



# BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

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MAY/JUNE 2021

15808 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027 - 760-737-2201



## The Park Awaits — Soon, We Hope!



*Photos courtesy of Tom Vilicich*

### President's Message:



**by Tom Vilicich**

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park has yet to re-open. I have been told that it is going to be a slow opening of State Parks statewide. Here at San Pasqual, we are looking to an opening date from mid to late May. I have received tour inquiries from the US Marines from Camp Pendleton. I am hoping that I shall be able to tell them to come out soon.

I stopped by the park about a week or so ago to drop off items in the Volunteer Association office. The spring wildflowers have started to bloom, but it doesn't appear to be as big as a few years ago.

With May, comes Memorial Day. This year, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery will not have a service on Memorial Day itself, due to health precautions. Instead, in mid-May, the Memorial Day Committee will be filming the service without an audience. The result will be posted to YouTube for viewing on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 at 10:00 am. We will not be able to take the cannon from San Pasqual to Fort Rosecrans this year as has been our usual service.

All of us at San Pasqual are looking forward to the park reopening and seeing all of our members and friends.

*SPBVA 2021**BOARD**Donald Coates**Randall Hamud**Darlene Hansen**Jody Hansen**Stan Smith**Marci Trussell**Tom Vilicich**Bob Wohl**Emeritus:**Shirley Buskirk**Ron Hinrichs**President:**Tom Vilicich**Vice-President:**Don Coates**Treasurer/Sec'y:**Marci Trussell**SPBVA Info:*

Tom Vilicich

(951) 674-0185 or

Trooper284@aol.com

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Darlene Hansen

(760) 807-7807

*Battlelines:*

Ellen Sweet

Deadline June 25, 2021

elsweet@gmail.com

*Ya Llegó Ranger Escalante***By Sgt. John Anderson,  
Supervising Ranger**

The year 2020 has been very unprecedented, and behind the scenes the ranger staff have been busy with burglary investigations and calls for services. The ranger staff took over 350 reports, which understandably showed a need for another ranger position.

On November 15, 2020 the call was answered and a ranger from Santa Barbara accepted a position at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (OTSHSHP). Ranger Kevin Escalante swam down for a change of pace in order to test his skills in an urban park and to watch the hustle and bustle of an historic park within a big city.

Although Ranger Escalante has a B.A. in geography, he also enjoys gardening in his spare time and studying the Spanish language. A lifeguard (15 years) turned ranger (5 years), Ranger K. Escalante brings with him ten years of law enforcement experience and ten years of being a seasonal lifeguard with the Parks Department. He has also worked for the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) rescue crew on an ambulance for two years, where he polished his skills as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

Ranger Kevin Escalante looks forward to meeting the faces of San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park and is eager to learn the rich history of this historic park. Please welcome him to the Old Town and San Pasqual family.

**State Park News****submitted by Megan Suster,  
Historic Interpreter II**

On Earth Day, April 22, State Parks and Old Town San Diego SHP hosted a virtual event highlighting Kumeyaay relationships with the land. A collaborative program with Kumeyaay elders, leaders, cultural specialists, and scientists was presented. The Kumeyaay have nurtured a relationship with the land of San Diego since time immemorial. Embedded in their culture and practices today are the tools to restore balance to our environments, communities, and ecosystems.

Although Earth Day has passed, these programs are still available on Old Town San Diego SHP's Facebook page. The webinars were designed for the general public, including teachers and students. Programs included:

- Ecozones and Native American Scientists, geared for 3rd-8th grade
- The Brown Family Kumeyaay Creation Story, geared for 3rd grade
- Cultural Burns, geared for college/adult
- Kumeyaay Traditional Ecological Knowledge, geared for all ages

Participants included:

- Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director/Curator at the Barona Cultural Center
- Elder Sam Brown, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Don Hankins, professor at California State University Chico with Richard Bugbee, instructor at the Kumeyaay Community College
- Tribal elders and leaders from Jamul Indian Village

**More State Park News**

submitted by Ellen Sweet

Our neighboring desert state park, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, unveiled four bilingual interpretive panels on March 31, César Chávez Day. The panels, located at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground, were a joint project between the park and students at Borrego Springs High School. A virtual dedication was held, which included remarks from California State Parks Director Armando Quintero and others, plus a panel discussion.

