

HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The Borning of a New Summer Resort



Our mystery location, c. 1900

THE GREAT UNNAMED.

The Borning of a New Summer Resort for Tourists.

Mr. C. O. King returned yesterday from the "Cienega" as it used to be called, where he has been for the last few days busily engaged with Mr. Van R. Elliott in laying out a new town. As is generally known the Southern Pacific railway have it on their programme to make a station there, and as a result a town of some importance is expected to materialize around it in due course. The land in that vicinity was owned by Mr. Coffee Rice, who as desired gave the railroad company for a reasonable consideration, ample ground for a depot and right of way through his tract. Business considerations moving him thereto, Mr. Rice a short time since moved to Santa Cruz and established himself in another line of enterprise there. Before leaving, he disposed of his ranch at the Cienega, which is quite an extensive tract, to a syndicate which includes Messrs Phillips and Jack of this city, Messrs Adams and Stowell of Paso Robles and other enterprising and prominent citizens, who announce their intention of making the place a notable one in the list of the great summer resorts of the coast. On that line they are proceeding with the least possible delay. A short time since the railroad engineers came down and staked out the railroad property, and now Messrs King and Elliott are performing the same duty for the owners of the rest of the tract.

Much of the townsite is a level, and this portion is being laid off in sixty blocks, cut up in lots 140 feet deep and 25 and 50 feet front. An avenue 80 feet wide runs due west through the entire tract from the county road to the beach, a distance of a mile and a half. The centre of the new town is as measured, three-quarters of a mile from the seashore. The bulk of the townsite is laid off in "villa lots" of which there will be about fifty, containing from two to ten acres each. The depot grounds and right of way take up fifteen acres, and then there are other blocks devoted to public uses, one being for a fountain, a great spring appearing there and another double block is to be covered by a grand hotel which is one of the certainties of the near future. It will be a month or so yet probably before the work of subdivision and mapping is complete, and then doubtless we shall see the lithographed maps generally distributed and the work fairly commenced of getting the outside world interested in the new city by the sea. As yet it is not determined what name the new town will bear. Very much always depends upon the name, and it will be adopted with due deliberation. Doubtless the gentlemen of the syndicate would receive suggestions in that direction, with much "intellectual hospitality." So if anybody wants to immortalize himself by naming what is bound to be a famous spot in new California, now is his or her opportunity.

The Great Unnamed

This week's theme is a mystery! Can you guess it before you finish the third section of this article?

April 1, 1893

Mr. C.O. King returned yesterday from the "Cienega" as it used to be called, where he has been for the last few days busily engaged with Mr. Van R. Elliott in laying out a new town. As it is generally known the Southern Pacific railway have it on their programme to make a station there, and as a result a town of some importance is expected to materialize around it in due course.

**A Happy Suggestion for the Name
of the Watering Place**

May 11, 1893

"La Bolsa" is the adopted name of the new railroad town on the Coffee Rice tract on the S.P. extension. This is pretty and appropriate, El Bolsa de Chemisal being the name of the {rancho} grant on which the town is located, and no such name being found in the list of post offices or railway stations. La Bolsa is the Spanish for the purse or the pocket.

LA BOLSA.

A Happy Suggestion for the Name of the Watering Place.

We understand that "La Bolsa" is the adopted name of the new railroad town on the Coffee Rice tract on the S. P. extension. This is pretty and appropriate, El Balso de Chemisal being the name of the grant on which the town is located, and no such name being found in the list of post offices or railway stations. La Bolea is the Spanish for the purse or the pocket, which in these cases is always the objective point, or point of attack.

A GREAT DAY.
A Large Crowd Gathers at the Oceano Townsite.
 Oceano has met the people and has won a great victory in capturing their affections. The excursion train which arrived Sunday morning from the northern part of the county was loaded to the guards with people, and to accommodate the people of this city, who desired to take the trip to the seaside, additional cars were added to the train. They were all speedily filled. The Military band was on hand and during the short time that the train was at the depot, discoursed excellent music, putting everybody in the best of humor to enjoy the fine ride to scene of the day's festivities at Oceano.
 Arriving at the Oceano depot, the train was switched onto the track leading out to the handsome pavilion, recently constructed in close proximity to the beach, and upon arriving there the excursionists proceeded to enjoy themselves. In this they had no difficulty. Oceano presents many and varied attractions. At the townsite proper, there is a fine passenger depot, even larger than the one in this city, and the section house and residence of the station agent, are all constructed in that substantial manner which characterizes everything undertaken by the railroad people on this coast road. A short distance south of the depot, a short branch line leads off to the pavilion at the beach. Here the vast throng of people spent the day.

