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SP #52

CARPINTERIA BEACH STATE PARK

(Summary by Don Morton)

Carpinteria Beach State Park is situated in Santa Barbara County one mile south of the town of Carpinteria. The term "below" is used because, here the Pacific shore of Santa Barbara County has an east - west like coast line similar to the Gulf of Mexico. The knee-like bend extends for a distance of more than eighty miles, The park is located at its eastern edge. The chain of rocky Channel Islands act as breakwaters. The Carpinteria Beach was acquired February 18, 1932. It consists of 21.20 acres with a beach frontage of 821 feet. Thd entire cost of the park was 106,010 dollars of which 53,000 dollars was paid by the State and 53,010 dollars by the County. The County took it over from a promoter who had constructed the buildings for an exclusive Beach Club. The famous Marine botanical gardens are nearby.

Approximately one third of Carpinteria Beach lies east of the historic Carpinteria Creek and two thirds of the acreage to the west. On its eastern edge are the famous asphaltum deposits, said to date back to pre-historic times. These La Brea-like tar pits were first observed by Cabrillo in 1542, Vizcaino in 1602, and again in 1769 by Portola. The soldiers of the latter expedition observed a native Barbareno

Indian of the Chumas nation caulking a canoe with the tar. Hence they named the spot La Carpinteria ("Carpenter shop"), still retained by the present day city. Father Crespi the diarist had named it "San Rogue". There were fourteen known Indian rancherias within the vicinity of the park as late as 1835, the Skuku, Stanky, Cate, Franklin, Bailard, Higgins, Mishopshnow, Sandyland, Serena, Kolok, Drake, and the three Indian towns known as "Lymans." The Indian town which formerly inhabited the present site of Carpinteria Beach State Park and which Crespi referred to in 1769 was later known as the "Mishopshnow rancheria." It was excavated in 1925.

Among the first white men to see and explore the vicinity of what is now Carpinteria Beach were Cabrillo and Bartolme Ferrelo, 1542-1543; Legaspi, about 1564; Cermenho and his pilot Bolanos, 1595; Vizcaino and pilor Bolanos, 1602; Portola, Crespi, Gomez, Fages, Costanso and Ortega in 1769-1770; Anza and Father Diaz, 1774, and Anza and Father Fonte, 1776; and Father Serra in 1772, 1774, 1776, 1782 and 1783. These expeditions aroused interest in the lands. They were followed by religious and military colonizers. The colonizations consisted of founding and maintaining of these frontier institutions. Thus one of the first and largest Spanish land grants in California history is believed to have been that of Nuesta Senora del Refugio about 1797. The provisional grant was made to Captain Jose Francisco Ortega (of the Portola

expedition), by Governor Borica. It consisted of approximately twenty-eight square miles. The eastern edge of the Refugio Rancho included the present site of Carpinteria Beach State Park.

Twenty other beautiful, smaller ranches were granted from 1835-1845. They were located in Carpinteria Valley just back of the park site. One of these which also included the present acreage of Carpinteria Beach State Park was the El Rincon grant. It was granted to Teodoro Arellanes by Governor Figueroa in June, 1835. The El Rincon Rancho consisted of 4,459,63 acres. In 1841 the grantee of the Rancho Guadulupe (part of the original El Rincon Rancho, 1835) built the historic Arellanes adobe. At one time it served as headquarters for General Fremont. The Arellanes adobe was the first dwelling within the region of Carpinteria. The drought of 1863-1864 caused the breaking up of many of the great ranches. Portions of the El Rincon and Ortega Ranchos were sold at twenty-five cents per acre. Hence attracting large immigrations it resulted in the settlement of Carpinteria Valley and the vicinity of Carpinteria Beach State Park in the early 1880's. The old town site of Carpinteria was originally laid out some thirty years earlier, about one mile from the present city.

SP #56

CARPINTERIA BEACH STATE PARK

(Summary by Don Morton)

Situated Santa Barbara County twelve miles below Santa Barbara. Acquired 1932 from county. Formerly Beach Club. Consists 21.20 acres. Cost 106,010 dollars. Native Barbarino Indians (Chumas nation) discovered by Cabrillo, 1542. Site once Mishopshnow rancheria excavated 1925. Famous esphaltum deposits, pre-historic. Portola expedition soldiers (1769) named El Carpinteria ("Carpenter Shop"), observed Indians caulking canoes.