargo was ordered seized and to be secured in the presidio warehouse. He was charged with smuggling, operating without proper licenses, and insolence to the governor.

When Bradshaw boarded his ship to "comply," he hauled anchor and moved the ship further south near Ballast Point. A line of other ships were anchored in the harbor and as he maneuvered to the end, artillerists at the fort were ordered to fire upon the Franklin. On July 16, 1828, the

Franklin retreated from San Diego Bay suffering damage to the hull, rigging, and one casualty. John Bradshaw had been wounded in the exchange.

Mexico continued to maintain Fort Guijarros over the years. Although Richard Henry Dana made no mention of the fort during his visit in the 1830s, English skipper John Hall plotted it on a chart of San Diego in 1839. In that period, eight brass and five iron cannon were stored on the walls. Later that year, four had been removed and two more inoperable. Fifty cannisters of copper grape shot and 300 balls were stored in the casemate.

However, from 1835 to 1840, Fort Guijarros was not garrisoned. The troops from the presidio had either resigned or served without pay. The battery was supplied to serve in an emergency. However, Commandante Ruiz began selling salvage rights to residents of the new San Diego (now called Old Town) to reuse tiles and timbers from the presidio in home construction by the mouth of the San Diego River into San Diego Bay. On June 17, 1840, Corporal Juan Machado (ret.) purchased salvage rights to Fort Guijarros.

The condition of Fort Guijarros after Machado's 1840 salvage has remained something of a mystery. A French Legate in 1842 reported crumbling walls and six to eight bronze cannon buried in the sand. That same year, American sailors drove spikes into the breeches of the guns and stole some of the copper shot.

Apparently the cannon were repaired by the local inhabitants of San Diego. For, during the Mexican War of 1846, two cannon were captured from Fort Guijarros and used in the seige of Old Town.

The fate of Fort Guijarros after the 1846 Mexican War and the annexation of Alta California into the United States is a story for another time. The fort lay unoccupied after 1840 and essentially forgotten in the early American

period. There were even those who claimed it never existed. Certainly by the 20th century, its location was forgotten from living memory.

#### Endnotes

1. San Diego Union, September 10, 1933.
2. San Diego Union, March 23, 1953.
3. Benjamin Hayes, 1875, Scrapbooks, Bancroft Library.
4. Cover, Fort Guijarros Quarterly, Vol. 1, no. 2.
5. Hubert Howe Bancroft, The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of California, Volume II, 1886, pp. 13-15 (Santa Barbara: Wallace Heberd, reprinted 1966).
6. *Ibid.*, p. 13.



Facsimile Signature  
Carlos III

THE SERVANTS OF PUNTA DE GUIJARROS

translated by Jesus Benayas  
Vice Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation



In 1984, Maria del Carmen Velasquez published "Notas Sobre Sirvientes de las Californias y Proyecto de Obraje en Nuevo Mexico" in Jornaladas 105, El Colegio de Mexico. From pages 65 to 77, her article included material on "The Servants of Point Cobblestone."

Punta de Guijarros is the same point of land in San Diego Bay that has been the subject of historical and archaeological research for the past decade. In the interests of sharing the information with the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation, several passages were translated into English.

The purpose of Carmen Velasquez's paper was to bring forth reports and letters written by contractors who worked for the government of Spain in the Californias. The details recorded in these documents reveal intriguing information on the quality of life in 18th century California.

"Being commissioned in the San Diego Presidio, Antonio Grajera was promoted to lieutenant the 14th of July, 1792 [97]. Five years after, in 1797 he was the commander of such Presidio and reported to Governor Borica of his administrative expenses [98].

According to a 'map of the Port of San Diego in the septentrional coast of the Californias, picked by the second pilot of the armada Don Juan Pantoja,' in the year 1782, the Spaniards built a fort in the tongue-shaped section of land that almost closes the entrance to the San Diego Port. To this tongue-shaped section, they gave it the name of

Punta de Guijarros. The troop dispatched in this fort needed the Presidio of San Diego to supply them with everything: 'water, food and other necessary items to supply the 'petrechos' that they may need [99].'

To carry the water and other 'petrechos' [100] from the presidio to the fort, carts were needed 'to carry the goods to the beach and a flat boat to transport the goods to the punta de Guijarros [101].'

[97] A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 6, f.287.

[98] A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 21, ff.369-369v.

[99] Ibid., f.381.

[100] Royal Artillery Corps.

[101] Ibid., f. 382.

