



## The Brandegees: Leading Botanists in San Diego

Nancy Carol Carter

[This article, originally published in The Journal of San Diego History, is reprinted here, by permission, in a somewhat abridged form.<sup>1</sup>]

The most renowned botanical couple of 19th-century America lived in San Diego from 1894 until 1906. They were early settlers in the Bankers Hill area, initially constructing a brick herbarium to house the world's best private collection of plant specimens from the western United States and Mexico. They lived in a tent until their treasured plant collection was properly protected, then built a house connected to the herbarium. Around their home they established San Diego's first botanical garden—a collection of rare and exotic plants that furthered their research and delighted visitors. Botanists and plant experts from around the world knew of this garden and traveled to San Diego to study its plants. Renowned San Diego architect Irving Gill later modified the site to serve as the Bishop's School day campus. Today the property is home to the Self-Realization Center of San Diego.

Katharine Brandegee (1844–1920) and Townsend Stith Brandegee (1843–1925) are credited

with important and lasting contributions to North American science. Among other accomplishments, they furthered the maturation of the Pacific Coast scientific community. Katharine Brandegee especially was prominent as a systematic botanist who pushed back against the assumed superiority of the East Coast scientists, personified in Asa Gray, Professor of Botany at Harvard University from 1842 until 1873 and founder of the Harvard Botanic Garden and Harvard Herbarium.<sup>2</sup> Although holding Gray in high esteem

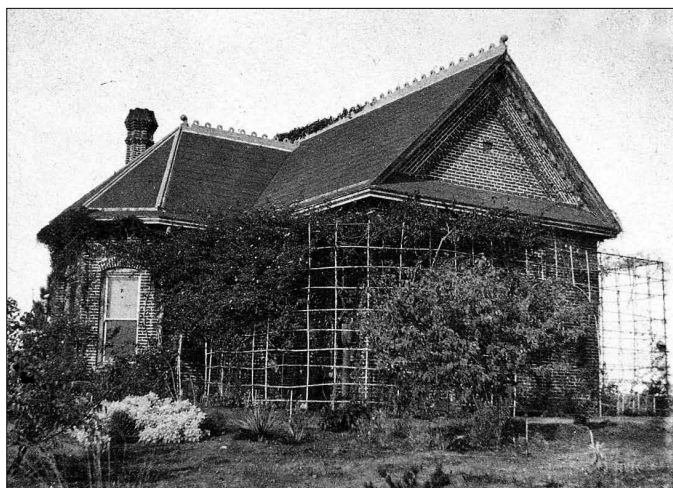
and generally agreeing with his scientific principles, the Brandegees eventually claimed a superior ability to classify and appropriately name the plants they had collected and observed in situ. Fully aware of delays and impatient with the imprecision of more distant classification work, both resisted the tradition of submitting new species to Gray or other East Coast scientists for botanical description.<sup>3</sup> They became expert taxonomists who described and defended their science in West Coast journals. During their lifetimes, the Brandegees published a combined total of 159 scientific papers.<sup>4</sup> Their example inspired other Pacific Coast botanists to greater confidence in their own field experience and the value of botanically describing plants within the context of the unique and geographically contiguous plant life of the West.<sup>5</sup>

### *Separate Lives: Mary Katharine Layne Curran*

Mary Katharine Layne's early years provided no hint of future eminence in American science, according to one biography.<sup>6</sup> The second of 10 children, she was born in Tennessee. Her early childhood

was unsettled as the family gradually migrated westward, finally settling in Folsom, California. Although Mary Katharine—known as Katharine or Kate—received a spotty early education, she became a teacher.<sup>7</sup> In 1866 she married the town constable, but was widowed eight years later.<sup>8</sup> The next year she entered medical school in San Francisco.

While qualified women were accepted at the University of California medical school,<sup>9</sup> the difficulties and inhospitable treatment meted out to the woman pioneers in profes-



*The Brandegees' home in San Diego, with herbarium and lattice.*

sional schools are well documented. Hazing was routine, and one woman student was advised by an instructor to have her ovaries removed if she wanted to continue in medical school."<sup>10</sup> Despite the social pressures, Katharine Curran earned an MD degree in 1878.

During medical school, Katharine Curran found that her long-term interest in natural history was fed by the required pharmacological classes. In the 19th century, natural plant materials were the source of most medicines, so the study of medicinal substances, the *materia medica*, included a heavy dose of botany.

Her instructor, Hans Herman Behr from the university's Department of Pharmacology,<sup>11</sup> was the product of a classical German education and had traveled widely before establishing a medical practice in San Francisco in 1851. He became associated with the University of California and the California Academy of Sciences (originally the California Academy of Natural Sciences).<sup>12</sup> He joined the latter in 1854, injecting a valuable level of scientific training and world experience into the newly formed learned society. Though he was one of the most rigorously educated scientists associated with the Academy, his kindly nature and generosity in sharing knowledge won him friends and acolytes.<sup>13</sup> He warmed to the interest, intelligence, and diligence of Katharine Curran and trained her in the botanical work that would fill her life for the next 50 years.

While still a medical student, Curran was introduced to activities at the California Academy of Sciences. Dr. Behr steered her to the herbarium—a collection of dried specimen plants used as the basic reference source for those who describe, name, and classify plants. The more examples of plants, the better, but plant taxonomists can do their work only if herbarium specimens are properly organized. The Academy was minimally staffed and the collection's value was diminished by a backlog of unclassified plant material. When Dr. Curran found she had time on her hands due to the difficulty of establishing a medical practice in San Francisco, she kept busy at the Academy of Sciences, working with Albert Kellogg, a founder of the Academy and curator of the herbarium.<sup>14</sup> She devoted more time to field work, having made her first botanical collecting trips with other medical students in Dr. Behr's classes.<sup>15</sup> She enjoyed the outings and learned that observing plants as they grow in nature and recording characteristics not evident in a dried specimen can lead to better taxonomy and more reliable science.

The Academy invited the participation of women<sup>16</sup> and

Katharine Curran officially joined in 1879. When Kellogg retired in 1883, she was appointed to the Curatorship of Botany. If there was resistance to placing a woman in this important position, it melted in the face of strong support from her distinguished mentors, Drs. Behr and Kellogg. Although many 19th-century women were interested in botany, few found gainful employment in the field.<sup>17</sup> Upon assuming her position, Curran became the second woman in the entire country to be employed professionally in botany.<sup>18</sup>

Curran turned her considerable energy to improving<sup>19</sup> the Academy's herbarium. She also reversed the decade-

long stagnation of the publications program by taking up the scholarly writing and editorial work that she continued for the rest of her life. She established and singlehandedly produced the *Bulletin of the California Academy of Sciences*.

Called the "acting editor" because the Academy could not admit to giving a woman editorial control of its scientific journal, she created a "credible west coast vehicle for the naming of new species, a process that had previously been routed through the Eastern hegemony of Asa Gray at Harvard."<sup>20</sup> A revived Academy publication program gave West Coast botanists a means of publishing their findings more quickly and aided the cause of



Mary Katharine Layne Curran Brandegee.

scientific independence. This desire for liberation was motivated by different schools of thought. Some wanted to escape the influence of Darwinian thinking that had gained acceptance at most East Coast scientific institutions. Others, especially the active field collectors like Katharine Curran, held many Eastern classifications of California flora in contempt and simply wanted better science.<sup>21</sup>

At the Academy, Curran had won the respect of powerful men, moved into a top position, and demonstrated initiative and leadership. She became a commanding force and immersed herself in Academy affairs, thereby defying the pattern described by one historian in which early women scientists avoided institutional involvements that might get them labeled as troublemakers. This scholarly inquiry finds women shying away from competitive activities that celebrate individual achievement, such as research and writing. Instead, women scientists in institutional settings are said to have "kept a relatively low profile" while focusing on outreach and networking.<sup>22</sup> Curran was unafraid of taking risks and did not fear competitive involvement.

When a large financial bequest sowed division in the Academy, Curran jumped into the bitter power struggle as a matter of principle. Her faction voted out the long-term

president and replaced the governing board of the Academy.<sup>23</sup> Presumably she could have lost her job if the election had turned out differently. The toughness that underlay her unlikely rise in the world of science was openly revealed for the first of many times. Critics did not fail to notice.<sup>24</sup>

As Katharine Layne Curran passed her 40th birthday, her life was settled. She held an important position at the premier scientific institution in the western United States,<sup>25</sup> where she pursued a satisfying routine of herbarium work, botanical study and field collecting, and scientific writing and editorial work. Then Townshend Stith Brandegee made his first visit to California. Curran's life was about to take an unexpected turn.

### ***Separate Lives: Townshend Stith Brandegee***

A candid assessment of T.S. Brandegee is found in the diaries of Richard Urquhart Goode, written during the 1883 Northern Transcontinental Survey. Brandegee was 35 and already a seasoned member of survey expeditions. While initially employed as a civil engineer, his long-term amateur interest in botany and well-received botanical publications had by 1883 gained him an appointment as botanist of this party. Goode wrote that Brandegee was quiet and reserved and that he formed his own opinions without attempting to press his views on others.<sup>26</sup> Many other descriptions refer to Brandegee as mild mannered and reserved, as well as kindly, refined, and generous. "I know you will like him," an introduction said; "everyone does."<sup>27</sup> A sardonic sense of humor may be assumed from Brandegee's own description of his Civil War service: "General Grant and I took Richmond."<sup>28</sup>

Brandegee was born on February 16, 1843, in Berlin, Connecticut. His father was a doctor and a farmer who encouraged his son's interest in natural history and botanizing. Brandegee enlisted in the Union Army at age 19<sup>29</sup> and completed studies in engineering and botany at Yale University's Sheffield Scientific School after the Civil War.

He worked as a county surveyor and city engineer in Colorado and continued botanizing, sending ferns and other specimens back to Connecticut. Harvard botanist Asa Gray benefited from some of Brandegee's finds and his recommendation got the young engineer an appointment as assistant topographer on the Hayden Survey.<sup>30</sup> Thus began many years of surveying and botanical work across the West, from Santa Fe to Wyoming to Washington state. An assignment to collect samples of western timber for the American Museum of Natural History<sup>31</sup> brought him to California in the winter of 1886–87. When seeking specific rare trees

on Santa Cruz Island off Santa Barbara, the unusual flora so peaked Brandegee's interest that he decided to move away from civil engineering and toward full-time work in botany.<sup>32</sup>

The California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco was on the West Coast itinerary of every 19th-century natural history enthusiast. Townshend Brandegee visited during this first California trip, meeting Katharine Layne Curran, the knowledgeable and engaged curator of the botany collection. These two natural history and botany enthusiasts shared common intellectual ground. Both were in their early 40s, accomplished in their fields, and respected within the

circles that knew their work. Yet, when they met, the most significant scientific endeavors of Katharine Lane Curran and Townshend Stith Brandegee lay ahead. They would accomplish this work as husband and wife.

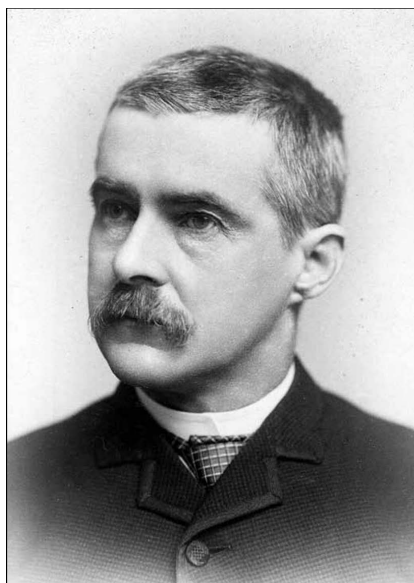
### ***A Marriage of Hearts and Minds***

Very little is known about the courtship of Curran and Brandegee, but we do know that theirs was not merely a match of convenience. Their meeting sparked passion and romance, obvious enough to be considered by some contemporaries as unseemly for persons of their age. There is no better indication of the nature of this relationship than Curran's own words: the joyful confession of being "insanely in love."<sup>33</sup>

Brandegee's decision to focus on botany rather than civil engineering meant that he could settle into married life. From Curran he could learn more about the systematic arrangement of botanical collections and the exacting work of taxonomy. She could also be counted on as a companion in field work, having already proven herself as a collector. Neither was discouraged by the occasional shipwreck or broken bone.<sup>34</sup> Brandegee's decision to marry may also have been influenced by a timely inheritance. He received a legacy shortly after arriving in San Francisco that ensured his financial independence.<sup>35</sup>

Curran traveled to San Diego in 1889 to meet Brandegee on his return from a California Academy of Sciences collecting trip on the Baja peninsula. The *West American Scientist* then reported: "Mr. T.S. Brandegee and Mrs. Mary K. Curran, both of San Francisco, surprised their friends by a quiet wedding on May 29 [1889]." The newlyweds enjoyed a honeymoon devoted to plant collecting, accomplished as they walked all the way from San Diego to San Francisco in the weeks after their wedding.<sup>36</sup>

The Brandegees established a home in San Francisco and retained their ties to the California Academy of Sciences. T.S. became a resident member of the Academy and



*Townshend Stith Brandegee.*

joined its scientific expeditions. The bride experimented with the form of her name, eventually settling on Katharine Layne Brandegee. She remained busy at the Academy's herbarium and founded a new private scientific journal called *Zoe* in 1890. Its cost was underwritten by T.S.'s inheritance and it carried his name to lend respectability in the male-dominated scientific world.<sup>37</sup>

In 1891 Katharine founded the California Botanical Club, the West Coast's first general interest and amateur organization of a kind popular on the East Coast.<sup>38</sup> Meanwhile, she continued her botanical collecting trips, sometimes with her husband, but often on her own.<sup>39</sup> Katharine made extensive journeys into the Sierra. She wrote to her husband, "Tomorrow I leave on the stage for the Giant Forest where I will be for nearly a week. Then I try to get higher with a packer guide and finally fetch up across country to Mineral King. It may be 3 or 4 weeks before I reach there." In other letters she wrote to her husband, "I am going this morning to be camped alone at an altitude of 10,000 feet on Mt. Silliman" and "there are numerous bears in these mountains, many mountain lions, and an occasional gray wolf."<sup>40</sup>

A year after their marriage, the Brandegees met Alice Eastwood, a young Colorado school teacher and amateur botanist. Eastwood had sought out T.S. Brandegee while on a California plant-hunting excursion. She knew his work on the Hayden Survey in Colorado and from the masthead of *Zoe*. Alice Eastwood wanted to become a botanical writer.<sup>41</sup> The Brandegees were drawn to Eastwood's enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose. Eastwood spent part of the next year at the Academy of Sciences sharing Katharine's salary,<sup>42</sup> then came to work full-time in San Francisco. She was employed in the herbarium, wrote for the *Bulletin*, and later edited *Zoe*.<sup>43</sup> Academy records detail Katharine Brandegee's request on December 5, 1892, that her full salary of \$80 per month be paid to Alice Eastwood while Brandegee continued to serve as joint curator and "render such services as she could" without a salary. The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution stating that "the zeal and efficiency evinced by Mrs. Brandegee during the years of her labors in the herbarium had been such to merit our highest commendation."<sup>44</sup> While creating more time for her own scientific work, Katherine Brandegee had launched the career of Alice Eastwood, who through aptitude and longevity became one of America's best-known botanists.<sup>45</sup>

Katharine Brandegee plowed deeper into her own interests and areas of strength, especially plant taxonomy: the finding, describing, identification, classification, and naming of plants. Through her rigorous training and substantial experience, she had developed strong ideas about the scientifically sound approach to this science. She disdained the egocentric drive of some botanists to publish new species just to get credit for a plant discovery. She was appalled

when "new species" were published with inadequate or sloppy descriptive work, knowing that fuller research might show that the plant was simply a variation of an existing species. She was scornful of the pre-Darwin notion that a creator had set every living thing on earth in a fixed and final form, thereby foreclosing the possibility that a single species might develop variations due to climate and soil. And finally, in the never-ending taxonomy battle, she sided with the "lumpers" rather than the "splitters"; that is, she was more likely to see relationships among plants and classify broadly. She spent a certain amount of her field work seeking out intermediates that would dispose of proposed new species.<sup>46</sup> As a lumper, she tried to rein in the splitters by setting a high bar for the proclamation of a new species, but did not convince everyone. She once lamented that "Mr. Brandegee [has described a plant as a species] against my will."<sup>47</sup>

The Brandegee's new journal, *Zoe*, was founded to further the independence of West Coast natural science and to speed up the publication of California botanical finds. The established *Botanical Gazette* generously reviewed its first issue. *Zoe* was a forum for Katharine's brand of rigorous botanical science.<sup>48</sup> Whatever constraint she felt when writing in the Academy of Sciences' *Bulletin* was now removed. The pages of *Zoe* sizzled under the mighty pen of Katharine Brandegee. The publication was her bully pulpit, used to encourage more exacting science and higher standards in the increasingly professionalized field of botany. She mercilessly dissected substandard botanical descriptions. She wrote ferocious criticisms and point-by-point refutations of bad science, as she perceived it. Her most brutal assault was on the work of Edward Lee Greene. He had come to the San Francisco Bay Area as an Episcopal priest, but was a keen amateur botanist and worked with Katharine for a while in the Academy herbarium. By most accounts, he was ambitious, egotistical and self-aggrandizing. He was also a rising star who won an appointment to teach botany at the University of California in 1885.<sup>49</sup>

