

Rose Canyon

A walk through San Diego history . . .

Today we celebrate Rose Canyon as a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of a growing urban environment. Rose Canyon Open Space Park offers hiking trails, wildlife viewing and a place for friends and families to reconnect and relax. The Canyon was named for San Diego entrepreneur Louis Rose, and even during his time it was considered an idyllic place for a picnic. A walk through Rose Canyon is also a walk through history from the beginnings of human habitation in the region, Spanish exploration, Californio rancheros, and early American entrepreneurial ventures to modern-day commerce. This exhibit explores the history of Rose Canyon, and you're invited to visit this fascinating cultural landscape for yourself.

Many of the artifacts used in this exhibit were excavated by Brian F. Smith and Associates and RMW Paleo Associates, Inc. before the installation of a sewer project through Rose Canyon. Funds from the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department allowed for curation of the artifacts at the San Diego Archaeological Center where they can be used for research and public education. The exact locations of the archaeological sites are not mentioned in this exhibit for their protection and preservation.

Exhibit curated by Cindy Stankowski, Director
San Diego Archaeological Center

Introduction

Special thanks to
Ronald M. Bissell, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc., Mission Viejo, CA
Annemarie Cox, Program Coordinator San Diego Archaeological Center
Brian F. Smith, Brian F. Smith and Associates, Poway, CA
Team Reprographics, San Diego, CA



Rose Canyon (colored purple) runs from Mission Bay to Miramonte. Rose Canyon is shown along US 101, now Interstate 5. This c. 1935 map of San Diego shows the train stops at Ladrillo, Elvira and Selwyn.
Map courtesy of Jim Royle



(Top) A ground penetrating radar sled was used in Rose Canyon to identify underground features, such as this cobble foundation *(Bottom)*
Photos courtesy of Brian F. Smith and Associates



How do we know what we know?

Archaeologists study objects made by humans in the past to try to figure out how people lived. Besides the objects themselves, there are a lot of variables to consider. For example, what type of objects can remain in the archaeological record over time? For the most part, the object has to be hard—stone, bone, ceramics and shell make up the greatest volume of artifacts in San Diego. Fragile wood and plant materials are rarely recovered. So, archaeologists are usually working with only a fraction of what existed before. Plus, the artifact has to be buried in such a way that it remains in the general vicinity in which it was lost or tossed away for it to have any contextual meaning.

Written historical records are very important in reconstructing the past. Marriage, death and tax registers give important clues as to who's who; newspaper articles of the time document the details that bring the past to life.

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Rose Canyon is a natural corridor, a fairly easy way to get from San Diego Bay to points north on foot, horseback, rail and now by car. More than 250,000 people travel through Rose Canyon every day by car, train, on foot and on bikes.

American Indian Lands

American Indians lived in Rose Canyon for thousands of years before the Europeans came to San Diego. Rose Canyon had plentiful game and plant resources, water and a pleasant climate. There is archaeological evidence of small temporary “camp” sites, as well as larger sites of extended occupation, dating back 7,000 years.

El Camino Real-Spanish Period

The first recorded exploration of Rose Canyon occurred on July 14 & 15, 1769. Governor Gaspar de Portolá led a party of soldiers and Friar Junípero Serra through the canyon on their way to Northern California. The Portolá camp was near the site where the Union Brick Company would be built over one hundred years later. The route north through Rose Canyon eventually became part of “The King’s Highway,” the most direct route to the missions in Alta California

La Cañada de las Yeguas-Mexican Period

During the time that California was part of Mexico, Rose Canyon was called La Cañada de la Yeguas—Canyon of the Mares. It is believed that an early entrepreneur raised horses in the canyon.

Mail by Mule-Early California Period

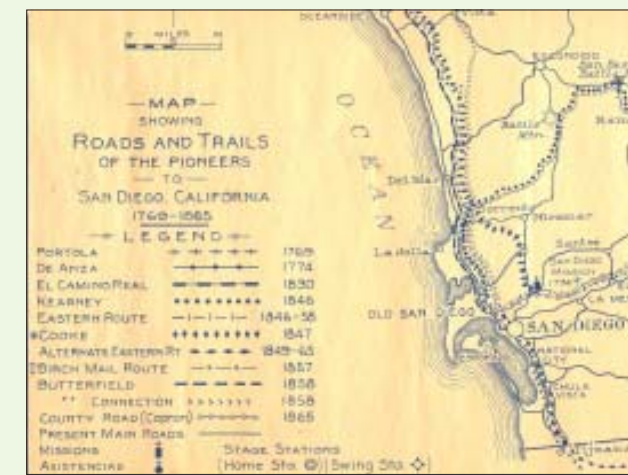
Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearney established a fortnightly horseback mail service route through Rose Canyon in 1847. By 1851, mail was delivered by ship to San Diego and loaded on mules for semi-monthly delivery to Los Angeles. The Overland Mail Company initiated mail service in 1861 and the road through Rose Canyon was called the Coast Route. Concord stagecoaches began bringing passengers through the canyon in 1869.

Railroad-Connection to the Nation

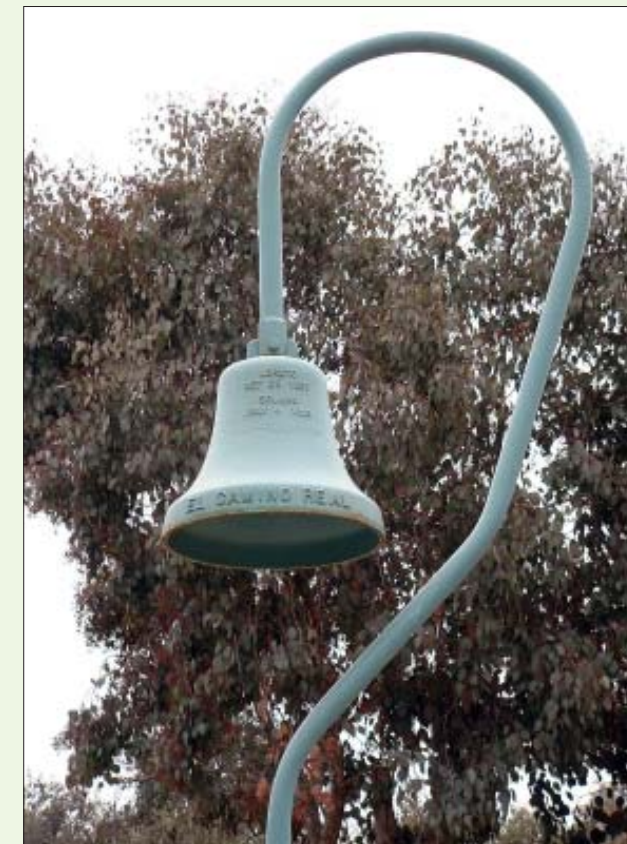
Efforts to bring the railroad to San Diego started as early as 1854, but the line didn’t go through Rose Canyon until 1881. Today over 5,000 people ride the Amtrak Surfliner and Coaster through Rose Canyon per day. On the train through the canyon, there are a few brief moments when you can almost imagine you’re in San Diego 100 years ago.