I (say), Francisco Arguelles, First Captain of such Royal Corps that I have received from Lieutenant Don Antonio Grajera the items that I express for the service of the fort of Punta de Guijarros that I have under my duty is the following:

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For 210 corn leaves to make tacos and 'sacos de metralla'.

For 136 palm petates for the same purpose.

For 1/2 pound of 'light thread' to sew cannon cartridges.

For 2 MADEJAS DE HILO DE REATA PARA AMARRAR TACOS.

For one barrel to contain water and cool off the cannons (just in case it is necessary).

For two links (eslabones).

For four small packages of LLESCA to light the cannon fuse.

Punta de Guijarros, 20 December 1797  
Francisco Arguelles (A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 21, f. 378).

	pesos	reales	granos
For 210 corn leaves to make tacos and 'sacos de metralla' I gave Captain of Artillery, Francisco Arguelles, as it is noted in the enclosed receipt number 1. At the rate of four three bunches, total	19	5	6
For 136 palm petates at 1 real each for the same purpose and receipt as above, total	17	0	0
For 1/2 pound of 'light thread', for 1 real and 9 granos, to sew the cannon cartridges I gave the same person	0	1	9
For 2 MADEJAS DE HILO REATA PARA AMARRAR TACOS, etc. . . . at 2.5 reales each	0	5	0
For one barrel to contain water and cool off the cannons (just in case it is necessary)	2	0	0
For 6 ZALEAS for the same purpose at 1 1/2 reales	1	1	0
For two links at 2 reales each and 2 reales of LLESCA to light the cannons fuse	0	6	0
For 730 lard candles, 32 for 1 pesos, consumed at 2 each night all year around	22	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>



The total cost of all the items above come up to sixty four pesos, one real and three granos. San Diego 31 December 1797- Antonio Grajera (A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 21, f. 377).

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All of which required a lot of servants to do the moving and the artisans to take care of the maintenance of the carts and the flat boat.

The governor had ordered to take advantage of the government's ships visiting the port for the artisans of the crew to do the jobs that, due to the shortage of skilled personnel, were pending on the presidios.

In 1797, Antonio Grajera took advantage of the visit of the frigate Nuestra Senora del Rosario, alias the Princessa, anchored in front of the San Diego port, to ask her commander to order his masters of 'calafates' and carpentry of the frigate to careen the flat boat of the fort. In the careening the artisans consumed the materials that had been stored in the presidio; tar, 'estopa', lead, steel of 'calafate', a ladle to melt the tar, a box of and three sail needles.

[102] Ibid., f. 366.

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Grajera paid the artisans of the fragata at the rate of about half of the salary that they normally made [103].

Also, Grajera took this opportunity during the stay of the frigate Princessa, for the barrel worker of the ship to work and fix the pipes of the castle and the water barrels of the fort [104]. For this work, Jose Marquez, the master barrel worker, charged him 6 pesos for twelve days of work.

There were three carts in the presidio, and to pull them Grajera had bought eight bulls that worked well and adapted very well to the carts, the bulls were bought from Mission San Juan Capistrano for 4 pesos each [105].

[103] 'No. 2 Relation of wages paid for the classes of the frigate Princessa in the repair of the castle esplanade in the San Diego Presidio.

Carpenters	pesos	reales
1. Jare Toris for five days at a medium wage of fourteen reales that he usually makes.	4	3
2. Vicente Ortega for (same as above) twelve reales.	3	6
Calafates -----		
1. Joaquín Cruz for eight days at a medium wage of ten reales that he usually makes.	5	0
2. Jose Camarena for (same as above) six reales.	3	0
TOTAL	16	1

We received from Don Antonio Grajera, commander of this presidio the amounts cited above and as proof of this we give him this paper in the Royal Presidio de San Diego this 8th day of October of 1797.- Because the above artisans did not know how to write I have done this at their request. Salvador Menendez.- (A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 21, f. 371).

[104] Ibid., f. 369.

[105] Ibid., f. 368v.

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A neighbor artisan of the presidio, Maximo Rosas, made two cart wheels this year for eight pesos [106].

Once the flat boat was loaded in front of the presidio, it was necessary to row it by force to Punta de Guijarros. To do this work, Grajera hired four gentile Indians that were in jail at the presidio. For this work, the rowers, from the first of January to the 13th of August, Grajera gave them a blanket for each one of them, and for all four (to be distributed among themselves) six varas of cotton rags and six varas of wide blanket used for covering their bottoms. All these items came up to a total expense of 9 pesos, 4 reales, and 6 granos.

