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From Editors Iris Engstrand and Molly McClain

This issue of *The Journal of San Diego History* is designed to commemorate the 300th birthday of Father Junípero Serra. Born Miguel José in Petra, Mallorca, on November 24, 1713, Serra joined the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) in Palma in 1730.

The first article, an excerpt from the newly translated diary of Serra's journey to San Diego, is a faithful representation of what the missionaries coming to California found during their arduous trek. The Franciscan order had replaced the Jesuit missionaries in Baja California in 1768 after their expulsion from Spain by royal decree of King Carlos III. José de Gálvez, the minister responsible for carrying out the order in Mexico, recruited Father Serra and thirteen other Franciscans not only to restaff the Jesuit missions in Baja California, but to open up new missions in Alta California (our present state).

The photographs and drawings accompanying Serra's diary are taken from a variety of sources—some contemporary—such as those by Father Ignacio Tirsch, a Jesuit priest/artist of the late 18th century; some by local artist Ted DeGrazia known to many San Diegans for his stylized portraits of Indians, soldiers and missionaries of the Spanish Southwest; and others by photographers from the 1960s to the present. In some respects, little has changed in present-day Baja California in many areas traversed by Father Serra and his companions in 1769.

The second article is a never-before-published diary of Edward H. Davis, well known as an Indian photographer and collector residing in Mesa Grande at the turn of the twentieth century. The San Diego History Center, repository of some 5,000 photographs taken by Davis during his travels in San Diego County and throughout the Southwest, has mounted an exhibit of these photos at the History Center in Balboa Park to illustrate local landscapes and the variety of his Indian subjects. Those illustrating this article were taken on Davis's 1926 journey by pack mule train from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas.

The third article is the document outlining the procedure for nominating Presidio Park for historic landmark status, which is particularly relevant at this time. The San Diego History Center is presently revitalizing the Serra Museum and turning it into one of the most important historical sites in San Diego. The Park commemorates the place where Father Serra first planted the cross for Mission

San Diego de Alcalá on July 16, 1769, and in so doing marked the birthplace of the State of California. The mission remained on the site until 1774 when it was moved to its present location six miles inland in Mission Valley. The presidio, first as a royal encampment in 1769 and elevated to presidio status in 1772, served as the southern headquarters for the Spanish soldiers and their families, which set it apart from a fort manned only by soldiers. The descriptions of life at the presidio come from sources relying on the first-hand accounts of Captain George Vancouver, Richard Henry Dana, James Ohio Pattie, and others who visited the presidio during the Spanish and Mexican periods.

A pictorial essay concluding this issue illustrates the life of Father Serra and his birthplace in Mallorca, Spain, making it possible for the reader to understand the contrast of Serra's birthplace to the rough and primitive surroundings of both Californias during the Spanish period. The division between Baja and Alta California came in 1772 when Dominican missionaries took over the former Jesuit missions and one Franciscan mission in what was then known as Antigua California. The Franciscans were given the mission territory from San Diego to north of San Francisco leading to the foundation of California's 21 missions.



Entrance to the Junípero Serra Museum designed by William Templeton Johnson and completed in 1928. It became headquarters for the San Diego Historical Society in 1929. Photo by Iris Engstrand.

EVENTS

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Junípero Serra Museum

HISTORIC WEDDINGS HAPPEN IN HISTORIC VENUES...

The Junípero Serra Museum is an ideal setting for a stunning and upscale wedding. The striking mission-style building located in Presidio Park above San Diego's historic Old Town, boasts spectacular views overlooking the City and the Pacific Ocean. Offering beautiful upper and lower terraces and an indoor gallery, the museum is perfect for both an outdoor or indoor event.

MUSEUM INFO

Junípero Serra Museum
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San Diego, CA 92103

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