



COUNTY COURIER

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PIO PICO STATE HISTORIC PARK

Fred Andrews (Park Ranger) and Carolyn Schoff (Volunteer Docent) will be presenting together on Pio Pico State Historic Park - the home of the last Mexican governor of California. Fred will be bringing slides and focusing on the restoration of the site that occurred between 2000 and 2003 and cost \$5.4 million. It included a complete restoration and earthquake retrofitting of the adobe after it was severely damaged in both the 1987 Whittier Narrows and 1994 Northridge Earthquakes. The restoration also included removing the non-historically accurate aspects of the park and restoring it to its "Rancho" appearance when Pio Pico lived there in the 1880s including historically accurate plants and crops. Fred is then going to cover the significance of "El Ranchito," the name Pio Pico gave to his little rancho which he purchased in order to gain water rights because he had been involved in so many law suits during his lifetime over water rights. He thought that this purchase of land would resolve that issue (sadly, it did not) as he was sued over 150 times in his life over water rights - including rights to water at "El Ranchito". Following Fred's presentation on the Rancho, the Adobe, and what is it like today, Carolyn will talk about the volunteer program and how they are trying to bring it alive and keep it alive for the visitors with school programs and living history days. Both speakers will be in costume and Carolyn will talk about the park's new focus on taking the visitors back to Pio Pico's



"El Ranchito" in the 1880s

time by playing characters straight out of his life. It was a colorful time in which Pio Pico lived, and they want the visitors to relive it when they visit the Rancho. Carolyn plays Josefa Carrillo, Pio Pico's cousin, who he kidnapped from her family to help her elope with Captain John Fitch on his ship sitting off the California



FRED ANDREWS AND DOCENT VOLUNTEER DEBI NELSON AT THE PIO PICO MANSION ON A LIVING HISTORY DAY IN NOVEMBER.



Carolyn Schoff as Josefa Carrillo and Pio Pico reenactor Robert Garza

We will meet on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. at Bower's Kidseum, northwest corner of Main and 18th Streets in Santa Ana. Free parking in back with entrance to building in back and to the side.



HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Important dates in the story of Pio Pico and his house.

*From
the official website of the Friends of Pio Pico, Inc.
information for the site by Carolyn Schoff
<http://piopico.org>*

1771 Spanish missionaries found Mission San Gabriel.

1775 Jose Maria Pico and Maria Estaquia Gutierrez, parents of Pio Pico, arrive in California with their parents as part of the DeAnza expedition.

coast. This and many other exciting stories about the life of Pio Pico help bring the Rancho alive and we invite the members of the historical society to journey back to the Californio Rancho Days on Saturday, January 15, 2005 when we will tour the site.
by Carolyn Schoff

- 1784** 145,000 acre Spanish land grant is given to Jose Manuel Nieto and includes what is now the current Pio Pico State Historic Park Property.
- 1801** Pio de Jesus Pico is born on May 5 at Mission San Gabriel to Jose Maria Pico and Maria Estaquia Gutierrez.
- 1805** Pio Pico's family moves to San Diego where his father served at the Presidio.
- 1819** Jose Maria Pico dies in San Diego.
- 1822** News of Mexico's independence reaches California.
- 1826** Pio Pico is elected to the advisory assembly of the governor.
- 1832** Pio Pico becomes interim governor of California for 20 days.
- 1834** Pio Pico marries Maria Ygnacia Alvarado, niece to California Governor Alvarado and member of prominent Los Angeles family.
- 1835** Rancho Paso de Bartolo (8,894 acres) is granted to Juan Crispin Perez.
- 1845** Pio Pico becomes governor of California.
- 1846** Pio Pico escapes to Mexico when the Americans invade California.
- 1847** Andres Pico and the Californios surrender to John C. Fremont and sign the Capitulation of Cahuenga. California is surrendered to the Americans, and Pio Pico returns from Mexico.
- 1848** Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo is signed.
Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill.
Pio Pico begins purchasing Rancho Paso de Bartolo which he affectionately calls "El Ranchito" and where he will later construct his Mansion (adobe).
- 1850** California becomes the 31st State.

- 1853** Pio Pico builds his adobe "Mansion" on its current site.
- 1854** Maria Ygnacia Alvarado de Pico, Pio Pico's wife, dies on February 21st in Santa Barbara.
- 1867** A flood sweeps through the area, several rooms of Pio Pico's Adobe are washed away, and the San Gabriel River changes course to its present day course.
- 1870** Pio Pico constructs the Pico House, a grand brick luxury hotel in Los Angeles.
- 1876** Andres Pico, Pio Pico's brother, is found in street unconscious in Los Angeles and dies on February 14th.
- 1880** Pio Pico loses his hotel, the Pico House to the San Francisco Savings and Loan Company.
- 1883** Ranulfo Pico, one of Pio Pico's sons, is murdered.
- Pio Pico conveys a deed for El Ranchito to Bernard Cohn, thinking it is a loan, but subsequent litigation leads to the loss of his property years later.
- 1884** Flooding destroys part of Pio Pico's Adobe and the home is extensively remodeled.
- 1892** Pio Pico is evicted from El Ranchito after losing a prolonged court battle to Bernard Cohn.
- 1894** Pio Pico dies a pauper in Los Angeles at his daughter's home on September 11th.
- 1898** The City of Whittier begins purchasing the property surrounding Pio Pico's Adobe for a water pumping facility.
- 1907** Harriet Russell Strong and other local Whittier citizens save Pio Pico's Adobe as a Historic Site.
- 1909** Civic groups led by Harriet Russell Strong complete the first restoration of the Pico Adobe.
- 1917** Pio Pico Adobe and property is deeded to the State of California.
- 1927** Pio Pico site becomes one of the first State Historic Parks in California.
- 1944** Extensive restoration of Pio Pico Adobe is done by the State of California.
- 1987** Pio Pico Adobe is closed due to damage suffered in Whittier Narrows earthquake.
- 1993** A grassroots effort begins to raise monies to restore the Pio Pico Adobe and historic landscaping.
- 1994** Pio Pico Adobe is damaged further in Northridge earthquake.
- 1996** Los Angeles County Proposition A passes, which includes \$2.5 million for the restoration of Pio Pico State Historic Park.
- 2000** Under the direction of the State of California, restoration work begins on the Pio Pico Adobe.
- 2002** Under the direction of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Whittier, reconstruction of the historic landscaping begins.
- 2003** Pio Pico State Historic Park re-opens to public after restoration on September 20, 2003.



