

BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

VOL. XXXVII. No 1

WWW.SPBVA.ORG

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

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SAN PASQUAL BATTLEFIELD IN 2024:

When will this oldest of the State Parks in SD County open? Wish we had an answer for you.



San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park is sometimes listed as starting in 1918. This engraved stone with the names of land donors William G Henshaw, Col. Ed Fletcher, and Edward H Webb has no date. The Henshaw and Fletcher names are well known in southern California. Edward Webb was a San Pasqual rancher and dairyman.

Newspapers as early as March 1919 mention San Pasqual Battlefield being favored as a state park. Assemblyman F E Lindley succeeded in getting a bill passed in the State Legislature in 1919 that approved the San Pasqual gift of one acre. Gov. William G Stephens signed the bill in May 1919.

In the 1920s, plans for a suitable memorial in the San Pasqual Valley were discussed. Some ideas included a memorial hall or a granite shaft. The hall idea was welcomed as it would provide a civic center for the community. However, elaborate plans did not materialize.

This photo is from the Los Angeles Public Library.



SPB Museum & SPBVA: The Plan, The Service, and 2024?

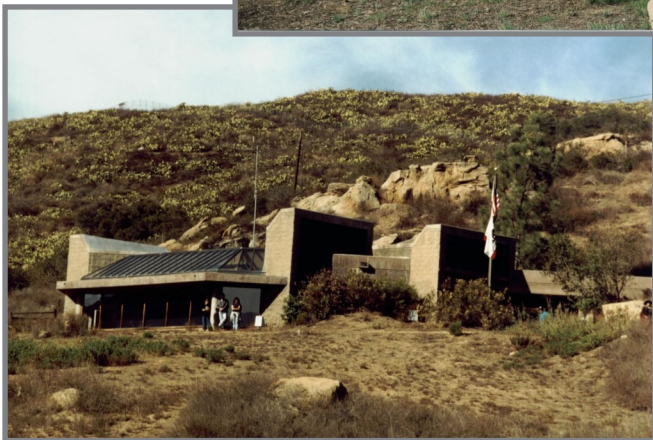
The January 2022 issue of *Battlelines* told the story of the building of the San Pasqual Battlefield Museum. Planning began in 1978. The building was dedicated on December 6, 1986 in honor of the Battle of San Pasqual.

The building was hailed as an environmentally progressive plan. Keniston & Mosher Partners of San Diego received an Honor Award in 1986 for the Visitor Center and Museum from the Concrete Masonry Association of California.

The San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association, formed in 1984, and the Escondido Historical Society were an integral part of the planning process and for the eventual operation of the park. Members of SPBVA included representatives of the three cultures that took part in the Battle of San Pasqual. Involved in the planning process were Hispanic activist Ben Cueva, Jim Quis Quis of the San Pasqual Band, Henry Rodriguez of the La Jolla Band, and a great grandson of General S W Kearny, Walter Brooke of Pauma Valley. Rodriguez and Cueva, along with State Senator Bill Craven, turned the groundbreaking shovels.

The operation of the museum included the hiring of a full-time ranger and custodian. But the museum was planned to be primarily staffed by State Park volunteers. State Parks curators would help in mounting exhibits.

Our volunteer group, now dwindled in size, has done its share over nearly 40 years of its existence. We've given our time, talents, monies, and dedication. We've staffed the park, led tours, hosted First Sunday events, planned the annual Battle Day, organized field trips and special events, provided special school programs and visited schools, supported sister parks like Old Town, held lectures for the Marine Corps, held history discussion groups, represented State Parks at the Fair, and pushed to acquire the adjacent San Pasqual School site as a park addition (and home to the San Diego Archaeological Center).



These pre-closure photographs of the museum reflect a time when the park was actively involved in the community and in serving the public.

The park has been closed since the start of COVID in March 2020. All we have been told is that a committee is working on the opening. In the past, this park has survived budget cuts, fires in the park, staff shortages, and limited access. Our loyal members have continued to support the park, but we would like some definitive answers from State Parks. Online old videos and references are not the same as the real thing. The plan for a December 6 live podcast for Battle Day did not happen. It's time for new beginnings.