Greene was an outspoken critic of Darwin and a splitter who seemed to find a new species growing beside every rock. Katharine savaged his approach, saying, "this kind of botany was taught, probably, in the Middle Ages to which Mr. Greene properly belongs."<sup>50</sup> She condemned his lack of insight, accuracy, and judgment and said that his vague descriptions of so-called new species were "a disgrace to botany." Greene did not defend his work in print, but privately referred to Katharine Brandegee as a "she devil."<sup>51</sup>

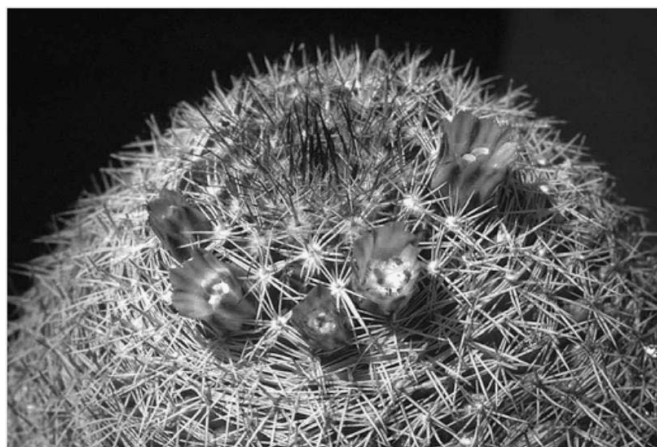
The high-profile sword crossing of Greene and Katharine Brandegee was an intellectual conflict in which each contender had backers. Katharine won admiration for the power of her intellect and defense of high standards, but condemnation for her unladylike boldness and the personal



*Katharine Brandegee on mule in Baja California.*

nature of her attacks on Greene. The best explanation for her antipathy resides in Greene's own acts of bad faith. In a clumsy effort to impress Harvard's Asa Gray, Greene egotistically bragged to Gray that he was the San Francisco Academy of Sciences' botany curator, with Katharine Brandegee as his assistant. After her hard-won achievement at the Academy, Greene's self-serving lie—peddled to the leading botanist in America—must have been galling indeed. Moreover, when Greene was forced out of his Episcopal pastorate on moral grounds, he plotted unsuccessfully to push her out of the Academy and take over her position.<sup>52</sup>

Mild-mannered T.S. Brandegee may have been alarmed by the intensity Katharine brought to her writing and the reactions she provoked, but he did not withdraw his support. In fact, *Zoe* is an exemplar of all the moral and financial support Katharine Brandegee received from her loving husband. It was the vehicle for most of her scholarly output, and the critiques she wrote for *Zoe* secured her permanent



*Mammillaria brandegeei. Family: Cactaceae. Photo: George Lindsay Collector, 1962. Courtesy San Diego Natural History Museum.*

place in the history of botany. "The unvarnished criticism of what she viewed as botanical incompetence illustrate the intensity of the woman who brought much needed order and respectability to California botany."<sup>53</sup> "Her mind was keen and her search into detail exhaustive."<sup>54</sup> Another plant scientist observed simply: "She was the greatest woman botanist that ever lived."<sup>55</sup>

### ***The Lure of Desert Plants***

Neither of the Brandegees was again required to take up salaried work, but they pursued their science tirelessly. Once T.S. Brandegee turned to botany as a prime occupation, he homed in on the flora of Mexico and the Southwest as a specialty. He joined an 1889 Academy of Sciences expedition to Magdalena Bay, Baja California, at his own expense. On this first of a series of major collecting trips to Mexico, Brandegee traveled some 600 miles by mule, and became the first plant collector to visit many parts of the Baja interior. A scientific journal reported that Brandegee had collected "about thirty species of cacti; and altogether nearly a thousand species of plants, while his field notes will give the most southerly stations for many of the California plants."<sup>56</sup>

In April and May of 1893 Brandegee traveled with five other naturalists to the Sierra San Pedro Mártir of northern Baja California and became the first botanist to explore the range.<sup>57</sup> Later that year, in September and October, he made two trips from San Jose del Cabo into the mountains of the Cape region. In addition to another scientist from the Academy, Katharine Brandegee joined him on the first trip. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on the venture, noting that Mrs. Brandegee "rode astride of her mule, man fashion in the pantalooned suit that she took with her for the purpose."<sup>58</sup> Returning home on her own from this trip, Katharine was shipwrecked. Accounts of this incident report that upon hearing of the accident, T.S. first inquired about the fate of the plant specimens she was transporting.<sup>59</sup>

Over the five-year span of his Mexico expeditions, T.S. Brandegee established himself as the leading authority on the flora of Baja and the islands of the Sea of Cortez.<sup>60</sup> He gained confidence as a botanist and instead of sending his plants to other experts for botanical description, began to publish his own species. All told, he discovered and named some 225 plants of Baja California, and many others were later named from his collections.<sup>61</sup>

To pursue this intense interest in the flora of Mexico more conveniently, the Brandegees decided to abandon their well-established San Francisco life and move to San Diego. Considering distances, travel times, and the hazards of safely returning plant specimens to a clean and dry workroom, greater proximity to collection sites was advantageous. The Brandegees had used San Diego for embarkation to Baja and it had been the scene of their wedding. In addition, Susan Stockton, a married sister with whom



*The Brandegees' house in San Diego and a portion of its as-yet undeveloped property.*

Katharine maintained a close relationship, had settled in Ramona.<sup>62</sup> One author suggests that Katharine might also have been ready to distance herself from Academy politics and was eager to “practice her incipient leanings toward experimental systematics” in a year-round garden.<sup>63</sup>

The journal *Zoe* showed a change of address to San Diego in its January 1894 issue, and a March 1894 letter indicates that the Brandegees were in San Diego by that date.<sup>64</sup> The next month, a deed was registered for T.S. Brandegee’s purchase of a spacious San Diego lot on First Avenue between Redwood and Quince Streets.<sup>65</sup> The property had an unobstructed view over San Diego Bay and sat in a mostly undeveloped area of town, known today as Bankers Hill. Both the Brandegees grew up on farms and may have considered the quiet, near-rural setting a welcome respite from San Francisco and an ideal place to pursue their work.

The Brandegees now lived in close proximity to Mexico, but ironically, T.S. made only one last collecting trip to Baja after relocating to San Diego. During September 1902, Brandegee returned to the Cape Region to explore many localities not visited previously. San Diego horticulturist and nursery owner Kate O. Sessions went with him by ship to San Jose del Cabo and by burro into the mountains. The explorers discovered a palm tree that had not yet been described or named for the botanical record. Sessions started back to San Diego about October 22, while Brandegee stayed on well into November.<sup>66</sup>

Perhaps T.S. decided to forgo the hardships of botanizing in Mexico after coming into contact with a relentless cactus collector, the German-born Carl Albert Purpus. Although holding a degree in pharmacy, Purpus collected plants as an occupation. With his brother, the head gardener of the Darmstadt Botanical Garden, he was dispatched to North America in the 1870s to collect for an arboretum. On his own he continued collecting plants in the Americas, marketing seed, pinecones, herbarium specimen, cactus,

and anything else that would sell to institutions, commercial concerns, or private collectors. While in California, he was referred to Katherine Brandegee for help in identifying plants he did not recognize. He introduced himself by letter, then sent a large number of plants to the Brandegees. Katharine promptly responded with the correct botanical names. Purpus was so moved by this act of professional courtesy that he wrote: “I will not sell plants to You, but will be perfectly happy to make a collection for You of all plants You mai desire on my tour next summer.” He apologized for his poor English, stating that he had never studied the language.<sup>67</sup>

This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship and a productive partnership. The Brandegees invited Purpus to use their San Diego home as a base for collecting trips to Mexico and the Southwest. They became his logistical support as he traveled and collected in remote areas of Mexico, as indicated by his letters requesting an emergency loan, thanking the Brandegees for sending him new shoes, asking for paper to dry specimens, and alerting them to plant shipments destined for San Diego.<sup>68</sup> The Brandegees preserved his letters. They are a goldmine of botanical information and open a window on the practical challenges of a plant collector who might face bandits, revolution, and shipwreck.

Purpus supplied the Brandegees with every plant they wanted from his collecting trips, giving T.S. a continuing supply of new desert plants, which he classified and named. While Purpus worked in Mexico, T.S. continued active field work closer to home. A San Diego newspaper reported on the success of an early week-long collecting trip near Julian, and Brandegee recounted later in life that he had “carefully botanized San Diego County [and] the Cuymaca Mountains.”<sup>69</sup>

### ***In San Diego: A Garden and a Life***

Twenty-one years after the Brandegees left Southern California, Cornell University horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey was in San Diego studying palm trees, including *Erythea brandegeei*, the palm that T.S. Brandegee and Kate O. Sessions introduced to the United States from their 1902 Baja plant expedition. “My conception of the species,” Bailey wrote, “is further clarified by leaf specimens taken by me in 1927 from the top of a tree planted in a ravine by Brandegee on his old place in San Diego at the moment when the tree was being buried by the filling in of the canyon and consequent on the grading of the property by other owners.”<sup>70</sup>

This is a sad epitaph for San Diego’s first botanical garden. In another time and place heroic efforts may have been undertaken to preserve the valuable and unique plant collection assembled by the Brandegees. That one palm tree disappearing into canyon fill was justification enough. It was growing at the home of the botanist who led the expedition

on which the tree was discovered, that same botanist described the tree for science as a new species and, along with Kate O. Sessions, introduced the tree into cultivation in the United States. In addition to this rare convergence of botanical clout, the Brandegee garden was discussed in 1902 on a par with the Missouri Botanical Garden as a place where important investigations could be made on “the living type collections of cacti.”<sup>71</sup>

As with any botanical garden, the Brandegees incorporated a herbarium and greenhouse.<sup>72</sup> The bulk of the plants were grown for the purpose of studying and documenting them for classification. As “ardent exponents of the principles of evolution,” the Brandegees kept many plants gathered from a wide variety of environments under observation for years. Many of the plants were assumed to be new species, but the Brandegees would not publish them until they had found how those plants behaved in another environment. “They made every effort to trace all variants and get their real relationship.”<sup>73</sup>



*Katharine Brandegee in her San Diego garden.*

The Brandegees also made a garden they could enjoy. A large hammock hung among the plants and Katharine kept a pet guinea fowl and tamed birds to eat from her hand. One visiting botanist described the garden as “a botanical paradise, rare flowers blooming on all sides, mockingbirds, quail calling, and other native songbirds making the air musical with song.”<sup>74</sup> Another description remarks on the “delightful site on a mesa overlooking the town ... [and the] spacious botanical garden filled with rare natives.”<sup>75</sup>

The longest and most intimate description of the Brandegees’ San Diego garden is found in an obscure and short-lived British publication, *Cactus Journal*. The editor, F.A. Walton, wrote a first-hand account based on his visit to San Diego in 1899.

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee, at San Diego, was well worth seeing. It was almost a wild garden, being situated upon the mesa, or high land overlooking the sea....

Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee are enthusiastic botanists, and have built a magnificent herbarium, where they spend most of their time. The wild land round the herbarium is full of interesting plants that are growing in a state of nature, while being studied and described in all their various conditions. I saw a few plants of most of the Californian Cacti, and Mrs. Brandegee has preserved specimens of all the kinds she can get. In some cases where the plants are very rare, I asked how she could so destroy such beauties. She replied that her specimens would be there to refer to at any time, with all its descriptions and particulars, whereas if the plant had been left growing, or sent to some botanical gardens, it would probably have died some time, and all trace have been lost.

Mr. Brandegee is a born explorer and spends half his time in the deserts or mountains, bringing home plants and seeds to be studied at leisure by himself and his wife. These are the kind of people that do permanent good work in this world. They live in the midst of nature, surrounded by a natural garden, and have the very best opportunities of studying both plant and animal life at their leisure.... Dr. C.A. Purpus was helping them to classify some of their vast collection, and was quite enthusiastic in his praise of the thorough way in which they did their work. I know when he and I were on the desert or mountain, and we saw any kind of plant he did not know, he would say, “Ah! I don’t know this; I will take a piece back for Mrs. Brandegee, perhaps it will be new to her.”<sup>76</sup>

The Brandegees welcomed visiting plant enthusiasts and botanists<sup>77</sup> during their years in San Diego and established local community ties as well. T.S. is first listed as a member of the City Board of Education in 1897. He apparently served through the next few years.<sup>78</sup> The Brandegees seemed to have a fair amount of contact with her sister and the entire 11-member Stockton family of Ramona.<sup>79</sup>

The Brandegees made the acquaintance of local nursery owner and horticulturist Kate O. Sessions. Alice Eastwood knew all three and may have made an introduction. A few months after their arrival San Diego, the Brandegees bought a cinnamon tree, five fuchsias, and a variety of other plants from the Sessions nursery.<sup>80</sup> In her only plant-hunting expedition, Sessions accompanied T.S. on one of his Baja explorations and there is a record of her presenting the Brandegees with one of the first three fern pine trees brought to San Diego.<sup>81</sup>

It is surely Sessions who convinced T.S. to become involved in the development of San Diego’s City Park. He served with her on the Park Improvement Committee in 1904.<sup>82</sup> Additionally, he brought both his areas of expertise to the aid of professional park designer Samuel Parsons, helping with “engineering problems ... and the selection of plants to be grown in the park.” Brandegee was called “the best informed authority on the flora of Southern California and Lower California” and “a civil engineer of ability and experience.”<sup>83</sup> When the *San Diego Union* featured park-development stories in its January 1, 1903, issue, T.S. contributed an article describing the many kinds of plants that



could transform the look of City Park.<sup>84</sup>

Katharine Brandegee and Kate O. Sessions were professional women, not too distant in age, who shared a strong interest in plant science and had no interest in fashion or housekeeping. These women had a lot in common, but the degree of friendship they developed is a matter of conjecture. The letters that Katharine Brandegee and Kate O. Sessions wrote from San Diego to Alice Eastwood—the letters would tell more about their relationship and would fill in details of the Brandegee's years in San Diego—were lost in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.<sup>85</sup> Like Kate Sessions, Katharine Brandegee certainly was indifferent to housekeeping and dressed for comfort. One visitor described finding her in old leather slippers and a loose Mother Hubbard dress with her graying hair steaming casually down.<sup>86</sup> When plant hunting in the back country, she was once mistaken for an impoverished wanderer and given a free glass of beer by a kindly saloon-keeper. Katharine told this story with amused delight.<sup>87</sup> In contrast, she found it excruciating when unexpectedly made the honored guest at a grandiose social occasion.<sup>88</sup> Katharine Brandegee was modest and self-effacing. She liked people and got along well with a variety of personalities, but she preferred to be free of social conventions and free to do her work.

Despite her demonstrated adaptability, Katharine Brandegee did not settle well in San Diego. She felt cut off in the sleepy small town and missed the robust libraries and intellectual climate of San Francisco, “the vortex of botanical activity in the west.”<sup>89</sup> The secluded garden and herbarium, while supporting an undistracted life of the mind, may have eventually felt too isolated after her years of being at the cutting edge of West Coast science and in the thick of Academy life, whatever the toll of institutional politics. She worked hard on the breeding and care of the plants in her garden, and this too became tiresome, as indicated by her refusal of a gift of plants for a new garden in Northern California. She hoped never again to have a garden, but “henceforth forever to live in my trunk.”<sup>90</sup> Often she did not feel well and blamed the San Diego climate, although her illnesses were more likely associated with a long-term health affliction. Despite her vigor and robustness, Katharine Brandegee suffered from diabetes for much of her life. She sometimes had to cancel travel plans and once collapsed and nearly died in St. Louis while attempting a

cross-country trip.<sup>91</sup> A connection between diet and diabetes had been made, but insulin treatment was not developed during Katharine's lifetime, so the ill effects of the disease could not be controlled.

No matter what was going on in their lives during the San Diego years, the Brandegees never stopped working. Katharine wrote to a colleague, “about 2,000 sheets have been put into the herbarium since I came back ... there are at least 10,000 sheets out of the herbarium and as soon as they are in place I am going to take a whole day off and read a novel.”<sup>92</sup> The years of diligence and informed collecting had an epic payoff: the Brandegees created the richest private herbaria ever assembled

in the United States, and much of the work was accomplished in San Diego.

### *Giving All*

As they approached their 60s, the Brandegees began to plan their future and, most importantly to them both, the future of their herbarium. They decided to leave San Diego and return to Northern California, then attempted to parlay their most valuable asset—the herbarium—into a satisfactory retirement plan. Their collection paved the way to a new life, but one that looked not very different from the old. Their retirement plan was to work in the herbarium every day for the rest of their lives. The difference was that

their herbarium was relocated to the University of California at Berkeley, where it would be permanently housed and maintained and perpetually useful to botanical researchers. The Brandegee gift was big news for the University and for the science world. A University magazine reported:

Mr. and Mrs. T.S. Brandegee of San Diego have donated their entire botanical collections and library to the University of California. As a result of this gift, the facilities for botanical research at the University are practically doubled, as it now possesses the most complete representation extant of our Pacific Coast flora.... The botanical library which comes to the University by this gift is of great value ... [and] adds many rare books to the library.<sup>93</sup>

The magazine *Science* called the Brandegees' herbarium “one of the most important in the west since it contains something over 100,000 sheets of carefully selected plants, mostly representative of the Mexican flora ... and of the flora of California and neighboring states. It contains the sole remaining duplicate types of many species, the originals of which were lost in the recent [San Francisco earthquake and fire] that destroyed so large a portion of the California Academy of Sciences.... Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee



*Echinocereus brandegeei*. Family: Cactaceae.  
Photo: Reid Moran Collector, 1952. Photo courtesy  
San Diego Natural History Museum, Botany Dept.





