



Rancho Simi Trail Blazers



THE 1887-1888 STOW AND FOWER SURVEY OF SIMI VALLEY

In 1887 Thomas Bard, Daniel McFarland and five others formed the Simi Land & Water Company to subdivide the land syndicate's holdings in Simi Valley. A formal survey of Simi Valley was made by Stow and Fower in 1887-1888 for the Simi Land & Water Company. The map constituted a subdivision of the land for agricultural purposes. The map provides many insights into the history of the area. A few of these are:

The name of the President of the Simi Land & Water Company was W. G. Cochran - no doubt Cochran Street was named for that individual.

A "Putrero del Burro" is shown where Burro Flat is on the Boeing property - so the name is of Spanish origin.

The spelling of Arroyo de las LLajas is "Lajas," which means flat or layered rocks and is probably the correct version of the name. "Llajas," as far as I know, is not a word in Spanish and probably represents a mistake by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Cont. on page 2 Col. 1

NATIONAL TRAIL DAY WORK PARTY LOCATION CHANGE

We will not be working on the Lower Stagecoach Trail in Corriganville as reported in the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park Districts "Reporter" Activity Guide. See work party article For location.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David, Judy, Erin and Katrina Hirsch and AJI John

RSTB CLUB MEETING

**The monthly club meeting will be held at the Community Center
In the B-1 Room
1692 Sycamore Drive
At 7:00 PM
On
Wednesday, June 20th.**

MAY TRAIL WORK PARTY

The work party last month was held May 19 on a reroute of the Doubletree Road Trailhead portion of the "Rock Ridge Trail East" in Oak Park. Work consisted of clearing a 10-foot wide trail path through very heavy 4 to 8 foot tall brush. This involved a lot of effort with loppers and saws. Everyone worked very hard and I estimate we cleared about one fourth of the 3/4 mile reroute section. Many thanks to the following workers:

Arlene Altshuler, Martin DeGoy, John Downey, Tom Frye, Mike Kuhn, Louise Pomes and John Sabol.

The next work party will not be on the Lower Stagecoach trail in Corriganville. The next Trail Blazers work party will be held National Trail Day, Saturday June 2 on the North Ridge Trail in Simi Valley. The trail has become choked with mustard plants and is almost impassable. Meet at the trailhead at the intersection of Geronimo Avenue and Broken Arrow Street. (Go north on Yosemite, right on Flanagan, the first left on Klamath, immediate left on Sitting Bull, right on Geronimo Avenue to Broken Arrow, trailhead on your left). We will work from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Work Party Chair

John Sabol

The stream in Happy Camp Canyon is listed as "*Canada de Somis*." The trail between the Chumash villages of "*Quimisas*" and "*Somna*" was probably referred to as the Somna trail. The name eventually came to be recorded as "Somis."

The Arroyo Simi is shown but is named "*Arroyo Santa Susana*" upstream of its confluence with Hummingbird Creek.

Meier Wash on the Brandeis-Bardin Institute property is shown as "*Canada de los Alisos*" - which sycamore studded canyon. That canyon later was called "Big Sycamore Canyon" during the late 19th Century. "

Green and Erringer" are listed as the owners of what later became the Runkle Ranch - Hence, Erringer Road.

Bus Canyon is named "*Canada Aliso*" - a reference to a canyon with a single Sycamore tree.

Oak/Long Canyon is shown as "*Canada de la Leha*." This reference must be an error on the part of the surveyors or whoever prepared the map. "*leha*" does not seem to be a word in Spanish. Perhaps the word should have been "*Lena*," which means firewood - thus, "firewood canyon." Not surprisingly, Oak Canyon and Montgomery Canyon are full of oak trees. The name may simply reflect a



Free Bus Tour of The Canyons Project

The Canyons Project is a proposed mixed use development on approximately 2880 acres on the northwestern boundary of the City of Simi Valley. The entire property is located north of the 118 Freeway between the northerly extension of Erringer Road and the City of Moorpark boundary.

Major project components will consist of Business and Industrial Center, Residential villages, Memorial Park, and more then 60 percent of the property in Open Space, parks, or other public recreation opportunity.

The Bus Tour will be held on Wednesday, June 13th. It will leave from Marie Callender's (Cochran Ave. and Madera Road) at 10 am. Please call Lori at 310-712-1155 in advance of that date for Bus seating reservations

THE PALM TREES ALONG ALAMO STREET

The California fan palms in the center median in Alamo Street between Sycamore Drive and Tapo Canyon Road were originally planted on the northern side of what came to be called Palm Avenue. In 1915 as part of the promotional effort in the sale of farm lots in "Tapo Ranch" by the Tapo Mutual Water Company. Parcels in the ranch were planted and offered for sale. When Alamo Street was widened during the late 1970s and early 1980s, the trees occupied the median. The trees are mentioned in the City's first General Plan as historic. Eventually, they were designated as a Ventura County Historic Landmark.

