



MISSION BELL

Vol. 4, No. 2 / Summer 2015

Ringin' in the News of the Preservation Campaign for Mission San Antonio de Padua

A Message from President AL PAROLINI

Isolated by many of today's standards, and set in the peaceful and remote San Antonio Valley of California's Central Coast region, Mission San Antonio is a quiet vestige of California's Spanish colonial origins. And it is through this isolation that much of the Mission's history has been preserved for viewing.

This Mission's early history was re-enacted for one brief day in April, as the community came together to celebrate Mission Days. This step back in time was demonstrated through re-enactments with actors in costume portraying

Susan Gill... *who for the past four years was the creator, organizer, leader and cheer-leader for the Campaign of the Preservation of Mission San Antonio – on behalf of the Board of Directors and from each of those who have come together in the preservation of Mission San Antonio, we thank you.*

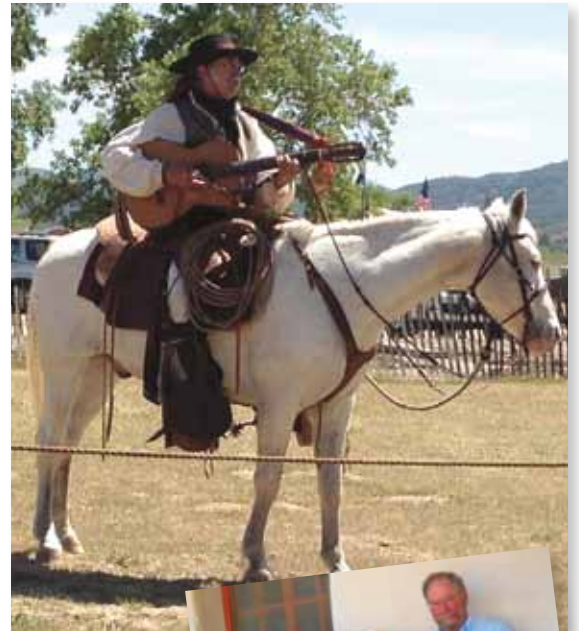
soldiers, artisans and vaqueros on horseback. It attracted various members of the native Salinan nation. Throughout the day there were demonstrations including adobe brick making, acorn grinding, tortilla making, weaving, bead stringing, face painting, rope making, bell ringing and more. Musicians play original music composed by Franciscan Padre Juan Bautista Sancho for Mission San Antonio. This certainly was one day of the year where the community came together to honor its past, to briefly relive its history and to pay respects to those who came before us.

During the day, I too was thinking back to that special time when I, then in the fourth grade, visited this mission for the very first time. Many moons ago.

As we turn to the future, let us not forget our past. Preservation for those who will visit this mission within the next 100 years is the ultimate challenge and goal of our Campaign. And the challenges which lie ahead are many and varied. Preserving the mission in its original and natural state has created and will continue to create many interesting challenges. Issues will arise, be addressed and resolved; but it's through these brief periods of adversity that each of us is made stronger.

As we begin preparation for the entry into the second phase of the five phase restoration project, we are reminded of the financial requirements inherent in the task before us. With this task we are enlarging our circle, searching and reaching out both statewide and nationally in our quest for funding. To those who have contributed in the past and to those who are first time contributors, we thank you.

Please take the time to reflect on this very special mission, its setting and its role within California history. Please take the time to share this Mission Bell with others as we continue to spread the good news. I thank you for your continuing support. ■



Annual Mission Days Celebration



The Historic and Community Benefits of Mission San Antonio de Padua



Fourth graders visiting the Mission.

The history, archeology and the beautiful Mission grounds provide the opportunity for the community to utilize the Mission for many types of events and learning experiences.

SCIENCE CAMPS

For the past two years, Mission San Antonio has hosted local sixth graders for science camp. The Mission has held 4 camps and approximately 450 students have attended camp.

SCHOOL TOURS

All California fourth graders are required to study California missions as part of their state history curriculum. Visiting the Mission provides students the rare opportunity to see, touch and experience history – not just read about it online or in a book. December through June, the Mission holds one to three tours per week with 25 to 125 students at a time, an estimated total of over 4,000 students per year. In addition, many families of fourth graders from all over the state opt to come spend a night or two at the Mission to really enjoy the educational benefits of a true mission experience. Mission San Antonio is the only California Mission offering an active retreat center, and better yet – children are welcome to stay

with their parents. History comes to life when these students can experience first-hand the differences from life at a Mission and their own personal life in a city.