*The Brandegee herbarium's interior at UC Berkeley.*

will continue their studies at the university, where Mr. Brandegee has been appointed honorary curator of the herbarium.”<sup>94</sup>

Negotiations with the University had been slow and, in some respects, disappointing. The Brandegees knew the value of their herbarium. Its acquisition was a one-time opportunity for the Berkeley campus that would add 76,000 specimens and immediately propel its botanical collection into world-class status.<sup>95</sup> Still, the financially tight University did not make the transfer an easy one. A kindly young graduate student, Harvey Monroe Hall, was charged with shepherding the gift agreement through the university bureaucracy and coordinating the physical transfer of the collection from San Diego to Berkeley.<sup>96</sup> He showed tact and solicitousness in this difficult liaison role and adopted a good-humored, bantering style in his letters to the Brandegees, who must have been demoralized by the entire enterprise.

The process went on for four long years before the Botany Department acknowledged receipt of the deed of gift executed by the Brandegees.<sup>97</sup> The terms of the arrangement are murky. The herbarium transfer is always called a gift or donation in University literature.<sup>98</sup> The Brandegees were required to bear the cost of shipping the collection and received no help in arranging housing in Berkeley.<sup>99</sup>

Just before the Brandegees were to move, the calamitous April 1906 earthquake struck San Francisco.<sup>100</sup> However, Berkeley and the university campus were not severely

damaged, and before the end of the year, the Brandegees and their herbarium were resettled.

The Brandegees continued their collecting trips in California and Nevada. “I am going to walk from Placerville to Truckee,” Katharine wrote in 1908 when she was 64 years old; “I am unusually strong and well.”<sup>101</sup> Katharine tried to interest her husband in botanical trips to Mexico, Europe, and Chile,<sup>102</sup> but all their travels after relocating to Berkeley were domestic. Katharine was able to make a long-delayed trip to the East Coast to study early type specimens of California plants.

When at home, Katharine and T.S. worked each day at the herbarium. A younger botanist who knew them only during the Berkeley years observed that the Brandegees had “the same indomitable love of arduous critical thinking that characterized them in earlier life.”<sup>103</sup> The unlikely romance that had surprised all who knew them, not to mention the two participants, endured. Late in life they were described as “completely in love and entirely devoted to each other.”<sup>104</sup> The Brandegees continued their companionable togetherness and their independent scientific work until illness and death overcame them. Katharine died in 1920 at the age of 75. The 82-year-old T.S. followed her in 1925.<sup>105</sup>



*Katharine and T.S. Brandegee together on a bench.*

The story of the Brandegees and their important work has been an unfortunate omission from the history of San Diego—the region should claim these eminent scientists as

their own and celebrate the mutual benefits derived from the years that Katherine and Townshend Stith Brandegee made their home in Bankers Hill overlooking San Diego Bay and the ocean beyond.

**Note** All photographs, except for the two of cacti (on pages 5 and 8) are reproduced courtesy of the University & Jepson Herbaria, UC Berkeley.

**This article's Endnotes are given on pages 21–23.**

*Nancy Carol Carter—lawyer, law librarian, and legal educator—has a longstanding interest in gardening, public landscapes, botany, and horticultural history. She contributes articles to California Garden, Eden, Pacific Horticulture, and The Journal of San Diego History. Currently she serves on the CGLHS board of directors as a member-at-large.*

# Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Lee Somerville

For landscape historians, San Diego County offers a wealth of interesting sights (and sites) within its environs. The city of San Diego itself invites exploration of the parks, museums, gardens, and architecture that thrive in this popular tourist destination. The small beachfront communities that straggle up the coast are no less interesting, still maintaining much of their original charm despite the freeways and housing developments that flank their downtowns. Further east, mountainous roads pass through historic towns that highlight early settlement and the development of agriculture and tourism in this culturally and topographically diverse county.

These mountain roads also lead to the largest and possibly the most ecologically important desert landscape in the entire United States. The 600,000-acre Anza-Borrego Desert State Park comprises one-fifth of San Diego County, extending into Riverside County to the north and Imperial County to the east. Geologically, it forms the northern rim of the rift valley of the ancient Gulf of California, making it an area rich in fossil-bearing sediment and unique topography including badlands, desert plains, natural springs palm oases, and dry washes. The higher northern edge of the park falls within the California Montane ecosystem, but the valley floor is part of the Colorado Desert ecosystem, resulting in a wide variety of flora and fauna within the confines of the park.

The area was recognized as an important desert landscape by explorers and environmentalists in the late 19th century, but it was not until 1928 that Borrego Palms Desert State Park, comprising about 200,000 acres, was founded. (*Borrego* is the Spanish name for the bighorn sheep that inhabit the area.) In 1932 the expanded park was renamed the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to honor Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza.

The rocky history of the park's establishment included political and financial conflicts over land acquisition, ownership, and proposed development that lasted for many years.

The final successful outcome was largely due to the ongoing concern and commitment of a group of San Diego

philanthropists, including George Marston and Ellen Browning Scripps, who not only donated land and financial assistance, but clearly understood the importance of preserving this significant landscape for future generations.

The Visitor Center in Borrego Springs is a great starting point for exploration of the physical and cultural history of the area. In addition to maps, exhibits, interpretive events, and movies, the grounds contain a well-labeled pathway through a demonstration area that highlights the commonly seen plants and cacti of the park.

With 12 wilderness areas, and over 100 miles of hiking



View of Anza-Borrego from Font's Point. Photo: John Bergerf.  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

trails, the park certainly offers many opportunities for exploration. But if you only have limited time, there are two not-to-be-missed walks. One is up Palm Canyon, where, at the end of the trail, a grove of the endangered the California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) suddenly materializes in a cool oasis. The second one begins with a drive along the four-mile sand road to Font's Point. Once there, you can walk the length of the crest and gaze at the expanse of the

desert floor, while the shadows lengthen and change on the peaks and valleys of the badlands directly beneath you.

If you happen to be lucky enough to visit during the spring blooming season, usually in February and March, you will experience an almost magical array of color and texture in the delicate flowers of the desert floor. We should thank the perceptive individuals who worked so hard to preserve this natural habitat for future generations.

## **Further reading**

Lindsay, Diana. "History in the California Desert: The Creation of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—Largest in the United States." *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly*, Fall 1973 (Vol. 19, No. 4).

Anza-Borrego State Park: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=638](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638)

Anza-Borrego Foundation: <http://theabf.org/>

*Lee Somerville is a gardener and landscape historian. She is the author of Vintage Wisconsin Gardens, published this year by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. She recently moved to San Diego, where she is loving the California landscape, though she will also continue to spend time in Wisconsin. She volunteers at the San Diego Floral Association library and SOHO's Marston House.*

# Border Field State Park and Its Monument

Nancy Carol Carter

*Few places in San Diego have such a defined sense of place. Standing [in Border Field State Park], it's impossible not to picture yourself on a map, standing almost atop the line separating the United States and Mexico, in the southwestern-most corner of the 48 states.—Photographer Rob Davis*

Eight tons of Italian white marble arrived in San Diego in April 1851. Upon delivery of the unwieldy pieces of stone, buyer's remorse gripped Captain Edmund L.F. Hardcastle, who had placed the order with a Boston supplier one year earlier. However, he had a very specific responsibility to fulfill and took charge of the cargo. He arranged military barges to float the four heavy pieces to the south end of San Diego Bay, where they were loaded onto gun carriages for transport to a precise point on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

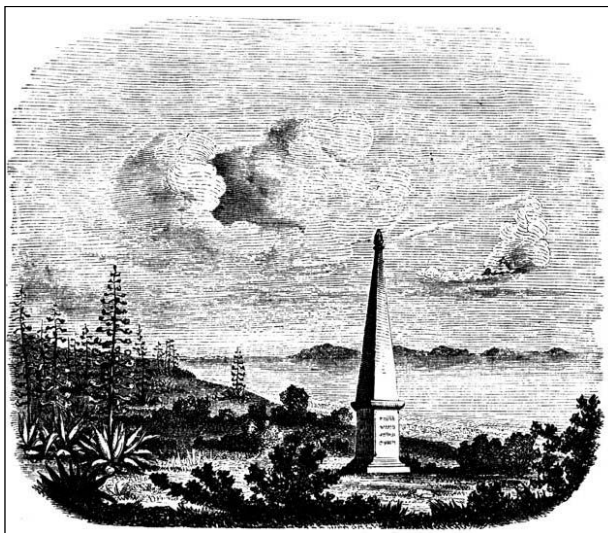
Hardcastle, a US Topographic Engineer, assembled the marble pieces to create a solid foundation topped with an obelisk. On July 14, 1851, he dedicated this 14-foot-tall edifice as Monument No. 1, a marker of the initial point of the boundary between the US and Mexico as established in 1849.

As loser in the war with the United States, Mexico relinquished more than half its territory to its northern neighbor in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. A joint boundary commission surveyed the new 1,952-mile border. Mexico hoped to retain the useful natural harbor at San Diego and a generous land bridge between the Baja Peninsula and the Mexican mainland, but the boundary was drawn south of the bay and south of the Tijuana River estuary.

Along with the ruins of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, Monument No. 1, standing on what came to be known as Monument Mesa, was a popular Southern California tourist destination during the 19th century. The monument attracted more than 100,000 visitors annually after railway service to the border was established. Military uses of the land adjacent to the monument grew in the 20th century, reducing access and stemming the tide of tourists.

## ***Federal Operations and the Creation of Border Field State Park***

The US military presence at the border was increased when Mexico erupted into revolution in 1910. After General Francisco "Pancho" Villa conducted a cross-border raid in 1916,



*Monument No. 1 soon after its placement.  
Courtesy The Journal of San Diego History.*

the Army established a camp in San Diego County, near Monument No. 1. The Army expanded its uses of the camp named "Border Field," but it was the Navy, after World War I, that began buying up the entire southwest corner of the United States. The Navy added an additional 245 acres in 1941 and constructed several buildings and bunkers. In the 1950s, with the outbreak of the Korean War, Border Field became home base for all helicopter squadrons of the Pacific Fleet.

For almost 50 years, Monument No. 1 and its historical

significance were lost to the public, although in 1951 the San Diego Historical Society received special permission to hold a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the placement of the initial boundary marker. Ten years later, the Navy deactivated Border Field as an operational base.

California voters approved funds in 1964 to acquire Border Field as a state park. Meanwhile, real estate speculators who had bought up nearby farmland were pushing a different agenda and mounting an intense federal lobbying effort. The development scheme called for encapsulating the Tijuana River into a concrete flood control channel. Once the flood-prone river was constrained, an upmarket marina would be planned, along with commercial and housing development. Opponents of the concrete channel sought to preserve the ecologically important Tijuana River estuary and discourage development in this unique border and beach space.

The fate of the military land was determined in 1971, when President Richard Nixon announced that Border Field would become part of his "Legacy of Parks" program in which surplus federal land was transferred to states for recreational uses. Three hundred seventy-two acres were transferred from military uses to the State of California as Border Field State Park. While granted scant attention initially, these park lands were home to invaluable historical, archeological, and botanical resources. It is believed that the mission founder Father Junípero Serra and the accompanying Spanish military contingent led by Gaspar de Portolá



Old photo of Monument No. 1. Courtesy The Journal of San Diego History.

entered Alta California in 1769 by following the ancient Indian trails crossing the new state park. A potential treasure of Indian artifacts and the more recently constructed bunkers of World War II were preserved. Likewise, Border Field State Park protected the “best succulent habitat” on the Southern California coast and a “nearly pristine” growth of native vegetation. In fact, it was the only United States habitat for some plants and was the location in which the type specimen for

certain species had been discovered years earlier.

First Lady Patricia Nixon traveled to San Diego in August 1971 to dedicate the park and deliver a message of binational unity and friendship. She greeted surfers who had been assembled to demonstrate the recreational potential of the new park. Then the small barbed wire border fence separating the United States and Mexico was cut so that Mrs. Nixon could greet the crowd of Mexican citizens who had gathered to see her. “I hate to see a fence anywhere,” she said, while signing autographs and admiring babies on the Mexican side of the border, “I hope there won’t be a fence here too long.... We’re good friends.”

Mrs. Nixon’s comments articulated a vision for Border Field State Park that would place it among the exclusive



Mrs. Pat Nixon greeting attendees at the dedication ceremony in 1971. <http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/>

society of international cross-boundary parks. Exemplars dated back to the 1920s and ’30s with parks celebrating peace and friendship on the Canadian border. Mexico took the lead by building a beautifully landscaped park with a wide set of stairs leading up to Monument No. 1 from its side of the border. However, the former Navy training fields on the US side remained undeveloped.

### ***Friendship Circle and Other Park Developments***

Park improvements were slowed by uncertainties over the exact park boundaries and continuing advocacy for a concrete flood control channel on the Tijuana River. A report from the US Corps of Engineers disappointed real estate developers by making a strong case for preserving the natural course of the river and its richly populated estuary. This home to 170 bird species was called in 1972 “the finest salt water marsh remaining along the California coastline.” Only a portion of the estuary was protected within Border Field State Park, but efforts to preserve the entire estuary gained support and eventually succeeded. Today the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve is known as a biodiversity hotspot and operates under a state-federal partnership. It is recognized by the United Nations as a “wetland of international importance.”

Despite delays in building roads and additional amenities within the new park, visitorship soared to more than 10,000 per month within the first year. Eventually a picnic and barbeque area intended for use by people from both sides of the border was created at Friendship Circle, a landscaped park enhancement incorporating Monument No. 1 and celebrating the harmonious relationship between people of the US and Mexico.

Border Field was a popular meeting place for families living on different sides of the border, but the practice of casual boundary crossings was receiving more scrutiny. The idea of creating a cross-border international park celebrating peace and friendship faded as news reports increasingly described the park as a magnet for illegal immigration and the passing of contraband. An enhanced Border Patrol presence and a sturdier barrier meant that people had to communicate through the mesh of a border fence. Still, friends and relatives gathered to visit from their respective sides of the border. Others enjoyed the panoramic views and the hiking and horseback riding trails at the park, although swimming and beach use declined due to water quality problems caused by the repeated discharge of untreated sewage into the Tijuana River on the Mexican side of the border.

### ***Operation Gatekeeper and the US Department of Homeland Security***

Political pressure on the federal government for stricter border control led to Operation Gatekeeper in 1994, a policy aimed at halting illegal entry into the United States. This controversial strategy targeted the San Diego portion of the



border and exerted intense pressures on Border Field State Park. Among other changes, Monument No. 1 was flanked by a tall and inhospitable metal fence.

The border changes wrought by Operation Gatekeeper pale, however, in comparison to those imposed by the Department of Homeland Security, the agency created after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In San Diego, scientists, the California Coastal Commission, environmentalists, preservationists, and park officials were rendered powerless in their efforts to protect the Tijuana River estuary, the cultural and natural habitat of Border Field State Park, and access to public lands and Monument No. 1. Some of the more objectionable proposals of Operation Gatekeeper for additional fencing and construction across Border Field State Park could no longer be forestalled. Lawsuits based on endangered species and environmental protection legislation were dismissed because the head of Homeland Security was authorized by statute and presidential decree to waive all environmental and other laws impeding border fence construction.

Homeland Security seized ownership of 150 feet of land running immediately along the boundary and began heavy construction in 2008. To create the flat road and fence bed desired by border agents, 2.1 million cubic yards of dirt were needed to fill Smuggler's Gulch, a half-mile-long canyon. To locate this immense amount of landfill, construction crews looked no further than the mesas of Border Field State Park and scraped them, despite documentation of the botanical importance of these natural areas. In addition to altering the cultural landscape of Border Field State Park, construction work devastated the unique native habitat of each mesa. This construction poses a continuing threat to the ecosystem of the estuary because denuded hillsides and the new earthen berm supporting the road produces sedimentary runoff.



The fence dividing US from Mexico in the beach area of Border Field State Park. <http://mbiru.com/tour/border-field-state-park-2.html>

### ***The Monument and Border Fates***

Captain Hardcastle's Monument No. 1 has suffered many indignities in its long history. One of the worst is losing its first-place standing. When the border was subjected to a new survey, the count of boundary markers began in El Paso. Through the process, the historic *first* boundary marker on the United States-Mexico border became the *last*. The initial border marker was ingloriously renumbered as Monument 258 and is known today by that designation.

The monument fell from its place as a top tourist attraction in the 19th century, to become an unnoticed and forgotten relic on a military base for almost a half-century. When once again open to public view, the pressures of illegal immigration ended the monument's brief life as the centerpiece of a park intended to celebrate international peace and friendship.

Worse prospects for Monument No 1 exist. It is inaccessibly trapped in a "no-man's land" between unsightly double border fences. Moreover, the land upon which it stands no longer belongs to Border Field State Park. The Homeland Security agency is said to be contemplating a cession of this strip of land back to Mexico, an action that would redraw a portion of our national boundaries and transfer ownership of Captain Hardcastle's carefully sited monument (a nationally registered historic place) to another country.

All is not lost at Border Field State Park, but it must be recognized that the potential for public enjoyment of this park's beautiful setting and native landscape was not fully realized before these attributes were severely—and perhaps permanently—compromised. Efforts to rehabilitate the native habitat, improve visitor facilities, and save the remaining cultural elements of the park are ongoing, but success is far from assured. Perhaps never to return is the idealistic vision of an international peace park on this section of the United States-Mexico border. Harsh geopolitical realities now make such a plan appear sadly fanciful and quaint.