Did you know that in June 1966 prominent civil rights, union and farm labor leader César Chávez and union leaders were in Borrego Springs? They came to support local grape workers who wanted to become part of the National Farm Workers Association. When they wanted to camp at Christmas Circle, locals put pressure on the sheriff to remove the activists. Instead, the labor leaders and accompanying clergy, camped at Borrego Palm Canyon. Pressure was put on Park Supervisor Wes Cater to oust them from the campground, but Cater said, “ they had every right to be there.”



Photos courtesy of Patricia McFarland



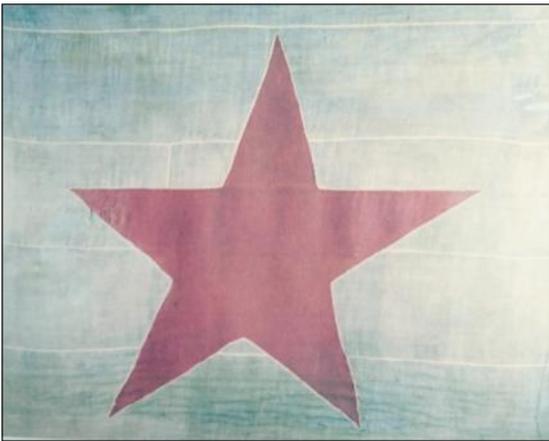
Another YouTube video to watch, distributed by Sevilla Productions, features Kristie Orosco of the San Pasqual Band: *First People of the Kumeyaay Nation—Ethnobotany*

## New Flags in California/ The Bear Flag Revolt

by Gil Garcia,  
Senior Park Aide

In 1836, a revolt led by Juan Bautista Alvarado captured Monterey, the capital of Alta California. He held northern California for two years and created a new constitution and the first “lone star” flag, which symbolized the territory’s independence from Mexico. However, the Californio leaders in the south opposed him. Juan Bandini and Carlos Carrillo refused to join the rebellion, ending the hopes of a truly independent republic. Alvarado then negotiated a compromise with Mexico City in which he would accept the central government’s rule in exchange for more autonomy and local control as well as the governorship. Juan Bautista Alvarado’s tenure as governor of Alta California lasted from 1836 to 1842.

Alvarado’s Lone Star Flag was a five-pointed red star on a white background. It predates the Texas Lone Star Flag, created in 1838, by two years. Both lone star flags helped to inspire the Bear Flag Revolt Flag.



*Alvarado Lone Star Flag*



The US-Mexican War began on May 13, 1846, with a declaration of war by the United States. Action in California soon followed with the Bear Flag Revolt. It is believed that a secret message from President James Polk to John C. Frémont was carried to California by Lieutenant Archibald Gillespie. The message read, it is assumed, that war was breaking out with Mexico and that Frémont should start a pro-American revolution in California. This would frustrate both Great Britain and France and keep them from grabbing California before US forces arrived.

Frémont then met with the American settlers in the Sacramento Valley and strongly encouraged them to revolt against the Mexican authorities. Thirty-three of these settlers, led by William Ide and Ezekiel Merritt, seized the outpost in Sonoma and captured the armory of weapons there. On June 14th they took down the Mexican flag and raised the Bear Flag, declaring California an independent republic. Frémont and his men soon joined the Bear Flaggers and raised the Bear Flag at Sutter’s Fort and then occupied the presidio at San Francisco.