Governor Borica had given orders to the commander of the Presidio de San Diego that when he was short of Indians in the presidio jail to use the flat boat, which was indispensable to maintain and use to provide food, water, and other items for the fort at Punta de Guijarros, as previously cited), to find Indians in the missions paying them the normal wages, and to charge this expense to the fort account [107].

Perhaps the custom to which Borica referred to dated back to Galvez' time, of the dispositions contained in one of the decrees that he published for the California province, in 1769. That year Juan

Gutierrez had fourteen Indians employed in the blacksmith with 'las anclas.' Before finishing the job, Gutierrez asked the president of the missions which were the conditions under which the government could employ Indians from the village, such as 'working on the flat boat, making coal or some other indispensable work [108]'. The minister of the mission replied that 'always you ask some Indian to do any job you will give him more than the daily rate, whichever was just in money according to the days worked and the same for any other Indian of the mission.' Checking Galvez' decree about this matter: 'that to do the original Indians working in the daily routine jobs, such as the one mentioned above rowing the flat boat and working at the blacksmith, should be paid at the rate of 6 pesos a month and in the extraordinary jobs that can be offered in the same Royal service, as well as in the works of the new villages that I have ordered to build in Loreto and Casas Reales for the government and 'intendencia' of the Royal House will have to be occupied and work not only the actual congregation of persons living in Loreto but also anybody that the chief of the peninsula decides according to the division of missions including Indian workers, giving his orders directly wherever and whichever way he thinks is appropriate for he (chief of the peninsula) is the Royal and superior authority which only depends on his Majesty and those that in these dominions represent Him, without the need to compensate the 'Rds. Pes.' administrators of the missions, to whom through the 'Rmo.' president will give them copies of my Superior Resolution for his intelligence and observation, but at the same time I advise to give the Indians the same compensation that I have assigned to every servant and worker in my decree. Galvez [109].'

The Indians that were in jail in the presidio were those generally punished for felonies, stealing and

killing cattle, and if they were hired as rowers they didn't have to be paid [110]. As explained by Grajera, in that occasion there were not enough gentile Indians in prison capable of doing work, he would then ask the mission father for four Indians.

[106] Ibid., ff. 369-370.

[107] Ibid., f. 376.

[108] A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 13, ff. 220-221v.

[109] Ibid.

[110] Ibid., ff. 381-181v.

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These Indians served from the 14th of August until the 31st of December of that year. Grajera paid the the mission father for the wage of the four Indians, at the rate of 1 1/2 reales a day, 84 pesos and 6 reales [111].

Certainly there was a difference between the sum of 84 pesos and 6 reales for four servants from the mission in 113 days, and the 9 pesos four reales and 6 granos for the four Indians, but the benefit of the wage was received by the mission father and not the Indian rowers [112]. In the rations that the gentile Indians from the prisons as well as the Indians from the prison received, a total of 30 'fanegas' 5 'almudes' of corn were consumed at 21 reales per fanega. An 'almud' of corn was reserved daily for the four servants, seven bulls and six small bulls (novillas), with a cost of 4 pesos per animal, which 'one a month has been consumed' by the Indian rowers. The total cost for the rowers, in 1797, was 212 pesos, 4 reales, and 9 granos [113].

[111] Ibid., f. 374.

[112] Don Antonio Grajera, Lieutenant of Cavalry, and Commander of the Royal Presidio de San Diego.

[113] Ibid., f. 374.

'I certify that the account that I carry with the San Diego Mission with respect to this ending year, I pay eighty four pesos, six reales, for the wage, at one and a half reales a day, that one each of the four Indians working as servants of the fort at Punta de Guijarros for 113 working days from the 14th of August until this date. To keep this as a record I sign this document in the above mentioned presidio this 31st of December 1797. Antonio Grajera.

I say, the above mentioned, minister of this Mission of San Diego, that the above account is legal and that I do not have anything else to say and I sign it in this mission on the 8th day of January of 1798. Father Juan Mariner. (A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 21, p. 375).

In 1802, Jose Joaquin de Arrilaga, who succeeded Diego Borica as Governor of the Californias, advised the Viceroy that Don Antonio Grajera, promoted to Captain at the presidio had been transferred and that in his place had been assigned Manuel Rodriguez, Lieutenant of Cavalry, as official resident of the presidio.

