



# *Las Angelitas del Pueblo* *Newsletter— Fall 2012*

*El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument*  
*www.lasangelitas.org*

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**Paul McClure,  
PhD, spoke to  
Las Angelitas at  
the Sept. 17  
General Meeting.  
San Dimas  
History: A Tile in  
the Los Angeles  
Mosaic. He is a  
member of the  
San Dimas  
Historical Society**

At our September General Meeting Paul McClure, PhD, (author, public administrator, history teacher) gave a wonderful presentation about his hometown of San Dimas, a small town 30 miles east of Los Angeles. He discussed the early European exploration of the Pacific coastline including Cabrillo (1542), Sir Francis Drake (1579), and Vizcaino (1602). The Russians built Fort Ross in 1812 and sailed south as far as San Diego trading with the Native Americans. While many think of Lewis & Clark as the first Americans reaching the Pacific coast, it was trapper and mountain man, Jedediah Smith, who was the first American in Southern California in 1826. Paul shared with us information of a specialty museum in La Jolla containing centuries-old maps of California, many of which depict California as an island.

The Tongva Native Americans inhabited the San Gabriel Valley including the area of San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona and Claremont. For years it was doubtful that any Tongva village was located in this area. But eventually a village and Tongva artifacts were discovered by San Jose Creek. Archeologists believe the village was called Kwananga. This area was designated as a Mexican land-grant, Rancho San Jose, awarded to a Californio named Palomares who raised sheep and cattle there. Best estimates show that it was originally 47,138 acres. During the land surveys of the 1850's, many false maps of the original rancho lands were drawn. The Californios, including Palomares, were forced to subdivide and sell most of their ranchos to settle legal and other debts during the bad droughts of the 1860s.

In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad was built through the region. The agricultural town of San Dimas grew around the local railroad station.

Paul McClure enjoyed posing with Paul Guzman, a descendant of the Pobladores.

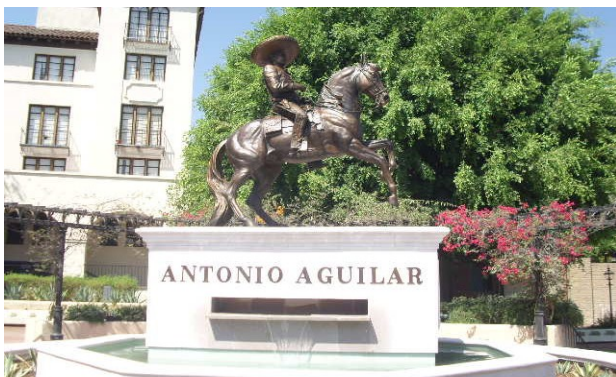
## **ARCHEOLOGY AT EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES**

### **By Andrea Milly**

What is the archaeological process? Is there a way to utilize the vast collection of artifacts excavated from beneath the streets within El Pueblo de Los Angeles? My name is Andrea Milly, a Las Angelitas member since 2009. I want to introduce visitors to the history of Los Angeles through the archaeology of El Pueblo. As part of my doctoral dissertation research in the Department of Anthropology at Stanford University, I chose El Pueblo as my archaeological field site. Growing up with a love for history, museums, and objects on display led me to pursue a career as a historical archaeologist. I just completed a second summer of research on the third floor of the Biscailuz Building. I spent this summer “excavating” archaeological reports and mining the artifact catalog for interesting questions to answer. My method is different from traditional archaeologists. Instead of opening up multiple units around the park, excavating, and accumulating more “things” in storage, why not analyze what has already been collected? Artifacts have been excavated at various times and locations at El Pueblo starting with the street grading of Olvera Street under the leadership of Christine Sterling in 1929!