COLLEGE FIELD SCHOOLS

Every summer for 30 years students from California Polytechnic State University visited the Mission to participate in Archeological Field Schools. University of California, Santa Cruz also spent five weeks at the Mission in 2012, furthering their archeological studies. Approximately 25 college students participate yearly, on-site, while many, many more participate in the college labs with the material discovered at the Mission.

NON-RELIGIOUS RETREATS

Mission San Antonio relies on its Retreat Center for the revenue needed for

the day-to-day operational budget. The Retreat Center is extremely busy – with many groups that are non-religious. Families plan reunions at the Mission, meditation groups, Native American groups, quilting groups, psychology students with their professor, photography groups, artist groups, writers and a great number of individuals and couples that simply want to get away from it all for a night or two.

MILITARY RETREATS

The relationship between the military and Mission San Antonio is active and mutually beneficial. The fact that the 86-acre Mission property is situated so that it is completely surrounded by the military base (Fort Hunter Liggett) and yet is non-military property affords the military personnel a little piece of “home.” Mission staff works hard to let our military members know they are appreciated for their service to our country. We offer docent-led tours free of charge to the military and offer use of our barbeque facilities in our Fiesta Grounds so that they can enjoy a little rest and relaxation before they deploy. Some of the groups have opted to have their Units stay in the Retreat Center overnight, stating that the atmosphere presents an opportunity for community building, creating unit cohesion; something they have told us is unique to this site.

BARBEQUE GROUND EVENTS

The Fiesta Grounds (located behind the Mission buildings) offers barbeque facilities and seating for 500 people. This area is utilized by the Mission for Fiestas, various car groups, mission studies groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school science camps, and most of all it is used consistently by military units.



ANNUAL MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA EVENTS

The Mission hosts a number of annual community events that bring history and culture to life for visitors. These events are open to the public and draw celebrants from all over Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and beyond.

- Cutting of the Roses – Approximately 300+ attendees
- Mission Days – Approximately 1000+ attendees
- Fiesta Days – Approximately 1000 attendees
- Evening in the Garden – Approximately 500 attendees

The Mission also asks their daily visitors

to prepay a meal for a soldier at each of our fundraising events and if the soldiers are not able to come to the event, their meals are sent to them in the training fields. Just one more way we hope to say “thank you” for their service and sacrifice.

WEDDINGS AND PRIVATE EVENTS

With 37 dorm rooms, a suite and a small cottage on-site, a full-service kitchen, catering available, and delightful picnic grounds that can seat 500+, Mission San Antonio has the ability to host large groups for overnight stays. The Mission has held dozens of weddings and private events in the last eleven years.

BOY SCOUTS / GIRL SCOUTS

The Mission accommodates camping

retreats for several Boy and Girl Scout groups – some of the events have had 200 participants. ■

ESTIMATED DAILY TRAFFIC

Approximately 20,000 visitors visit Mission San Antonio per year, for an estimated daily traffic of 54 visitors per day.

The closing of Mission San Antonio would be a tremendous loss for the local community, California and for visitors who travel to the Mission from all over the world and have found knowledge and peace at Mission San Antonio.

Raising the Roof - Project Update

by *Joan Steele, Mission Administrator and Brett Brenkwitz, Architect of Record/Franks Brenkwitz & Associates*

Progress on Phase I of our multi-phase, multi-year, retrofit/preservation project steadily marches onward. The vertical core drilling on the church's main walls are completed. The steel rods are anchored and epoxied securely. The electrical cores are completed and the electrical restoration work is continuing at an electrifying pace (excuse the pun.) New bond beams are solidly in place. We've reached a very substantial milestone... plywood now perches atop the upper roof. Every one of the Spanish clay roofing tiles that had previously been removed and stored on site is now taking a reverse trip – this time riding up the conveyor belt to take their rightful position protecting the upper roof.



▲ The roof is being readied for a new plywood covering which will act as a structural diaphragm once all the screws are attached to the framing members below. The plywood will be placed over the original 1x boards. There are an estimated 40,000 screws which will connect the diaphragm to the roof framing below. Once the plywood is in place, copper flashings and a new waterproof membrane will be added. Then, the original roof tiles can be replaced.



▲ There are a series of new wooden beams placed in the attic above the Sacristy. The beams are meant to support the hipped roof above, among other things. Several steel anchors were embedded into the concrete bond beam sitting on top of the adobe wall. The anchors needed to be tested to make sure they had sufficient strength to hold new steel brackets and ultimately the wooden beam in place. Here, a Special Inspector is testing the capacity of the anchor by “pull-testing” it to a number of foot pounds for a certain duration. It passed and construction was allowed to continue.

