

The EXPLORER

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Newsletter of
Cabrillo National Monument and
Cabrillo National Monument Foundation

The National Parks



What a privilege it is to work in a National Park Service site! Every day visitors tell me, "What a beautiful place to work!" and, "You are so lucky!" It's the truth.

And I also hear, "Wow, what a prime piece of real estate!" I often think about how easily this amazing spot at the tip of the Point Loma peninsula could have become inaccessible to the public, and I am thankful for those who had the foresight to establish this and other National Monuments and National Parks.

We hope this issue of *the Explorer* encourages you to reflect on the immeasurable value of these incredible places.

Patricia Heusner, Editor

"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

Theodore Roosevelt

"The national park idea has been nurtured by each succeeding generation of Americans. Today, across our land, the National Park System represents America at its best. Each park contributes to a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and our way of life; of the natural processes which have given form to our land, and to the enrichment of the environment in which we live."

George B. Hartzog, Jr., NPS Director, 1964-1972

From the Superintendent

by Terry DiMattio

The theme for this quarter's *Explorer* is "National Parks: Our Country's Treasures." It is our hope that as you read this issue in the waning days of winter it will give you some ideas about which national park areas to visit this summer. I thought that I would take this opportunity to tell you about the three other national park sites where I have had the privilege of working: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, and George Rogers Clark National Historical Park I have enjoyed and been inspired by each of these places and hope that you will have the chance to visit them yourself.

Whiskeytown is a 40,000+ acre jewel nestled in the foothills west of Redding, California, at the top of the Central Valley. The hills are covered with Ponderosa pine, western incense cedar, white and black oaks and manzanita. The heart of the park is Whiskeytown Lake. Fed by Whiskey Creek, Brandy Creek, and Clear Creek, its clear, cool water attracts visitors from the Bay area, the Redwood coast, and the Central Valley. People come to swim, fish, sail, hike, hunt and pan for gold.

The lake and the park get their name from Whiskey Creek and the small Gold-Rush-era settlement on its banks. When the town was destroyed to create the reservoir behind the dam, its name was given to the lake. If I remember the story correctly, the creek got its name from an unfortunate incident: A miner was carrying a keg or two of whiskey on his mule on his way back to camp. As he was crossing the creek, one of the kegs fell, cracked open and spilled its contents into the flowing waters. Hence, the stream was known ever after as Whiskey Creek. In keep-

ing with this theme, someone named the creek on the opposite site of the valley Brandy Creek. If you look at a map of the park, you will find other colorful and interesting names of hills, creeks, and mines. Scattered throughout the

park are remnants of hard-rock mines blasted out of the granite hills by miners seeking their fortunes.

Summers at Whiskeytown are hot and dry, with temperatures often above 100 degrees during the day. To beat the heat we would go swimming in the morning, rest during the middle of the day, and hike

"National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."

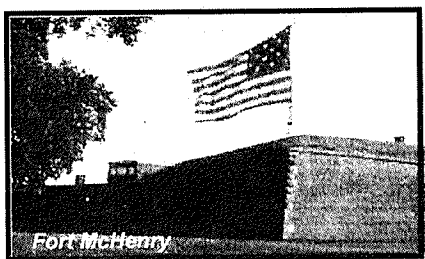
Wallace Stegner. 1983

later in the afternoon and early evening. For us, the fall was the best time of year. The temperature would begin to cool, oaks would change color and the blackberries would be ripening along the streams. This was the perfect time to hike the trails, especially those that followed the "water ditches" dug by the miners to bring water to their placer claims.

I think early fall is also the best time to visit Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland. Fort McHenry is known as the Birthplace of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. If you visit around September 12-14, you may be lucky enough to participate in Defenders' Day, the



WHISKEYTOWN
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



park's annual commemoration of the British attack on the fort, its valiant defense by Major George Armistead, and Francis Scott Key's tribute to those defenders and the flag flying defiantly above that fort's battered wall.

Visiting Fort McHenry anytime can be a moving experience. At the end of the film that tells the story of the Battle of Baltimore, *The Star-Spangled Banner* begins to play and auditorium curtains open onto the fort and the large garrison flag flying over the ramparts. It is a moment few people forget. But for me the most memorable moment came one brisk fall morning. I was on the parade ground inside the fort when the members of the Men's Welsh Choir quietly gathered at the base of the flag pole and began singing our national



The Fall of Fort Sackville,
by Frederick C. Yohn

Indiana Historical Society

anthem *a cappella* in tribute to the United States of America. It sent a chill through me and tears to my eyes. At that moment I realized how many people around the world feel about our country and what it stands for. Now every time I hear *The Star-Spangled Banner* I am reminded of the principles and values upon which our nation was founded and how many of the people of the world treasure these ideals.

For me, George Rogers Clark National Historical Park represents how ordinary citizens in the Revolutionary War were willing to fight and die so that the ideals in the Declaration of Independence might become the foundation upon which a new nation might be built. Located on the banks of the Wabash River in Vincennes, Indiana, this small memorial park is one of those little gems of the National Park System. Here is where George Rogers Clark and his men captured Fort Sackville from the British at dawn on a cold day in February, 1779. As a result of Clark's daring attack, our young nation acquired the Northwest Territory, the area north of the Ohio River. This doubled the size of our country and opened vast regions for settlement.

In my thirty years with the National Park Service I have had the privilege of working in four wonderful parks, and of visiting many others—both those in the National Park System and those cared for by our sisters and brothers in state, county, and city parks, and those under private ownership. Taken together, these special places of our heritage offer us

opportunities to learn, recreate, contemplate, and rejuvenate our bodies and our spirits. I hope that in the months and years to come you will seek out and get to know these places preserved for your enjoyment and inspiration and that of your children and grandchildren.

“There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Freedom of the seas —isn't free.

by Bob Munson, CNM Historian

The seas of the world are open freely to the ships of the world only because free people choose to make them so to all people.