Pio Pico Adobe in the early 20th century
from the website



Pio Pico State Historic Park

SATURDAY TOUR

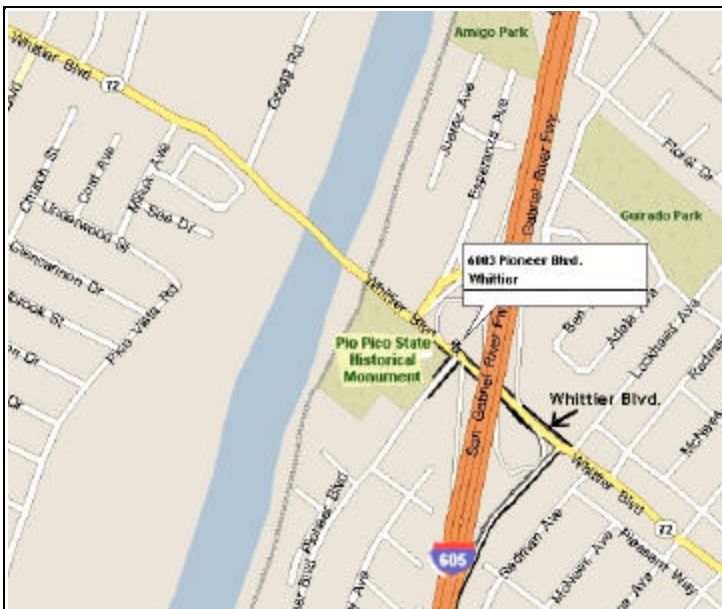
We will meet at the Park on Saturday, January 15, 2005 at 10:30 for a docent led tour of the adobe and the grounds. If rain is expected for that morning we will postpone the tour until the regular Living History day on January 22. January is expected to be a busy month for the site as it has been filmed by Huell Houser. The program is to air sometime in January on PBS stations.

Questions call Jane Norgren at (714) 529-5160

Directions to "El Ranchito"

Pio Pico State Historic Park

6003 Pioneer Blvd. is in Whittier, California, about 20 miles South East of downtown Los Angeles. Take your favorite freeway to the 605 in Whittier (the 5, 91 and 405 all intersect with the 605) Get off the 605 at Whittier Blvd. Exit turn left pass under the freeway then make a immediate left and parking is in front.



Civil War Battles in Downtown Anaheim?

Yes, during the weekend of February 5th and 6th, 2005, the Union and Confederate Armies will be encamped at St. Catherine's Military Academy, 215 N. Harbor Blvd. in Anaheim. There will be two battles every day. See Abraham Lincoln! See Generals Grant and Lee at Appomattox! See cavalry skirmishes (with horses and sabers and guns, oh my!) Hear the cannons roar in the thick of battle! Talk with soldiers from both armies! Tour their camps, authentic in every detail! Check out their daily menu (when food was available.)

This event is approached from the living history viewpoint. Study guides have been provided to various schools. If you are interested or know of a school that would like a Study Guide, please contact St. Catherine's Military Academy at the phone number below. Daily Admission: One Adult \$5.00, One Student or Senior \$3.00. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the battleground each day of the event.

Please call 714-772-1363 for more information



vineyard at the four acre Pio Pico State Historic Park

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- Board Meeting
 - Thursday Jan. 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM
at Kidseum
Jan. Meeting
 - **Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005**
 - Opening at 7:00 p.m.
 - **Bower's Kidseum**
 - **18th and Main Sts., Santa Ana**
 - **7:30 p.m. Program:**
- Program about Pio Pico and the State Historic Park in Whittier by Park Ranger Fred Andrews and board member Carolyn Schoff, a docent volunteer at the site.**
- **Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005**
 - **10:30 a.m.**
- A docent tour of **Pio Pico State Historic park**



Where will you find books on local history? Your best source is your Orange County Historical Society.

Books listed below in **BOLD** are pictured and described on our website: www.orangecountyhistory.org

Don't see the book you are looking for? **ASK US**. If we don't have it we will help you find it.

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Bawdy Balboa by Judge Robert Gardner	\$25.00		Proceedings of the Conference of Orange County History 1988 \$11.00
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Orange County Through Four Centuries By Dr. Leo J. Friis	\$15.95		
The Orange Blossom 50 Years of Growth in Orange County	\$40.00		
ORANGE COUNTY The Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson 2002 edition	\$37.00		

All prices include sales tax

MERCHANDISE TOTAL _____

Postage and Handling (\$3.00 first item, \$1 each additional)
Orange Blossoms is **\$5** per book, \$1 each additional
Orange County The Golden Promise is **\$5** per book, \$1 each additional
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Make checks payable to OCHS

^ **MAIL TO:** John Sorenson, 14932 Gainford Circle, Irvine CA 92604