Continued on next page

Raising The Roof continued from previous page

Chris Ingram, of Chris Ingram Lath & Plaster, and his skilled staff have begun their unique specialty, repairing, resurfacing, and restoring the external walls of the church building. Like a royal lady shaking the dust off her antiqued white gown, the Mission is regaining her original, simple and elegant stature and appearance.

Tim Gohr, of TWG Eagle Construction, and his team have now moved on to the coring of the brick. Working within the offices and gift shop, Franki, Bethany, Sean and I can hear, and almost feel, the steady drone of the drills coring the south

Campanario.

Third, in the eventual chain of twenty-one California Missions, Mission San Antonio held the distinction of being the first Mission to have a brick kiln. Like the content from the slumped breezeway wall and the adobe core samples, the variety of brick core samples provides further examples of the workmanship of the Mission's Salinan and Spanish Franciscan inhabitants during the early years of the 1800s.

Speaking of workmanship, the Mission's wooden cross, removed last year to allow for the work to be done at the upper roof level, served us well for sixty-five years... years of harsh heat, cold, wind, and

the excrement of thousands of birds, including many turkey vultures passing through the area in search of a safe place to rest from flight. Upon removal and examination, it was determined that the cross had earned its retirement from service. This created a new challenge for us; we needed to obtain a new wooden cross.

Some might say, "It's a coincidence," but I prefer to believe that, "Divine providence brought us the solution."

While visiting us as a retreat guest on the night of our *Evening in the Garden* fundraising event, Mark Turner, host of Animal Planet's reality TV show, "Redwood Kings," lay in his bed studying the hefty beams in his retreat room's ceiling and pondered for a way to assist us in our retrofit project. In the week following his stay, Mark contacted me and asked if we might be interested in joining forces on a project that would be able to give us



▲ *The 3 bells hanging in the Campanario have compromised attachments which need to be replaced with new rigging and brackets. Many of the steel elements are showing signs of rust corrosion and wear and tear. New stainless steel parts are being fabricated and all three bells will have superior hardware installed after the Campanario is seismically reinforced.*

▲ *Work has begun on reinforcing the brick Campanario. Here, workers have set up the drill to core a 2" hole down through the brick to the specified engineered depth. After the hole is cleared of debris and vacuumed out, a steel rod is grouted into it, thereby enhancing the strength of the unreinforced structure. There are a total of about 14 such rods planned to be inserted into the Campanario.*

national exposure. I told him, "Absolutely!" I then proceeded to offer them a choice of three projects. The project that the owners of Daniels Wood Land, Ron and John Daniels, their Producer, Jacob Welshans, and their construction and production crew chose was the creation of our new cross. We met at their 12,000 square foot building in Templeton that incorporates their design studio, woodworking, metal fabrication, foam sculpting fabrication, and spray booth areas to discuss the retrofit/preservation project and the particulars of the new cross to be created.



The staff from Daniels Wood Land deliver the cross.

Daniels Wood Land, began in 1997, designing and building custom tree houses. In the past eighteen years their business has grown enormously into a company that designs and builds tree houses with large thematic environments, playgrounds, electronic shooting galleries and carving projects all around the world. Their client list includes big names such as Universal, Walt Disney Company, Fox Home Entertainment, Warner Home Video, Sony, and many others.

Their staff includes individuals that are extremely interested in history and they considered it an honor to be able to produce a cross for a historic treasure, the third California Mission. After a few design sessions and a trip to the Mission by the crew, it was decided that they would create a redwood cross approximately 4' x 6', hand hewn and in the same style as the cross it would be replacing, with one additional feature. Our new cross has a time capsule built into it!

At my request, each of the three Salinan Tribal Groups – the Xolon Salinan Tribe “People of the Oaks”, the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Salinan Trowtraahl all provided names, and/or messages to their future descendants. The time capsule also contains a list of parishioners,

the members of the Campaign Board, Rosario’s story, and two Mission San Antonio medals – one blessed by Most Reverend Richard Garcia, Bishop of Monterey and one blessed by our Deacon, Dustin Miller (now deceased.) A message thanking the gentlemen of Daniels Wood Land is also enclosed. The final

document is a letter to the future generations of the Mission San Antonio community explaining our current retrofit/preservation project and on behalf of our Project Team offering to them our prayers and best wishes, as they shoulder the responsibility and honor of maintaining and preserving the Mission for another several hundred years.