Scenic San Diego-Modern Period

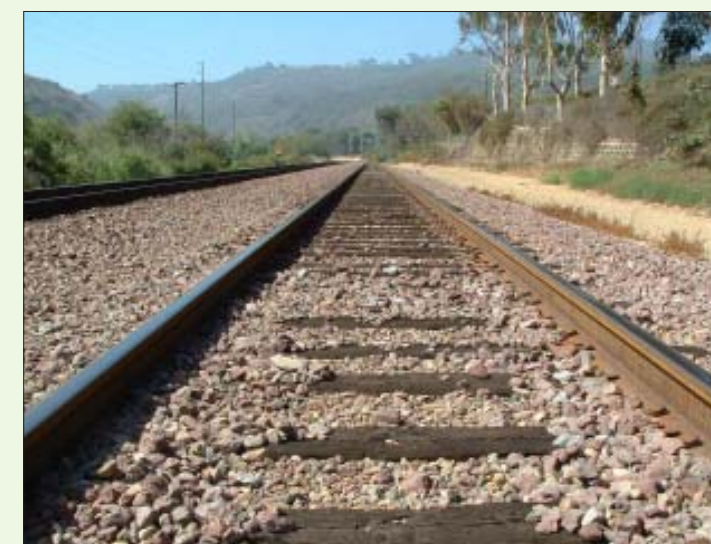
When the automobile opened up new travel possibilities for motorists, Interstate 5 would be the road they traveled. In 1947, I-5 was defined as the present-day Route 99 from Los Angeles to Sacramento. Nearly twenty years later, I-5 was constructed through beautiful Rose Canyon in the ever growing City of San Diego. Historically, the entire route of I-5 between the Mexico border and Santa Ana followed closely the original “El Camino Real” and was officially designated as such in 1959.



Map courtesy of San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation Historian



El Camino Real bell near UCSD campus



Train tracks through Rose Canyon



The canyon was known colloquially as Rose's Canyon during Louis Rose's time, but the designation became more official with the dedication of a bronze plaque at the head of Rose Canyon in 1934. The plaque went missing during construction of the UCSD campus in 1969, but was replaced in 1971 on the very same spot in John Muir College.

A Rose by any other name

Rose Canyon has been known by several different names. We do not know what the American Indians called the canyon, as the Spanish recorded only the Spanish name.

Spanish Period 1769

La Cañada de San Diego (San Diego Canyon), El Camino Real (The King's Road)

Mexican Period 1822

La Cañada de las Yeguas (Llegas) (Canyon of the Mares)

Early American Period 1850

Soledad Canyon, Rose's Canyon, San Buenaventura Canyon

Natural Corridor

Sources:

- *A Cultural Resources Study for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer Project*, 1992, **Brian F. Smith and Associates**, San Diego, California
- *Archaeological Treatment Plan for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer*, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California, 1994, **Ronald M. Bissell**, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc. Mission Viejo, California

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Rose Canyon was formed when water following the Rose Canyon Fault Zone carved out layers of sedimentary rock laid down 46-55 million years ago. Rose Canyon begins at about 200 meters above sea level at Miramar and descends to sea level at Mission Bay, a distance of about nine miles. Numerous finger canyons enter Rose Canyon along its route. Rose Creek flows through the canyon most of the year, due to runoff from residential areas on the canyon rim. There is evidence that there were springs in the canyon in the past, but none are evident today.

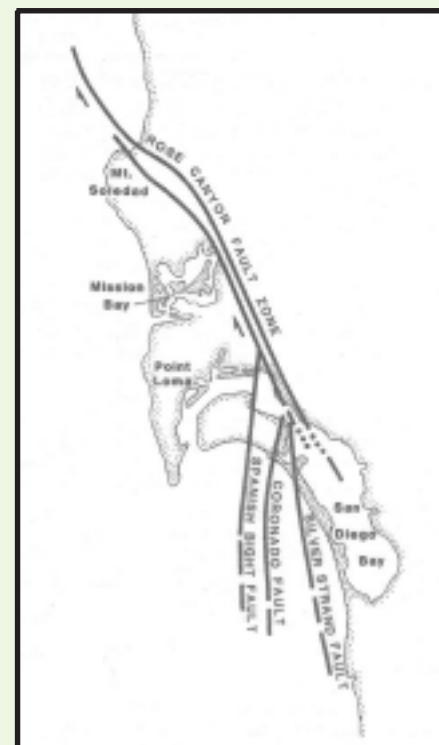
Fossilized shell can still be seen in the sedimentary layers in Rose Canyon, evidence that this part of San Diego was once underwater. Quartzite, a metamorphic rock created when sandstone is compressed and heated, is a common rock in Rose Canyon. The smooth rounded river cobbles in the streams are mostly quartzite. This hard, but workable, stone was used by Indians to make tools. Later Euro-American settlers used the cobbles to make foundation for buildings.

The Rose Canyon Fault is actually a system of faults about two-thirds of a mile wide, extending from offshore La Jolla into San Diego Bay. The Rose Canyon Fault Zone is a right-lateral fault with mostly horizontal movement. The fault carries La Jolla in a northwestern direction at a slightly faster rate than the east side of the fault moving southeast. This movement helped to form the “bulge” in the La Jolla coastline and La Jolla Cove.

The Rose Canyon Fault Zone is also responsible for two of San Diego’s most recognizable landmarks—Mount Soledad and San Diego Bay. The Rose Canyon Fault Zone has steps or “kinks” in it. The left step near Ardath Road caused compression, which piles up sedimentary layers to form Mount Soledad. Near the south end of the fault zone, a right-step caused the fault to spread apart, resulting in the formation of a basin and San Diego Bay. The Rose Canyon Fault Zone is still active and has moved about 29 feet in the last 8,000 years.



Mount Soledad sunset as seen from Clairemont. The Rose Canyon fault caused the earth to fold and push up to form Mt. Soledad, which is 822 feet above sea level



From *The Rise and Fall of San Diego* by Patrick Abbott, Ph.D.



The bulge at the La Jolla coastline was caused by the slippage of the Rose Canyon Fault



Rose Canyon was formed in sedimentary rock, which means that it is rich in clay, sand and coal resources



Narrow gauge rail lines can be seen jutting out from the road cut on southbound I-5. These may be the remains of Louis Rose's coal mining venture. The mines appear to have collapsed over time.

Coal in Rose Canyon

Sometime during the occupation of Rose Canyon, coal was discovered. Louis Rose was the first to try and exploit the resource, but there was not enough coal for commercial development. Even though the coal didn't pan out, it was noted that the mines stayed cool all year round. Stories are still told that Rose and later entrepreneurs used the mines to store fruit and vegetables grown in the canyon.

Geology

Sources:

The Rise and Fall of San Diego: 150 Million Years of History Recorded in Sedimentary Rocks by **Patrick L. Abbott, Ph.D.**, professor of Geological Sciences, San Diego State University.

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Despite its urban surroundings and bisection by Interstate 5, Rose Canyon offers a wilderness experience. Rose Canyon contains many interdependent environments unique to California. Coastal sage and chaparral cover the hills and fields. A rare riparian habitat runs the length of the canyon much of the year. Coast live oak woodlands track along the north-facing hillsides. This mixed environment is home to over 100 endangered plant and animal species, as well as more common wildlife, such as cottontail rabbit, skunks, opossum, red-tail hawk, mule deer and Western rattlesnake.

The northern part of Rose Canyon was officially declared an open space park in May 1979. The park contains 400 acres between State Route 52 and Interstate 805. The Rose Canyon Recreation Council, a group of community volunteers dedicated to protecting and enhancing the park, was chartered in 1992 by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. Priorities of the Rose Canyon Recreation Council include preservation of natural resources, interpreting the history of the canyon, removal of non-native plant species and replanting indigenous vegetation. The Council is considering rehabilitating a 19th Century train trestle and creating interpretive signage to recount of the history of the railroad in Rose Canyon.