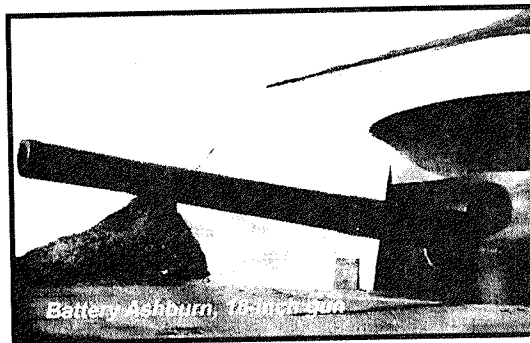
Great wars have been decided by who controls the commerce of the seas. Twice in the last century the Battle of the Atlantic Convoys determined the fate of Europe. Japan was driven to the brink of defeat by the destruction of its merchant marine. In our own Civil War, President Lincoln's blockade against shipping of the Confederate ports was the greatest deciding factor.

Our own Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan promulgated a doctrine still acknowledged by every seafaring nation in the world. It has been stated a variety of ways, but the concept is: The nation that controls the seas decides its own fate. Mahan also commented that the nation's first line of defense is the sea. While the dimension of airspace has been added to the equation, the basic dictum holds true. This is especially applicable for a technological nation such as the United States which imports two thirds of its crucial raw materials in ships.

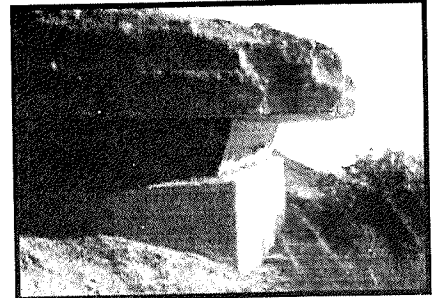
The National Park Service reflects these realities in 24 parks and monuments preserving historic sites and buildings representing the United States' maritime defenses. The attached annotated list shows the diversity of these resources. While some of these defenses, such as those at Cabrillo National Monument, never had to stand the test of combat, they stood ready to serve. Others, like the battleship *Arizona*, paid the

ultimate price of defense. It has been observed that the best defense is the one you never have to use.

Cabrillo National Monument is one of the NPS sites containing significant historical resources, including coast defenses. The Spanish established Fort Guajarro on Point Loma in 1798. Ironically, this coast defense position became the only one to ever fire a shot in anger and that was at a United States ship: the mercantile brig *Lelia Byrd* on 21 March 1803. Fifty-three thousand dollars was authorized in 1873 for a fifteen-gun battery, but work was halted in 1874 and never resumed. Actual defenses began in earnest during the Spanish-American War



of 1898. Since that time Point Loma became one of the most heavily defended pieces of seacoast in the United States. These defenses reflect the changing technology in the race to secure our frontiers: mines, 10" disappearing rifles, 12" pit mortars, 8" open mounts, 6" shield guns, huge 16" monsters lurking in concrete caves, anti-torpedo boat and anti-aircraft guns, all superseded by guided missiles. Unfortunately, all these defenses, which cost



Base End Station

millions of dollars, are gone and none of the actual weapons emplacements were within what is now Cabrillo National Monument.

However, Cabrillo remains a monument to those whose task it was to stand and wait to repel attacks which fortunately never came. Despite the lack of action, these defenses did their job. One Japanese submarine, I-10, patrolled for six days off San Diego immediately after Pearl Harbor. As a result of this patrol, the headquarters of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Sixth Fleet declared the San Diego area too heavily defended for effective operations.

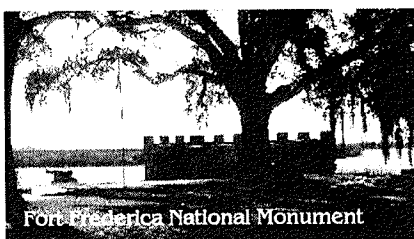
Within the Park, there are elements of the coast defenses which can be used to interpret seacoast defense. The pre-war radio room has been converted into an exhibit to tell the story. The remains of Battery Point Loma on the flats behind the tidepool area include at least one surviving "Panama Mount" for a 155mm howitzer, and underground barracks for the gun crews. There are also a number of the artillery plotting positions: massive, buried concrete bunkers known as Base End Stations. Despite public fascination with these structures, the Base End Stations

will probably never be open to visitors as they are accessible only by steep, dangerous ladders. They cannot be visited—only preserved and documented. The park does plan to give the visiting public some idea of what it was like to serve in Point Loma's coast defenses. The Battery Ashburn Command Bunker is conveniently located on the seaward bluff above the Military History Exhibit in the old radio station. It has stair access and once restored, can accommodate a number of visitors as well as ranger or living-history interpreters.

The quest for security goes on even in a day and age that no longer can rely on guns and concrete bunkers. Cabrillo National Monument and its sister sites serve as poignant reminders that security cannot rely on the hope of peaceful people or the good will of others—it is a never-ending and expensive pursuit.

National Park Service maritime defense sites

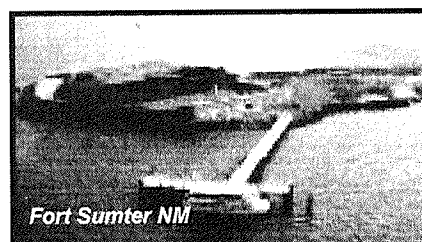
- **Cabrillo National Monument**
- **Castillo San Marcos, Florida** — For many years the northernmost outpost of Spain's vast New World empire. Begun in 1672 and completed in 1695, it is the oldest masonry fort and best preserved example of a Vauban-style fortification in the United States.
- **Castle Clinton National Monument, New York** — Preserves the fort built 1808-11 to defend New York City. Although quickly rendered obsolete the defense work went through a large variety of alternate uses, including an immigration station which brought 8 million people into the country. An example of getting your money's worth out of coast defenses.



- **Christiansted National Historic Site, Virgin Islands** — Preserves Fort Christiansvaern, an 18th-Century Danish defense in the Virgin Islands.

- **Colonial National Historic Park, Virginia** — Interprets both the 1607 Jamestown settlement and the penultimate battle of the Revolutionary War. It is also the classic instance of the impact of sea power. The Battle of the Capes was not visible from the shore, and did not involve any American ships, yet this clash on the high seas made victory at Yorktown inevitable. The French fleet prevented the English fleet from relieving the British army besieged at Yorktown, forcing its surrender. George Washington commented at the time that "sea power was the hinge on which everything turned."

