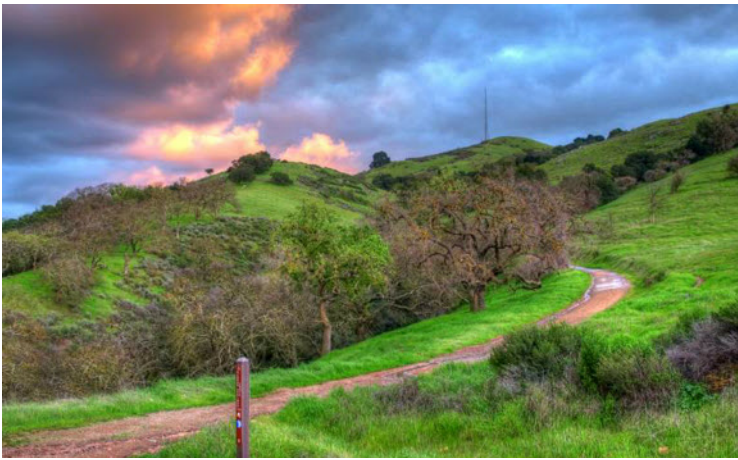


FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak

New Trail Opens in Santa Teresa Park

By Ron Horii

On 12/11/21, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new trail in Santa Teresa County Park, temporarily called the Curie Drive Trail. (See our Fall 2021 newsletter for the background history of this trail.) The event was held at the start of the trail below Santa Teresa Spring. In the days prior to it, Park Maintenance repaired the fence, cleared huge blackberry bushes, laid down weedcloth, covered it with bark, and put picnic tables on top. The Friends of Santa Teresa Park had an information table and the un-earthed time capsule, which had been buried behind the Bear Tree Lot monument. The ceremony began with talks by County Parks Director Don Rocha, Supervisor Mike Wasserman, former Congressman Mike Honda, FOSTP President Mike Boulland, and UNSCC Director Ken Podgorssek (he administers the Beautify SJ Grant that supports FOSTP). After the talks, there was a guided hike on the new trail, led by Mike Boulland and Ranger Ruben Suarez. At the FOSTP table, the time capsule was opened, revealing notes that students and adults had written in 1996. For pictures and more information, see the 2021 links: <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newpictures>

Our Mission

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer and neighborhood association, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose. Our mission is to help protect, enhance, maintain, and restore Santa Teresa Park and the surrounding neighborhood through education, volunteer involvement, coordination, and communications with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Staff, the City of San Jose, and the greater community. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. We report on problems and concerns in the park and adjoining neighborhood and recommend changes and improvements. We help out with trail maintenance and park events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information: www.stpfriends.org. You are welcome to visit our Facebook page (STPFriends).

Meetings: 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month.

Upper Clubhouse/Banquet Facility, Santa Teresa Golf Club
260 Bernal Road, San Jose, CA (Zoom meetings since shutdown)

Website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>

Email: fostp@stpfriends.org (email us to request Zoom meeting link)

Officers:

- Mike Boulland, President
- Steve Crockett, Vice President
- Ronald Horii, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor
- Greg Koopman: Treasurer



Mike Boulland speaking at the new trail opening



Cutting the Ribbon: Mike Boulland, Mike Wasserman, Mike Honda, and Don Rocha



Mike Boulland and Ranger Ruben Suarez at the Bear Tree

Inside this Newsletter:

- La Fuente Returns July 30, 2022: Pg. 2
- Safety Measures for the New Trail: Pg. 2
- New Trail to Join Santa Teresa & Calero: Pg. 2
- New Memorial Benches & Tables: Pg. 2
- The Battle of Santa Teresa: Pg. 3
- FOSTP Outreach: Pg. 5
- FOSTP Work Days at the Bernal Ranch: Pg. 5
- FOSTP Members Honored: Pg. 6
- Kitty Monahan Honored: Pg. 6

See <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newsletters> for this and past newsletters.