Commodore John D. Sloat arrived on July 9th and raised the US flag there. Earlier, on July 7, Sloat had taken Monterey, raising the US flag at the Customs House. By July 10, the Bear Flags at Sonoma and Sutter’s Fort were also replaced by the Stars and Stripes. The so-called California Republic was short-lived, lasting



*Original Bear Flag*

(Continued on page 5)

## New Flags ... *continued*

(Continued from page 4)  
only 25 days.

In reality, California was never an independent republic. Just like Alvarado's rebellion, the Bear Flaggers had only taken control of the northern part of California. However, the American rebellion did initiate the birth of a crude bear flag, which became the awesome state flag of California that we see today.



## First Sergeant's Corner

submitted by Tom Vilicich

*Manner of Packing up the Effects.*

The uniform pantaloons, folded the length of the valise, should be well spread out in the bottom.  
The white pantaloons, folded in the same manner, placed on the uniform pantaloons.  
The shirts, unfolded, are laid on the white pantaloons.  
The soldier's book on the shirts.  
The cap cord on the book.  
The shaving case, the pocket handkerchiefs, the gloves, and the socks, divided equally in the ends.  
The second pair of boots under the flap of the valise.  
The plume in its case, along with the boots.  
The stable jacket in the valise wallet, and also the forage cap, which is placed in the middle.  
The things used in grooming, the brushes, grease, box, and other cleaning utensils, in the holster pouch.

## In Memoriam

submitted by Gisela Koestner

Long-time SPBVA member Marjorie (Marge) LaGrone passed away on March 5, 2021, just days before her 96th birthday. Her husband Terry died in 2015. The LaGrone had been married 67 years.

Originally from Massachusetts, Marge attended Point Loma High and San Diego State. A native of Louisiana, Terry graduated from Texas Tech and enlisted in the US Army in 1941. He served in the US Army Air Corps, reaching the rank of major.

The LaGrone moved to Escondido in 1953, where they operated the Westside Market for 30 years. Upon retirement, they moved to Rancho Bernardo. They also had land near the San Diego Safari Park.

Marge and Terry were very active in their communities, including the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society and San Pasqual Battlefield.

The LaGrone are survived by their three children, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

The Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Committee, a non-profit that presents their annual ceremony, is looking for donations to help them fund their scholarships and programs.

Please check out their website for details on their May 31 program and to contribute.

[www.fortrosecransmemorialday.com](http://www.fortrosecransmemorialday.com)

JOIN NOW! Our non-profit organization supports the activities of the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. All members receive *BATTLELINES*, a 10% discount on all bookstore items, special programs, field trips, history discussions, and opportunities to participate in our Living History Sundays and in our annual December re-enactment of the Battle.

**SAN PASQUAL BATTLEFIELD VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

P.O. Box 300816, Escondido, CA 92030-0816

(760) 737-2201

www.spbva.org

This is my/our membership application & dues for the following category:

- \_\_\_ Student (\$5)                      \_\_\_ Sustaining (\$50)                      \_\_\_ Dragoon (\$100 or more)
- \_\_\_ Individual (\$15)                      \_\_\_ Organization (\$25)                      \_\_\_ Benefactor (\$1,000 or more)
- \_\_\_ Family (\$20)                      \_\_\_ Corporate (\$100)                      Please make checks payable to: SPBVA

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ INTEREST/SKILLS \_\_\_\_\_

**Dragoon Level Members**



- **Bob & Judy Bowman**
- **Justin & Michelle Burkhard**
- **Carole Chavez**
- **Donald & Vicky Coates**
- **Jane Stokes Cowgill**
- **Jake Enriquez Family**
- **Allen & Suzanne Foucar**
- **David Frazee**
- **David Herbert**
- **Milo Johnson Automotive**
- **Janell Percy**
- **Ellen Sweet**
- **Gerald & Norma Tonnell**
- **Thomas M. Vilicich**
- **Bob & Robyn Wohl**

**Membership Renewals**

- **Gerald & Norma Tonnell, Montgomery, AL**
  - **Thomas Vilicich, Corona, CA**
- Thank you all!*