- **Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida** — Known for its 100 square miles of marine preserve, this park preserves Fort Jefferson, the largest 19th-Century coast defense fort in America. Never fully armed, it was obsolete before completion and performed more useful service as an operational base, prison, and

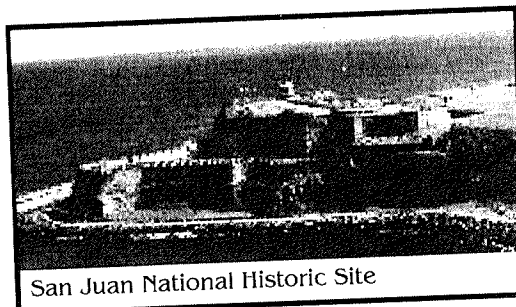


coaling station.

- **Fort Caroline National Memorial, Florida** — Established by the French near the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1564, this rudimentary wood stockade became a pawn in 16th-Century power politics about control of the seas. In its two year history it saw outrages against Indians, a French garrison wiped out, and a Spanish garrison annihilated.
- **Fort Frederica National Monument, Georgia** — The southernmost outpost of the English empire on the Atlantic coast, the fort protected Georgia and South Carolina from the Spanish in Florida. It flourished in the 1740s during troubled times with Spain, but with the coming of peace it was abandoned by 1755.
- **Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida** — Built by the Spanish in 1740-42 to guard the "back door" to Saint Augustine via the south end of Matanzas Inlet. It successfully thwarted a British seaborne attack in 1742 but never again fired its guns in battle. Neglected for the remaining 79 years of its life, it was abandoned in 1821 upon transfer to the United States which never used it.
- **Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Site, Maryland** — Best known for withstanding a British naval attack in September 1814 which inspired the National Anthem and incidentally saved Baltimore from destruction. It remained an active and effective coast defense position through the Civil War to nearly the end of the 19th Century.

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- **Fort Point National Historic Site, California** — A pre-Civil War defense of brick and granite defending San Francisco Bay.
- **Fort Pulaski National Monument, Georgia** — It took 18 years to build and thirty hours to destroy. Although physically largely intact, in 1862 this remarkable fort proved the total obsolescence of masonry fortifications, its 25 million bricks unable to withstand a new technology: the rifled cannon.
- **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, North Carolina** — A classic 16th Century colonial coastal fort, this British earthwork lasted only two years—1585-87. It is best known not for its effectiveness as a defense but by the disappearance of its entire garrison under unexplained circumstances.
- **Fort Sumter/Fort Moultrie National Monuments, South Carolina** — Fort Moultrie preserves the memory of the fort which successfully beat off a British naval invasion of Charleston, South Carolina, during the Revolutionary War. The two forts also represent the first clash of arms in the Civil War, a somewhat unique situation of two coast defense installations firing upon each other.
- **Fort Washington Park, Maryland** — Built overlooking the Potomac River to protect Washington DC, it took ten years to build, was quietly garrisoned during the Civil War, and obsolete by 1872.
- **Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida, Mississippi** — Preserves three Civil War era forts: Fort Massachusetts, Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas.
- **New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park, Massachusetts** — While not a coast defense position, it is a strong reminder of just how much the sea influenced the development and prosperity of the nation.
- **Perry's Victory Memorial, Ohio** — Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over a British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie, while a landlocked, localized action, still proved the value of applied sea power. The victory served as the turning point in the War of 1812 and prevented the loss of any United States territory at the Treaty of Ghent. The battle also ushered in 190 years of peace between Canada and the United States.
- **Rosie the Riveter/World War II On the Home Front National Historic Park, California** — A fine example of the nation's support of a war which did not have to be fought on home soil due to the nation's control of the sea.
- **Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Massachusetts** — Although not a coastal defense work or a battlefield, this resource addresses the commercial development of the United States on the high seas.
- **San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico** — Begun in the 16th Century, this massive assemblage of three forts and town defenses is the oldest European style fortifications in the United States. It provides an admirable look at the Spanish empire at its greatest as well as demonstrating the value of a secure base for the projection of sea power.
- **Statue of Liberty National Monument, New Jersey, New York** — Probably the most significant symbol of the United States, it sits on the outstanding example of a "star-style" stone coast defense structure in the United States: Fort Wood. Built in 1812 and modified in the 1840s, it was sufficiently obsolete that it could become the pedestal for the statue in the 1880s.
- **USS Arizona Memorial, Hawaii** — Sunk on 7 December 1941 in the attack on Pearl Harbor, the shattered hull of this battleship is a tomb for most of her crew and a memorial for all those killed in the war in the Pacific. It is a reminder of the need for Ben Franklin's "eternal vigilance".
- **War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam** — Guam was just one of many invasions necessary in the naval march to Japan, but it has become the designated memorial to World War II in the Pacific, the ultimate demonstration of the application of sea power and control of the seas.



San Juan National Historic Site

Invisible Men: Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada

By Shelton Johnson

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from an essay written by Shelton Johnson, Interpretive Park Ranger at Yosemite National Park. For the complete essay, contact Ranger Patricia Heusner at Patricia_Heusner@nps.gov.

Johnson illustrates in his essay that the story of the Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada is just beginning to be told. In the author's words: "These soldiers lie on the edges of an obscure chapter in a forgotten book. They are not, I believe, the victims of overt racism, but rather casualties of a greater society that simply doesn't see them. They are invisible men."

The officers and enlisted men have cheerfully endured many hardships and privations, and in the midst of great dangers steadfastly maintained a most gallant and zealous devotion to duty, and they may well be proud of the record made, and rest assured that the hard work undergone in the accomplishment of such important and valuable service to their country...cannot fail, sooner or later, to meet with due recognition and reward.

Benjamin H. Grierson,
Col. 10th U.S. Cavalry

From 1891 to 1914, Yosemite, Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Parks were under the protection of the U.S. Army.

The National Park Service did not exist when these parks were created and would not for another 25 years. Consequently, although the parks were set aside because Congress recognized their intrinsic value, those values were not universally held. *National parks* were still a new concept, and fluency with this upstart language that expressed a different relationship with the land was slow in coming.

These parks were under the direction of the Department of Interior, which had limited resources at its disposal to protect these new values held in trust by the federal government. The branch of government that had

the most experience with this kind of challenge was the War Department.

Thousands of soldiers had been used after the Civil War to protect the wagon trains of settlers. They had served as the only true police force on the western frontier. They had, in short, ample experience with all the day-to-day demands of maintaining law and order in an often lawless and chaotic wilderness.