La Fuente Returns July 30, 2022

After a 2-year absence, the La Fuente celebration will be returning to Santa Teresa Park's Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch on Saturday July 30, 2022 from 5 pm to 8 pm. It is being organized by Park Interpreter Rob McDonnell. It will have folklorico dancing, traditional music by Los Arribenos, a horse, roping steers, a blacksmith, arts and crafts, food, park information, and storytelling. FOSTP will have an information booth. Mike Boulland will give a history talk about FOSTP and the park. 2022 is the 20th anniversary of the Bernal Ranch's opening, FOSTP's 30th anniversary, and Santa Teresa Park's 60th anniversary. The last La Fuente was held on 10/19/19. Here are pictures from it: <https://tinyurl.com/yybqaspw>



Folklorico dancing, La Fuente 10/19/19

Safety Measures for the New Trail

By Greg Koopman

The new trail which has yet to be named at Santa Teresa Park, that starts at the Santa Teresa Springs and ends at Bernal Middle School, is scheduled for ramp and crosswalk work this summer. Currently the trail ends about 15 feet south of the southwest corner of Curie Dr. and San Ignacio Ave. It dangerously directs schoolchildren to exit the path just off of a very highly trafficked and unmarked intersection. The San Jose Department of Transportation has notified the Friends of Santa Teresa Park through our District 10 contacts that the sidewalk ramp should be constructed this summer. After the completion of the ramp, the DOT will assess proper placement for a new crosswalk to Bernal Middle School to safely cross the street from the new trail. The friends of Santa Teresa Park have expressed the urgent need for the DOT's attention on this matter and are anxiously waiting for this scheduled work to begin soon.



End of new trail at San Ignacio Ave. and Curie Drive

New Trail to Join Santa Teresa & Calero

Santa Teresa and Calero County Parks are close to each other, but aren't connected. That will change. In 2022, Santa Clara County decided to purchase 47 acres of land in the South Almaden Valley (shown below, seen from the Stile Ranch Trail) for \$9.5 million. It is bordered by McKean Road, Fortini Road, and San Vicente Avenue. It is intended to join the Stile Ranch entrance of Santa Teresa Park with the Rancho San Vicente entrance of Calero, providing a safe trail connection between the two parks. Once the property has been purchased, there will be a planning process to design the new trail through it. It will involve public input. FOSTP intends to be involved with that process. Check our website for more news about this in the future.



New Memorial Benches & Tables

There are several new memorial benches and tables in Santa Teresa Park. Along with the ones below, there are new ones at Santa Teresa Spring, the Pueblo Area, the Vista Loop Trail, and 2 on the Joice Trail. For park donation information, contact Tamara Clark at tamara.clark@prk.sccgov.org.



New memorial picnic table in the Pueblo Day Use Area



New memorial bench at the Joice/Vista Loop junction

The Battle of Santa Teresa

by Joan Murphy and Mike Boulland

Early in the 19th century Spain suffered wars and foreign invasions. Thousands of Spaniards lost their lives defending their homeland. Spanish colonies in the Americas seized the opportunity to free themselves from Spanish rule. Mexico's 1810 Revolution against Spain, (initiated by Miguel Hidalgo, a Catholic Priest), ended victoriously in 1821. California, which had been a Province of "The Vice Royalty of New Spain", became "Alta California," a Territory of "Mexico."

The new government in Mexico was unstable. After the Revolution, power between liberals and conservatives changed hands every few months or weeks. Mexico became unable to send promised supplies and monies to settlers in Alta California. Soldiers and public officials went months or even years without promised salaries. Public laws and policies constantly changed.