As development occurred, it became necessary to move many of the trees to new spots in the median in order to make room for left and right turn pockets and for cross streets and other median breaks. Two of the trees were moved to the median on Tapo Canyon Road near City Hall and the library. Three of the palms are Mexican fan palm - the wrong type - those three trees were moved to the northeastern corner of what was then the City's Development Services Building, where they remain today.

Pat Havens, the City Historian, has the original June 7, 1915,

source of fuel wood for the early Spanish settlers of a nearly treeless western half of Simi Valley.

The lowlands where the Wood Ranch Golf Course is now located is labeled "*Canada Verde*" - green canyon. Those lowlands have always had a high water table and remained green year round.

Alamos Canyon is labeled "*Canada de los Alamos*" - "alamos" is another word for sycamore. Alamos Canyon has many sycamore trees in it. A very large one can be seen from the west bound lanes of the 118 Freeway.

Tierra Rejada still carries the correct Spanish spelling of "*Tierra Rajada*" - meaning "cracked earth."

Mike Kuhn

order from the Patterson Ranch Company for 110 *Washingtonia filifera*, i.e., California fan palms, to Theodore Payne of Los Angeles. The price was \$.85 each, for a total of \$93.50. Mr. Payne indicated that ... "This palm has become quite scarce here the last two seasons and I will probably have to ship these in from some other point as there are none to be had in this section at the present time." Mr. Payne also indicated that the Patterson Ranch had ordered some California fan palms before. The order for 110 trees was filled the same year and the rest

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SWORDFISH PICTOGRAPH ON LANG RANCH

In the canyon in the Oakbrook Park in the City of Thousand Oaks is a large sandstone boulder on the southern side of the Albertson Motorway with a concave surface on the southern side of the boulder. On that surface is red pigmented pictograph of a standing swordfish. What is its meaning and what purpose did it serve.

The swordfish represented the opposite of the sun, as a deity. The sun lived in a quartz crystal house, i.e., *ap*, in the sky, and the swordfishes lived in a quartz crystal *ap* at the bottom of the sea. These swordfish were seen as bearded old men.

During the historic period, a swordfish dance was performed on many occasions. It is described by John Peabody Harrington's informant Fernando Librado, i.e., *Kitsepawit*, in *The Eye of the Flute* (1977), pages 75-77. The dance was performed following the mourning ceremony, during which the body of an individual who had died during the preceding year and had been buried, was exhumed and together with that person's belongings was burned. None flammable items, such as metates and basket hoppers were broken. The dance is said to have wiped out all traces (and memories?) of the deceased. The sun represented life and the swordfish seem to have represented death.

Nearby, is a rockshelter, i.e., cave, with a painting, i.e., picto-

graph, of what may well be a swordfish dancer. In the *Eye of the Flute*, page 75, the headdress of the swordfish dancer is described as being surmounted by two long feathers of the egret. On page 76, those feathers are shown as being crossed. The pictograph shows an anthropomorphic figure with a headdress with a "V" shape on top. The headdress, together with the swordfish, suggests that the swordfish dance or dancer may be the subject of the pictograph. The figure also includes three digits on each limb, suggesting that the pictograph represents a shaman, has who been transformed into a bird for access to the spirit world. Other interpretations - even that the dance figure represents a solar shaman or water strider - are possible.

Mike Kuhn

is history.

While Mr. Payne carried a wide range of plants and seeds, he seems to have specialized in "California Native Seeds and Plants." The Theodore Payne Foundation is still present in Sunland and offers California native plants and seeds exclusively.





JUNE

2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 National Trails Day North Ridge Trail Work Party See Schedule
3 Rocky Peak 5 p.m. hike See Schedule	4	5	6	7 Chumash Trail Hike Start at 6 pm See schedule	8 1st. Day Ceder Creek Backpacking See schedule	9 2nd. Day Ceder Creek Backpacking See schedule
10 3rd. Day Ceder Creek Backpacking See schedule	11	12	13 Happy Birthday Carol Tucker	14 Chumash Trail Hike Start at 6 pm See schedule	15	16 Happy Birthday Aji John Westlake Trail Hike Meet at 8 am See schedule
17 Rocky Peak 5 p.m. hike See Schedule	18 Happy Birthday Belinda Cepedes & Maria Henriques	19	20 RSTB Club Meeting 7pm at the 1692 Sycamore Community Center, B-1 room	21 Happy Birthday Phil Ankom Chumash Trail Hike Start at 6 pm See schedule	22	23 Solstice Canyon Hike Meet at 8 am See schedule
24 Rocky Peak 5 p.m. hike See Schedule	25	26	27	28 Chumash Trail Hike Start at 6 pm See schedule	29 Happy Birthday Al Bandel	30 Reagan Ranch Hike Meet at 8 am See schedule