Rose Canyon hillsides support varied habitats for plants and animals



Bobcats have been seen in Rose Canyon frequently



Jimson weed flower



Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) Although most humans are rightfully wary of Poison Oak, the plant serves as a source of pollen for many insects.



Bell's vireo is one of the endangered species that makes Rose Canyon its home



Live Oak acorns

Plant Resources

American Indians had extensive knowledge of the medicinal and nutritional properties of plants, and the sophisticated technology required to process them into usable form. Indians today may still enjoy these traditional foods during celebrations and ceremonies.

Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) Coast live oak acorns were not considered as tasty as the Black Oak acorns found in local mountains, but were used when the acorn harvest was small. Acorns require extensive processing to remove tannin and make them safe to eat. The acorn flour was mixed with water and cooked to make a nutritious acorn soup or mush. The Kumeyaay word for acorn mush is shawii, and the Luiseno call it weewish.

Mexican Elderberry (Sambucus mexicana) Elderberry blossoms were used to make a tea for babies with fevers, and the berries were eaten fresh and dried.

Willow (Salix lasiolepis) Willow branches were used to weave storage baskets, and willow leaves were used to make a pain-relieving tea.

Lemonadeberry (Rhus integrifolia) A wad of lemonadeberry leaves kept in the mouth was said to relieve thirst. The berries were sometimes used to make an acidic drink.

Yerba Mansa (Anemopsis californica) Used as a medicinal plant by the Kumeyaay.

Flat-top buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum) Buckwheat flowers were used to make a tea to cure diarrhea in babies.

Flora and Fauna

Sources: *Ethnobotany of Santa Ysabel* by **Ken Hedges**

Special thanks to

Michael Kelly, Kelly & Associates Habitat Restoration, San Diego

REI Outdoor Gear, San Diego, CA

Matthew Ben Stevenson, Rose Canyon Recreation Council

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Numerous theories about the prehistory of Southern California have been presented by archaeologists over the past fifty years. Almost all of the theories are based on the types and frequency of artifacts found in the archaeological record. When certain artifacts are found in association with other artifacts consistently, we call this an *assemblage*. Since we do not know what these ancient peoples called themselves or what language they spoke, we

tend to attach labels to assemblages to identify them. Assemblages can sometimes be placed in time and may become known as *cultural periods*. There has been a tendency over time to assume that different artifact assemblages and different cultural periods are the result of different people. This may or may not be true.



A rather enigmatic Early Period artifact is the donut stone, their exact

People behaved the same way in the past as they do today. We move around, we mix with other cultures, we borrow technology, language and customs. There is no reason to believe that the people who lived in San Diego before the Europeans arrived didn't do so as well. Describing an assemblage of artifacts or a cultural period does not necessarily define the people. For example, a new tool type found at a site may indicate a change in the climate or exploitation of a new resource that required a modified tool—not that a new group of people arrived in the area.

Archaeologists will continue to make educated guesses about the people of the past based on the few clues that remain, but we know that we are looking at a continuous history. It is fairly evident that new people did arrive in San Diego from time to time, after all the Europeans did, but

that doesn't mean that one replaced the other. Instead, lifestyles, technology and society changed in accordance with the available resources. Some of today's technology, probably even cell phones, will be discovered by archaeologists of the future. Will today be known as the Cell Phone Period?

The earliest archaeological sites in Rose Canyon date from about 7,000 to 3,000 years ago—Early to Middle Holocene. From the types of stone tools found from this time, archaeologists surmise that the people had a hunting and

gathering lifestyle. Just as today, San Diego was a very nice place to live 7,000 years ago. Fresh water was plentiful in Rose Canyon, sustaining people, game and plants. Deer, fowl and rabbit were probably hunted, and a variety of seed-producing plants were available most of the year. Walking around Mount Soledad would lead people to the shore for fishing and shellfish gathering.



The large size of the projectile points found during the Early Period argues against the presence of bows and arrows. These points might have been attached to darts and thrown with an atlatl or throwing stick.

The artifact assemblage from the Middle Holocene includes hunting tools—large projectile points, domed scrapers and hammerstones. Many stone tools from this period are fashioned out of quartzite, which is abundant in Rose Canyon.



Scrapers were probably used to butcher game, prepare hides and process plant foods

Cultural Periods in San Diego Prehistory

Geologic Time	Period	Years Before Present	Other Names	Typical Artifacts
Late Holocene	Late Period	Present	Historic Late Prehistoric Yuman	Bow and arrow, small triangular and side-notched points, fishhooks, pottery, obsidian from Obsidian Butte-Salton Sea
		1,300	San Luis Rey	
		2,000		Stone bowls, triangular points, fishing gorges
Middle Holocene		4,000	La Jolla Complex Archaic	Dart and atlatl, cogged or donut stones, leaf-shaped points, stemmed points, milling stones, obsidian from Coso Range-Inyo County
		5,000		
		6,000		
Early Holocene	Early Period	7,000	San Dieguito Tradition	Spears, large leaf-shaped points, domed scrapers, Casa Diablo and Coso Range obsidian
		8,000		
		9,000		
		10,000		

Early Prehistoric Period

Special thanks to

Ronald M. Bissell, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc., Mission Viejo, CA

Dennis Gallegos, Gallegos & Associates, Carlsbad, CA

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The presence of grinding stones at Middle Holocene archaeological sites indicates a strong reliance on plant food, which often requires more processing than game. We call the grinding stones *mano* and *metate*, which are borrowed Spanish words for the hand-held grinding stone and grinding platform. These grinding tools were used to process seeds and other plant foods, but also to crush the bones of small animals—as a source of calcium and protein and fat from the marrow. The metates found from this period are mostly made from local sandstone, and the manos from riverbed cobbles which probably required little modification.



This metate fragment shows signs of having been used as a hand-held grinding stone

A large variety of shellfish and fish species were exploited during the Middle Holocene. Sites usually contain large shell middens, waste shell dumped into pits or natural holes away from living areas. Archaeologists learn a lot from shell middens, including the environment of the area at the time when people were collecting and eating shellfish and what species were available. Shellfish remains are analyzed along three different parameters: Tidal Range, Vertical Distribution and Temporal Placement.

Environmental Distribution

The seashore is an ever-changing environment. Our coast today looks nothing like it did 1,000, 5,000 or 10,000 years ago. By studying the species of shell found in a midden, archaeologists can determine what type of coastal environment was present at the time of collection. Different species of shellfish prefer different environments. For example, abalone and chitons prefer a rock shore. Scallops and some clams prefer bays. Oyster and snails prefer estuaries.



Vertical Placement

Shellfish have evolved to exploit various niches in the sand below the surface. For example, scallops and oysters prefer to be lower than 50 cm, Pismo and Littleneck clams are almost always found above 70 cm. Understanding where the shellfish species lived can give archaeologists a better idea of what people had to do to harvest them. If people were willing to dig down deep for a shellfish dinner, this could indicate that it was a valued resource—either because it was good tasting, easy to harvest or because other food was hard to find.

Temporal Placement

Ecological changes in San Diego's environment lead to changes in the shellfish species present at any given time. For example, *Donax* became a prevalent species in San Diego about 4,000 years ago when the water became warmer. If *Donax* is found in large quantities in a midden, the archaeologist knows that the site must date after 4,000 YPB.