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This official encountered many deteriorations in the utility of the Royal House which determined the conservation of the fort and the flat boat of Punta de Guijarros [115]. In October of 1803, Governor Arrillage had communicated to Rodriguez that he had written to the Viceroy informing him that it was necessary to repair the flat boat, or at least careen it, in order to keep it in service another year. As well, as experience had been, he advised that by the end of the year much of the wood would be lost to rot, and they did not have such things as tar or pitch to conserve the wood for very long [116]. He recommended that pending the arrival of the frigate Princesa with the proper materials, they



careen the boat. To lose the occasion would be costly and double the cost to the Royal house of the auxillary station at Punta de Guijarros.

In November of that year, the artisans of the frigate Princessa careened the flat boat. The workers were three 'calafates' and two carpinters, who were paid 25 pesos and one real [117].

[114] Ibid., p. 388.

[115] A.G.N., Californias, Vol. 51, p. 150.

[116] Ibid., pp. 152-152v.

[117] Ibid., p. 153.

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This year as well, Miguel Antonio Guillen, a soldier of the company assigned to repair and govern the flat boat, received 30 pounds of tar in order to coat the boat, barrels and pipes for the water system of the fort, and forty used arms, three lugs of grease, in order to coat the bottom of the boat [118].

Similarly, Felipe Romero, soldier of the armory of the Presidio de San Diego installed the water system of the fort at Punta de Guijarros, for which he used four pounds of iron. There had been four pipes, but two had rotted due to the ocean environment [119].

The rowers that transported the flat boat from the presidio to the fort were to be Indians from the presidio prison [120]. They were given one 'almud' of corn daily and only three little bulls for the quarter. As well, to cover their bodies, each was given one blanket and twelve bolts of cotton, twelve bolts of wide cloth for tarps, and four reales of 'hilo'. In 1803, the force at Punta de Guijarros consumed 730 candles at a ration of 2 each night."

[118] Ibid., p. 158.

[119] Ibid., p. 150.

(A glossary of old Spanish words beginning with the letter 'A,' borrowed from Richard E. Alborn, "Glossary of Material Culture Terms in Documentary Sources: Spanish to English," Southwest Mission Research Center, 1983 (Tucson, AZ: the University of Arizona).

abalorios	glass beads
abrigo	overcoat
acero	steel
acta	act
adobera	adobe-brick mold
adarga	shield, heart shaped
aderezo de silla	saddle trappings
aguja	door batten; "eye" spike
agujeta	thong
alambre	wire
alba	alb
albayade	ceruse
alfombra	carpet
algodon	cotton
aljofar	pearl, irregular
almohada	pillow
amito	amice
angaripola	calico
anillo	finger ring
anguera	rump cover for horse
anta blanca	elk hide
anil	indigo
apanada	wool-like
arcabuz	harquebuse
arco	bow
arcon	bin
arma	weapon
armador	jacket
armas	saddletree covers
armella	staple
armero	armorer
arpilladura	sack cloth
arpillera	burlap
arpon	bolt strike
arquilla	bin
arquillo	arch
artesa	trough, dou
asiento	seat
ayuntamiento	town council
azabache	jet
azacon	minimum
azadon	hoe
azafran	saffron
azuela	adz

MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE PRESIDIO AT SAN DIEGO AND FORT GUIJARROS

By Don Lyons, Treasurer  
Board of Directors  
Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation



Recently, while working at the San Diego Historical Society, I came across a partial list of military personnel who served in San Diego at the Presidio and Fort Guijarros. The initial find was in the Greene Scrapbooks, but this was only a partial listing from the original source (Carl H. Heilbron's History of San Diego County, published in 1936). These listings are known to be incomplete and to contain some inaccuracies.

It is the intent of the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation to work from this list to generate a comprehensive roster of the various military personnel who served in San Diego and to expand the information base regarding their marriages and children.

The editor would greatly appreciate any information that members or friends of the Foundation can furnish that will correct errors or update the information in the following lists:

The Comandantes at the Presidio of San Diego were:

Lieutenant Manuel Rodriguez, acting comandante of the company from August 23, 1799 until 1803, when he became comandante of the post. He continued serving in this capacity until late 1806.

Lieutenant Francisco Maria Ruiz, acting comandante from late in 1806 until 1807.

Lieutenant Jose de la Guerra y Noriega, who served for a short time in 1806-7.

Captain Jose Raimundo Carrillo, who served late in 1807 until 1809.

Lieutenant Francisco Maria Ruiz, acting comandante from 1809 until 1821. Later served as captain and comandante.

Captain Ignacio del Corral, nominally comandante from 1810 to 1820, but never coming to California.

Lieutenant Jose Maria Estudillo, October 23, 1820 to September, 1821.