In 1836, a locally born Californiano, Juan Bautista Alvarado, was chosen Governor of California. Unlike most prior Governors of Alta California, (born in Spain or Mexico), Alvarado had been born in Monterey, California. Alvarado came from Spanish military families. His grand father had accompanied Gaspar de Portola on his march north in 1769. His father, Jose Francisco Alvarado, had married Maria Josefa Vallejo, the fourteen year old daughter of Don Ignacio Vallejo, whose family included Spanish Conquistadores. A few months after Alvarado's birth, his father died. His mother remarried and had nine more children. She left the care of her first born to his grandparents, at the Presidio of Monterey.

In 1818 Privateers from Argentina attacked Monterey. The citizens fled inland while the town was looted and burned by revolutionaries from South America. Subsequently, Juan Alvarado's step-father moved the family to a ranch near present day Gilroy. On the Ranch, Juan Alvarado learned to ride a horse, rope cattle, milk cows, and kill bears, like other vaqueros.

Vaqueros were excellent horsemen—able to lean down from the saddle to pick up a leaf or a flower from the ground. They loved fandangos, fiestas, bull fights, and dancing—especially the waltz, (despite the fact that the waltz was frowned upon by local clergymen).

Most Californianos were illiterate, but Alvarado loved to read. He borrowed whatever books he could find. He became enamored of the works of Rousseau, Voltaire, and the ideas of the liberal philosophers, and he began to idolize revolutionary heroes—especially George Washington.

When he was eighteen, Alvarado was offered the position of Secretary of the Territorial Deputation, a legislative body of locally chosen representatives. The laws they proposed needed to be approved by the central government in Mexico. Alvarado and fellow deputies drew up resolutions to send to officials in Mexico City requesting that Mexico send good and useful citizens, not criminals, to settle California. Mexico had been solving its criminal justice problems by

shipping thieves and murderers to Alta California rather than incarcerating them at public expense. The criminals exported from Mexico to Alta California mainly lived by pillaging, looting, and murdering the citizens of California's towns and ranches. Mexico ignored the requests of the Territorial Deputation, and continued shipping felons to Alta California.

During the 1820's a liberal, anticlerical government of Mexico decided to secularize all the California Missions. Liberal, anticlerical Alvarado enthusiastically embraced this plan of the Mexican Government. Governor Echeandia appointed Alvarado Administrator of Mission San Miguel to begin its secularization process. Alvarado asked Spanish born Father Juan Cabot to gather all his Native Americans in the courtyard of Mission San Miguel. Alvarado made a speech to the Native Americans, asking all those who wanted to be freed from the Mission to step to his right, and those who wanted to remain at Mission San Miguel, with Father Cabot, to step to his left. Alvarado was amazed and disappointed when all of the Native Americans stepped to his left, next to their Priest, saying that they wished to remain, as before, at Mission San Miguel, living communally, on their Mission lands with all their livestock. They did not want to be given a portion of the Mission lands and livestock to try to live independently. In 1834 President Santa Ana of Mexico ordered all the California Mexicans secularized. Mission lands were seized by California's Government for redistribution as Land Grants. Although some of the land was given to Native Americans who lived at the Missions, the amount of land given to Native Americans was inadequate for them to make an independent living.

In the 1830's the Government of Mexico changed from liberal to conservative, and Mexico sent Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Victoria, a political conservative, to govern California. Military power in California became divided, with Echeandia commanding the southern, and Captain Augustine Zamorano commanding the northern part of the Territory. The north-south split of the Territory involved rivalry over the location of the Capital, distribution of custom house and other public revenues, and distribution of land; and it continued for years.

Alvarado and his northern California friends were extremely unhappy with conservative, reactionary Governor Victoria's dictatorial rule of California, and joined former Governor Echeandia in fomenting a rebellion against him. When the military force commanded by Governor Victoria met the rebels near Cahuenga Pass, Governor Victoria was wounded. Victoria gave up his post and fled back to Mexico. Mexico then appointed Brigadier General Jose Figueroa, (a Mestizo—of mixed Spanish and Native American blood), to govern Alta California. He had a fine military reputation, and was a good administrator. Unfortunately, he died of a stroke. Mexico replaced him with Governor Mariano Chico, whom the Californianos forced to flee back to Mexico. Then Mexico tried to install Nicolas Gutierrez as Governor

of California. Governor Gutierrez immediately decided to dissolve the Territorial Deputation. At this point Juan Alvarado and his friends, rose up in rebellion against Governor Gutierrez. The Californians, backed by foreign crack shot riflemen, and supported by local Native Americans, attacked the Monterey Presidio. After Gutierrez and his forces surrendered to the Californians, the Californians placed Gutierrez and his Officers on a ship headed for La Paz, Baja California.