Seafood Selection

Over 11 species of shellfish were discovered at Early Period sites in Rose Canyon, indicating a sophisticated knowledge of maritime resources

Wavy Turban (*Astrea undosa*)

California Venus (*Chione californica*)

Bean Clam (*Donax gouldii*)

Red Abalone (*Haliotis refescens*)

California Mussel (*Mytilus californicus*)

Oyster (*Ostrea lurida*)

San Diego Scallop (*Pecten diegensis*)

Washington Clam (*Saxidomus nuttalli*)

Bark Clam (*Semele decisa*)

Black Top (*Tegula funebris*)

Pismo Clam (*Tivela stultorum*)



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About 3,000 years ago, an artifact assemblage similar to that of historic American Indians (Kumeyaay and Luiseño) appears in the archaeological record. Archaeologists call this the Late Prehistoric Period. The economic pattern during this period appears to be one of more intensive and efficient exploitation of local resources. The prosperity of the Late Period lifestyle is evidenced by the numerous habitation sites scattered over San Diego County, including marine, foothill, mountain and desert resource zones. The increase in the number of Late Period sites, as compared to the Early Period, is probably due to a population increase as well as better site preservation.

Typical features of the Late Period include pottery and the establishment of permanent and semipermanent village sites. The houses in primary villages were conical structures covered with tule bundles, with excavated floors and central hearths. Other village structures included sweathouses, ceremonial enclosures, ramadas (covered work spaces) and acorn granaries. Dependence on the acorn as a food staple reached its peak during this time, as evidenced by bedrock milling sites and portable stone bowl mortars.



Bedrock milling site in Cuyamaca

Technologically, the people of the Late Period were very sophisticated. They managed the land using fire to encourage the growth of food plants. Acorns were the single most important food source used by the Kumeyaay, and oak groves were carefully tended. Villages were usually located near water necessary for leaching acorn meal. Acorns required complex preparation to remove bitter tannin before

they could be eaten. Seeds from grasses, manzanita, sage, sunflower, lemonadeberry, chia and other plants were also used along with various wild green and fruits. The Indians living in San Diego used plants for a wide variety of medicinal purposes, including colds, influenza, respiratory problems, fevers, gastric disorders, diarrhea, infections, sprains, sore muscles, minor cuts and headaches.

Hunting implements included the bow and arrow, curved throwing sticks, traps, nets and snares. Large game, such as deer, mountain sheep and antelope were hunted, but they also relied on rabbits, squirrels, woodrats and birds. Shell and bone fishhooks and nets were used for fishing. The Kumeyaay had boats made of tule reeds and wood were used for offshore fishing. Mountain trout were caught by poisoning pools with the juice of a plant.

There is evidence of widespread trade during the Late Prehistoric Period. The exchange of prized foods and other items between local groups and between tribes was a way to procure material not available in this area, as well as to cement relationships. Obsidian and other valuable stone for tools was obtained from as far away as Inyo County and the Salton Sea, and shells from the coast made their way inland along the same trade routes.



Fish species represented in the bone found in Rose Canyon include spotted sand bass and barracuda. Since these are fish that live offshore, it suggests the use of boats able to go beyond the surf line. Other fish species discovered in Rose Canyon archaeological sites include sheepshead, shark, sardine, mackerel, skipjack, guitarfish and eel.



Ornaments were made of shell, stone and bone



Lithic Tool Technology

Archaeologists place great store in the analysis of lithic (stone) tools. Often stone tools are the only artifact left at a site to study—wood and bone tools having disintegrated over time.

Manufacture Techniques

Stone tools, such as projectile points and scrapers, are made by selecting a core of the desired raw material. Then a blank or preform is knapped or chipped off the core. The tool is shaped by continuing to chip little pieces off using another stone as a hammer. Fine detail is created using wood, antler or bone hammers. The tiny serrations found on arrowheads may have been made with the toolmaker's fingernail. The waste flakes left over are called debitage. Thousands of pieces of debitage were found at archaeological sites in Rose Canyon. Some archaeologists become experts in lithic tool production, to better understand how tools were made. They also experiment with the tools, using them to butcher meat, chop wood or make ornaments.

Trade and Travel

Sometimes the type of stone used to make tools can be traced back to its source, thus indicating trade and travel. Some of the obsidian found in Rose Canyon was from as far away as Obsidian Butte near the Salton Sea and Coso Range in Inyo County.

Late Prehistoric Period

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Kumeyaay Indians were living in Rose Canyon when the Spanish arrived. A large Kumeyaay village site called La Rinconada de Jamo by the Spanish, existed at the site of the current Bella Pacific Park housing development. Father Juan Crespi passed this way in 1769 or 1770 and made note in his diary of “large villages of well-built houses,” with an abundance of pots and jugs made of clay.

Pottery appears in the archaeological record for the first time during the Late Period. The pottery is very similar to the type produced in the eastern Colorado River region. Made of carefully selected clay, pots were created in many different sizes and shapes depending on intended use. Pottery for everyday use was not often decorated, but the lovely shapes and black fire clouds made these utilitarian pots unique.



Pottery fragment with basketry impression



Modern Kumeyaay basket

Baskets first began to be made in San Diego at this time. Basket-making is a year-long process of gathering materials, preparing them and necessary tools and then the hard work of weaving. Basket designs and patterns were applied from memory. Cordage for fishing line, carrying bags and rope were made from yucca and other plant fibers. Although rarely

preserved in the archaeological record, the woven fragments that do survive demonstrate inventive methods to produce practical and decorative goods for immediate use and for trade.

With a diet based upon acorns and other plant foods that required grinding and pounding as steps of food preparation, thousands of stone mortars, pestles and other milling stones were fashioned from locally available materials. Grinding tools took time to create and were very heavy, but were so important that they were often transported between camps and villages. Grinding was performed in such a way as to limit the amount of stone grit incorporated into the food. Grinding stones were also used to pulverize clay prior to making pottery and to grind pigment for rock art.



Mano and metate. The mano (Spanish for hand) is the tool held in the hand. The metate is the grinding table.

Indians did not disappear from San Diego after the Europeans arrived, although their lifestyles were changed enormously. The effects of missionization and the introduction of European disease greatly reduced native population of Southern California. Today, there are 18 Indian reservation in San Diego County, and the Kumeyaay and Luiseño continue to play important roles in the community.

Important cultural information about past lifeways has been learned by listening to modern-day Indians tell their stories and by observing traditional cultural activities. This type of research is called *ethnography*. San Diego archaeologists are lucky to be able to talk to the descendants of the people who once called Rose Canyon their home.



Rose Canyon Pottery

Rose Canyon has several clay resources, including the Ardat Shale layer laid down in the Eocene Period. Ardat Shale was used extensively for brickmaking in historic times, but it appears that American Indians preferred the clay resources in the deserts and mountains to the east of San Diego for making pottery. Scientists and archaeologists examined the trace elements found in Ardat Shale clay samples and in pottery sherds found in Rose Canyon and discovered that they did not match. It is doubtful that Indians carried unformed clay long distances to Rose Canyon to make the pots. Rather, pots made in the mountains were brought to Rose Canyon filled with acorn meal or other supplies.

Scientists made thin sections of clay samples and pottery sherds to visually differentiate the minerals present. Instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) enabled scientists to quantify the different minerals. These clues allowed archaeologists to match pottery sherds with clay sources throughout the San Diego Region.