**[For the author profile, see page 9.]**



The old monument is now surrounded by the border fence. [www.parks.ca.gov/](http://www.parks.ca.gov/)

# Landscaping San Diego: Roland Hoyt

Thea Gurns

San Diego history boasts a host of people who came as transplants from distant places to establish their marks upon its land. Roland Stewart Hoyt (1890–1968) especially enriched us. He transformed this Southland area of California literally—through spade thrust into earth, notes jotted on cards, and pen put to drawing board. From George Marston's 1929 Presidio Hill through Jonas Salk's 1960 Institute for Biological Studies, landscape architect Hoyt helped to shape not only San Diego's appearance, but also its culture and very identity. Additionally, over the years, his books, which list hundreds of plants suitable for subtropic regions, have been invaluable to many people whose livelihoods involve landscaping, as well as to home gardeners.

Victoria Padilla understood Hoyt's importance. In her book *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History* (1961), she wrote,

In San Diego County, Roland Hoyt has been the leading figure in landscape planning since the early twenties .... Hoyt has been well-grounded in the rudiments of his art and the fundamentals of horticulture.... Not only has Roland Hoyt been responsible for some of the finest private gardens in Coronado, San Diego, La Jolla and Rancho Santa Fe, but he has been an outstanding force in the civic beautification program of San Diego. (113)

This landscaper's trajectory began in Iowa. Gardens lured Hoyt from boyhood on. A persistent childhood memory was of a lily-of-the-valley fragrance so enchanting it drove him to snatch a plant for transplanting into his own space.<sup>1</sup> At age 12, with his father dead and his mother ill, he dropped out of school to support his family. When 20, he finally completed high school and went to Iowa State University, graduating in 1914. Army service in WWI interrupted his studies at Harvard, but he returned to earn a master's degree in Landscape Architecture.

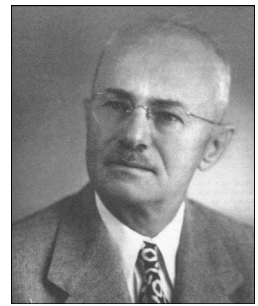
Back again in Des Moines, as vice president of Capitol City Nurseries and manager of its landscape department he helped design the Iowa State Capitol's grounds. He next joined the Olmsted Brothers' firm in Chicago. In 1922 he came to California to work on the Olmsted's Palos Verdes Estates project in Los Angeles County, then moved down the coast, joining Southland Corp. in developing Point Loma. He started his own practice in San Diego in 1928. His first project was at Muirlands, named for developer James W. Muir. On the western slope of Mt. Soledad, and with a ranging view of the La Jolla coast, it featured Spanish Mediterranean and French Norman style houses.<sup>2</sup>

## Presidio Park

Hoyt's next involvement was with prominent San Diegan George Marston, a merchant determined to honor the "birthplace of Western civilization on the Pacific Coast." This was the initial location of Alta California's first mission and first presidio, both founded in July of 1769. The near-forgotten site, on a promontory commanding a view of Mission Bay and the San Diego River estuary, was mostly barren hillside serving as a pasture for Old Town goats. But

it held the ruins of the two old structures, and Marston believed the place deserved a splendid monument. First inspired by the idea in 1907, he had raised money from friends, added his own generous share, and acquired land. After buying out his partners, he continued to amass acreage. The philanthropist enlisted John Nolen of Cambridge, Mass., an innovative urban planner and landscape architect, to direct his ambitious project. Nolen told his patron that the proposed park should be twice as large to allow a natural expansion over the entire hilltop. The resulting plan fitted into 38 acres graded roadways, a watering system, and essential landscape treatment.

To carry out Nolen's landscape design, Marston assigned decisions on plant palettes to Roland Hoyt since he admired the local landscape architect's knowledge of both native and exotic flora. So it was Hoyt who chose the plants and put them in place. When he finished his task, the park reflected an eclectic and picturesque mix.



Roland S. Hoyt, 1967.  
Photo: Jack Vreeland,



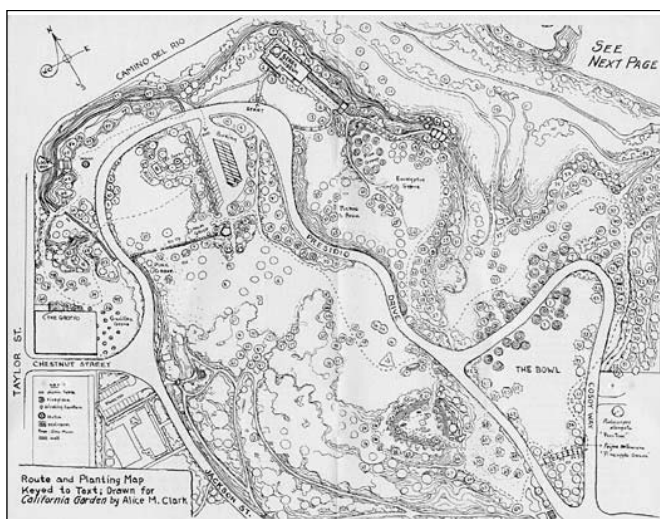
Presidio Hill in San Diego, in 1929, the location of Presidio Park and the Junipero Serra Museum.. <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/>

On July 16, 1929, the 160th anniversary of the San Diego mission's founding, Presidio Park opened with a substantial daylong ceremony. As the festivities ended, "an aeroplane, like a busy bee," showered rose petals over the park and all assembled there.<sup>3</sup>

In June of 1942, when 92-year-old George Marston looked back on his Presidio Hill accomplishment, he wrote:

I had employed Roland S. Hoyt as landscape architect. From 1928 to 1933 he was my principal adviser, and in 1931 practically park superintendent. Mr. Hoyt's thorough knowledge of California plants was very useful during this period of the most extensive planting. Later years have proved the judgment and good taste of his tree and shrub selections. Most of the important plants that compose the older groups were placed by him. His services in the early days of our park making are gratefully remembered.<sup>4</sup>

The trees and shrubs that Hoyt planted at Presidio Park



Map of planning and routes at Presidio Park, drawn by Alice M. Clark for California Garden, June-July 1961.

had come from everywhere—some even from the Balearic Islands, birthplace of mission founder Father Junipero Serra. Over 20,000 plants were part of that initial 1929 planting. Wisteria and Belle of Portugal and Cecile Brunner roses draped the pergola. Pyracantha, pittosporum, Natal plum, yucca, and plumbago combined with eucalyptus, carob, acacia, oak, olive, and palm trees. One transplanted palm with root ball and dirt weighed 20 tons altogether.<sup>5</sup>

George Lapointe said this about Hoyt: in an article about the Presidio's plant collection;

The President of the American Society of Landscape Architects once called Roland Hoyt to congratulate him on the Park, exclaiming that the planting was so natural, so free, that one had the feeling that it hadn't been planned. Mr. Hoyt explained that the impression was correct: the actual planting had been designed on the ground. The only landscape plan in existence is a record of planting, drawn after the fact.

Mr. Hoyt's extensive knowledge of plant materials and profound sense of appropriate planting for this region led him to use a combination of native and exotic plants. The natives are less prominent today, since the Park is now dominated by large trees.<sup>6</sup>

In her review of the 1995 reprint of *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History*, writer and historian Lucy Warren points out it was Hoyt who created and supported San Diego's civic landscape.<sup>7</sup>

### Other Landscaping Projects

The lasting remnants of Roland Hoyt's designs and plantings endure as permanent beauty marks within the San Diego landscape. After working on Presidio Park, Hoyt joined with architect Richard Requa and H.O. Davis, Director of Public Works, on landscaping the 1,400-acre Balboa Park prior to its hosting the 1935–36 California-Pacific International Exposition. Additional big commissions were the San Diego Community Concourse (now a mature landscape in the high-rise heart of the city); the San Diego State College campus (now University); the 4,500-acre Mission Bay Park; and the Salk Institute of Biological Studies. From

1943 to 1947 Hoyt also served on the San Diego City Parks Commission.

In *Southern California Gardens* Victoria Padilla ended her account of Hoyt's work by anticipating his design for Mission Bay Park: "Such a project could be in no better hands than those of Roland Hoyt—landscape architect, writer, plantsman, and civic figure." (114)

Plans for the bayside aquatic park envisioned turning the smelly mud flats into 1,400 acres to be filled with hotels, restaurants, boating and swimming facilities, and a maritime theme park called SeaWorld. Hoyt's own take as special consultant to the San Diego Planning Commission on the making of Mission Bay Park: "This is considered a marine park and recreational area, probably the largest thing of its kind under development anywhere." He detailed his philosophy in a modest Midwestern tone.

I do hope the people of our area realize its practical importance. San Diego, off in a far corner of the country, must for all time make people and the servicing of people its prime industry. We are not properly located to encourage big business unduly, but we can develop a more pleasant place to visit and in which to live. Here are 4,000 acres, a pledge to this thought, half land and half water, dedicated to the better life that can come only with the fresh clean air and the sunshine with which it has so long been endowed.<sup>8</sup>

Hoyt's son Roland Hoyt, Jr., in reflecting back some 40 years to when he was a young boy, recalls how his father had walked with him and his brother to a view spot two blocks from their home in Mission Hills. Hoyt, Sr. nodded below to a dilapidated meat-packing plant within a swampy morass into which sewage drained. "One day," he said, "this should be a recreation area."<sup>9</sup> The area indeed metamorphosed into Mission Bay Park in the mid-1960s, after years of dredging, draining, reshaping, and planting.

Hoyt worked until 1967, with his last large commission echoing his first major one at Presidio Park. He created the plant palette for Lawrence Halprin's 1966 Master Plan for the Jonas Salk Institute, whose buildings are often regarded as architect Louis Kahn's best work.

Hoyt designed the landscaping for the campus to particularly incorporate uncommon eucalyptus varieties. From the grove of 67 trees a narrow stream emerged to run the length of a canyon, ending at a bluff top above the ocean. The best viewing time occurs at sunset. But don't expect to experience the eucalyptus planting. Expansion plans called for the grove's eradication, and though prominent architects and others protested, in 1992 the trees came down.

### Perspectives on Hoyt and His Work

Garden writer (and CGLHS member) Carol Greentree placed Hoyt as one of the area's foremost practitioners in the evolving field of landscape design.

The practice of landscape architecture was viewed differently before licensure. In the 1930's and 1940's it was still generally regarded as the art of beautifying parks and gardens. In the 1950's, postwar development created powerful imperatives to adopt more sophisticated views of city and regional planning and to apply broader design principles to urban and regional/environmental sites.<sup>10</sup>

In the early 1960s Hoyt was among the professionals



who separated from the Los Angeles branch of the American Society of Landscape Architects to form the San Diego Chapter. In 1964 the national organization designated Hoyt a Fellow of the Society, the group's highest honor.<sup>11</sup>

Jane Minshall, San Diego's first woman landscape architect and longtime Landscape Director of the San Diego City Unified School District, writes how "Hoyt was always greatly interested in the idea that the natural range of plants could be extended by propagating those plants that managed to adapt to an unfavorable environment." She admired the groundcover used at the Salk Institute—"the sea heath *Frankenia capitata laevis*, strikingly beautiful with rich blue-green foliage reveling in moisture-laden sea air." Hoyt presented her with a small specimen, which she planted at her home in the warm, dry foothills, 20 miles in from the ocean. "It clings to life," she reports, "but barely—a pitiful little patch of groundcover that apparently longs for coastal fog."<sup>12</sup> Hoyt got his answer: *Frankenia* does better on the coast than in the foothills.

"Hoyt was an expert and artful plantsman," says cultural landscape writer (and CGLHS member) Vonn Marie May.<sup>13</sup> But his attentions were given to the lush landscapes of clients, including wealthy private ones in places like Coronado and Rancho Santa Fe. His son remembers how the family's own front yard featured pots and coffee cans holding plants and seeds sent to Hoyt from around the world by admirers and professional colleagues.<sup>14</sup>

One of Hoyt's most influential achievements came from resisting a college instructor's attempt to sign him up for a card-indexing course: "I did not do this," he declared, "but my mind was ever after on making notes."<sup>15</sup> In 1933, from private jottings produced during down-time in the Depression came his classic *Planting Lists for Southern California*. It evolved into 1938's *Check Lists for Subtropical Regions: A Handbook for Ready Reference*, and finally 1998's *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*. All editions were privately published. Today the term "subtropical" can mislead. Hoyt defined the region as "a logical, if somewhat arbitrary area south of a line drawn through Charleston, Gainesville, Baton Rouge, San Antonio, El Paso, Phoenix and San Francisco."<sup>16</sup> He thought the list would be particularly useful in California and Florida. Roland Hoyt, Jr. recalls how his father, gazing at thousands of index cards, declared, "No one will ever do this again. They won't have enough time."<sup>17</sup>

In his preface for the 1998 edition, Vernon T. Stoute-meyer called Hoyt's handy reference book "the constant companion of a generation of landscape architects and horticulturalists." Today the compilation remains relevant, comprehensive, and quotable, giving both landscape professionals and home gardeners useful lists of plants organized by structural form, cultural aspects, purpose adaptation, ornamental characters, and distinctive qualities.

Alfred C. Hottes in the 1920s and '30s reigned nationally in the horticulture field as a best-selling author of numerous plant and garden books and an influential editor of *Better Homes and Gardens*. Retiring to La Jolla in the 1940s, he served as editor, author, and illustrator for *California Garden*, the magazine of the San Diego Floral Association ("Floral"). In a Winter 1951 article on Hoyt, "His Work Is His Biography," the critic wrote,

No one on the Pacific Coast has a wider understanding than Hoyt of the ecology and planting value of the great range of subtropical plants which we use in our plantings. Instinctively he knows just what a tree will look like when it matures. He knows when plants will not succeed, for he has an innate reaction to their soil and climatic needs.

Roland Hoyt, who had edited Floral's *California Garden* from 1937 to 1943, contributed articles to it for many years. Titles range from "10,000 Live Oaks" (1946), "Of the Earth a Part" (1949), and "Proven Plants for Beach Areas" (1950) to "Conservation-Progress-Accordance" (1955), "Garden Filler of Special Merit" (1957), and "Call for Street Trees" (1965). He gave talks for Floral too, such as "On the Small Garden," in October 1937. Published in November, it illustrates his style of gentle guidance. Perhaps the speaker's remarks had been shaped by having judged at a recent garden contest. "You may think a garden just happens, few do. Always someone has given thought to the layout—good or bad." And he offered ideas about a personal garden. "Now, one of the first concepts of a garden, especially a small garden, is that of a retreat, a refuge from the cares of the outside, a sanctuary so to speak." On garden structure, he wrote, "We all know of the formal and naturalistic as styles or modes, but few realize that a combination of the two is frequently quite desirable, and especially in relating the garden to the house." He wove the underlying principles of design unity or coherence together with qualities of transition, balance, and repetition. He extolled suggestive factors of the picturesque, of enlivening light, movement and sound.

The San Diego Floral Association honors Hoyt and his wife by endowing the Roland and Ethel Hoyt Scholarship, awarded annually to horticulture students. And Floral members remember the landscape architect as "a wonderful fine man" and "a very quiet, private man."



The Serra Museum at Presidio Park today. Photo: Thea Gurns.

**Thea Gurns**, a past president of CGLHS, is currently on the board of the San Diego Floral Association. For the latter, she says she had great fun editing and writing for the book *California Garden*, Centennial Compilation 1909–2009. She tends a California native garden studded with heritage roses.

**Endnotes for this article are given on page 20.**

# San Diego's Lost Landscape: La Punta

John Blocker

On Friday morning August 19, 2011, backhoes cut a hole in one of the levees protecting an evaporating pond used by the Western Salt Works on south San Diego Bay. For the first time since 1960, seawater in this pond began to rise and fall with the tide. This is the first small step taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the process of converting this 160,000-acre South Bay salt production facility back to its natural condition. Complete conversion may take decades.

Salt has been produced in this area since 1871. The present salt works buildings are listed on the State Register of Historic Places and are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Before restoration could begin, the Fish and Wildlife Service photographed the location of all the levees to preserve the present cultural landscape for future generations. New bridges for the nearby Bayshore Bikeway were built over trestles used by trains bringing people and material to Coronado in the early 20th century. The trestles were protected to preserve the memory of the trains that rode on them.



Ocean tide flowing into former salt-collecting pond in south San Diego Bay. [www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges](http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges)

In 1951, before public agencies were required to consider the cultural landscape when undertaking construction projects, the Arguello Adobe, one of San Diego's most notable adobes and located 200 yards from the southeasternmost evaporating pond, was destroyed during construction of a new freeway. With the loss of this key adobe, a critical portion disappeared of the earliest history of La Punta, an area approximately 10 miles from downtown San Diego.

## ***The Spanish and Mexican Period at La Punta***

In 1782, a dozen years after the San Diego Mission and Presidio were founded, Juan Pantoja y Arriaga, a Spanish cartographer sent by the King of Spain, mapped parts of California's coastline. He named the area around an elevated promontory above the Otay River's outlet into San Diego Bay *La Punta* ("the Point"). On his map he noted the presence of a Native American village. Seven years earlier, Native Americans from the village, along with Indians from 15 other villages, had attacked the newly established mission and killed three people, including a padre. The site of



The Pantoja map of San Diego Bay, first made in 1782. [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2000-2/pantojaphotos.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2000-2/pantojaphotos.htm)

La Punta's Indian village has not yet been determined.

Around 1834, Santiago E. Arguello, son of San Diego's first commandant, built the La Punta adobe *casa* as the headquarters for his new Melijo Rancho ranch as well as two other nearby cattle-raising ranches, the Janal and Otay ranches. The two last-named ones had been granted to his wife's relatives, the Estudillos—another of San Diego's prominent families.