The Deputation and Juan Alvarado printed and distributed a "Declaration of Independence." They declared Alta California no longer a Territory of Mexico, but a free and sovereign State, independent of Mexico. California would have its own Congress, laws, Constitution, and elect its own native-born public officials. The Deputation would be the "Congress." Juan Alvarado was chosen to be revolutionary "Governor" of California. The Capital would be in northern California. The State Religion would be Roman Catholic, (but citizens would be free to exercise whatever religion they wished without any interference from the State).

Southern California did not like this. They wished to remain a Territory of Mexico. They felt that Alta California was too large and sparsely populated to resist invasions by England, France, Russia, or the United States. (Alta California consisted of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.) Southern Californians plotted and revolted against the northern Californians' new revolutionary government, but the northerners prevailed over the southerners militarily.

Meanwhile, a more liberal Government returned to power in Mexico City. The new Mexican Government passed "Las Siete Leyes," guaranteeing Mexican Territories more independence and power of self determination by local citizenry. The Californians' "Congress" sent Andres Castillero to Mexico City to request that Mexico specifically grant California greater independence and opportunity for local control. They wanted to be able to elect local citizens as government officials, and make local decisions regarding financial matters and laws. They also asked that Mexico officially recognize Juan Alvarado as the "Governor" of California. In return, California would agree to no longer be an "Independent and Sovereign State," but once again become a "Territory" of Mexico.

Andres Castillero returned from Mexico City with the news that the Mexican government had agreed to the demands of the Californians. This pleased southern as well as northern Californians. They realized they would now have more local control, yet still be officially protected by Mexico against any future invasions. Juan Alvarado was then elected to a second term as Governor of California.

At the end of Alvarado's second term, Mexico broke its agreement with the Californians. Rather than allowing the Californians to elect their own new Governor, Mexico sent Manuel Micheltorena, who had been born in Oaxaca, to govern California. Governor Micheltorena was accompanied

by a "guard" made up of hundreds of murderers and thieves, released from Mexican prisons to go to California, as his protectors. Micheltorena proved to be weak, ineffective, and incapable of controlling the felons sent to accompany him, who roamed freely, raping, pillaging, and murdering as they went.

In November 1844, Juan Alvarado and other rebellious Californians assembled a small army, and camped near La Laguna Seca de Alvirez, (in Coyote Valley), at Rancho Santa Teresa, south of San Jose. The rebel band was led by Juan Alvarado and Colonel Jose Castro, and reinforced by men from Alvarado's Rancho San Pablo, men from Yerba Buena, volunteers from Santa Cruz, and foreign volunteers.

Governor Micheltorena personally took to the field, in hopes of crushing the rebellion. It was a cold, wet November, and for several days the two forces were prevented from confronting each other by the weather. After suffering several days of continual snow and freezing rain, and wanting to avoid bloodshed, Governor Micheltorena decided to open peace negotiations under the flag of truce. Alvarado and Castro demanded that Micheltorena's army of assassins, rapists, and murderers be deported back to Mexico. Micheltorena signed the proposed "Treaty of Santa Teresa," averting an armed confrontation between the two forces. No lives were lost in "The Battle of Santa Teresa."

Privately, Micheltorena had decided that he would break the treaty he had signed, and go to John Sutter for reinforcements to defeat Alvarado and Castro. In exchange he could offer land grants to Sutter, and to other foreign settlers. In January 1845, Sutter left New Helvetia with a hundred foreign riflemen, armed Native Americans, and munitions, including a cannon, and headed south toward San Jose to confront Alvarado and Castro.

