



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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Phone number: (619) 235-1100  
www.sandiego.gov



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“ We enrich lives through  
quality  
parks and programs ”

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SERRA  
MUSEUM



The Serra Museum has been managed by the San Diego History Center since opening its doors in 1929. An architectural marvel for its day, it was designed by influential local architect William Templeton Johnson.

For general information about the Serra Museum and programs, please call **(619) 297-3258**.

Event at the Serra Museum or loggia? please call the Site Rental Coordinator at **619-232-6203** ex: **109**.

www.sandiegohistory.org

EVENTS

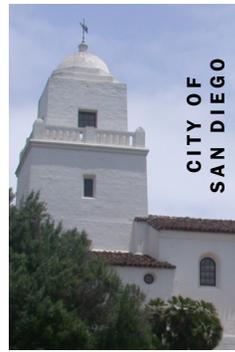
*Interested in having a special event or an outdoor wedding in Presidio Park?*

*Please call the Permit Center at (619)235-1169.*

*You can also visit the following website to view availability and options:*

[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/index.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/index.shtml)

Questions or inquiries about special group tours? Please contact **Park Rangers** at (619) 235-5935.



CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

**PRESIDIO PARK**  
**RANGER REPORT**

San Diego—La Capital de Alta California

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issue*

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**SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

[\(look for answers inside\)](#)



*Where is that?*

In the days of Spanish Colonial endeavors, deep in the heart of Old Spain, religious and political thoughts were changing and the political powers were facilitating the change. The year was 1767 when Carlos III of Spain ordered the ouster and arrest of the Jesuits who occupied the Missions of what is today Baja California, and replace that Order with the Franciscan Order. The last and northernmost Jesuit Mission was built near present-day Rosarito, Mexico, just 35 miles South of the current United States-Mexican border.

Father Serra was tasked with the religious replacement, and Gaspar de Portola was charged with enforcing the hand-over.

Gaspar de Portola (1716-1784), born into Catalan nobility, was a soldier, a Governor, an explorer, Commander of Cavalry and a Lieutenant to the King of Spain. When Carlos III sent Portola to Baja California, he was instructed to procure the help of Junipero Serra. Together the group of clergy and soldiers removed the now illegal Jesuit Order—most were sent to Vera Cruz for deportation back to Spain, others were hanged.

When the transformation was complete, Serra and Portola found themselves on the West Coast of Baja California, looking northward pondering what lay ahead.

Father Serra, concerned about native souls, desired to push northward to further the cause of the Church.

Portola, similarly desired to push into the northern frontier. However, his motivation was different. The Spanish King sought to thwart any claims for the region by the British or the Russians. What better way to occupy the land than to build a series of Missions, continuing the string started in Laredo Mexico, by the Jesuits, which ended just South of San Diego?

All of Portola's contemporaries knew of the voyages of Vizcaino, who had sailed the waters in 1602, one hundred and sixty-seven years earlier. In 1602, Vizcaino had located the harbors that were to be used as safe refuge for Spanish Galleons in the trading business with East Asia and West-Pacific Islands. This never came to fruition. Of special interest to Portola was Monterey Bay, which had grown over time into a mystical destination, not having been seen by Spanish eyes for more than 150 years. **(con't)**

(con't) And then there was San Diego Bay, named such by Vizcaino, said to be a great expanse of calm water, good for anchoring, with fresh water nearby. So they departed in search of San Diego Bay, finally reaching the area and setting up camp at the base of Presidio Hill on July 1st, 1769. Father Serra was later to recall: " It was a day of great rejoicing and merriment for all...Thus was our arrival in health and happiness and contentment at the famous and desired Port of San Diego."

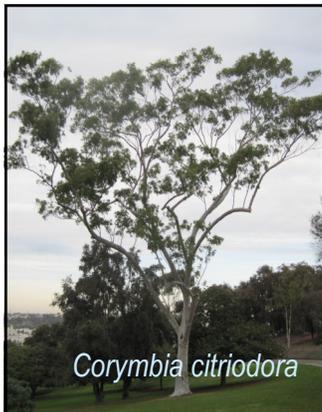
Gaspar de Portola was then appointed Governor of Alta California with the tiny settlement of San Diego as his governmental seat...and so San Diego became the first Capital of what is now California!

The San Diego Mission was officially commenced on July 16th, 1769; the first permanent European settlement on the West Coast of the United States. However, two days prior, July 14th, the new governor of Alta California, Gaspar De Portola had left San Diego in search of Monterey Bay. After one failed attempt, his party found Monterey and quickly moved the Capital from San Diego to Monterey on June 3rd, 1770. San Diego's year as the seat of California Government was short lived and uneventful. However, San Diego would get another chance 55 years later...

### LEMON SCENTED GUM

Guest Contributor: Ranger Carina

Although most eucalyptus species originate from Australia, they are a common view in the Southern California landscape. They were introduced to California starting in the 1850s Gold Rush period. California lacked enough timber sources for construction, furniture, and railroad ties, and since many parts of California have a similar climate to Australia, thousands of acres of eucalyptus had been planted to provide this timber. It soon became apparent that eucalyptus was unsuitable for these purposes, as the wood tended to twist when drying. So now eucalyptus groves remain, serving instead as windbreaks, for shade, and to beautify the landscape.



Corymbia citriodora

Lemon eucalyptus (Corymbia citriodora) is my favorite species of eucalyptus. It is a tall tree, 75-100 feet tall, originating from northeastern Australia. It is also known as lemon-scented gum and blue-spotted gum. The oil in the leaves has a refreshing lemony scent. If the scent reminds you of citronella, you are correct – the essential oil is used in insect repellants. It is also used in medicinal products, as it is said to fight bacteria, viruses, and fungal infections, as well as ease congestion and muscle aches. I enjoy this tree for its potpourri purposes – I sometimes keep a leaf in my pocket to enjoy the scent throughout the day. Lemon eucalyptus trees can be found throughout Presidio Park. It can be distinguished from other eucalyptus species by its smooth white bark. If in doubt, check the leaf for the refreshing lemony scent.

### PRESIDIO PARK RANGER-LED TOURS

Join a Park Ranger every **second Sunday of the month** for a free tour of Presidio Park. The Ranger will discuss the history of Presidio Park and its relevance to the area, horticulture, archeology and more, all designed to give you a greater understanding and appreciation of this beautiful park. **Please meet outside the entrance of the Serra Museum at 1pm.**



#### Did You Know...?

...THAT THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY HAS BEEN STOPPING IN PRESIDIO PARK FOR UNTOLD GENERATIONS? PRESIDIO PARK IS ONE OF ONLY A SCANT FEW MONARCH WINTERING PLACES ON PUBLIC LANDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VIEW THEM IS NOVEMBER. BUT THEY CAN BE FOUND FLUTTERING ABOUT ALL YEAR LONG.

#### OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS...

#### CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

##### Stein Education Centers:

Providing litter abatement several times a week throughout the park, and their help is greatly appreciated.

##### Presidio Plant ID. Project:

We are continuing to move forward with the GPS and GIS process!

Five large areas have been completed

....stay tuned....

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:(answers)



Where is that?

Ft Stockton- looking towards Old Town

#### PLEASED BE ADVISED:

- ◆ Smoking is **ILLEGAL** in all of San Diego's parks and beaches
- ◆ Nothing should be staked into the ground
- ◆ No metal detectors allowed
- ◆ Do not feed the wildlife. It is **NOT** beneficial to them
- ◆ Camping in the park is **illegal**
- ◆ Please stay on designated trails
- ◆ Jump-for-Joys are not allowed
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times