The gentlemen from Daniels Wood Land delivered the new cross to the Mission on April 15th, 2015 and with

the erection of the cross on the upper roof, finished the filming of the episode on the Mission retrofit. New episodes of *Redwood Kings* will begin airing in June, 2015. Please consult your local broadcast information for the date and time of the Mission episode.

Stay tuned for more updates on the retrofit/preservation project there are four more Phases to go! ■
“¡Siempre Adelante ~ Nunca Atrás!” “Always Forward ~ Never Back!”



You Don't Know... What You Don't Know!

Mission wall melts beneath the power of a raindrop.

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator and Brett Brenkwitz, Architect of Record/Franks Brenkwitz & Associates

"You don't know, what you don't know." I heard these words for the first time several years ago from a very wise man, our Project Chair, Brian Kelly. This statement states simply the essence of any remodeling project; and is extremely accurate in sizing up the enormous undertaking of a seismic retrofit of an adobe mission that is well over 200 years old. It's what makes this project so... I was going to say fun, but it would be more honest to say... interesting!

One of the interesting revelations took place just recently; on Sunday afternoon, February 7 about 2:30pm. A lovely couple, having just arrived at the Mission and heading towards the side entrance to the church, was intercepted by Rosario, the Mission's beautiful black cat. Rosario, acting as the capable tour director that he is, redirected the couple's journey to begin in the Mission Gift Shop. As the couple entered the Gift Shop behind Rosario, they heard a loud rumbling... as a 10' x 10' portion of the breezeway wall came down. "Good job Rosario, disaster averted."

Upon initial investigation, it appears that a roof drainage pipe in the eastern breezeway wall has been leaking, apparently for a great number of years. As we all know, water and unprotected adobe DO NOT MIX! The rain that we received the weekend of February 6-8th, although urgently needed because of our last three years of drought, also served as the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. The additional raindrops leaking into this wall, beyond the scope of what the sump pump could handle, caused the saturated adobe to slump to the breezeway's tile floor.



I choose to believe that there is always a silver lining. The silver lining to the state mandate to seismically retrofit the Missions is that the Missions will finally get the attention they so desperately need after almost a hundred years of neglect.

The silver lining to this external portion of the wall coming down is that we are now better able to view the inside of the wall and will now be better able to ascertain the health and structural integrity of it. The timing couldn't have been more perfect.

A full investigation of the wall's condition is in process and will include reports from the structural and the seismic engineers as well as oversight from our preservation architects.

Work on Phase I continues to march forward. We are estimating completion by July, 2015. Phase II will begin in July/August 2015 ONLY if we raise the funds necessary – an additional \$3 Million. Please follow our progress on Mission San Antonio de Padua's newly revised website: www.missionsanantonio.net and continue to spread the word about our project. You can continue to support our effort by contributing directly to the retrofit fund on www.preservemissionsanantonio.org.

You don't know... what you don't know.

Today, we know more than we knew yesterday and that knowledge will help us prepare for the Mission's continuing journey into tomorrow. ■



Thank You to Our 2015 Donors

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Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

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MISSION BELL *Summer 2015*

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TROTTER GALLERIES PAULA AND TERRY TROTTER



Paula and Terry Trotter, owners of the Trotter Galleries in Carmel and Pacific Grove are donating to the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio giclee reproduction prints of the 37 William Sparks (1862-1937) original oil paintings, the Sparks Mission Collection.

Will Sparks was widely known during his lifetime as “the mission painter”. This historical collection of paintings includes all 21 California missions plus several asistencias, various churches in Arizona and New Mexico, and two sites in Baja California.



Paula and Terry Trotter

The original paintings were unveiled at an artist exhibition at the Monterey Museum of Art in 2013. When the Trotters later sold the collection the buyers agreed to donate 10% of the purchase price to three non-profits, our Campaign, the Carmel Mission Foundation and the Museum of Monterey.

The artwork will be sold at a future campaign fundraiser and all the proceeds from the sale will go directly to the Campaign. We are honored the Trotter family has chosen to once again support our campaign and truly appreciate their generous donations. Thank you Paul and Terry Trotter! ■

The content for the newsletter is put together by volunteers. If you would like to contribute to a future edition or see a correction, please contact Elizabeth Diaz at 831-386-0599 / info@preservemissionsanantonio.org.

Photographers: Joan Steele, Brent Brenkwitz, Tim Gohr