Obviously, this was a perfect match. Patrolling the Sierra's rugged country, mapmaking, enforcing rules and regulations, maintaining the peace, overseeing the construction of trails and other infrastructure were familiar tasks to the officers and enlisted men of the U.S. Army. It was also an experience that was markedly different from earlier service in Cuba and the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Duty in "the Range of Light," though challenging, had its own rewards as evident in the following quotation by Lt. N. F. McClure, 5th Cavalry, in the *Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association*, 1897:

It is the cavalryman's paradise. Food and drink for his horse everywhere. Though the cold of spring and autumn may be biting, though the life may be lonely, though the work may be difficult—still, happy is the soldier whose lines fall amid these scenes of grandeur and sublimity, where nature has put forth her mightiest

In the eyes of the world the Negro shall grow in the full height of manhood and stand out in the field of battle as a soldier clothed with all the inalienable rights of citizenship.

Illinois Record, 1898

efforts.

One historian has even argued that the U.S. Cavalry "saved Yosemite National Park" by stepping in when that park needed protection most.

In a very real sense, the protective presence of the United States Cavalry at a critical time in Yosemite's history kept the Park's high country from being permanently scarred, disfigured, or destroyed.

Hank Johnston, *Yosemite's Yesterday*, Volume II, pp. 55-6, Flying Spur Press, Yosemite CA, 1991

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Buffalo Soldiers on patrol in Yosemite, 1899

This year, I am happy to say, nearly every trace of the sad sheep years of repression and destruction have vanished. Blessings on Uncle Sam's blue-coats! The quiet, orderly soldiers have done this fine job, without any apparent friction or weak noise, in the still, calm way that the United States troops do their duty.

John Muir, 1895



Company C, 9th Cavalry

Now, national parks constitute a global presence. Practically every nation on earth has nature reserves of one kind or another, but during the years that cavalry and infantry troops patrolled the Sierra Nevada, the notion of national parks was still revolutionary. Most people in the areas surrounding the new parks were not fluent with the cultural precepts that formed the foundation of the national park idea.

Manifest destiny was still the operative philosophy. Trees were simply timbers good for cabins, houses, or firewood. Wild animals were hunted for food, or killed outright. Natural objects were valued more for their utility than any aesthetic attributes. Park boundaries, rules, and regulations were routinely ignored. Obviously, under such a scenario, in the absence of resource protection, resource degradation would be sure to follow.

So, for nearly 25 years, U.S. Army soldiers policed not only the fledgling wilderness parks of the Sierra, but also Yellowstone National Park, resulting in a unique

convergence of military and conservation history.

Thus, some of the first park rangers were troops of the U.S. Army. This is a fact that is usually overshadowed by the eventual presence of the National Park Service. A fact that is even more obscure is the history that lies *within* that history. It is also a history that Yosemite and Sequoia do not share with Yellowstone, making it unique to the High Sierra.

In 1899, the 24th Regiment

military history, the numbers are meaningless, but the 24th Infantry and 9th Cavalry are better known as *Buffalo Soldiers*. These were African-American infantry and cavalry regiments formed in 1866 after the Civil War. In their infancy their primary purpose was to fight Indians on the western frontier, and it was from their engagements with cultures like the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Apache that the unofficial sobriquet of buffalo soldier was bestowed upon them.

Many of these men were from the Deep South, and a military career offered both a social and economic reward that could rarely be found in civilian life below the Mason-Dixon line. It also presented an opportunity to prove they were worthy of the full citizenship granted by the 14th Amendment. They were excellent soldiers in a time when many felt they were incapable of performing *any* kind of military service.

Although their story has been celebrated for years, and there are his-

tories, novels, and a few films that address their lives, the history of the Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada has only recently been illuminated by the light of day.

In the epilogue of his work,

A journey through this park and the Sierra Forest Reserve to the Mount Whitney country will convince even the least thoughtful man of the needfulness of preserving these mountains just as they are, with their clothing of trees, shrubs, rocks, and vines, and of their importance to the valley's below as reservoirs for storage of water for agricultural and domestic purposes. In this, then, lies the necessity of forest preservation

Capt. Charles Young,
9th Cavalry,
Sequoia NP, 1903

of Infantry patrolled the rugged backcountry of Yosemite, Sequoia & General Grant National Parks. The 9th Regiment of Cavalry followed them in 1903 and 1904. For those not familiar with U.S.

Nature's Army, Harvey Meyerson describes how Major John Bigelow, Jr. of the 9th Cavalry successfully kept at bay the desires of Sierra Forest manager Charles Shinn who coveted Yosemite and wanted it placed under the control of the forest reserve which, had it succeeded, would have eventually placed Yosemite under the care of Gifford Pinchot's U.S. Forest Service.

...Bigelow held him in check through astute management and the fine field work of troopers he had officered during two previous decades of frontier service—Troops K and L of the Ninth Cavalry, one of the army's two black regiments (who had white officers in those days), the famous "Buffalo Soldiers."

Harvey Meyerson, *Nature's Army, When Soldiers Fought for Yosemite*, p. 235, University of Kansas Press, 2001

Meyerson goes on to state how in 1904, under Bigelow's direction, Ninth Cavalry soldiers constructed the first arboretum and botanical garden in a national park:

He conceived and constructed this remarkable seventy-five acre facility in his spare time during the brief summer allotted to him, drawing on his frontier experience and hurried correspondence with horticulturalists on the East Coast. His arboretum had "the first marked nature trail in the national park system," with log seats and neatly painted signposts identifying plants by their Latin species names. Bigelow told the interior secretary that he hoped his pioneering facility would serve

as the foundation for a full-scale Yosemite "nature museum" and education program such as would in fact eventually be undertaken by the National Park Service nationwide. ibid., p. 237

So, according to Meyerson, "the first marked nature trail in the national park system" was built in Yosemite in 1904 by the 9th Cavalry. That arboretum has been forgotten in the ensuing years, just like the men who built it, but their impact on Yosemite was real.

The land remembers though the people may not.

Blues for Charles Young, Late Captain of the Ninth Cavalry



Gone from the mountain
Gone from the sea
Gone from the jungle
Where can I be?