My ultimate goal is to develop a public program free to visitors that will take them to different stations throughout this historic monument — Avila Adobe, the entrances of Sanchez and Olvera Streets, and across Main Street at La Plaza de Cultura y Artes. I am passionate about Los Angeles history and informing the public, which is why I joined Las Angelitas and I bet it’s the same for all of us. I hope some of you can support my endeavor and help me make this project possible by volunteering to work the stations tentatively scheduled for nine consecutive Saturdays from March to May 2014, with a preview September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the city’s anniversary.

I conclude by sharing some of my findings from this summer. In 1971, an earthquake damaged the Avila Adobe and it was closed for several years while it was being repaired. At that time, archaeological excavations of each of the rooms and examination of the walls, roof, and ceiling revealed thousands of artifacts and other details. For instance, the kitchen originally had a clay pit for making adobe bricks that was later filled with trash. Another trash pit contained artifacts predating 1825! There are fourteen known children to have lived in the Avila Adobe between 1818 and 1868 and their presence is reflected in doll fragments, marbles, gaming pieces, and balls. Three brass military buttons of French origin were speculated by one of the archaeologists on this excavation to be linked to the 1847 visit by Commodore Stockton. This is an interesting theory and one that should be explored further to either confirm or deny it.



**A new statue of recording artist, Antonio Aguilar, was installed in Placita Delores. Some members think this statue is out of character with the historical nature of El Pueblo.**

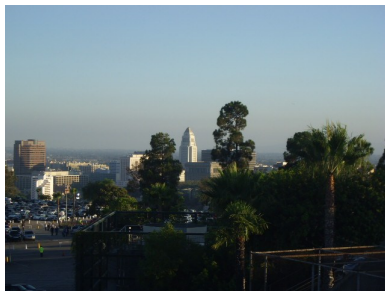
**However, the Hispanic population also considers El Pueblo a place that validates their heritage, music and culture. La Plaza de Cultura y Artes is also dedicated to that Hispanic culture.**

## **HISTORICAL DODGER STADIUM by Eileen Mendoza**

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dodger Stadium! It is the third oldest baseball stadium in the nation. Only Boston's Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Stadium are older. Dodger Stadium opened on April 10, 1962. This year's opening game was also on April 10, with a great opening ceremony commemorating Dodger history. Many older players attended and were introduced to the younger fans.

There were many memorable historical moments in Dodger Stadium. Dodger baseball had triumphant seasons by winning the World Series six times; four in Dodger Stadium: 1963, 1965, 1981 and 1988. Dodger Stadium hosted the All-Star Game in July 1980. Baseball fans can recall many exciting games, players and records set in the stadium. The 1984 Olympics brought an exhibition baseball tournament of eight countries to the stadium. Japan won the gold medals.

The first concert at Dodger Stadium was the Beatles third Los Angeles performance on August 28, 1966. Other concerts showcased the Rolling Stones, The Jacksons, Simon & Garfunkel, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, U2, and the Three Tenors (Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti). And who can forget Pope John Paul II saying Mass for a record-breaking crowd of 63,000 in 1987.



I recently took the public tour of the stadium. We met the tour guide on the top deck and she pointed out the different views: west to the Hollywood sign, southwest to the Wilshire corridor and the ocean (on a clear day), south to City Hall and the downtown skyline, east and north to the San Gabriel Mountains. You can also see some beautiful sunsets. She mentioned that the stadium was built into the hillside and each level of seating is accessed from adjacent level parking areas. This also gives the stadium greater stability and it has sustained very little earthquake damage through the years.

There are only two elevators in the stadium which are utilized by the fans, players, sportscasters and suppliers. The stadium has nine levels (pertinent number for baseball fans: 9-inning game, 9 players on the field). We took the elevator down to Level Five which houses the press box, 33 luxury suites and the Stadium Club. The press box is open-air and they do have to watch out for foul balls. The official scorekeeper sits in the middle, directly behind home plate. The organist sits at the end of the press seats on the first base side.