During the 1830s the Mexican government secularized the missions in San Diego. Large tracts of land where Indians lived were granted to prominent Mexican citizens. With their lands now given out to others, the missions were unable to provide support to the Indians who had been under their charge. Between 1836 and 1840, Indians plundered almost all the ranchos throughout the region.

Agustin Janssens, manager of the La Punta ranch for the Arguellos in 1838 and 1839, described an Indian attack in *The Life and Adventures in California of Don Agustin Janssens 1834–1856*. (The work, which chronicles California's early history, was not translated into English and published until 1953. It is now available online.) According to this account a band of some 300 Indians pillaged the Tia Juana Rancho to the south, then attacked the La Punta adobe by shooting arrows over the house. Janssens offered the Indians beef and grain to keep them from plundering his ranch. That night the Indians, camping nearby, held a scalp dance, which Janssens attended.

## ***La Punta During the American Period***

The Mexican-American War erupted in 1847. On February 2, 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the Treaty of



Guadalupe Hidalgo, which made California an American territory. On June 1, 1849, cartographer William Emory arrived in San Diego to head the United States Boundary Commission's effort to establish the official border with Mexico. He made La Punta his headquarters and named it Camp Riley after General Bennett Riley, acting military governor of California. By this time Emory was already well known. As a mapmaker in 1846, he had accompanied General Stephen Kearny on his journeys. His record of the overall venture, *Notes of a Military Reconnaissance from Fort Leavenworth to San Diego* (1849), became an important guide for travelers heading for Southern California.



*Courtyard of the Arguello Adobe, c. 1879. The two women were the daughters of Refugio Arguello Coutts. Catalina, on the left, was married to Josiah Shaffer, owner of the La Punta Salt Works. Courtesy Chula Vista Library.*

After California became a state in 1850, disputes over the legal ownership of many ranchos as well as their boundaries ended up in American courts. By the 1860s many ranch deeds sufficient for the 1830s and Mexican courts had failed to meet American legal standards. Though unable to substantiate their claim to all the acreage included within the boundaries of their Melijo Rancho, the Arguello family still managed to retain considerable property, including their all-important house.

In 1863 Santiago E. Arguello's daughter Maria Antonia married Alfred H. Wilcox, founder of one of the region's early steamship lines. The Colorado Steam Navigation Company initially operated in Arizona between cities along the Colorado River. After their wedding, the Wilcoxes built their own wooden home at La Punta within 100 yards of the Arguello adobe. In 1869, Wilcox with partners bought the Rancho Santa Ysabel in the mountains near Julian and established one of the largest sheep herds in San Diego. He was on his way to becoming a millionaire.

During its early existence, the Arguello Adobe had been the sole structure between the San Diego pueblo and the Mexican border. For many years the La Punta adobe commanded the intersection of two major travel routes: the main road from San Diego to Baja California and the overland route eastward. The latter route followed the Otay River into the mountains and continued along what is now Route 94 toward Yuma.

In 1869 James Pascoe initiated a stagecoach line that

took the eastern road, and. La Punta became one of the stops on this overland journey. It was 25 miles shorter than the previously used route through Warner Springs and had 55 fewer miles through the desert.

By 1873 La Punta had become one of San Diego's first resorts. It was a favored destination for people taking a day sail from San Diego. Advertising it in a local San Diego paper as "La Punta Gardens," the proprietor, who must have rented this desirable venue from the Arguello family, avowed that the resort served "meals at all hours."

By then a new industry had started in the area. In 1871 the Shaffer Brothers established a salt works plant, with large dehydrating ponds along the bay shore. A constant in civilization has been the need for dependable sources of sodium chloride. A significant portion of the California's salt was produced at this location. For 140 years, under various ownerships and several different names, the salt works buildings have occupied La Punta land with their seawater ponds claiming considerable acreage in the bay.

The Wilcox wooden farmhouse earned a place in the development of human flight. Attorney Zachary Montgomery bought the Wilcox land in 1881 to begin an agricultural venture in the Otay Valley. By then the area was renowned for its fruit production. He named his ranch Fruitland, a name occasionally used today. A year later, Montgomery's son John arrived with a science degree from St. Ignatius College in San Francisco, to become the ranch foreman. In his spare time in the loft of his family's barn, John built a glider fashioned in the shape of a huge bird's wing. On August 28, 1883, he and his brother brought the wing to a rise on Otay Mesa a few miles from their house. The two attached a rope to the front of the glider. John ran down the hill while seated below the wing, the wing resting on his shoulders. The glider began to rise. His brother continued to run with rope in hand, pulling the contraption higher into the air as if flying a kite, then let it go. John and the wing, now fully airborne, flew about 600 feet.

John Montgomery's feat, of piloting the first controlled glider flight, went unrecognized for 50 years. He would continue his flying experiments, though, and later became a professor at Santa Clara University.



*Aerial view of the salt works at La Punta in 1929. Courtesy Chula Vista Library.*



*A replica of John Montgomery's glider, flown at La Punta., on display at Western Museum of Flight, Torrance, CA. Photo: John Montgomery in 1881. <http://www.wmof.com/1883.htm>.*



The Arguello family heirs retained ownership of the ranch house and much of the surrounding ranchland through the early 20th century. Gradually holdings were sold except for 10 acres that surrounded the Arguello Adobe. Japanese and Mexican farmers leased this acreage. During World War II, soldiers used the adobe as a lookout station. After they left, the building quickly deteriorated, losing roof and windows. Some heavy doors and large beams were taken away by Davis Dairy workers for use at a nearby farm. Soon the adobe was uninhabitable.

The property's last owner was Mary Longstreet, Maria Antonia Arguello Wilcox's daughter. She was born at the La Punta Adobe in 1864 and lived parts of her life in Paris and Italy.

She maintained ownership of the ranch for sentimental reasons. When notified that the California Department of Transportation wished to construct a new freeway through her property, she sold the land and the badly crumbling house to the State. Her last residence was the luxurious Huntington Hotel in Pasadena.

In La Punta's early years a natural spring provided year-round water for the use of its residents and visitors. Elisha Babcock and Hampton L. Story, builders of the Hotel del Coronado and owners of Coronado Island, knew they needed water brought to the island to fully develop their land. Around 1888 when the hotel opened, they dynamited the spring at La Punta in hopes of increasing output and piping the water to Coronado. Instead, the source plugged and water ceased to flow. In 1892 Babcock sold his share in the hotel to John D. Spreckels, the San Francisco sugar baron. In 1911 Babcock bought the salt-producing facility at La Punta, the Western Salt Works, and installed a narrow gauge rail line at the plant.

In 1916 torrential rains caused the Otay Dam to burst, devastating the valley. Flood waters destroyed the Wilcox-Montgomery farmhouse. (It stood where Swiss Park is today.) The flood also damaged much of the salt works ponds and buildings. By 1918, with the ponds repaired, the site again produced abundant salt. Some of the existing buildings date to this reconstruction, though others were built after 1949, when the facility expanded. In 1922 Henry G. Fenton bought the business from Babcock and subsequently became one of San Diego County's most successful developers.



*This 1946 photo of the Arguello Adobe shows its collapsed condition. Courtesy Chula Vista Library.*

The San Diego Historical Society, aware of the impending loss of an important historical resource, tried to prevent the Arguello Adobe's destruction, but was unsuccessful. In about 1951, about a year after Mary Longstreet's death, it was bulldozed during the construction of a freeway. The new section of road that replaced it was named the Montgomery Freeway to honor La Punta's gliding pioneer, but the name is not in common usage. Instead, it is referred to as the I-5.

In 1998 the Fish and Wildlife Service began managing the newly established wildlife refuge at the south end of San Diego Bay. In 1999 the Fenton family sold the remaining salt works land and the buildings to the Port of San Diego. The property is now managed by the Airport Authority, a newly formed offshoot of the Port Authority. The Fenton family also sold the salt-production business to their employees. Salt making is scheduled to continue until development of the wildlife refuge impedes production.



*Salt works in south San Diego Bay, near the La Punta area. Photo: John Blocker.*



## A Plan to Establish a Visitor Center

San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox recently proposed a plan to establish a visitor center at the Western Salt Works headquarters in Chula Vista. His report points out that this site is at a nexus with three important and newly established public-recreation projects: the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Otay Valley Regional Park, and the Bayshore Bikeway. Each is administered by a different government agency. The report also notes that the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association would like to re-establish a tourist train route running from its historic National City depot and museum to Western Salt Works headquarters.



Egrets at South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. <http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/>



New bike path bridge built over an old train trestle.  
Photo: John Blocker.

Cox's report, though, makes no mention of the Indian village, the Arguello Adobe, or the farmhouse where John Montgomery once lived. If any remnants existed today, attention to these sites surely would have been included in the plan for developing a visitor center. This example demonstrates how losing historical buildings or other artifacts can lead to their histories being disregarded or forgotten.

Public meetings, available resources, and political resolve will determine how much of the historical and cultural landscape will remain or be restored. It is too late to rescue or

revive the lost La Punta structures. But the proposed development of a visitor center at the Western Salt Works provides an opportunity to acquaint the community with layers of La Punta's history other than its still-extant salt works: the Native American settlement; the Arguello family's rancho, its Adobe, and the people who lived in it; the work of establishing an international boundary; the stagecoach era of travel; the farmhouse where John Montgomery lived when he built and took wing on the first heavier-than-air glider; and the soldiers who during World War II watched from La Punta for invading Japanese ships.

*Having retired from San Diego County's agricultural industry with 31 years of service, **John Blocker** now writes a column, "Growing Grounds," on the county's agricultural history for California Garden magazine. He attends garden conferences throughout the world and was on the board of CGLHS from 1998 to 2008.*

## Endnotes for "Landscaping San Diego: Roland Hoyt" (by Thea Gurns, pp. 14–16)

1. Alfred Hottes, "His Work Is His Biography," *California Garden* (Winter 1951): 9, 15.
2. Thomas A. Jamison, "La Jolla Hermosa, a Subdivision Triumph," *Journal of San Diego History* (Summer 1985). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/85summer/hermosa.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/85summer/hermosa.htm) (1 October 2011).
3. "Part VII, San Diego Acquires a Park and Museum," *JSDH* (Summer 1969). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/69summer/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/69summer/index.htm) (4 June 2011).
4. George Marston, "Presidio Park," *JSDH* (Spring 1986). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/86spring/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/86spring/index.htm) (16 May 2011).
5. Jennifer Luksic and Nik Kendzierski, "The Use of Presidio Hill," *JSDH* (Summer 1999). 6. [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/99summer/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/99summer/index.htm) (16 May 2011).
6. George LaPointe, "A Barren Hilltop Becomes a Park," *JSDH* (April 1962). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/62april/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/62april/index.htm) (11 July 2011).
7. Lucy Warren, book review of *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History* by Victoria Padilla, *JSDH* (Winter 1995). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/95winter/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/95winter/index.htm) (20 July 2011).
8. Hottes, op cit.
9. Roland Hoyt, Jr., conversation with author, 5 September 2011.
10. Carol Greentree, "Harriet Barnhard Wimmer, A Pioneer San Diego Woman Landscape Architect," *JSDH* (Summer 1988). [www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/88summer/index.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/88summer/index.htm) (20 July 2011).
11. Carol Greentree, "Hoyt, Roland S. (1890-1968) ILandscape Architect," *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, ed. Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000): 175-77.
12. Jane Minshall, "I Remember Hoyt," *California Garden* (Jan.-Feb. 1978): 8-9.
13. Vonn Marie May, e-mail to author, 25 Aug 2011.
14. Hoyt, Jr., op cit.
15. Hottes, op cit.
16. Roland Stewart Hoyt, *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, Revised Edition 1998 (Anaheim: Livingston Press, 1998): preface.
17. Hoyt, Jr., op cit.

## Endnotes for The Brandegees (for the article on pages 1-9)

1. *The Journal of San Diego History* 55:4 (Fall 2009). The text was abridged by the author.
2. Diana Lipscomb, "Women in Systematics," *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 26 (1995): 336.
3. The Brandegees had a different attitude from the anti-Gray posture adopted by Edward Lee Greene, who disagreed with Gray on the application of Darwinian thought to botany and resisted the Linnaean nomenclature that gained acceptance in the last quarter of the 19th century. Robert P. McIntosh, "Edward Lee Greene: The Man," in Frank N. Egerton, ed., *Landmarks of Botanical History. Edward Lee Greene* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1983), 38. A new plant must be botanically "described" or "published" according to certain detailed standards to win scientific acceptance. Preserved specimens of described plants are then deposited in a herbarium on "sheets," open to inspection by others. It was traditional for most new species to be sent to Asa Gray at Harvard for evaluation and approval and Gray delegated a good deal of the work to Sereno Watson. Approval was not guaranteed, the process was slow, and the final result was often short on important descriptive information on growth habits, habitat, range, and other significant factors. James L. Reveal, "Botanical Explorations in the American West—1889-1989: An Essay on the Last Century of a Floristic Frontier," *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 78, no. 1 (1991): 73.
4. Brandegee publications are documented in Edmund C. Jaeger, *Son of the Living Desert* (Loma Linda University, 1998), 48, note 32.
5. Christopher K. Frazier, "The Botanical Brandegees and Their Eponyms," *The New Mexico Botanist* no. 16 (December 6, 2000): 3. As Asa Gray aged, he was said to be increasingly rigid and controlling, becoming such an impediment to the publication of new species that it riled western scientists. Reveal, "Botanical Explorations in the American West," 73.
6. Unless otherwise noted, two sources have been relied upon for general biographical information: "Brandegee, Mary Katharine Layne (1844-1920)," in *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science: Pioneering Lives from Ancient Times to the Mid-20th Century, Vol. 1* (New York: Routledge, 2000), 171 and "Brandegee, Mary Katharine Layne Curran (October 28, 1844-April 3, 1920)," in *Notable American Women: 1607-1950* (Cambridge Harvard University Press, 1971), <http://0-www.ck12.org/entry/78210337> (accessed December 12, 2008).
7. Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part I," 41.
8. Richard G. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), 429; William A. Setchell, "Townshend Stith Brandegee and Mary Katharine (Layne) (Curran) Brandegee," *University of California Publications in Botany* 13, no. 9 (1926): 156-57.
9. School teacher Lucy Wanzer enrolled in 1876 and became the first female graduate of the medical school. "History of UCSF," [http://history.library.ucsf.edu/1868\\_hospitals.html](http://history.library.ucsf.edu/1868_hospitals.html) (accessed August 30, 2009).
10. Elizabeth Rush, "On Her Terms: Katharine Brandegee: First Woman of Western Botany," *Pacific Discovery* 50, no. 1 (Winter 1997): 24.
11. The California College of Pharmacy was founded in 1872 in San Francisco. Dr. Hans Herman Behr was named Professor of Botany. In the next year, the College affiliated with the University of California. Lincoln Constance, *Botany at Berkeley: The First Hundred Years* (Berkeley: Botany Department, University of California, 1978), 2.
12. See generally, Barbara Ertter, "The Flowering of Natural History Institutions in California," *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 55, Supp.1, no. 4 (October 18, 2004): 58-87.
13. California Academy of Sciences, *Dr. Hans Herman Behr* (San Francisco: The Academy, 1905), 4-6.
14. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 430.
15. Barbara Ertter, "Mein Lieber Herr College: Letters from Behr to Englemann," *Fremontia* 31, no. 1 (January 2003): 19.
16. Rush, "On Her Terms," 24.
17. Emanuel D. Rudolph, "Women in Nineteenth Century American Botany: A Generally Unrecognized Constituency," *American Journal of Botany* 69, no. 8 (September 1982): 1346-1355.
18. Rush, "On Her Terms," 24. The other was Elizabeth Gertrude Knight (Britton), a science teacher at Normal College and Hunter College in NYC.
19. Setchell, *Publications in Botany*, 176.
20. Rush, "On Her Terms," 26. "Naming or having a new plant named for the discoverer provided instant immortality," but sending the plant to Asa Gray could mean losing credit for the find. Nancy M. Slack, "Botanical Exploration of California from Menzies to Muir (1786-1900) with Special Emphasis on the Sierra Nevada," in *John Muir: Life and Work*, ed. Sally M. Miller (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993), 225.
21. "Brandegee," *Notable American Women*.
22. Leslie Madsen-Brooks, "Challenging Science As Usual: Women's Participation in American Natural History Museum Work, 1870-1950," *Journal of Women's History* 21, no. 2 (2009): 23.
23. A full account of this controversy is in: Ertter, "The Flowering of Natural History Institutions," 67.
24. Willis Linn Jepson saw Katharine Curran as scheming and vindictive, contending that ten years of Academy dissension, from 1875-85, were "engineered" by her. Joseph Ewan, "San Francisco as a Mecca for Nineteenth Century Naturalists," in *A Century of Progress in the Natural Sciences 1853-1953* (San Francisco: California Academy of Science, 1955), 33.
25. This achievement is placed in perspective by Margaret W. Rossiter, *Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982), 59, pointing out that most paid employment for women in 19th century botany was as illustrators or for piece-work, not fully functioning scientists.
26. Richard Urquhart Goode, *The Goode Diary: A Personal Journal of the Northern Transcontinental Survey*, ed. C. W. Tazewell (Virginia Beach: W.S. Dawson Co., 1883), <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/7933/gde-dy.html> (accessed August 8, 2005).
27. Katharine Brandegee (KB) to Francesco Franceschi, February 24, 1904, Francesco Franceschi Papers 1904-1918, BANC MSS 70/11c, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
28. Except as otherwise noted, biographical information is from "Brandegee, Townshend Stith, 1843-1925," in *Concise Dictionary of American Biography*, 2nd Ed., Joseph G. E. Hopkins, ed. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977); and "Townshend Stith Brandegee," in *Dictionary of American Biography Base Set* (New York: American Council of Learned Societies, 1928-1936), reproduced in Biography Resource Center (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2008) <http://0-galenet.galegroup.com/sally.sandieg.edu:80/servlet/BioRC>, (accessed October 10, 2008).
29. Brandegee served in the First Regiment of the Connecticut Artillery, Company G. This service may have contributed to his deafness in later life, when his increasing deafness "isolated him more and more after he came to live in California." Ewan, "San Francisco as a Mecca," 33.
30. Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden, a geology professor, for many years led the US Geographical and Geological Survey of the Western Territories. His obituary discusses this work: "Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden," *Science* 11, no. 257 (January 6, 1888): 1-2. Geological surveys became a means for botanical explorations, but often an amateur collected plants. James L. Reveal and James S. Pringle, "Taxonomic Botany and Floristics in North American North of Mexico: A Review," in *Flora of North America North of Mexico Vol. 1* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 157-192.
31. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 431. The Morris Ketchum Jesup Collection of North American Woods was inaugurated by Jesup when he assumed the presidency of New York's American Museum of Natural History in 1881. William Adams Brown, *Morris Ketchum Jesup: A Character Sketch* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910), 163-166.
32. Jaeger, *Son of the Living Desert*, 47; "Townshend Stith Brandegee," *Dictionary of American Biography*.
33. One friend claimed to be embarrassed by their displays of affection (Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 431) and Marcus Jones, who today would be labeled a sexist, wrote: "It was surely a droll affair, a most intensely masculine woman desperately in love with the most retiring and effeminate man, and both of them dead in earnest about it." Jones, *Contributions to Western Botany*, 17; Her confession of love was in a letter written to an unidentified sister, most likely to Susan Layne Stockton of Ramona. Marcus E. Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part II," *Desert Plant Life* 4, no. 5 (September 1932): 51.
34. Katharine Brandegee was on a vessel that ran onto rocks near San Pedro in heavy fog. On another occasion, she broke her leg while collecting plants in the mountains and had to be carried many miles over rough trails before reaching medical attention. Edmund C. Jaeger, "Bold Kate Brandegee," *Calico Print* (March 1953): 8. T.S. Brandegee did not actually experience a shipwreck, but was dangerously close to it when strong surf rolled the revenue cutter assigned to land him on San Clemente Island. "At San Clemente: Experiences of Two Naturalists in Search of Specimens," *San Diego Union*, September 2, 1894, 5:4.