The following partial list gives the names of officers and soldiers of the companies of Leather Jackets and their wives:

Jose Albino	Maria Conception Verdugo
Sgt. Francisco Azavedo	Maria Nicholasa Olivas
Macedonio Barreras	Juana Maria
Juan Canedo	Maria Reyes Ybanez
Don Cristobal Doinguez	Maria Francisca Briones
Leandro Duarte	Maria Encarnacion Perez
Pedro Elisalde (Lizalde)	Maria Antonia Sandoval
Juan Josef Garcia	Maria Rafael Serrano
Juan German	
Josef Antonio Gongora (Retired Lieut.)	Maria Dolores Valencia
Don Pablo Grijalva	Juliana Alanis
Luis Manriquez	Maria de la Asuncion Rosas
Anastasio Leiva	Maria de la Luz Ruiz
Juan Maria Marron	Domina (Indian)
Juan Maria Miranda	Maria Rita Villalobos
Josef Monroy	Maria Antonia Rodriguez
Patricio Ontiveros	Ana Gertrudis Arce
Juan Peralta	Maria Eustaquia Guiterrez-Lopez
Corporal Jose Maria Pico	Cathalina Romero
Feliciano Rios	Gertrudis Perez
Vicente Rodriguez	Gertrudis Flores
Anselmo Romero	Maria Dolores
Carlos Rosas	Maria Gorgona Valenzuela
Ygnacio Ruiz	Maria Encarnacion Varela
Jose Miguel Saenz (Saez)	Maria Ramona Theodora Serrano
Francisco Sepulveda	
Rafael Sepulveda	Maria Luisa Botilles
Sebastian Sepulveda	Maria Valenzuela (Silvas?)
*Corporal Francisco Serrano	Maria Gertrudis Camacho
Josef Manuel Silva (Silvas)	Felicians Arballo
Mariano Tenorio	Maria Luisa Varela
Ygnacio Valencia	
Juan Antoio Varela	Ana Geronima Felix
Corp. Joaquin (Juan?) Verdugo	
Pedro Villalobos	
Albino Ybarra	
Antonio Ybarra	Maria de los Angeles
Francisco Xavier Yorba	
Don Jose Antonio Yorba	Dona Josefa Grijalva
(Retired Sergeant)	

\*(Invalid, formerly mayordomo at Mission San Diego)



Catalan volunteers with wives:

Corporal Felipe Aro  
Josef Caballero  
Josef Felix  
Victor Fernandez  
Josef Rafael Fragozo  
Josef Antonio Gomez  
Antonio Llamas  
Josef Lugo  
Juan Ortel (Ortiz?)  
Jacinto Padilla  
Josef Manuel Perez  
Juan Bautista Perez  
Josef Servin  
Francisco Antonio Sotelo  
Jose Servin  
Francisco Antonio Sotelo  
Jose Truxillo  
Francisco Valdez  
Corporal Onofre Villalva

Maria Miranda  
Maria Guadalupe Valenzuela  
Manuel Galvez  
Maria Magdalena Alvarez  
Juana Josefa Ortel (Ortiz?)

Margarita Lopez  
Maria Loreta Leiva  
Maria Ygnacia Luna  
Maria Gertrudis Ontiveros  
Maria Simona Ortega  
Maria Gabriela Silvas  
Maria Simona Ortega  
Maria Gabriela Silvas  
Gertrudis Vasquez  
Josefa Leiva  
Maria Francisca Osuna

Artillerymen (and wives) stationed at the Presidio and Fort Guijarros were:

Jose Ygnacio Aguilar  
Sebastian Armas  
Corporal Francisco Arguello  
Francisco Castro  
Corporal Mariano Fernandez  
Antonio Guillen  
Don Juan Mariner y Salvat  
Corporal de Plaza, Mariano Mercado  
Francisco Monteverde  
Josef Medina  
Josef de la Pena  
Lt. Jose Maria Velasquez

Candelaria Machado  
Maria Luisa Garcia  
  
Maria Antonia Arriola  
\*Maria Eulalia Perez  
Dona Maria Antonia Sepulveda  
Dona Maria Fosefa Sal  
  
Petra Nava  
Maria Luisa Romero

\*(Later became famous as the oldest woman in California.)



FOUNDATION NOTES

Short Term Exhibit at Security Pacific Savings

Foundation member Phil Hinshaw arranged for a short-term exhibit at the Security Pacific Savings in Point Loma. Local arrangements were made by Security Pacific Board Member Alberto Lau. This exhibit will move on to the Battle of San Diego Fiesta.