People looking for me
Watch me disappear
People looking for me, surely,
Watch me disappear.

They never saw me, really,
When I was standing here,
No, I was never seen at all
When I was standing here.

So it doesn't really matter,
That I've died and gone away,
Say it doesn't really matter
That I'm dead and gone away,

'Cause even when I rode
this earth,
I was just a stowaway.
Hiding in a hostile stare,
Just a stowaway.

Gone from the mountain,
Gone from the sea
Gone from the jungle
What happened to me?

Shelton Johnson

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

The Land of Geysers



We are all aware of the importance of the railroads in the development of the western United States in the last half of the 19th Century, but how many of us are familiar with their crucial role in the establishment and preservation of Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks and in the promotion of those and several other western parks? While there was never any doubt that the primary objective of the railroads was profit, the park system was certainly a beneficiary of their efforts.

Yosemite was first brought to America's attention in 1855 when an unsuccessful miner named James M. Hutchings entered the valley and was awed by its spectacular mountains, valleys, and waterfalls. He immediately recognized the tourist potential of such a place, declaring it to be superior to the Swiss Alps; Americans would no longer need to travel to Europe to experience magnificent mountain scenery. Hutchings became Yosemite's

"Enlightened selfishness": railroads and the national parks

by Jim Nauman

first publicist, advertising Yosemite in publications on both coasts. The promotion was so successful in the East that a small number of adventurous souls, including the editor of the *New York Tribune*, Horace Greeley, undertook the grueling 3,000-mile journey by stagecoach and pack horse to see Yosemite and the other wonders of California for themselves, returning with glowing reports. In 1862, the photographer Carleton Watkins captured dramatic images of Yosemite that were exhibited in a New York gallery, providing proof for all to see that its glories were real. Wealthy gallery patrons very likely began to consider a journey to western America as an alternative to yet another trip to Switzerland.

In the 1860s, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads were building the transcontinental railroad and were in search of buyers for 100 million dollars in stock to finance the project. They solicited funds from wealthy men in industries that could profit from the railroad's ability to transport

raw materials from the country's interior to their factories and deliver finished goods to the growing frontier cities. Railroad officials also took notice of the increasing popularity of scenic tourism and began to feel that passenger service might be profitable, the planned speculation trips for potential investors perhaps including a few days to relax amid the glorious scenery of Yosemite.

Tourism to California received another boost in 1863 when the Union Pacific and

Collis Huntington and Leland Stanford of the Central Pacific sponsored a trip to Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada by the renowned painter of western scenery, Albert Bierstadt, and the popular writer Fitzhugh Ludlow who would produce text to complement the paintings. Bierstadt's large, brilliantly colored, somewhat exaggerated paintings (considered by Mark Twain to be "altogether too gorgeous") made a fa-

vorable impression on people in the East, suggesting the possibility of an Edenic area awaiting human settlement and development. The transcontinen-

YOSEMITE VALLEY



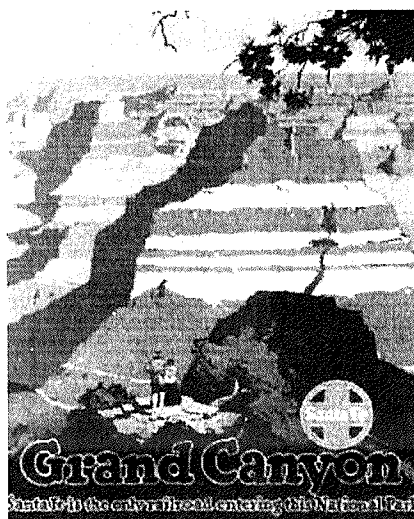
tal railroad would not be completed until 1869, but officials were counting on Bierstadt's paintings to stimulate tourism and investment in their enterprise.

Another important event was unfolding in 1863. A representative of the Central American Steamship Line, Israel Raymond, whose company was already bringing passengers to the California coast, was interested in selling the scenery by featuring Yosemite in travel advertisements. He realized that it must be protected from the rampant, uncontrolled commercial development that had occurred at Niagara Falls. He was able to recruit a group of concerned citizens to lobby for Yosemite's preservation and protection. An important argument was that the magnificent natural wonders of the West would surpass Europe's monuments and ancient ruins and become a source of pride for all Americans. In a surprisingly short period of time (by today's standards) congress was convinced of Yosemite's importance, and in June, 1864, President Lincoln signed legislation declaring that the Yosemite Valley "be held for public use, resort, and recreation inalienable for all time."

The Southern Pacific Railroad, acquired by Central Pacific in 1870, eventually carried passengers to San Francisco through New Orleans and Los Angeles on its "Sunset Limited," featuring the new, luxurious Pullman cars. While there was as yet no railroad to the park, Southern Pacific featured Yosemite prominently in its ad-

vertising. Trips to the "civilized wilderness" of Yosemite by stage from San Francisco were arduous, but considered a status symbol among the adventurous elite.

In 1868, the Northern Pacific Railroad was in its organizational stage, and the office of the railroad's chief financier, Jay Cooke and Co., was looking for investors. Cooke was a great publicist, and was in-



trigued by the significance of Yosemite for the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central American Steamship Co. He was quick to observe that the Northern Pacific's route passed just north of the Yellowstone region. Stories of the Yellowstone related by mountain men John Colter, Jim Bridger and others had been circulating since the early 19th Century, but their descriptions of the geysers, hot springs, boiling ponds, and magnificent waterfalls were discredited by many in the East ("Colter's Hell," some called it). Several expeditions were organized to investigate the region,

While everyone understood that the profit motive was foremost in the railroads' promotion of the parks, preservationists and government officials came to realize that tourism was vital to the parks' economic justification.

the most important conducted in 1871 by Dr. Ferdinand Hayden, Director of the U.S. Geological and Geographic Survey of the Territories. His expedition also included the famous landscape artist, Thomas Moran, whose trip was partially financed by the Northern Pacific, and the well-known western photographer William Henry Jackson.