35. *Ibid.* Today's purchasing power of Brandegee's \$40,000 inheritance would be about \$900,000, <http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/uscompare/result.php> (accessed September 15, 2009).
36. [News], *West American Scientist* VI, no. 45 (July 1889): 82; Jaeger, *Son of the Living Desert*, 47. This honeymoon walk is reported in multiple sources, but never with logistical details.
37. Five volumes of *Zoe* were published from 1890 to 1908. It began as a monthly, then adopted a more manageable quarterly publication schedule. Although it felt safest to list T.S. as the editor, Katharine and Alice Eastwood accomplished the editorial work and each eventually received credit as the editor of one or more volumes. Despite Katharine Brandegee's exceptional rise, this was an era when sexual discrimination actively suppressed the achievement of women scientists. Rudolph, "Women in Nineteenth Century American Botany," 1346.
38. A new Assistant in Botany at the University of California could not resist a snide characterization of the club as a gathering of many "ladies who are interested in ferns and flowers," but admitted that some well known botanists were involved and that there was value in educating more people for the work of collecting and exploration. Willis L. Jepson, "Botanic Clubs in California," *Botanical Gazette* 16, no. 10 (October 1891): 296-97. In some sources, the founding of the club is dated to 1892, but since Jepson wrote his critique late in 1891, that seems to be the correct year.
39. Field work was essential to systematic botany, but many women could not leave home for weeks at a time as Katharine Brandegee did. Her protégée and California's other great woman botanist, the prodigious field collector Alice Eastwood, never married and like Brandegee had no children. Their personal freedom to conduct field work illustrates a point made in a book about women in biology: "It was nearly logistically impossible for a married woman with children to carry out original research" in the 19th century. Nancy G. Slack, "Nineteenth-Century American Women Botanists: Wives, Widows, and Work," in *Uneasy Careers and Intimate Lives: Women in Science 1789-1979*, ed. Pnina G. Abir-Am and Dorinda Outram (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1987), 84.
40. Slack, "Botanical Exploration of California," 222; Elizabeth Rush, "Katherine [sic] Layne Curran Brandegee, An Uncompromising Rebel," *Fremontia* 32, no. 2 (April 2004): 25-26.
41. "Meetings: Speaker: Carol Green Wilson, Date: January 23, 1953," *California Historical Society Quarterly* 32:2 (June 1953): 182. Wilson interviewed Eastwood for the story of her life.
42. On January 18, 1892, the business records of the California Academy of Science stated: "Council reports that they have acquired the services of Miss Alice Eastwood for the term of six months at a salary of \$50 per month to mount the plants in the herbarium." Theodore Henry Hittell's *The California Academy of Sciences, A Narrative History: 1853-1906*, ed., rev., enlg. Alan E. Leviton and Michele L. Aldrich (San Francisco: California Academy of Sciences, 1997), 334.
43. "Meetings: Speaker ..." *California Historical Society Quarterly*, 182.
44. Theodore Henry Hittell's *The California Academy of Sciences*, 337-38.
45. Eastwood worked until age 90, retiring from the Academy of Sciences in 1949. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 431.
46. Joseph Ewan, "Bibliographical Miscellany, IV. A. Bibliographical Guide to the Brandegee Botanical Collections," *American Midland Naturalist* 2, no. 3 (May 1942): 773.
47. KB to Harvey Monroe Hall, January 1, 1901, Harvey Monroe Hall Papers, 1859-1991, BANC MSS C-B 908, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.
48. [News], *Botanical Gazette* 15, no. 5 (May 1890): 125. By one interpretation, Katharine Brandegee's aim was to "make the work of western botanists acceptable by eastern standards." Marcia Myers Bonta, *Women in the Field: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1991) 91.
49. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 379-80.
50. Robert P. McIntosh, "Edward Lee Greene: The Man," in *Edward Lee Greene, Landmarks of Botanical History Part I*, ed. Frank N. Egerton (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1983), 65.
51. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 430. Time served Greene well; some of his dubious species have proven to be true. Rogers McVaugh, "Edward Lee Greene: An Appraisal of His Contributions to Botany," in *Edward Lee Greene, Landmarks of Botanical History*, 61.
52. Whether Greene actually held an official appointment at the Academy is unclear, but he may have been called an assistant curator. One unsubstantiated account suggested that Katharine Curran attacked Greene out of spite because he had not returned her love interest in him. Ewan, *Bibliographic Miscellany*, 772-89. This unrequited love theory was soundly rejected by an elderly scientist who knew the facts and was outraged by what he considered a ridiculous suggestion. Albert W.C. T. Herre, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee. A Reply to a Fantasy by J. Ewan," (Published by the author, University of Washington, 1960); Greene's treachery is described in Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 430; and he had other critics: Frank S. Crosswhite and Carol D. Crosswhite, "The Plant Collecting Brandegees, With Emphasis on Katharine Brandegee as a Liberated Woman Scientist of Early California," *Desert Plants* 7:3 (1985):137-39. Katharine Brandegee was not the only Greene critic who could not resist a personal bias in writing about him. Botanist Marcus E. Jones called Greene "a pest, a botanical crook and a cur" whose botanical leaflets were so poorly done that it made [Jones] feel like "committing murder." Rogers McVaugh, "Edward Lee Greene: An Appraisal of His Contribution to Botany," 54-55. Jones also called Greene a "reprobate" who indulged in "egotistical self-praise." Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part II," 70.
53. Rush, "On Her Terms," 22.
54. Setchell, "Townshend Stith Brandegee and Mary Katharine (Layne) (Curran) Brandegee," 166.
55. Jones, *Contributions to Western Botany*, 17. Many contemporaries and later observers thought that Katharine Brandegee was equipped to write a flora of California and occasionally express disappointment that she did not do so. One suggestion is that her perfectionism was—for the purposes of such a large project—a fatal flaw that kept her from tackling this career capstone. Peter Wild, "Kate Brandegee: Rebel with a Fatal Flaw," *Wildflower* 14, no. 4 (Autumn 1998): 42-44.
56. [News.], *West American Scientist* VI:45 (July 1889): 82. Field notes are important because botanists want to know not only that a plant is found in one location, but how far and wide the same plant can flourish and whether it develops significant variations under different growing conditions. Before global positioning satellites pinpointed locations, descriptive field notes recorded geographical landmarks. Years after his Baja trips, plant scientists returned to Brandegee's field notes to help them locate specimens. Unfortunately, clear and complete field notes were not a Brandegee strength, as revealed in: Reid Moran, "Brandegee's Tarweed and the True Story of Its Recovery," *Environmental Southwest* 440 (January 1972): 3-6.
57. Moran, "Brandegee's Tarweed," 3.
58. Slack, "Botanical Exploration of California," 222.
59. Jaeger, *Son of the Living Desert*, 49; Edmund C. Jaeger, "Bold Kate Brandegee," *Calico Print* (March 1953): 8.
60. When contemporary historians look comprehensively at US activity in Latin America, Brandegee's botanical work in Baja California and the Mexican states of Puebla, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Veracruz is remembered. David Shavit, *United States in Mexico: A Historical Dictionary* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1992), 40-41. When the flora of Mexico is discussed, Brandegee is one of seven "relevant botanists" named as having made important collections. Laura Arriaga, Elizabeth Moreno, and Claudia Aguilar, "An Overview of the Floristic Richness and Conservation of the Arid Regions of Northern Mexico," [Washington, D.C.]: USDA Forest Service Proceedings, RMRS-P3, 2005, 171, [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_p036/rmrs\\_p036\\_171.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p036/rmrs_p036_171.pdf) (accessed September 25, 2008).
61. "Brandegee, Townshend Stith." *Concise Dictionary*; Moran. "Brandegee's Tarweed," 3.
62. "The Brandegee Herbarium and Library," *University Record The Graduates* [no vol., no date, unpagged], Brandegee Papers, California Academy of Sciences, SF. T.S. Brandegee had become intensely interested in the Mexican flora and took up residence in San Diego "in order to study more conveniently." Katharine Brandegee's sister Susan married a Mr. Stockton and had nine children. Jones, *Contributions to Western Botany*, 12.
63. Barbara Eritter, "People, Plants, and Politics: The Development of Institution-Based Botany in California 1853-1906," in "Cultures and Institutions of Natural History," *California Academy of Sciences Memoir* 25 (2000), 236.
64. Francesco Franceschi to KB, March 3, 1894, Brandegee Collection, University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley.
65. County of San Diego [California], Deed Book 229, "Frank B. Yoakum et al. to Thowshend S. Brandegee [April 26, 1894, deed of sale for First Avenue property]." The Brandegees arrived before this purchase, but their temporary living arrangements are not memorialized.
66. Moran, Reid, "The Mexican Itineraries of T.S. Brandegee," *Madroño* 11, no. 6 (May 9, 1952): 258. This trip was dated by Kate O. Sessions late in her life as having occurred in 1900, but records of plant finds indicate that it was 1902.



67. Barbara Ertter, "On the Trail, with Purpus, in California," University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley, <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/Purpus/html> (accessed May 2, 2009).
68. Carl A. Purpus (CAP) to T.S. Brandegee (TSB), March 25, 1905; February 7, 1906; June 6, 1907; March 17, 1905, and CAP to KB, March 12, 1903, Collected Letters of C.A. Purpus, from 1896 to 1907, University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley, <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/Purpus/letters.html> (accessed December 5, 2008) (Hereafter Collected Purpus Letters).
69. "Collecting Botanical Specimens," *San Diego Union*, June 25, 1894, 5:3; Townshend Stith Brandegee, "Autobiographical Notes," written at the request of Mrs. Carlotta Case Hall, August. 1931 [Typescript], Townshend Stith Brandegee Papers, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.
70. L.H. Bailey, *Gentes Herbarum* 4 (1937): 106.
71. William Trehase, "Some Botanical Gardens: The Missouri Botanical Garden," *Plant World* V, no. 1 (January 1902): 3. Marcus E. Jones later wrote that the Brandegee "place was sold to the city for a botanical park but fell into neglect," but no documentation supporting this claim has come to light. Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part I," 41. Students enrolled in the Bishop's day school that eventually occupied the Brandegee property were sometimes sent out to study the exotic plantings and occasionally gathered under the shade of a tree for an outdoor class. "There were all kinds of strange and beautiful things in the Brandegee gardens," a former student recalled. Alice Heynemann (1895-1974), interviewed September 16, 1972, Oral History Collection, San Diego Historical Society.
72. The garden and herbarium are described in various accounts and captured in photographs, but only Carl A. Purpus mentions the greenhouse. CAP to KB, January 16, 1898.
73. Herre, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee: A Reply to a Fantasy," 3. Herre contrasts the approach of Katharine Brandegee and Edward L. Greene (who rejected the theory of evolution).
74. Jones, *Contributions to Western Botany*, 18.
75. Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 432.
76. F.A. Walton, "Twenty-Thousand Miles in Search of Cacti," *Cactus Journal* 2 (1889): 116-17. Walton was a Birmingham, England cactus dealer who edited this magazine for British cactus enthusiasts.
77. "Townshend Stith Brandegee," *Science* LXI, no. 1583 (May 1, 1925): 464. Visitors came to study plants and also contributed to the variety in the garden. When asked to identify a plant for Santa Barbara horticulturist Francesco Franceschi, Katharine Brandegee wrote, "We have this *Tithonia* in our own garden, Abrahams brought it from Guatemala." KB to Francesco Franceschi, February 24, 1904, Franceschi Papers, Bancroft Library.
78. "City Board of Education," *San Diego City and County Directory*, 1897; Brandegee got 102 votes in his precinct while his closest rival received 63 votes. "The Usual Clean Sweep by the Republican Ticket." *San Diego Union*, April 8, 1903, 6:1-6. A final count increased his vote tally to 224 votes. Mayor Frary For Another Two Years." *San Diego Evening Tribune*, April 8, 1903, 3.
79. CAP to KB, February 11, 1901 and July 6, 1902, Collected Purpus Letters.
80. Invoice for items sold to T.C. [sic] Brandegee from the San Diego Nursery, Brandegee Papers, University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley.
81. The fern pine tree is ubiquitous in San Diego today and was recently renamed from *Podocarpus gracilior* to *Afrocarpus gracilior*. Nancy Carol Carter, "The Fern Pine's Voyage," *Pacific Horticulture* 67, no. 1 (January/February/March 2006): 7-9.
82. "Laying Out 1400-Acre City Park." *San Diego Union*, January 1, 1904, 32:1-5.
83. Daniel Cleveland, "Recounts Story of Balboa Park's Steady Development." *San Diego Union*, June 27, 1926, 18:5-6.
84. T.S. Brandegee, "Many Kinds of Plants: Some Species That Do Well in this Locality," *San Diego Union*, January 1, 1903, 25.
85. Alice Eastwood's SF home burned to the ground and her office was destroyed when the Academy of Science building collapsed, then burned.
86. Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part I," 43.
87. Jaeger, *Son of the Living Desert*, 49.
88. While Katharine was in Salt Lake City studying plants collected by Marcus E. Jones she was guest of honor at an elaborate reception. In Jones' account, Katharine "dolled herself up as much as she could for the occasion ... and she was lionized very much." She kept her temper and was polite to all "but it was intensely disagreeable to her and she breathed a great sigh of relief" when it was over. She had no sense of how others viewed her achievements. "I was very much amused at her absolute self-abnegation." Jones, "Katherine [sic] Brandegee, Part I," 45.
89. Rush, "On Her Terms," 27; Jones, *Contributions to Western Botany*, 18.
90. KB to Francesco Franceschi, September 19, 1906, Brandegee Papers, University & Jepson Herbaria.
91. KB to Harvey Monroe Hall (Hall) (undated but annotated "Rec'd April 1, 1902."), Brandegee Papers, University & Jepson Herbaria. Brandegee wrote that her "work has been put back at least six months by circumstances beyond my control," most likely a reference to health problems. Carl A. Purpus, obviously responding to reports of Katharine's illnesses, often inquired after her. CAP to TSB, August 1, 1903; June 24, 1905; March 8, 1906, Collected Purpus Letters. Katharine's St. Louis collapse is recounted in Beidleman, *California's Frontier Naturalists*, 433.
92. KB to Hall, Spring 1901, Harvey Monroe Hall Papers, Bancroft Library.
93. "The Brandegee Herbarium and Library." [Reprinted from the University of California *Chronicle* IX:1 (January 1907)]. *University Record The Graduates*, University of California. 73-75. Townshend Stith Brandegee Papers, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.
94. "Scientific Notes & News," *Science New Series* 24, no. 620 (November 16, 1906): 638.
95. Barbara Ertter, "Two Million and Growing," *Jepson Globe* 15, no. 2 (September 2004): 8.
96. Ernest Brown Babcock, "Harvey Monroe Hall." *University of California Publications in Botany* 17 (12): 355-68 (June 23, 1934), 356.
97. The contents of this offer to the University are reported in Ertter, "People, Plants, and Politics," 239. The reply and eventual transfer document were from William A. Setchell (WAS), to KB, January 19, 1901 and September 5, 1906, Brandegee Papers, University & Jepson Herbaria.
98. The final written agreement could not be located, although a document specifying terms surely resides somewhere in University files. Compensation may have included residence at University Cottage No. 2, where the Brandegees were living in 1908, although no documentation on the campus cottages could be located in the University archives. The address was found on a letter. Secretary to the President to TSB, September 8, 1908, University of California (System) Office of the President, Records, Alphabetical Files, 1885-1913, CU-5 Series 1, Box 20, Folder 164, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. The importance of the gift is described in university literature, along with a short biography of each of the Brandegees and the promise that every opportunity would be offered Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee to continue their studies without interruption. The only list of the important books that were a part of the donation is found in "Gifts to the University: The Brandegee Herbarium and Library," *University of California Chronicle, An Official Record, Volume IX* (Berkeley: The University Press, 1907), 73-76.
99. Shipping costs, Setchell to KB, September 5, 1906, and housing, Hall to KB, September 1, 1906, Brandegee Papers, University & Jepson Herbaria. Botany Department Chair Setchell stated that Katharine Brandegee "sought no official recognition or personal commendation." Setchell, "Townshend Stith Brandegee and Mary Katharine ...," 167-68.
100. "... very glad to hear that you have arrived in Berkeley." CAP to TSB, April 10, 1906; "I was so glad to hear from Mr. Brandegee that you escaped that frightful disaster in San Francisco ..." CAP to KB, May 1, 1906, Brandegee Papers, University and Jepson Herbaria.
101. Elizabeth H. Oakes, "Brandegee, Mary Katharine Layne ('Kate')." *Science Online*, [www.fofweb.com.sdp1proxy.sandiego.gov/Science/MainDetailPrint.asp?iPin=EWS](http://www.fofweb.com.sdp1proxy.sandiego.gov/Science/MainDetailPrint.asp?iPin=EWS) (accessed August 28, 2008).
102. KB to Alice Eastwood, August 18, 1911, Alice Eastwood Papers, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; KB to Francesco Franceschi, September 20, 1905, Franceschi Papers, Bancroft Library.
103. Jaeger, "Bold Kate Brandegee," 33.
104. Crosswhite and Crosswhite, "The Plant Collecting Brandegees," 131. The Brandegees are identified as one of the more successful science partnerships in *Creative Couples in the Sciences*, ed. Helena M. Pycior, Nancy G. Slack, and Phina G. Abir-Am (Rutgers University Press, 1996).
105. "Obituary [T.S. Brandegee]," *Science, New Series* 61, no. 1583 (May 1, 1925): 464.