The pavilion is built within a few hundred yards of the beach in a most favorable locality. From the pavilion a wagon road has been constructed to the beach crossing the Arroyo Grande creek by means of a well built bridge. The pavilion is a two story building about 100 by 45 feet in its dimensions. A veranda extends on all sides of it. The lower floor contains a large assembly room well adapted for dancing, and two refreshment rooms. The second story is divided into rooms for visitors. By noon time there was fully 1500 people gathered at the coming seaside resort, and from the assembly hall came the sound of music and the merry peal of laughter of those dancing within. Everybody was there for a good time and they were not to be disappointed in it.
 Oceano is a coming resort for the pleasure seeker. Its fine beach is not to be excelled. The lagoon formed at the mouth of the Arroyo Grande creek will some day be covered with pleasure craft of many a gay boating party. Then will be the day that we can truthfully say that we have a pleasure resort to which we can invite the whole world. Messrs. Adams, Stowell and Nuttall received every visitor with the utmost cordiality. In a later issue an account of the railroad construction and the country bordering it will be given.

A Decision Made

Have you figured out what town we're talking about? By 1895, it was being called by the name we still use today:

August 6, 1895

The excursion train which arrived Sunday morning from the northern part of the county was loaded to the guards with people, and to accommodate the people of this city, who desired to take the trip to the seaside, additional cars were added to the train. They were all speedily filled. The Military band was on hand and during the short time that the train was at the depot, discoursed excellent music, putting everybody in the best of humor to enjoy the fine ride to scene of the

day's festivities at Oceano.



Oceano seen in c. 1905. Did you guess it?

Return of the Carnegie Lecture

Toward a Moment of Reckoning: Understanding the History of Local and National



Racial Violence

Join Dr. Leola Dublin Macmillan, Resource Development Specialist at the United Way of San Luis Obispo County, and Geoffrey Land, teacher at Paso Robles High School.

Friday, September 11th, at 5:30 pm
Taking place virtually via Zoom

[To learn more or to register for this free event, click here.](#)

Virtual Tours

You can visit the Dallidet Adobe or the Octagon Barn live via Zoom.

For information or to register, [click here](#).

Or you can join the Lighthouse keepers and tour the Point San Luis Lighthouse by [clicking here](#).



Dallidet Gardens Open - One More Sunday!

Don't miss your chance! This Sunday is the LAST day the Dallidet Gardens will be open to the public in 2020. Seize the opportunity and experience a hidden jewel of San Luis Obispo.

The gardens will be open from 11 am to 3 pm. The State's [guidelines for Outdoor Museums](#) will be strictly followed, so please bring your mask.

The Dallidet Family enjoy their garden with some, ahem, minor alterations

1185 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo

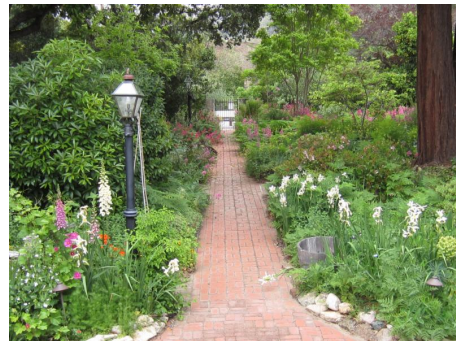
Mindfulness in the Gardens

We are very excited to announce the return of guided meditation to the Dallidet Gardens. Engage your senses - sound, sight, touch - by sitting, walking and exploring in silent contemplation

Starting August 18th and continuing weekly through the end of September, your skilled guides will help you to enjoy this 1½ hour fresh, yet timeless, approach.

Safety protocols for Covid will be observed, which includes a limited number of spaces.

To learn more or to register, [please visit our website](#).



Morro Bay Maritime Museum



The Morro Bay Maritime Museum is a non-profit organization that provides an easily accessible educational venue for maritime history, sciences and technology. The outside exhibit includes one of only two DSRV's (deep sub-mergence rescue vehicle) in the world.

While the small indoor portion of the museum is closed, the outdoor displays with interpretive panels are open daily. Call 805-467-3256 to arrange for a personal tour.

1210 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

The admission is free but donations are very much appreciated. Thank you!

Easing up on your Inbox

We started sending weekly emails when we went into lock down at the end of March. After 25 weeks of producing new content every week, we are easing back to biweekly newsletters, with occasional extra emails sent about History Center events.

Thank you for being a part of our community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kessler
Executive Director

History Center of San Luis Obispo County

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[Become a member now, click here!](#)

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