Foundation Receives \$1,000 County Grant

During the Spring of 1987, Foundation Board Member Cdr. John Hinkle presented the County Board of Supervisors with an application for Community Enhancement Funds. The request was for money to improve publications, exhibits, and community education.

The Foundation was notified by County Chief Administrative Officer Norman Hickey that the Board of Supervisors authorized \$1,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 1987-88. That money was a bit less than one-fourth the initial request.

The Board of Directors voted this past Fall to use half of the grant to publish a photo illustrated booklet on the history of Fort Guijarros and Ballast Point. The balance will be divided between producing a five minute video tape of a audio-visual presentation and enhancement of our exhibits.

1988-89 Grant Applications To County, City, & Port

Based upon the success of the 1987 Grant application, Foundation members applied for \$5700 from the County, \$5700 from the City, and \$1500 from the Port District for 1988-89. These moneys would expand the production of the booklets, enable 150 copies of the video tape, and improve community programs. The booklets and videos would be donated to community organizations.

Application for National Historic Preservation Award

After seven years of working with the National Park Service and Naval Facilities Command in preparing permit applications for the archaeological excavation on Ballast Point, the President's Advisory Council has invited the Foundation to apply for a National Historic Preservation Award. That application was accepted in February.

Foundation Offers to Assist Navy on Ballast Point

The discovery of a portion of another whaling camp on the tip of Ballast Point may cause delays in the construction of an enlisted men's club. The Board of Directors of the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation offered it's archaeological field crew to excavate the site at a cost savings to the U.S. Navy.

Negotiations continue at this time, but volunteers may be needed for a weekend project in the near future. Call the Foundation at 294-3262 for updates.

Membership Report

Welcome to the following new members of the Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation (as of March 1):

INDIVIDUAL

Bob Edberg  
June Moeser  
R.L. Willcoxson

FAMILY

Philip & Kathryn Klintworth

CORPORAL OF THE GUARD

Bill Maier

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year 1987-1988, 2-1-87/1-31-88

BALANCE, FEBRUARY 1, 1987 \$5,498.40

INCOME:

Dues	\$3,379.00
Interest	233.95
Sales Taxable	344.92
Fiesta Contributions	4,020.00
Misc. Contribution	638.75

TOTAL INCOME 8,616.62

TOTAL 14,115.02

EXPENSES:

Telephone	145.95
Supplies & Postage	1,021.42
Printing & Publications	1,870.91
Sales Tax	17.29
Exhibits & Displays	145.16
Honoraria & Gifts	205.80
Dues	25.00
Insurance	149.31
Professional Services	30.00
Equipment Rental & Purchase	35.32
Purchase of Resale Items	839.98
Misc. Expense	1,695.58

TOTAL 6,181.72

BALANCE, JANUARY 31, 1988 \$7,933.30

1987 COMMUNITY GRANT, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZED \$1000.00

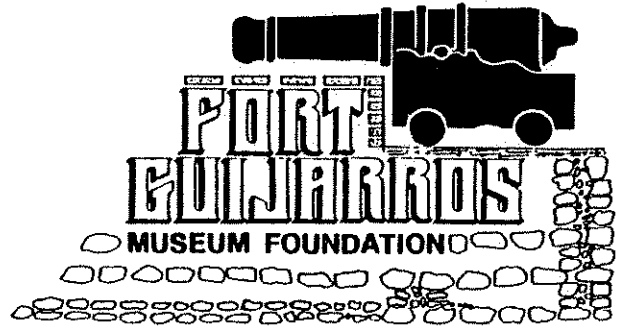
T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

QUANTITY SIZE

\_\_\_\_\_ Medium

\_\_\_\_\_ Large

\_\_\_\_\_ Extra Large



Light Blue  
50/50 Cotton/Polyester  
\$10.00 Each (tax & shipping included)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation  
Box 231500  
San Diego CA 92123

Q487

MEMBERSHIP FORM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Student	\$ 8.00	Corporal of the Guard	\$ 25.00
Military	\$ 8.00	Crew of the Lelia Byrd	\$ 50.00
Senior	\$ 8.00	Friends of Fort Rosecrans	\$ 75.00
Regular	\$ 12.00	Yankee Whalers	\$ 100.00
Family	\$ 16.00	Patrons of the Fort	\$ 125.00
Institution	\$ 12.00	Commandante's Circle	\$ 150.00+

Please circle membership category desired.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation  
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San Diego CA 92123

Q487