## Book Reviews & News

### ***Public Japanese Gardens in the USA: Present and Past: Southern California***

Davis M. Newcomer (self-published, 2010). Softcover. 292 pages, 117 pp, b&w photos by author + 20 rare, historical photographs, \$26.95. [To purchase a copy, send a check for \$30.72, to cover shipping, to David Newcomer, at 241 Richardson Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941-2518. Tel: 415-388-0609.]

David Newcomer has been researching and documenting Japanese gardens for more than 38 years. This is his third book on the topic. His first, *Public Japanese Gardens of the USA, Book One*, was published in 1982. *Public Japanese Gardens in the USA: Present and Past: Northern California*, published in 2007, was reviewed by Marlea Graham in *Eden* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2007).

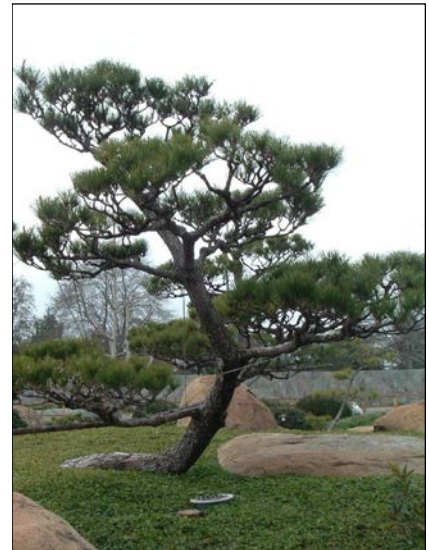
Newcomer's primary purpose is to increase awareness and appreciation of public Japanese gardens. He states in his introduction that he has focused on "Japanese gardens and related sites that are open and easily accessible to the public, not private gardens that cannot be seen by the general public." Accessibility includes wheelchair access. The sites encompass public parks, botanical gardens, university campuses, libraries, civic centers, a water reclamation plant, and a World War II internment camp. They include the ones at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino and at Lotusland in Montecito.

Each of the nine chapters highlights one significant Japanese garden. Each then follows up with information on "Area Points of Interest," covering a total of 39 lesser gardens in the vicinities of the main gardens, and "Deceased Points of Interest," which gives descriptions and histories of 19 area gardens that no longer exist. Black and white photos by the author illustrate most of the existing gardens. He has reproduced 20 historical photos and postcards to illustrate deceased gardens.

The book is a convenient size and provides sufficient information to serve as a tour guide. The introductory page for each of the major gardens lists the address, phone numbers, website, visiting hours, admission fee, dedication date, designer, curator, basic terrain, size, and notable features. A full-page plan of each garden is followed by detailed driving directions to the site, historical notes, and the author's descriptive "stroll through the garden," in which he notes its significant features. He quotes the entire text of any commemorative plaques in a garden, possibly in response to a criticism in a review of the previous volume.

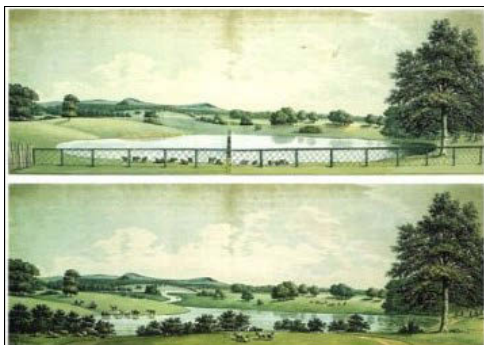
Newcomer does not present his book as scholarly. Nevertheless, the text and the bibliography could prove useful to garden historians, and an index makes that information easy to find. He plans two more books that will cover the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii and the Midwest and Eastern states. He is available to give slide lectures and book signings.

—Sharon Crawford (Author of *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators*)



Suiho-en (Garden of Water and Fragrance) at Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, Van Nuys (LA). Photo: B. Marinacci

***Greensward***. Cole Swensen, (Brooklyn: Ugly Duckling Presse, 2010), 64 pp., \$ 14.00.



This book is the work of a poet, Cole Swensen, collaborating with a graphic designer, Shari Degraw. Explanation precedes the title page: "The following takes place in 18th century England; the scene is the garden of a manor house." Is this reminiscent of *Arcadia*, Tom Stoppard's justly lauded 1999 play? Just as Stoppard jumps beyond conventional scholarship, Ms. Swensen and Ms. Degraw present an alternative critical view of 18th-century English garden design.

*Greensward* begins from the premise that detail tells all. While demonstrating that animals, other than humans, do have an aesthetic sense, Swensen and Degraw introduce us to the fleeting and constantly changing aesthetics of the garden. 18th-century English gardens, as portrayed in drawings, watercolors, and engravings of the time, are used to capture our

imagination and convince us that other species hold keys to our experience of the garden and have much to teach us. The dog keeps her eye on the vanishing point in William Kent's drawings. Horses, donkeys, dogs, or peacocks lead the people through the garden. Gopher tunnels follow the boxwood above. A tree, for a raven, is a labyrinth. Topiary, to a squirrel, is a shadow puppet. Such observations are both amusing and mind-opening.

*Greensward* is highly recommended for those who think about gardens. It bears reading and rereading, examining and re-examining, and finally, considering and reconsidering.

—Margaretta J. Darnall



***Appropriate: The Houses of Joseph Esherick***

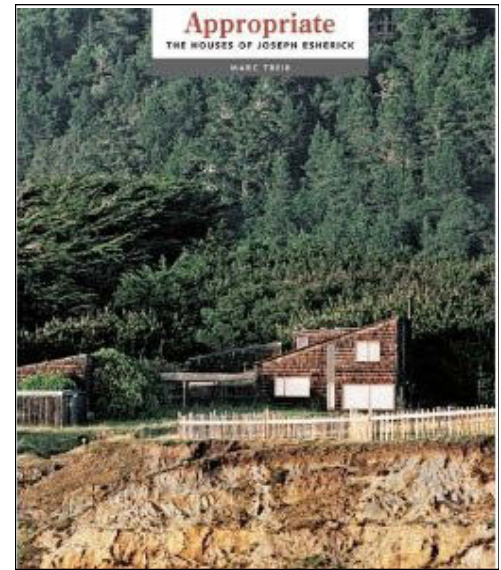
Marc Treib. San Francisco: William Stout Publishers, 2008. 252 pp. \$45.00, cloth.

When a member of the board of directors requested a review of this book, my first thought was that Eden is about landscape history, not architectural history. After further thought, I realized that Esherick's architecture is also about landscape, and that he worked with many of the best 20th-century landscape architects, expanding his residential visions, or, in some cases, blending his architecture into more dominant, overriding landscapes.

Esherick (1914–1998) graduated with an architectural degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1937. There, he received rigorous training in the French traditions of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. This sets Esherick apart from his San Francisco Bay Area colleagues. Treib acknowledges the education but underplays its role in Esherick's work. This is particularly true with respect to site planning and the integration of landscape design.

The strong relationship between house and garden is not peculiar to the California life style, as Treib asserts. The Roman villa antique and Renaissance, 17th- and 18th-century French houses, and the traditional house types of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts all integrated interior and exterior spaces into a single composition. In the case of the Ecole, method was far more important than the wide-ranging styles, so that Treib's remark that Esherick never used the Beaux-Arts style is meaningless. Esherick typically highlighted the play of light and shade, the play of enclosure and view, and the play of inside and outside as one moves through the houses. The axes are always critical, and key to the integration of the house and the garden, and are even more potent when used in seemingly casual, shingled houses with wood-paneled interiors. Such design techniques came from his traditional education.

—Margaretta J. Darnall



***Book, Film, and Exhibit News***

Quoting the press release for *Lakewold: A Magnificent Northwest Garden* (University of Washington Press, 2011): “The coffee-table-style book features a photographic tour of the garden and personal essays by garden writers, gardeners, and landscape professionals on many facets of Lakewold Gardens, its history, landscape designer Thomas Church, rare plants, the visitor experience, and preservation. Lakewold Gardens, a ten-acre public garden estate in Lakewold, Washington, is a member of the Garden Conservancy Northwest Network.” This book is likely to interest *Eden* readers because our conference in Napa Valley (2005) focused on Thomas Church's work.

*Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky* (Canal House, 2010), by Jon Carloftis “features lush photographs from twenty-one private and public outdoor spaces in Kentucky, including Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy.”

*Women in the Dirt: Landscape Architects Shaping Our World* is a documentary film featuring conversations with seven award-winning California landscape architects who have made their mark on the contemporary landscape. This 70-minute film offers insights into the thinking and creativity of these groundbreaking professionals. Profiled are Cheryl Barton, Andrea Cochran, former CGLHS member Isabelle Greene, Mia Lehrer, Lauren Melendrez, Pamela Palmer, and Katherine Spitz. Though each expresses her personal views on the world and the profession, all concur on issues of sustainability and on the need for enduring design that serves both humanity and the planet. Carolann Stoney, a landscape architecture student at Cal Poly Pomona produced the film. (Thanks to *Pacific Horticulture*, Jul/Aug/Sep 2011 for edited text.) DVD, \$29.99. To order, visit the website <http://womeninthedirt.bigcartel.com/>

*A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey* is a current exhibit at the Oakland Museum. John Muir (1838–1914) is the guru of the California landscape. His name is associated with the founding of the Sierra Club and saving Yosemite Valley. He was much more. This small exhibit provides a comprehensive view of Muir's life and legacies. It is highly interactive: touchy-feely (bearskin, for example), smelly (push a button to smell various Sierra flora), and auditory (a storm). Or, you can climb Mount Whitney with John Muir (and Google Earth). Beyond the gimmicks, the material will delight landscape historians with rare looks at Muir's diaries, charming field sketches, and manuscripts—all on loan from the Holt-Atherton Special Collections at the University of the Pacific Library in Stockton and his herbarium pages from collections across the United States. Several William Keith paintings of the Sierras and the Thomas Hill painting of Muir Glacier in Alaska owned by Muir round out the historical treasures.

It is all too easy to think of Muir as a Californian. This exhibit demonstrates that he was a man of the world and influential in many other places. After viewing “John Muir's Journey,” it is impossible not to dust off an old copy of *The Yosemite*, just to revel in his sense of discovery. The exhibition ends on January 22, 2012. It will not travel and has no catalog. Address: Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Visit [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org).

# From Ranchos to Castles: Photos from CGLHS's Conference in San Luis Obispo County September 9-11, 2011

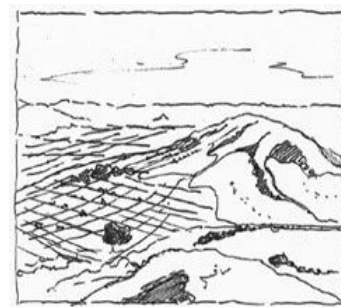
Barbara Marinacci



*Right: A view of the south end of the Santa Lucia Range, seen from our hotel, La Questa Inn, near the center of San Luis Obispo. It has the typical California summer look, with hillsides' golden-brown grass punctuated here and there by the greenery of oaks and other trees, especially in canyons. Photo: B. Marinacci.*



*Right: After leaving the Dana Adobe, the bus took us through Edna Valley and its lush vineyards and back to the city, where we disembarked at the Dallidet Adobe, a museum outpost of the SLO County History Center. Local social events often take place in its garden. Its 19th-century French owner had a vineyard and winery here. We then began a walking tour of the central part of San Luis Obispo, led by historians Betsy and Luther Bertrando. As we strolled along, often pausing, they gave us many facts and background stories of notable old buildings, prominent personalities, important ethnic groups (like the late 19th-century Chinese laborers), landscaped properties, and natural features (notably San Luis Creek, which often runs underground). We walked by civic buildings (city hall, courthouse, library), visited the mission's garden and chapel, and watched artists creating chalk paintings on the Mission Plaza's sidewalks—an annual event. Photo: B. Marinacci.*



*Left: The reception launching the conference took place on Friday afternoon. Having gathered in the spacious meeting hall created within the old barn at the historic Santa Margarita Ranch, we heard landowner-vintner Karl Wittstrom talk knowledgeably about the area's long history—while sampling delicious, locally grown appetizers and wines. This building was once the chapel of the asistencia established by Mission San Luis Obispo's padres to expand their farming and pasturage into the fertile and warm Salinas River Valley area. Its wooden siding actually covers very old, thick, earthquake-resistant stone walls. Photo: Libby Simon.*



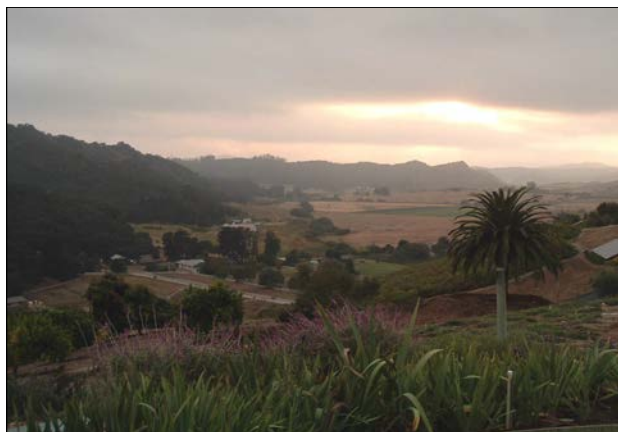
*Left: On Saturday morning a chartered bus took us through landscapes within the city, southwestward along the SLO coast below Pismo Beach, and then inland. During this journey Herb Kandel and Bob Vesseley told us much about the geologic, botanic, agrarian, industrial, and cultural histories of the features we passed by. Arriving at the Dana Adobe in Nipomo, we learned about its history and also about the region around it, from conference convener Christy O'Hara (professor of landscape architecture at Cal Poly SLO), and docents Alan and Helen Daurio—all closely connected with the ongoing, ambitious restoration of this significant historic property. Photo: B. Marinacci.*







*Below: On Saturday night we gathered at the contemporary home of local historian Ingrid Gallagher, on a hilltop above Edna Valley. (Its spacious garden was designed by CGLHS member Jacqueline Williams.) We enjoyed wine along with splendid sunset views, which included some of SLO's volcanic morros, before light rain fell. After dinner, historian and author Victoria Kastner told us a lot about architect Julia Morgan's creation of Hearst Castle and its gardens. Photo: B. Marinacci.*



*Left & right: On Sunday morning we drove to the northwest along ever-scenic Highway 1 to San Simeon. After gathering at Hearst Castle's Visitor Center, we took a bus up to the legendary La Cuesta Encantada. Victoria Kastner (at center in photo on the right) served as our tour guide. In her lively and articulate company (her memory for quotes is amazing), we viewed building exteriors and visited the huge, lavishly furnished social and entertainment quarters. But best of all we ambled through many of the landscaped garden areas, which still retain many of their original features. We also visited the two legendary swimming pools, with their white marble sculptures and glistening tile mosaics, and were shown the newly restored greenhouses in which new plants are raised. Photos: B. Marinacci & Libby Simon.*

*Left: The San Luis Creek, next to which Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was founded in 1772, was restored and beautified as an important part of the city's Mission Plaza project, launched in the late 1960s. Now it plays a role in making SLO the "happiest city" in the US in Dan Buettner's "Blue Zones" ranking. Photo: B. Marinacci.*



*Above: CGLHS board members (current and former) at the small amphitheater at Mission Plaza. Concerts and other public-welcoming events often take place here. The tile roof and gable end of Mission San Luis Obispo can be seen in the background.*

*Front row (from left to right): Nancy Carol Carter, Thea Gurns, Judy Horton, Susan Chamberlin, Libby Simon, and Marlea Graham. Back row: Sandra Price, Laurie Hannah, Ann Scheid, Phoebe Cutler, Aaron Landworth, and Christy O'Hara..*

*Photo: Libby Simon.*



*This remarkable conference ended at the Lone Madrone Winery in Paso Robles. While wine tasting, we learned about principles in sustainable grape-growing and winemaking tactics from proprietor Neil Collins.*

***Garden journalist Nan Sterman's more detailed coverage of the three-day conference in San Luis Obispo County, including photographs, will be made available to CGLHS members in the future.***





## Member News & Reports

### Gift of Persia: Exotic Gardens for California

*The Garden Conservancy and the Ruth Bancroft Garden presented a seminar with this title on July 15, 2011. The event was co-sponsored by Pacific Horticulture and underwritten by Monrovia Nurseries. Betsy Flack, fresh from a tour of Indian gardens which reflected the durability of Persian influence, assembled a stellar group of speakers, as she always does.*

Zahid Sardar's talk, "Inspiration for Private Paradises," opened the seminar with a most instructive panorama describing how Persian garden design permeated all subsequent work through Islamic, Greek, Roman, and Mediterranean epochs down to the present day in California. The classic Persian garden, known as the "paradise" garden, was a walled enclosure, divided into quadrants by four water channels, with a central focal point. Such gardens became possible with the invention of hydraulic machinery to move water from local rivers or over longer distances from surrounding mountains. Walls were essential to keep out human enemies and animal predators.