Source: “Patayan Ceramic Variability: Using Trace Elements and Petrographic Analysis to Study Brown and Buff Wares in Southern California” by John A. Hildebrand, G. Timothy Gross, Jerry Schaefer and Hector Neff in *Ceramic Production and Circulation in the Greater Southwest*, Monograph 44, The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA 2002

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Louis Rose
The San Diego Historical Society – Photograph Collection, www.sandiegohistory.org



When James Robinson passed away, Louis Rose bought his house from his widow and used it as his Old Town residence. The founding meeting of the first Masonic Lodge in Southern California was held here, San Diego Lodge No. 35. The structure was rebuilt by Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and now serves as park headquarters.

“His career embraced almost every occupational opportunity available. He combined economic risk investment with civic responsibility and his range of business interests was balanced by social, political and religious involvements.”

Norton B. Stern, 1973

Rose Canyon is named after Louis Rose, an early San Diego entrepreneur. Rose arrived in the United States in the early 1840s, part of the German Jewish emigration, landing in New Orleans. He started a jewelry business, which did not go well, and decided to try his luck in Texas. While in San Antonio, gold was discovered in California and Rose left for San Diego in June 1849. Louis Rose arrived in San Diego with James Robinson, a lawyer and one-time territorial governor of Texas. Robinson and Rose bonded during the long trip and became friends and business partners on occasion.

Just five months after arriving in San Diego, Rose began buying property. At one time he was the owner of nearly 4,000 acres in San Diego, more than any other resident. His first investment was 80 acres in what is now Point Loma. Naming the speculative development Roseville-on-the-Bay, Rose hoped that this would become the future site of New San Diego.

Louis Rose would probably have been known as the Father of San Diego (as opposed to Alonzo Horton) if he hadn't "missed the train." For almost 20 years, Rose tried to bring the railroad to San Diego, recognizing that it would increase population, business opportunities and land values. The Civil War and other economic circumstances prevented his dream from becoming reality. Although the railroad would not reach San Diego until 1885, Rose brought other civic resources to San Diego, including a 472-foot wharf that allowed larger ships to trade in San Diego.

Rose believed in community involvement and was appointed and elected to many posts, including San Diego Grand Jury, Trustee of the City Council, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, San Diego School District and Postmaster of Old Town San Diego. Reported to be the first Jew in San Diego, Rose helped to found the first orthodox congregation and donated land for a Jewish cemetery. He was a founding member of the first Masonic Lodge founded in Southern California, San Diego Lodge No. 35.

What was San Diego like in 1850?

San Diego was described as “small, dusty and dirty with fleas aplenty,” in 1850. The census for that year lists 800 San Diego residents of 18 to 20 different nationalities. There were no paved streets until 1890, so dust and mud were common adornments on shoes and dresses. San Diego would have been a very precarious business investment, to say the least.

It is reported that the Jewish population of San Diego mixed easily in social circles, there being so few people of European descent, but Mexicans and Indians often met hostile treatment. San Diego was not without its pleasures, however. When Louis Rose reopened the Commercial House hotel in 1854 advertisements declared, “the bar contains the choicest of wines, the best of liquors, and the finest cigars.”

Louis Rose

Sources:

The Rose of San Diego by Norton B. Stern and William Kramer in *The Journal of San Diego History*, Fall 1973
Uncles Robinson and Rose (unpublished manuscript) and *Jewish Sightseeing Waking Tour-Old Town San Diego* website by Donald H. Harrison, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Publisher San Diego Jewish Press-Heritage

Special thanks to antiquesfleamarket.com, San Diego, CA

San Diego  Archaeological Center
preserving pieces of the past...

Rose Canyon

In 1853 Louis Rose purchased 640 acres at the mouth of Rose Canyon, which included the Ames ranch. By 1856, Rose had purchased additional contiguous parcels and owned a total of 1,920 acres. His rancho consisted of a four-acre garden, a vineyard, tobacco acreage, pasture for 20 head of cattle and the 100 horses and mules he owned. Rose established a tannery in Rose Canyon, the only one in the county. Judge Benjamin Hayes visited the establishment and recorded his observations in his diary.

“There are 20 bark vats, six lime and water vats, two cisterns capable of containing 500 gallons each; a new bark mill, an adobe house, for curing the leather. Each vat will contain from 80 to 100 hides. He now makes 3000 hides per annum, and 1000 skins of deer, goat, sheep, seal and sea lion. Last year, he sold \$8,000 worth of leather at San Francisco. It was much praised there. Oak bark is obtained 10 miles from the tannery, in abundance, at from \$12 to \$15 per ton—delivered. He employs a head tanner, at \$100 per month; two assistants at \$35 each per month; three laborers, each at \$10 per month; boarding them. Indian laborers command \$8 per month; Mexicans at \$10, both classes are easily got here. Hides are readily obtained to keep the tannery always in operation. He trades for them a good deal with shoes, saddles and botas which are made of his own leather. Deer skins, goat & bear the standing price of \$3 a piece. Today I found him busy, cutting out soles and uppers, because he had little else to do; the uppers were of deer skin. These are manufactured by a Mexican shoemaker, according to Mexican style. They will do well in dry weather.”

Rose was described as eternally optimistic, although he went broke several times. He had the time, perseverance and luck to try his hand at many enterprises, including jewelry sales, tannery, butcher shop, mining, land speculation and development, retail commerce, hotelier, ranching and farming. Rose had the mercantile skills to bring all the necessities of life to San Diego from 3,000 miles away and the ability to make complicated credit arrangements for a town with very little money. Some of

Rose’s schemes seem a little foolhardy today, like his attempt to market mattresses filled with dried seaweed. Most of his mining adventures failed as well, including attempts to mine a coal seam in Rose Canyon.



Between the present-day Bazar del Mundo and Casa de Bandini is a little unmarked path. In the 1860s this was known as Judeo Street because it was lined with the stores of Jewish merchants. The Jewish population of the time was estimated at 10 percent, but may have been higher. We know that Louis Rose spoke German and English, but he also had working knowledge of French, Spanish and Hebrew,

language skills that probably helped in commercial dealings.

Rose married twice and had two daughters, Helene and Henrietta. Helene died in infancy, and Henrietta went on to become a teacher at San Diego High School. She never married and the Rose family line ended with her. Henrietta recalled that her father was modest, yet “singularly proud.” She remembered that her father especially loved animals, flowers and trees, was generous to a fault and never swore or boasted.

Judge Benjamin Hayes called Rose “a stupendous speculator of the make or break order,” and hoped that Rose might “never be one cent less rich than he dreams of being.” Louis Rose died in 1888 at age 80. His obituary bore the headline, “Death of an Argonaut,” a proper expression for one of the founders of San Diego.



Temple Beth Israel

Louis Rose was a founding member of the first Jewish Congregation in San Diego, Adath Jeshurun--now Beth Israel. The synagogue was originally located at Second and Beech streets, but the congregation outgrew the building and it was sold in 1926. During the 1970s, the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) became interested in preserving the building. Congregation Beth Israel repurchased the building and then donated it to the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department. The building was moved to Heritage Park near Old Town and is available for events. On his website, Donald Harrison notes that the synagogue originally cost \$8,500 to build in 1889, but the bill for moving and refurbishing it was \$350,000 one hundred years later.