Long time San Pasqual and Old Town Interpreter Retiring

Many of the San Pasqual volunteers know Gregg Giacopuzzi from his many years of supporting us since 1998. He led planning for our annual Battle Day. He attended most of our board meetings and even went on field trips with us. We could always depend on Gregg, even though he was based at Old Town. He retired at the end of 2023 with 27 years total service, and we wish him all the best as he moves on to new adventures.

Enjoy some memories of the past with Gregg Giacopuzzi on some of our adventures.



Bob Wohl and Gregg at San Pasqual for Battle Day.



2001 Gregg and Deadhorse at Rancho Penasquitos for Kearny Trail Memorial Ride.



Above: 1999 Julian High Peak Mine tour with Barbara Tafel Yu, Darlene Hansen, and Ron Hinrichs on the right.



2002 Gregg with Leroy Ross at a volunteer appreciation dinner.

In Memory of Ron Hinrichs

San Pasqual volunteer Ron Hinrichs passed away in 2022 at age 100. Ron was an institution in himself. He was known as our historian. He and Shirley Buskirk led many history discussion groups. Ron was a graduate of the US Naval Academy and served as a Navy fighter pilot during World War II. He served on the SPBVA board of directors for many years and was one of our earliest members.



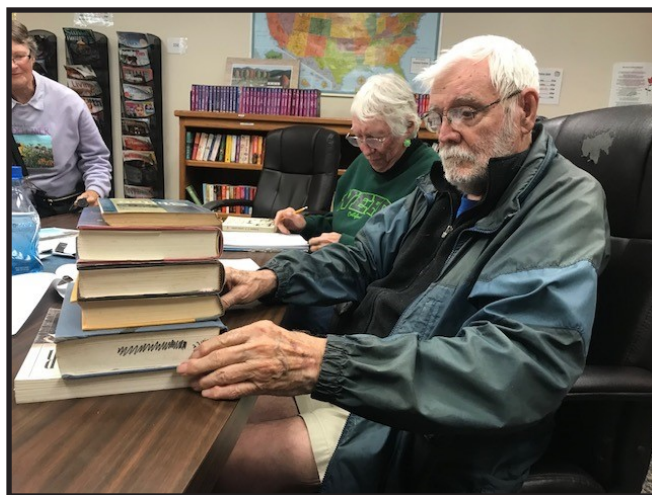
Ron Hinrichs loved to take groups to Mule Hill. He is shown here in 1995 at the far left.



Ron received a special State Parks medallion VIP (Volunteers in Parks) award in 2017 from Chris Lozano. This award was indeed an honor—one that is rarely given.



Here's Ron Hinrichs at the park with visitors and Park Aide Gilbert Garcia.



Ron Hinrichs in 2018 with Shirley Buskirk for a history discussion.

SPBVA 2024**BOARD***Donald Coates**Randall Hamud**Darlene Hansen**Jody Hansen**Stan Smith**Marci Trussell**Tom Vilicich**Bob Wohl***Emeritus:***Shirley Buskirk*

*Officers to be selected
at the January board
meeting.*

SPBVA Info:

Tom Vilicich

(951) 674-0185 or

Trooper284@aol.com

Battlelines:

Ellen Sweet

Deadline Feb 23, 2024

elsweet@gmail.com

In Memoriam: Richard Meyer

Richard Meyer was also keenly interested in history, especially the rancho period. He researched in libraries and special collections from Corona del Mar to San Diego. He participated in many of our events in Old Town and at our park. Richard was a well-known docent at Rancho Santa Margarita. He passed away in October 2023 at age 82. A memorial was held in Torrance.



Richard demonstrated bullet molding at San Pasqual.

Richard participated in Stagecoach Days at Old Town



Richard Meyer is pictured in the center between Stan Smith and Jake Enriquez at San Pasqual in 2012.

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
- Foucar Family
- David Frazee
- David Herbert
- Milo Johnson Automotive
- Janell Percy
- Ellen Sweet
- Gerald & Norma Tonnell
- Thomas M. Vilicich
- Bob & Robyn Wohl



Upcoming Event:

The Mormon Battalion Parade & Community Event

Saturday, January 27, 2024

10 am—3 pm

Old Town San Diego State Historic
Park