The results of the expedition generated much public interest, and of course many saw opportunities to build resorts, bridges, observation towers, etc.—another Niagara Falls debacle. Again, fortunately, a rail-

road weighed in on the side of preservation: Jay Cooke and Hayden agreed that the wonders of Yellowstone were priceless and should receive federal protection. Cooke wrote "Let Congress pass a bill reserving the Great Geyser Basin as a public park forever—just as it has reserved that far inferior wonder the Yosemite Valley and big trees." His cause was greatly helped by the opinion of Hayden, the respected geologist, that the land was useless for agriculture, mining, or logging. Tourism, then, would be stimulated, the Northern Pacific carrying curious, affluent tourists to Yellowstone in comfort, style, and safety.

In the following years, a plethora of colorful promotional brochures, magazine advertisements, and posters produced by the railroads brought the early national parks to the attention of the American public, sparking interest in rail travel to see the amazing sights. While everyone understood that the profit motive was foremost in the railroads' promotion of the parks, preservationists and government officials came to realize that tourism was vital to the parks' economic justification. In 1911, Secretary of the Interior Walter Fisher, at the first national park conference in Yellowstone, remarked that the "enlightened selfishness" of the railroads should be gratefully recognized. In response, the railroads pledged assistance in improving roads, trails, and buildings in the parks. In that year, Great Northern

started construction on lodges and other accommodations at Glacier National Park.

The Santa Fe Railroad built a branch line to the south rim of the Grand Canyon in 1901 and constructed the imposing El Tovar hotel and several other tourist-related facilities in 1904. Tourism followed, promoted by the railroad's associate enterprise, the Fred Harvey Company, which would be instrumental in having the Grand Canyon set aside as a national monument. The Santa Fe and Fred Harvey promoted travel to the Southwest through handsome, colorful advertisements.

Railroads are also part of the history of other parks—Mt. Rainier, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks among them. No history of the NPS would be complete without discussion of the vital role played by the railroads. Sadly, the automobile has replaced the trains, and most of the great railroads so important in the development of the West have been absorbed into mergers or have disappeared completely. But reproductions of many of the beautiful promotional materials are still sold by cooperating association bookstores, preserving the memory of those passenger lines and their contributions to the National Park Service.

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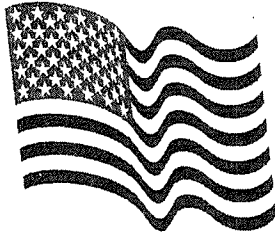
Sources used for this article include:

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University of Virginia website:
<http://xroads.virginai.edu/>

~MA96/RAILROAD/adverts1.html

The Flag is Still There



*"And the rockets' red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there."*

World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Iraq. The bombs are still bursting. I heard George Bush's State of the Union address. He said, "We are at war!" I'm 68. We have been at war all my life. Some have been small, some large, some loud, some quiet. Some we don't even know about. Americans—men and women—have died. Some probably never knew we had national parks. I certainly knew nothing about them when I was in the Navy in 1953 and the war in Korea ended.

I like to think that our flag is still there. I like to remind American visitors and those from other lands that our parks were never free. Before reaching Cabrillo National Monument, visitors must first drive past Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Every person interred there has served to keep the flag still there. Each day when rangers raise that flag over our national parks it is because Americans are willing to serve and pay the price it costs to have a nation and for that nation to have national parks.

Yes, this is the "land of the free and the home of the brave." We

are free to use our minds and bodies to enjoy these parks, limited only by our imaginations. Our senses can take us where wars are only within us as we search to understand, preserve, protect, and enjoy the riches that surround us.

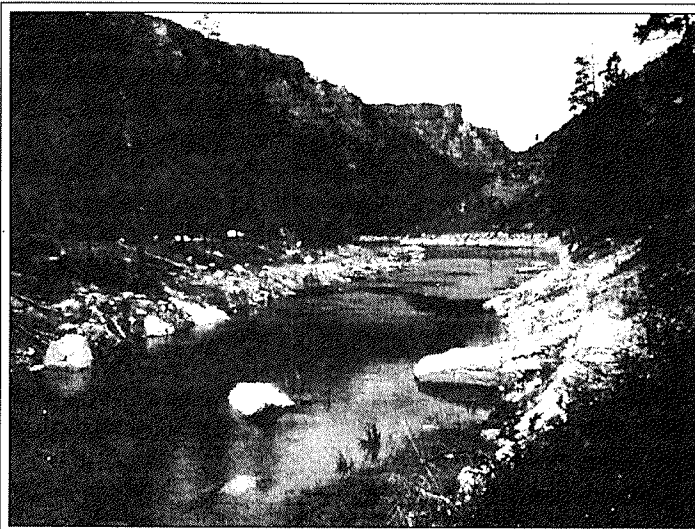
Time Magazine named the women and men in the military as their persons of the year for 2003. I agree. I hope they can all see the national parks. I hope they see the flag. Thanks to those who serve now, who served before, and will serve later, we have our national parks.

Yes, the flag is still there!

Joe Wilson

A Novel Idea

by Ted Washington



A story of record
the land holds the tale
Silent places but listen
Beauty abounds an orchestra
Nature
Sometimes it's what you don't do
what you don't build
Where the land speaks
Rivers are architects
Trees are historians
Rocks are museums
Sometimes it's not how you found it
but how you leave it
Generations embedded time passes
History annexed nature's course
A story of record
the land is the tale

Reflections on the devastating wildfires: the importance of taking notes before a crisis

OCCURS *By Volunteer-in Parks Claude G. Edwards*

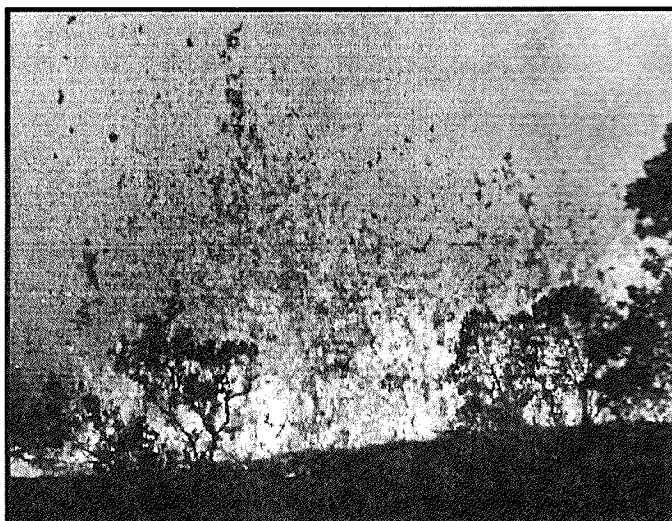
Being the biologist and bird-watcher that I am, taking notes and collecting information about those things that I am observing and studying is for me a simple and natural thing to do. My written notes and commentary are the basis by which I record my experiences, and by doing so, I develop a documentation of those experiences—a journal, my memories. In fact, I have more of such notes and pieces of information than I can ever review and relive. However, for some reasons and purposes, my notes serve to do just that: relive and remember that which I encountered and which impressed me—worthy to be noted. In my case, the large database of field notes from my monthly bird walks and other activities at and around Cabrillo National Monument was a large part of my efforts to compile and prepare a revamped and improved version of the Point Loma Bird List.