Louis Rose

Sources:

The Rose of San Diego by **Norton B. Stern** and **William Kramer** in *The Journal of San Diego History*, Fall 1973
Uncles Robinson and Rose (unpublished manuscript) and *Jewish Sightseeing Waking Tour-Old Town San Diego* website by **Donald H. Harrison**, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Publisher San Diego Jewish Press-Heritage

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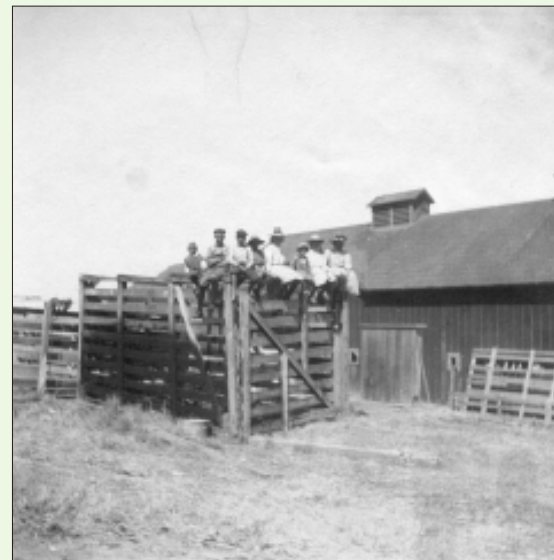
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Rose Canyon

Rose Canyon was quite a ways from the “cities” of Old Town and New Town, but the land was fairly inexpensive. Water was available and many entrepreneurs sought their fortunes in the canyon. Even today, Rose Canyon contains a mix of business ventures. The entrepreneurial history of the canyon linked many prominent families of the day.



Photos courtesy of Richert Family Archives



Jesse Ames-1850 to 1853

Jesse Ames arrived in San Diego and decided to go into the cattle business. Around 1850 he settled in Rose Canyon on the west side of El Camino Real near the mouth of San Clemente Canyon. His tax information for 1850 showed that he owned an adobe house worth \$500, 20 dairy cows, 100 beef cattle, 11 pairs of oxen, a blacksmith shop, two buggies and a hand-laborer. In spite of all his wealth, Ames was a squatter. He did not own the land his ranch was on. Ames was forced out of Rose Canyon by anti-squatter laws, but later married the wealthy Doña Perfecta Espinosa and became a pioneer of the El Cajon Valley area.

Gustavus Fischer 1853-1868

Gustavus Fischer emigrated from Germany to Texas in 1856, where he may have learned the cattle business. He arrived in San Diego sometime in 1853 and recorded a cattle brand and bought three 160-acre parcels of Pueblo Lands in Rose Canyon, then known as the Canyon of the Mares. Fischer registered one parcel in his name, one in his wife's name Sophia, and the last in this daughter's Louisa. He later bought a fourth 160-acre parcel. The Fischer family built an adobe in the canyon, but they actually stayed in Old Town. Fischer planted tobacco, grapes and potatoes, then brought in cattle, horses and mules. Tragedy struck the ranch when Fischer died of stomach cancer in 1855, just 49 years old. In the next year, Sophia was bitten by a rattlesnake at a picnic and died at age 32. Gustavus and Sophia were laid to rest side-by-side at the ranch on top of a hill overlooking their adobe. The Fischer Ranch was held in trust for Sophia's daughter, Lucy Anna, and leased out to tenants until her marriage to George Selwyn.

George Augustus Clift Selwyn—San Buenaventura 1868-1894

George Selwyn was born in Cheltenham, England in 1841 and immigrated to the United States as a young man. He married Lucy Anna Fischer in 1863 and they lived in the canyon on and off until 1873. Selwyn's ranching business prospered, and he supplied quality beef, bear, corned beef and lamb to the local community, troops and hospitals. Life was not always easy, however. In the early 1880s a freak snowstorm killed 1,600 of his sheep. In 1884, Selwyn hired George N. Gilbert to help at the ranch. Selwyn's health began to fail and he sold the ranch to Gilbert in May 1894. George Selwyn passed away the following October at age 53.



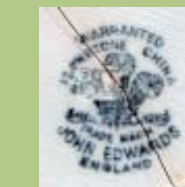
Photo courtesy of Richert Family Archive

Dishes, Dates and Dollars

Archaeologists are very pleased to find tableware at historic archaeological sites because they offer a unique glimpse into the everyday lives of the people who lived there. Plates, cups, saucers and silverware sometimes carry hallmarks, which are insignias of the manufacturing company. These hallmarks changed over time and are used by archaeologists to help date the site.

Another feature of hallmarks is that they indicate the country of origin of the dish or spoon. In the past, imported dishes would have been very expensive. So a dish with a hallmark from Vienna, Austria, would indicate that the owner had been wealthy enough to afford fine things. Locally made china might indicate a lower income.

Researching hallmarks involves perusing catalogues that list all the known insignias. This can be difficult when only a piece of the hallmark is preserved. When the hallmark is not found, sometimes dishes and flatware can be identified by the design printed, painted or stamped on the object. Reference books with china patterns are available, sorted by flowers, leaves and other popular motifs.



Pottery Hallmarks left to right: Homer Laughlin is an American company and has used this hallmark for many years, thus it's not always easy to date the dishes by the mark alone. Laughlin is famous for the Fiestaware line. Wood & Son is an English company and used this mark from 1904-1928. Maddock & Co., an English ironstone pottery, used this mark after 1885. John Edwards is another English company located in Staffordshire, this mark dates from 1880-1900.

Early Entrepreneurs

Special thanks to

William J. Bowers, Richert Family Archive, Laguna Beach, CA

John Fry, Pacific Beach Historical Society, San Diego, CA

Brian F. Smith and Associates, San Diego, CA

RMW Paleo Associates, Inc., Mission Viejo, CA

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Rose Canyon

Gilbert-Richert Era

The lives of George N. Gilbert and Joseph Jacob Richert intersected in Rose Canyon and produced a rich history. Gilbert was born in 1859 in Vermont, where he probably learned the dairy business. He started working on the Selwyn ranch when he came to San Diego in 1884. Joseph Jacob Richert was born in Pennsylvania and served as a soldier in the Civil War. At age 19, he followed his sister Kate to San Diego in 1886. His first job was as busboy and dishwasher at the Hotel del Coronado. While at the “Del,” Richert met Gilbert, and the two became friends. Gilbert hired Richert to work at the Selwyn ranch in Rose Canyon. Gilbert bought the Selwyn property in 1894 and turned it into a 2,000-acre dairy and cattle ranch in less than twenty years. Richert was a shrewd businessman and began buying up property surrounding the Gilbert Dairy, and he eventually became a partner.



From left to right: Rose Gilbert, George N. Gilbert, Margaret Richert and Joseph Richert in front of Rose Canyon adobe, November 1893
Photo courtesy of Richert Family Archive

Richert’s sister, Rosa (Rose), was invited to San Diego in 1890 for her health and married Gilbert in 1895.

Unfortunately, she died in childbirth in 1900. Her dying wish was for a \$5 donation to be made to the India Famine Fund, which her brother

Joseph Richert carried

out. George Gilbert died 11 years later in 1911, age 52. In 1912 the Gilbert estate deeded the remaining portions of the ranch to Joseph Richert, making him the sole owner of the ranch.

Richert married Margaret McGeorge in 1893. When the first daughter arrived in 1895, Margaret decided she wanted to raise the family in a quieter atmosphere and the Richerts built a house in Pacific Beach. The Richerts eventually had eight children. Joseph Richert passed away of a stroke at age 69 in 1936. The Richert family owned the ranch until 1940, when it was sold to the expanding Sawday operation.