Meanwhile, Alvarado and Castro, hearing of Micheltorena's treachery, headed to southern California, where they got reinforcements. There, after an initial skirmish in which several cannon and other munitions were fired, but with no casualties, Micheltorena surrendered once more to the Californians, and was forced to sign a second Treaty. That battle was called "The Battle of Providencia." It took place in southern California, (near the location where the first Battle of Cahuenga Pass had taken place years earlier). Micheltorena and his criminal army returned to Mexico. Micheltorena was replaced by locally born, Pio Pico. The Californians had finally convinced Mexico to accept local control of the Territory of Alta California.

References:

Bidwell, General John. *Echoes of the Past about California*. Chicago: the Lakeside Press, R. R. Donnelley & Sons, 1928.

Miller, Robert Ryal. *Juan Alvarado Governor of California 1836-1842*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998.

Osio, Antonio Maria. *The History of Alta California, A Memoir of Mexican California*. Translated, edited, and annotated by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M Senkewicz. University of Wisconsin Press, 1996.

FOSTP Outreach

FOSTP had information tables at these events:



Opening of the new trail, 12/11/21



*Preservation Alliance Award Night at History San Jose
Shared with NAQCPA (Veronica Jordan)*



4th of July Celebration at Almaden Lake Park

FOSTP Work Days at the Bernal Ranch

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park have been having almost monthly work days in the park at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch on the first Friday of each month, with help from outside volunteers. The first was on Friday, April 2, 2021. It was a cleanup of weeds in front of the ranch house. Later work days included removing weeds from the garden boxes, trimming vegetation, cleaning up Santa Teresa Spring, cutting blackberry vines, and repairing erosion on the path to the spring. If you'd like to help with these work day events, contact the County Parks' Volunteer Office (<https://parks.sccgov.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities>). Here are pictures of our work days:



Youngmee Kim clearing weeds in garden box 2/4/22



Mike Boulland talking to volunteers, 7/1/22



Volunteers clearing blackberry vines, 7/1/22

FOSTP Members Honored



At the County Parks' 27th Annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon on 4/23/22, FOSTP member Woody Collins received the Presidential Lifetime Service Award. This is a national award, started in 2003. It allows participating agencies to recognize their most exceptional volunteers. Woody recorded 4200 volunteer hours, mostly working on trails.



Also at the Volunteer Recognition luncheon, park photographer and FOSTP secretary and webmaster, Ron Horii, was recognized for 14,000 volunteer hours. They were mostly spent taking pictures of the parks, which have been used in park publications and publicity.



At the luncheon, former NAQCPA (New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association) President and former FOSTP Vice President Kitty Monahan, who has 14,000 lifetime volunteer hours, talked about the history of the Volunteer Program.

Kitty Monahan Honored



At the 1st Annual Preservation Alliance Awards Night in History San Jose Park on 5/21/22, Kitty Monahan received the Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award. It was "for a lifetime of service and commitment to Santa Clara County Preservation." The award was presented by current NAQCPA President and Vice Chair of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission Tere Johnson (left). Mike Cox (right) accepted the award for Kitty, who couldn't attend due to her health. Kathy Sutherland (center), Executive Assistant to County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, presented a commendation to Kitty from the Board of Supervisors.



On 5/25/22, Tere, Mike, other NAQCPA members, and friends, presented the awards to Kitty at her house. She was happy to see everyone and was honored to receive the awards.

On 7/25/22, just after midnight, Kitty Monahan passed away. She had suffered a broken hip from a fall. It was inoperable, and she was under hospice care at home. Many friends and community members visited her. She will be missed. Memorials will be planned.

This newsletter is funded by the City of San Jose's Beautify San Jose Grant. FOSTP is a member of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC), which is the financial agent for this grant.