*View from the Alhambra in Granada, Spain.  
Photo : Christy O'Hara.*



*Alcazar in Seville. Photo: Christy O'Hara.*

Patrick Hunt, who teaches anthropology at Stanford, spoke about "Persian Gardens on the Move." The words *pai* (a garden) and *daeza* (walled), which are the basis of the Persian and later Hebrew, Greek, and Latin words for "paradise," pre-date the Persian language. It originated almost before recorded history. Patrick used information he had gathered from many different sources—including linguistics, archeological digs, ancient art, and Persian rugs, among others—to fill in the actual steps through which this garden design came down to modern times.

**Christy Edstrom O'Hara** (CGLHS member and treasurer) spoke about "The Rain in Spain." She teaches landscape architecture at Cal Poly SLO and also maintains a private landscaping practice. One of the themes of her work is water conservation. Christy has examined the great Islamic gardens in Spain and learned from them. The Moors from Morocco who conquered Spain in the 8th century brought the basics of Roman engineering north with them. Christy told us that modern Spanish gardeners place plants very

carefully in small holes and often add a second one, so that the same small amount of water does double duty.

Davis Dalbok, who is the owner of Living Green Nursery and gardens in Fairfax (CA) and Hawaii, talked about "Romance Plants for Northern California." His list ranged from ancient plants mentioned in the Bible, such as the fig and the olive, down to every sort of exotic plants from the four corners of the world. (Now where did that phrase come from?)

Todd Cole, a senior partner in the firm of Suzman and Cole, regaled us with the trials and tribulations of creating a huge garden in SF's South Bay area. It echoes the Paradise form, with a 150-foot-long shallow pool and an enclosed courtyard garden.

At the close of the formal sessions the group repaired to the Ruth Bancroft Garden for further refreshments, a chat by Ed Laivo about fruit trees, and the incomparable Brian Kemble's discussion of the plants to be found in the Royal Botanic Garden. The day was memorable.

**Judith M. Taylor, MD**

CGLHS's membership secretary **Libby Simon** is enrolled in UCLA's Landscape Architecture Extension program. At the recent Awards Ceremony she received both a scholarship (the Landscape Architecture Class Fund) and the Director's Award for Community Service.

Recently, CGLHS landscape architects, garden designers, and ardent gardeners—particularly those living and working in Southern California—were saddened by news of the passing of two important plantsmen: **Gary Hammer** (b. 1954) and **Burton S. Sperber** (b. 1929). Hammer, an avid plant hunter, for over 35 years traveled widely when seeking and bringing back hundreds of new plants to introduce into nurseries and thence into gardens. Many were drought-tolerant ones found in wild places in Mexico and other Mediterranean-climate regions, so almost certain to thrive in the Southland. He was killed by a car when crossing an Arizona street at night.... Sperber was the founder of ValleyCrest Landscape Cos., based in Calabasas. Starting out as a small nursery, under his energetic guidance (unpretentious, he called himself a "head gardener"), ValleyCrest took on innumerable projects—residential, commercial, civic—and is now the nation's largest landscape-services company with 9,000 employees at 150 locations around the world. He was also a renowned magician.

# Postings

## ***President's Message***

We had a wonderful conference in September. The impact in San Luis Obispo County of the landscape on people and people on the landscape is a quintessential California story. We heard from Victoria Kastner about Hearst Castle, and from our convener Christy O'Hara on the Dana Adobe; we visited two vineyards; we were treated to bright sunshine Friday morning, leading then to a sublime, lightning-streaked sky as we arrived on Saturday for a hilltop dinner overlooking Edna Valley. At Hearst Castle we saw the beauty resulting from the collaboration of Citizen Hearst and the astonishing architect Julia Morgan. A woodpecker was at work; tarantulas sidled across the road. Also, as is our organization's habit and pleasure, we reconnected with friends from all over California, and were pleased to meet our new members.

Like woodpeckers, we aren't at rest either. Next September, Sandra Price, a member of the CGLHS board, will lead us on an exploration of the horticultural history of Sonoma County, along with the development of its nursery trade.

The Tours and Talks planning committee, under the direction of Marlis Fratinardo, is developing a statewide menu of Tours and Talks that will begin early next year.

And it is with regret that we say goodbye—and with great thanks—to Gary Lyons and Kathryn Rudnick, who have left the board.

As the president of an organization with a commitment to California's landscape history, I would like to make note of the remarkable collaboration of 60 cultural institutions across Southern California: *Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945–1980*. This sweeping, ambitious program is the result of a decade-long investment by the Getty Foundation and the Getty Research Institute. It's a grand-scale narrative of art and innovation in Southern California—and one that influenced the rest of the world. We are particularly grateful to the Getty because *PST* not only preserves art that might have been lost to California's history, but also the documentation of this art and the story of its makers too.

If you have the time—and if you don't live in Southern California but will be visiting there in the next few months—try to take in at least one of these exhibitions. Please see [www.pacificstandardtime.org](http://www.pacificstandardtime.org) for details.

—Judy Horton

## ***Why These Articles?—The Guest Editor Explicates***

I'm pleased to present here to California's *Eden* readers a selection of articles revealing just small portions of the rich garden and landscape history that exists in tucked-away, geographically lowdown San Diego. They represent some of the recent efforts of our Society's southernmost members in telling stories they're passionate about. From them and my own delving I've learned facts that astound me, though I've lived in San Diego since I was six—in other words, decades. These aren't the usual recountings of the area's history. Instead, the research and writing focus on more obscure aspects of our past. So I'm hoping this issue will both surprise and please you with its array of topics.

Nancy Carol Carter's article about the Brandegees first appeared in the *Journal of San Diego History* several years ago. When I read it, I knew her study would resonate with *Eden*'s statewide readership. Accepting my recommendation, the editorial board proposed that more San Diego-based articles join this scholarly yet lively centerpiece essay. In February, San Diego CGLHS members gathered to discuss the Autumn *Eden*'s local theme, and we self-selected subjects that would cover a range of locations while offering unexpected regional histories infused with nuance and insight.

That the Brandegees had once lived in San Diego was a revelation to those of us who know the botanists for their dedicated work in San Francisco and at the UC Berkeley Herbarium. Actually, Nancy had lived for some while across the street from the site of the couple's home from 1894 through 1906. But she hadn't known of their presence there. She can attest to the superb view they had of land, bay, and sea—our Silver Gate that rivals the Golden one up north.

Author Lee Somerville goes farthest afield in tackling Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—at 600,000 acres our most sprawling subject. Besides traveling through the park to better describe its rocky canyons, creek beds, and cliffs, from her part-time Wisconsin home she also researched the struggle to preserve its 12 wilderness areas and eye-opening landscapes.

Salt works at the end of his bike-ride workouts kicked off agricultural historian John Blocker's investigation of the various historic uses of an area at the southern end of San Diego Bay. He now shares his findings about La Punta's lost landscape—from an elusive Native American settlement to the rancho with its now-demolished adobe *casa* to the hill that harbored the first controlled glider flight. His article underscores the need to preserve the viewsheds of certain cultural landscapes within National Historic Register listings—as we experienced at the Dana Adobe during our conference in SLO.

In her second article Nancy Carol Carter portrays political and financial conflicts that, sadly, have marginalized Border Field State Park. She also reveals the machinations that downgraded its rank as Monument No. 1 to last place, as No. 258. (Darn you, El Paso!) She had first visited the site in 1987 as a curious San Diego newcomer—getting better acquainted with her new home. That border area, she says, reminded her then of her girlhood's dry South Texas acreage.

With Roland Stewart Hoyt as my chosen assignment, I became better acquainted with the man who is said to be San Diego's first practicing landscape architect. I am especially happy to disclose his accomplishments as a visionary horticulturalist who shaped our civic landscape. Though much of his landscaping work has now been eclipsed by our urban-suburban clutter, his lucid and practical writings and valuable plant introductions thankfully remain with us still.

—Thea Gurns





# California Garden & Landscape History Society

www.cglhs.org

## ***EDEN***

***Eden* (ISSN 1524-8062) is published four times yearly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) by the California Garden & Landscape History Society, a nonprofit organization as described under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.**

**Editor: Barbara Marinacci, 501 Palisades Drive, #315 / Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-2848.**

**Tel: 310-459-0190. E-mail: [eden@cglhs.org](mailto:eden@cglhs.org).**

## ***Eden: Call for Content***

*Eden* solicits your submissions of scholarly papers, short articles, book reviews, information about coming events, news about members' activities and honors, and interesting archives or websites you have discovered. In short, send us anything pertaining to California's landscape history that may be of interest to CGLHS members. Also, more regional correspondents reporting on local landscape preservation concerns, efforts, and accomplishments will be welcomed, along with other relevant issues.

For book reviews, notices of interesting magazine articles, museum exhibits, and the like, please write to Associate Editor Margaretta J. Darnall, 1154 Sunnyhills Road, Oakland, CA 94610.

All other submissions should be sent to *Eden* editor Barbara Marinacci (see above contact information) Deadlines for submissions are the first days of January, April, July, and October.

## ***EDEN Staff***

Editor ..... Barbara Marinacci  
Editorial Board: ..... Kelly Comras, Phoebe Cutler, Paula Panich, Ann Scheid  
Production Editor ..... Marlise Fratinardo  
Consultant (*Eden* Editor Emerita) ..... Marlea Graham  
Regional Correspondents..... Phoebe Cutler (S.F. Bay Area), Kathryn Lyon (Central Coast), Vonn Marie May (San Diego Area)

***Our heartfelt thanks to these organizations and individuals who support us at the Sustaining and Institutional levels:***

## **CGLHS's Institutional Members**

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Library  
Descanso Gardens  
Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden  
Elizabeth C. Miller Library / Univ. of Washington  
Botanical Gardens  
The Garden Conservancy  
H.C. Russell Library / SF Botanic Gardens  
Historic Resources Group  
Homestead Museum  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
Lenhardt Library / Chicago Botanic Garden  
Los Angeles County Arboretum Library  
Rancho Los Alamitos  
Storrier-Stearns Japanese Garden  
UC Berkeley / Environmental Design Library  
UC Riverside / Science Library

## **CGLHS's Sustaining Members**

Helena Babb	Aaron Landworth
Karen Bartholomew	Sherry Light
Carolyn Bennett	Gary Lyons
David Blackburn	Carol McElwee
John Blocker & Thea Gurns	Nancy E. Mead
Denise A. Bradley	Margaret Mori, FASLA
Ric Catron	Donivee & Merrill Nash
Susan Chamberlin	Denise Otis
Betsy Clebsch	Michael James Reandeu
Robin Corwin	Julianna Roosevelt
Patricia Cullinan	Ann Scheid
Beverly R. Dobson	Kathleen & Don Slater
Mr.&Mrs. David S. Dvorak	Peggy & Bruce Stewart
Ann M. Dwelley	David C. Streatfield
Gerald A. Flom	Judith B. Tankard
Betsy G. Fryberger	Judith M. Taylor, MD
Frances M. Grate	Marc Treib
Sherrin Grout	Richard Turner, Jr.
April Halberstadt	Linda Van Fossen
Mary Pat Hogan	Noel D. Vernon
Judy M. Horton	Sam Watters
Saburo Ishihara &	Jacqueline Williams
Mary Ishihara Swanton	

**Honorary Life Members:** Virginia Gardner,  
Marlea Graham, and William A. Grant

## Join CGLHS—or Renew Your Membership

☐ New ☐ Renew

Membership Category:

☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Household \$40 ☐ Sustaining \$60 and above.

☐ Institutional \$50 (organizations and businesses that support the mission of CGLHS)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/organization affiliation/area of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form along with your check made payable to CGLHS to:

Christy O'Hara / CGLHS Treasurer / 11730 San Marcos Road / Atascadero, CA 93422

Please send address and other changes or questions to [treasurer@cglhs.org](mailto:treasurer@cglhs.org).

As a matter of policy, CGLHS does not share its membership lists with other organizations, and that policy extends to e-mail addresses as well.

**California Garden and Landscape History Society (CGLHS) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization devoted to: celebrating the beauty and diversity of California's historic gardens and landscapes; promoting wider knowledge, preservation, and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes; organizing study visits to historic gardens and landscapes as well as to relevant archives and libraries; and offering opportunities for a lively interchange among members at meetings, garden visits, and other events.**

**The Society organizes annual conferences and publishes EDEN, a quarterly journal.**

**For more information, visit [www.cglhs.org](http://www.cglhs.org).**

### *Locations & Years of CGLHS's Conferences:*

1995 – Santa Cruz (founding)  
 1996 – Santa Barbara (Spring)  
           San Diego (Fall)  
 1997 – UC Berkeley (Spring)  
           Huntington Gardens, San Marino (Fall)  
 1998 – Sacramento  
 1999 – Long Beach (Rancho Los Alamitos)  
 2000 – Monterey  
 2001 – Sonoma  
 2002 – San Juan Capistrano  
 2003 – Stanford University (SF Peninsula)  
 2004 – Riverside  
 2005 – Napa Valley (10th anniversary)  
 2006 – Saratoga (Westside of Silicon Valley)  
 2007 – Los Angeles (for Japanese-style gardens)  
 2008 – Lone Pine and Owens Valley  
 2009 – UC Berkeley (SF Bay Area)  
 2010 – Santa Cruz (15th anniversary)  
 2011 – San Luis Obispo  
 2012 – Sonoma

### *CGLHS Board of Directors (2011–2012)*

#### **Officers**

President ..... Judy M. Horton  
 Vice President ..... Aaron Landworth  
 Recording Secretary ..... Phoebe Cutler  
 Membership Secretary ..... Libby Simon  
 Treasurer ..... Christy E. O'Hara  
 Immediate Past-President ..... Thomas Brown

#### **Members-at-Large**

Nancy Carol Carter, Kelly Comras,  
 Phoebe Cutler, Sandra Price, Ann Scheid

**Founder:** William A. Grant

#### ***CGLHS Committee Chairs***

Communications ..... Kelly Comras  
 Governance ..... Nancy Carol Carter  
 Finance ..... Christy E. O'Hara  
 Events ..... Aaron Landworth & Sandra Price



# California Garden & Landscape History Society

www.cglhs.org

Libby Simon / 3302 Descanso Drive / Los Angeles, CA 90026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction and Forwarding Requested

## Contents in this issue of EDEN

<i>The Brandegees: Leading Botanists in San Diego</i>	
Nancy Carol Carter .....	1-9
<i>Anza-Borrego Desert State Park</i>	
Lee Somerville .....	10
<i>Border Field State Park and Its Monument</i>	
Nancy Carol Carter .....	11-13
<i>Landscaping San Diego: Roland Hoyt</i>	
Thea Gurns .....	14-16
<i>San Diego's Lost Landscape: La Punta</i>	
John Blocker .....	17-20
Endnotes for <i>The Brandegees</i> (Carter) .....	21-23
Book Reviews & News	
<i>Public Japanese Gardens: Present &amp; Past:</i>	
<i>Southern California</i> .....	24
<i>Greensward</i> .....	24
<i>Appropriate: Houses of Joseph Esherick</i> .....	25
Book, Film, and Exhibit News .....	25
<i>CGLHS's San Luis Obispo County Conference</i>	
Barbara Marinacci .....	26-27
Member News & Reports .....	28
Postings	
President's Message .....	29
Note from Guest Editor Thea Gurns .....	29
Information about <i>Eden</i> and CGLHS .....	30-31



*Erythea brandegeei* palms (aka *Brahea brandegeei*, *Erythea elegans*, *San Jose Hesper Palm*). This fan palm, which can grow to a height of 50 feet, was first collected in Mexico in 1902 by T.S. Brandegee and Kate O. Sessions, who then introduced it into the San Diego area.  
[www.palmaceae-erythea\(brahea\)brandegeei-palmacolorado-](http://www.palmaceae-erythea(brahea)brandegeei-palmacolorado-)