## HISTORICAL DODGER STADIUM (continued)

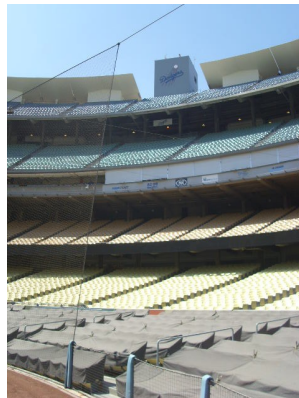


The suites stretch along the first base line and each can accommodate over 20 people. Suites have armchairs, numerous TVs, refrigerator, microwave and sink. There is also a balcony with comfortable seating for those who actually want to watch the game.



We walked back past the press box to enter the Stadium Club. World Series awards were located in the Stadium Club. This area had a complete bar and numerous tables and TVs. The tables are served by wait staff.

We went down the elevator again to the Field Level. When we walked out to the field we were told not to walk on the grass only on the dirt sidelines. It is quite a different view of the stadium from ground level. We were able to walk into the dugout and sit on the bench. Wow, all my Dodger heroes sat right here! When we re-entered the stadium someone asked if we could enter the locker room? The tour guide said no, because it's setup with open locker shelves and may contain players' personal items and information.



The tour took about 1 ½ hours. The guide was very informative and pointed out and explained many of the pictures and artifacts on the walls and shelves. She also stated there was a possibility of re-building a newer stadium because Los Angeles doesn't seem to value its heritage. The tour group disagreed and thought Dodger Stadium was great just as is. I asked if the new management team would follow through with Frank McCourt's plan to add a mall with shops and restaurants outside the outfield bleachers. She told us those plans were being evaluated but a definite decision had not been made.

*(Next Issue I will explore the early history of Elysian Park and Sonoratown.)*

## ANGEL NEWS & NOTES



### RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

President, Don Sloper, made these announcements: A new Docent Manual is available in our office (it has instructions on how to handle excessive noise in the plaza). Saturday, Nov. 6, will be an all day celebration of the Siqueiros Mural sponsored by the Getty Conservation Institute. We will be offering tours all afternoon. To volunteer check with Frank Osmon.

Treasurer, Les Hanson, asks any members who forgot to send in their year-ly dues to send them to his address.

Elizabeth Fenner is developing a new website and asked for volunteers to help with content.

Chris Espinosa, El Pueblo's new General Manager, also made announcements. There will be many events in the next few months to celebrate the opening of the Siqueiros Mural. Next year the Visitor Center will move close to the Sepulveda house. The Water Exhibit will also be re-installed somewhere on Olvera St. The old Visitor Center will be a Charro/Rancho exhibit. There are plans to renovate all the restrooms within the park. Fr. Serra Park will become available for families with a new crosswalk from the Plaza. The next big project will be to open the Italian Hall to the public.

Oct. 9 — Siqueiros Mural opens to Public

Oct 16 — Drum Barracks Tour, 10:30 am

Nov 3 — Siqueiros Celebration,

(our tours will be given all day)

Nov 19 — General Meeting, 10:00 am

Dec 15 — Holiday Party at Taix, 6:00 pm

**Las Angelitas del Pueblo  
are invited to a  
Special Preview  
Friday, October 5, 2012  
10:00 am — 4:00 pm  
*America Tropical*  
by David Alfaro Siqueiros  
at the  
**America Tropical  
Interpretive Center  
Sepulveda House, Olvera St.  
No RSVP Necessary****

**NOTE**  
**10/9 Mural & Center open  
to the Public**  
**11/3 Siqueiros Celebration  
all day Saturday**

### RECENT TOUR STATS Total Touring Stats

	2012	2011
<b>June</b>		
Docent Hours	162	168
Persons Toured	1355	1265
<b>July</b>		
Docent Hours	120	174
Persons Toured	560	586
<b>August</b>		
Docent Hours	162	159
Persons Toured	458	336

**Editor: Eileen Mendoza**  
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articles written by you!**  
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