Gilbert Dairy operation in Rose Canyon
Photo courtesy of Richert Family Archive

Crouch-Sawday Era

Charles C. Crouch was a prominent attorney and politician, but he bought several ranches as investments. His father, Herbert Crouch, was one of the most successful sheep ranchers in Southern California. Crouch ran the ranch in Rose Canyon with his brother, but they eventually transferred the property to their aunt Bessie Crouch when she married into the Sawday family.

George Sawday built what was described as one of the “Southwest’s great cattle kingdoms.” George’s father Frederick arrived in San Diego in 1849 and started the family business. When George took over the operation was so large he needed partners and took on George A Gilbert, son of George N. Gilbert. By 1936, most of the northern end of Rose Canyon was part of Sawday’s cattle ranch. A stockyard was built at the Elvira station in 1945 to ship cattle out of the canyon. Eventually, the demand for land for housing in the late 1950s pushed the cattle ranches into the backcountry to the east, although cattle were run in the canyon as late as the 1960s.

Adobe Abode

In a letter to her mother, Margaret McGeorge described the Rose Canyon ranch adobe in 1891, which would become her home with Joseph Richert.

“Dear Ma:

... Took me to the depot & there I left Frank and Joe and came here. It is 12 miles from San Diego on the Santa Fe Route. North of S. Diego. All trains pass the door of the house. But the station is a mile from here. Mr. Gilbert is a plain honest jolly Yankee. A Vermont man. Sharp & Smart & thinks everything of Joe and Rose. He met Joe & I at the station with a buggy. The house is a plain and comfortable one of adobe boarded over. The windows are as deep as the one in McClury’s spring house. The inside is well and furnished & Rose is a lovely housekeeper. . . The scenery round here is just like the picture of the place Joe sent. No hills [mountains], low rolling hills, and no neighbors near. But everything is so convenient. Railroad near & telephone in the house. Order all their groceries & meat, bread & etc. by telephone and it comes on the next train.”

Rose and Margaret became friends and Margaret chronicled an adventure in another letter.

“Well, yesterday Rose & I wanted to go to the beach, so we drove off after dinner & spent the day. It was a drive of 3 or 4 miles but you can walk over the mountain & it’s only a mile. You have to go around so far to get there by road. You follow the canyon. How lovely the beach was! We gathered shells and mosses & I took off my shoes & stockings & had a paddle in the water. It was fine.”

Early Entrepreneurs

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RMW Paleo Associates, Inc., Mission Viejo, CA

San Diego



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Rose Canyon

Louis Rose tried for twenty years to bring the railroad to San Diego, recognizing that it would increase population, business opportunities and land values. Rose was one of the founding directors of the San Diego, Gila, Southern Pacific and Atlantic Railroad Company, incorporated in 1854. Rose was elected treasurer of the railroad in 1855 and reelected in 1856. He purchased 320 shares of stock, which made him the second largest shareholder at the time.

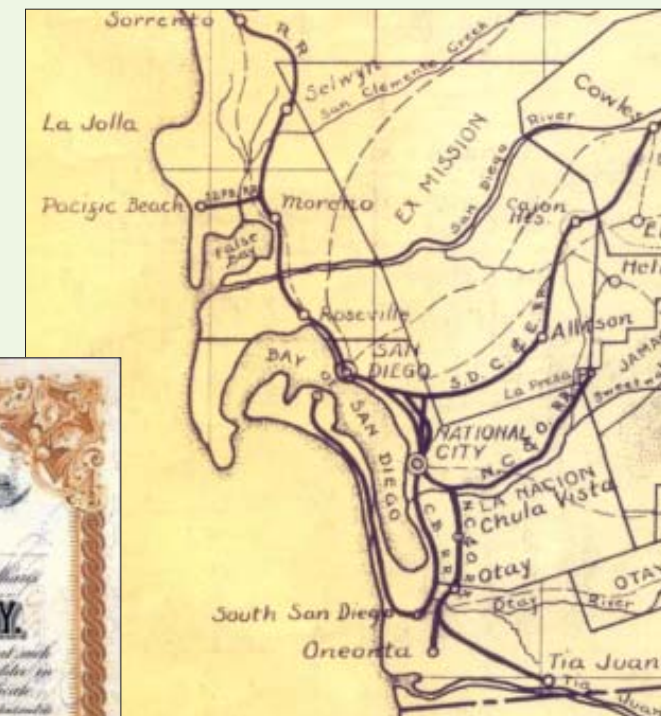
With the Civil War looming, further support for the railroad did not materialize. After no action, it was finally sold to the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1872 at a significant loss for Rose and other shareholders. A survey for the rail line performed in 1873 basically retraced the route already outlined by the San Diego, Gila route; and went right through George Selwyn's barn. Selwyn complained and was awarded \$2,000 to dismantle and move the barn, although this railroad was not built either.

In 1880, Frank Kimball of National City convinced Thomas Nickerson, President of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe to form a new railroad called the California Southern. This railroad would start in National City, go north through Rose Canyon and then eastward to Temecula and San Bernardino. Louis Rose made a donation of \$250 to back the deal. Construction began in early 1881 and crews reached Rose Canyon by April and Selwyn's property by August. In 1882 the rails reached Colton and San Bernardino in 1783. Floods in 1884 washed out 30 miles of track in Temecula and the rail was closed for nine months. Floods and operation costs put the California Southern into debt, and by 1884 the AT&SF took over.

In spite of all the difficulties, the railroad did bring people to San Diego, more than could be imagined. A price war between the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific broke out and the fare from Missouri to California dropped from \$125 to \$1, resulting in San Diego's population increasing from 2,637 in 1880 to 40,000 in 1887. Perversely, the railroad also helped to fuel the boom and bust cycles that plagued San Diego as the 19th Century closed and the 20th began.



Steam engine at Elvira station, c. 1890
The San Diego Historical Society - Photograph Collection, www.sandiegohistory.org



The San Diego Land and Town Company was the real estate arm of the California Southern Railroad, formed for the purpose of improving and disposing of the lands donated by San Diegan investors to subsidize the construction of the Southern California Railroad.

Rail map courtesy of San Diego County Parks Historian



Laying Track

In 1881, a reporter for the San Diego Herald made a trip by carriage along the course of the California Southern Railroad under construction and reported the following. "Leaving town, we find the roadbed of the California Southern completed as far as the heavy cuts and fills necessary to get into Soledad Valley, and find numerous gangs of bridge builders putting in the many little bridges along the road up as far as the entrance to Rose's Canyon. Of bridges—big and little—there are just thirty between National City and George Selwyn's house at the entrance of San Buenaventura cañon, where the road diverges to the eastward and passes up the last-named cañon to get into the Soledad, some two miles above the residence of Mr. Cassidy."

Many of the laborers mentioned in this article were Chinese workers from San Francisco. The Chinese were expected to fend for themselves while working on the railroad, and set up brush shelters and open-air kitchens along the construction sites. After completion of the railroad, some Chinese remained in San Diego and opened businesses in Chinatown, such as restaurants and laundries.

Railroad

Sources:

- *A Cultural Resources Study for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer Project*, 1992, **Brian F. Smith and Associates**, San Diego, California
- *Archaeological Treatment Plan for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer*, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California, 1994, **Ronald M. Bissell**, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc. Mission Viejo, California
- *San Diego: Perfecting Paradise* by **Roger M. Showley**

Rose Canyon

The rail line played an important role in the development of Rose Canyon. Trains stopped at the Gilbert Dairy to carry milk to the New England Creamery in Downtown San Diego until two miles of track was washed out in the 1916 floods. Subsequent train stops included Selwyn, which was a few miles from the ranch, and Ladrillo, where clay and bricks were shipped.