Although I was not personally victimized or injured during, or as a result of, the raging wildfires that ravaged vast portions of our region late last year, I was deeply saddened and hurt by the damage and desolation that came in their wake. Like many of us, I was glued to the television watch-

ing the uncountable stories unfold about the people who were suffering from the ravages of the fires. But, while safely enclosed within my home, I watched as the fires blazed over acres of terrain and vegetation that I was personally familiar with—their topography, their habitats and plants, and their birds and other wildlife.

This was a recurring thought as I watched the horrors revealed on my TV screen—a riot of color and movement and sound that meant death and destruction to anything in its path. As the days progressed and I looked out-

side in my yard as ash the fell, looking like dirty snow, I contemplated that they represented disarticulated fragments of flowers, shrubs and

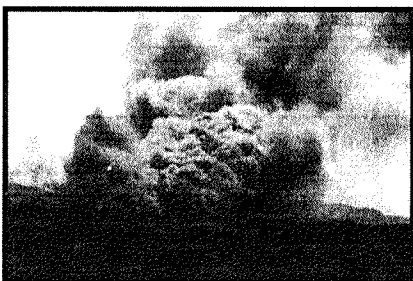


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trees. The air was rank with smoke and the sun dimmed to the color of a pumpkin.

In the early days of November, as the winds subsided and, equally horrific, turned to blow the fires eastward, I took my first hesitant forays into some of my familiar places. The scenes I observed were just as those being shown in the news media: charred and incinerated landscapes as far as I could see. Yet even as I felt powerless by the immensity of the devastation, I knew that the area would eventually recover and that there would be a chance to observe and document the return of the natural conditions and native inhabitants that were lost to the fires.

By the end of November, I resumed visits to one of my familiar places: a rugged open-space area situated between El Cajon and Alpine. This is an area where I can observe and document how the natural environment is beginning to show



signs of reviving. I am taking new notes and creating a new chapter in the natural history of the area. With my written notes, along with standard and digital photographs, I am witnessing the varied strategies that plants and wildlife are employing to adapt and conform to a new world.

It can be a process of healing, from the inside, to look for and discover evidence of recovery after such devastation. I feel encouraged to find new green shoots, leaves, and succulent new growth emerging from plants that are heat-singed to completely charred, and from barren substrates. I am intrigued watching a butterfly pass by, in search of a new food source. It is comforting to follow tell-tale tracks of birds and mammals finding their way. And there is a sense of relief in finding a patch or two of unburned vegetation.

If called upon, I have my previous notes and documentation, of how things used to be. They can form a baseline for comparisons, for research, for discussion, and for appropriate actions benefiting the area. But now I am in the middle of taking notes and images that will help me tell the story of recovery.

In the meantime, I am still enjoying the effort of recording my experiences and observations at Cabrillo National Monument. The main effects of the fires on Point Loma were ash-laden skies rendered acrid with smoke, reduced visibility, a sense of dread, and days that glowed orange from an obscured sun. To me, it is a sharp

I knew that the area would eventually recover and that there would be a chance to observe and document the return of the natural conditions and native inhabitants that were lost to the fires.

and welcome contrast compared to the areas that were burned. Also, I can explain, by way of my notes, what kinds of birds are present and active among us . . . but that is another story.

Cabrillo People

by Patricia Heusner

This winter we say, "See you soon," rather than, "Goodbye," to ranger **Al Wolfing** at the end of his two-year term at the monument. We thank Al for his remarkable contributions, ranging from keeping the audio stations functioning properly to running sound for the Cabrillo Festival. Al is a man of ingenuity and always finds a way to make things work. If a gadget doesn't exist, he invents one that will! It is obvious that Al genuinely enjoys people; he always has a joke or interesting bit of information to share, and he is able to engage and teach children and adults alike. Ranger Al taught hundreds of students about Cabrillo, the lighthouse, the Kumeyaay and coastal sage, and the tidepools. Just this week the monument received an evaluation from a teacher saying that Ranger Al was "out-

standing."

We are saying, "See you soon," because Al is planning to stay involved with the monument as a volunteer. We hope he'll continue to present his living history program as "Lorenzo Hernández," navigator on Cabrillo's voyage. Thank you, Al, for your lasting contributions to Cabrillo National Monument, and we'll see you soon!

Our newest Visitor Protection and Resource Management ranger, **Dave Vecera**, comes to us from his most recent post at Redwood National Park. His career has taken him to wilderness areas such as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Everglades National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges, as well as Amistad Recreation Area, and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. In all of these places he has worked as a Law Enforcement Ranger. One of his favorite jobs was doing boat patrol at Everglades National Park.

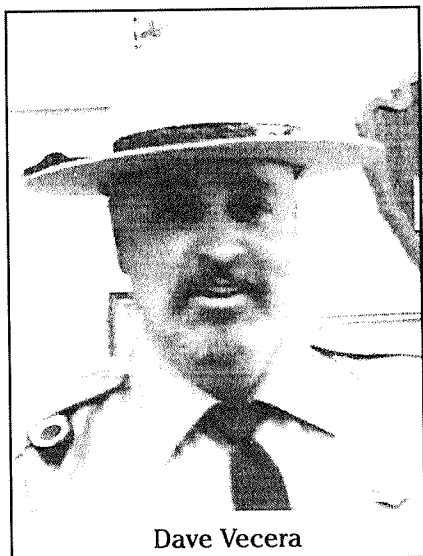
Dave tells us that he met his wife, Linda Cramer, at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in 1986, "when I was young and handsome." Linda currently works from home in San Diego as an offsite employee of Redwood National

Ranger **Ed Christensen** works in the Natural Resource Management and Visitor Protection division. I was unable to include a photo of Ed when he was welcomed in this column in the summer edition of *the Explorer*, so here he is now!

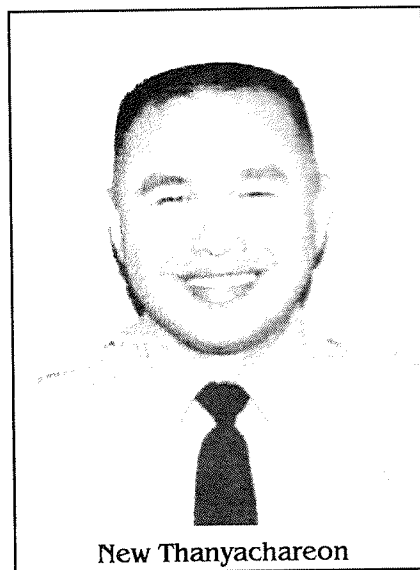


Park, and Dave refers to her as an "administrative, budget, procurement, finance, and supply guru." Dave and Linda enjoy sailing, reading, and playing with Butch, their Canaan dog. Dave practices martial arts and is working on a Master's degree in interdisciplinary humanities with a specialization in philosophy.

When I asked Dave about his philosophy for law enforcement, he replied, "Use the gentle touch, and treat everyone, even the so-called bad guys, with respect. Ninety-nine percent of people who violate park regulations do so out of



Dave Vecera



New Thanyachareon

ignorance."

Ask who Dave admires most, and he'll answer, "The Dalai Lama, because he's brilliant and honest; Socrates, because he was wrong but he was honorable, and he knew that he might be wrong; and Gloria Steinem, because she shook things up. With his friendly demeanor and professionalism



Dave has quickly become a well-liked and respected member of our staff.

If you can correctly pronounce **New Thanyachareon** on the first attempt, we'll give you a Junior Ranger badge! New is a welcome addition to our interpretation staff, and he'll be focusing on our park website and media. He began his National Park service career as a fee collector at Everglades National Park. When the interpreters faced a staffing shortage, New had an opportunity to jump in and assist, and found that he really liked interpretation. He applied to the INTAKE program, a training program within the National Park Service, and was assigned to Channel Islands National Park as an Interpretive Intake

trainee. After graduation, he accepted a position here at Cabrillo National Monument.

New enjoys photography and visiting parks and other natural areas with his family. New's lovely wife Angela and son Brandon, who is two years old, have brought lots of smiles when they've visited us at the monument. New attributes his pursuit of a career in the National Park Service to Angela. He explains, "I've always liked nature and the outdoors. I would take my wife to places and give her personal tours. She encouraged me to work for the National Park Service, and the rest is history."

Carol Martin has been at Cabrillo National Monument for over two years, first as a volunteer and fee collector in the Resource Management and Visitor Protection Division, and then as a park ranger in the Interpretation Division. Now she is expanding her knowledge of the Monument even further by working in the Maintenance Division.

In her new position, Carol helps to maintain the monument grounds and keep everything functioning properly for the public's use. She waters plants, trims hedges, and eradicates weeds in the landscaped areas. In the natural areas, she removes non-native plants and replants the area with native plants. "I love working with the plants," she says with a smile. "That is a true joy for me."

Carol brings to the monument a variety of skills, acquired through intriguing experiences. As a teenager, she worked as a "sea maid," a professional swimmer for Sea World. She trained dolphins and did performances year-round in unheated water! She worked for many years coordinating conventions in San Diego and internationally, and worked for U.S. Airways in customer service. She and her husband Richard have two children, Erica and Richard.

Two years ago Carol decided that for the rest of her working career she wanted to do something to help the environment, to protect plants and animals. As a Point Loma native, Cabrillo was the natural place to pursue that dream. She says, "The monument is really important to me and I love it, so I want to take care of it." We are so glad she made that decision!

In addition, Carol will be the new writer for this feature of the *Explorer*. Welcome to our newest maintenance worker and *Cabrillo People* columnist!



Cabrillo National Monument Foundation

The bookstore in the visitor center at CNM has some exciting new items available for purchase. One of these is an Old Point Loma Lighthouse collectible pin, 1 1/8" x 3/4," which sells for \$3.95 and is attached to a display card that provides a brief history of the lighthouse. Another new item related to the lighthouse is a set of four fresnel lens ornaments that have a gold cord attached for hanging. The set includes 3 1/2, 3rd, 4th, and 5th order lenses and sells for \$60.00. Krill, A Whale of a Game is just that! An environmental discovery game for ages 9 to adult, players learn to survive within the marine food chain. The boxed game sells for \$11.95. We have recently added a series of giclée matted photographs of local birds, lizards and butterflies. The matted photos measure 11" x 15" and sell for \$20.00. Framed prints are \$50.00 and the notecards are \$4.00. Also new are a leather atlas in either a 3" x 4 1/2" size for \$19.00 or a 4" x 5 1/2" size for \$32.00. Finally, the store has decks of cards based on a 17th-century design: the backs are blank and the fronts are without numbers. The Old Point Loma Lighthouse keeper and his family may have played with cards such as these. Remember, members, that you receive a 15% discount on all purchases in the bookstore!

Calendar

April 22, 2004
Sunset at Cabrillo event. *Bring a prospective member!*

August 25, 2004
CNMF Annual Meeting/NPS Birthday

September 23, 2004
Spain's Legacy In The Pacific

New Members

We welcome the following new members
who have joined CNMF between
October 23, 2003 & January 31, 2004

Patti Adams
Jerry Brown
Cabrillo Civic Club #16
Christine Gonzalez
Jim & Mary Jo Griswold
Gregory Markey
Mary Schwartz
Carol Simpson
Ellen Smith
Yap Family

Many thanks for your support

Please visit our website at
www.CNMF.org

*Make a
Lasting
Legacy*



The CNMF Endowment Fund, established in 1997 with the San Diego Foundation, is another way you can support the endeavors of Cabrillo National Monument. Interested donors can contact us at (619) 222-4747 or by e-mail at CNMFKaren@aol.com

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation."

Theodore Roosevelt



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Patricia Heusner, Editor
Jim Nauman, production

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