Original Elvira Station sign, abandoned when the station was demolished in 1969.
No one is sure where the name Elvira came from., perhaps the name of one of the station crew's wives.

In the 1920s, the Elvira railway station was established near present day Highway 52 to house line crews. The AT&SF was doing well, in spite of the Depression, and it needed to expand freight yards. The station included a foreman's house, crew bunkhouse, water tower and a speeder car shed. Elvira was not an official train stop in the beginning, but a "flag stop," where the train stopped only when flagged down. There was no siding at the station in the beginning. Steam engines could take on water at Elvira, as a gas pump was hooked up to a well. The line crew was not allowed to have family at the station, as they could be called out at any time, but the foreman had a proper house and his family lived with him. Since toys were found at the site, children must have lived there, too.

A siding was built at Elvira around 1930. It may have been built to off load material for the Fenton Material company located in Rose Canyon. Cattle ranches eventually surrounded Elvira, including George Sawday's operation. His decision to ship cattle from Rose



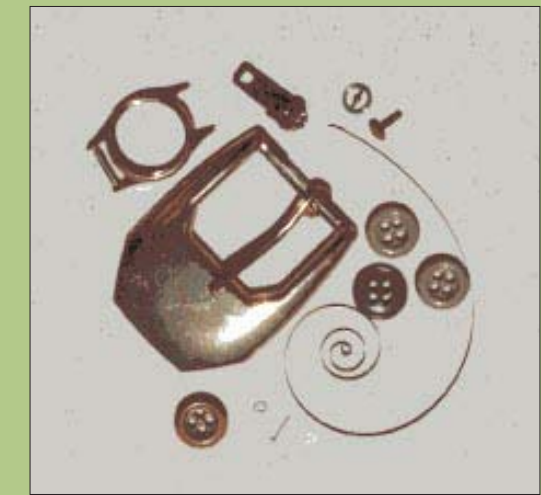
Railroad trestle in Rose Canyon, trestle footer stamped 1928

Canyon led to expansion of the station, including double tracking part of the line. A small stockyard and loading facility was constructed at Elvira in 1945 and used until 1953.

Operations at Elvira began to wind down in the early 1950s. Steam locomotives replaced by diesel engines in 1953, and the water tower at Elvira was no longer needed. Reliance on air and road transportation after World War II took business away from the railroads and residential development in the area forced the cattle industry to move further east. Elvira was abandoned in 1958 and the station was demolished in 1959.



Elvira Station 1929



Let's get personal

Archaeologists often find personal items in historic sites. These are artifacts that belonged to a specific person. Examine what you're wearing today. Then imagine it was buried for 100 years. What would remain for an archaeologist to find? Perhaps the metal parts of your wristwatch, a button or two, a zipper pull and a metal eyelet from your shoes.

From these little bits and pieces, an archaeologists in the future might be able to determine if you were male or female, adult or a child, the year, the season and maybe even if you were right or left-handed—from the wear on objects. Sometimes the absence of personal items at a site tells a story. When no toy parts are found, one can assume that no children lived there. Although it's rare to be able to match up personal artifacts with a specific person, the beads, buttons and snaps still give us important information about the people who lived at a site.

Railroad

Sources:

- *A Cultural Resources Study for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer Project*, 1992, **Brian F. Smith and Associates**, San Diego, California
- *Archaeological Treatment Plan for the Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer*, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California, 1994, **Ronald M. Bissell**, RMW Paleo Associates, Inc. Mission Viejo, California
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Rose Canyon

One of San Diego's most remembered landmarks was the 115-foot "Leaning Tower" at the Union Brick Company in Rose Canyon. Visible from Highway 101 and residents of Bay Ho, the tower was the subject of endless speculation for 74 years—how did it stay up? The tower was built in 1888 by the Rose Cañon Brick Company as a smokestack for a kiln. Built of an estimated 80,000 bricks, it started to tilt about eight feet out of line when bricklayers were at 100 feet. The bricklayers refused to finish the job and the tower was not completed until a bricklayer from San Francisco completed the tower at just under 115 feet. In spite of all the effort, the smokestack was never used. A new technique for firing brick with gas was invented and the bust of 1888 reduced the need for bricks. During World War II, the kiln was demolished for brick paving at Camp Callan, now under the Torrey Pines Golf Course.



John W. Rice, I, came to San Diego in 1904 and bought the Union Brick Company from its union owners. The original brickyard was located near Harbor Drive and Crosby Street, and two

railroad cars of Rose Canyon clay were delivered daily. Rice moved the operations to Rose Canyon in 1913, after he purchased the Rose Cañon Brick Company. Rice took the opportunity the "Leaning

Tower" presented and made the company's motto: "We lean toward good bricks."

The 1916 floods caused the tower to tilt a little more, evidently more than the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The Tower fell during a rainstorm on January 20, 1962, and the bricks were reportedly used to build fireplaces in Rancho Bernardo. A plan was submitted to build a new tower—shorter but still leaning—at Union Brick Company's new Sorrento Valley location, but it was never built and John Rice, Jr. sold the company to Bruce Hazard in 1965.



The Union Brick Company produced 15,000,000 bricks a year and employed a significant number of San Diegans, many of them Mexican-Americans who had worked in brickyards in Mexico. A company town spring

up in Rose Canyon called Ladrillo--the Spanish word for brick. Homes for the workers and their families were built of bricks, of course, and several generations often worked at the brickyard. The descendants of the workers have formed the Rose Canyon Historical Society, and are working to preserve this unique element of San Diego history.



Telegraph to John Rice, Jr., after the tower fell in 1962: "Roses are red, violets are blue, we're glad the chimney didn't fall on you."



Roque "Rocky" Salazar worked at the Union Brick Co. for many years, and lived in this house in Ladrillo. His grandson, Bernie Arreguin, is heading up the effort to record and preserve the unique histories of the people who lived and worked in Rose Canyon.

Happy Rhinos, Padres and Pregnant Women

According to Neil Morgan's column in the *Union Tribune* on September 19, 1957, the clay in Rose Canyon was used for more than making bricks.

THIS IS SAN DIEGO: The brown clay of Rose Canyon, which has been baked into bricks for 69 years, has had other functions, too. It formed the Padres' pitching mound at Lane Field and the new park in Mission Valley [Westgate Park].

Thoroughbred trainers used it to pack horses' hooves. Horseshoe pits are made with it. One woman even comes for a chunk of it every time she gets pregnant, John Rice attests, and eats it. And now a truckload of the clay has been dumped in the rhinoceros enclosures at the San Diego Zoo. We have today the testimony of Timothy Aller, supervising gardener at the Zoo, as given in a letter of thanks to the Union Brick Co.: "Both rhinos now wallow contentedly, when they so desire, in their respective mud pools. You have added immeasurably to their comfort and health."

Union Brick Co.

Sources: "We Lean to Good Brick" in *Flash Point*, The Quarterly Bulletin of the Tile Heritage Foundation, April-June 1989

Special thanks to

Bernie Arreguin, Rose Canyon Historical Society for sharing his family's history for this exhibit

John Fry, Pacific Beach Historical Society for the use of his clipping and photograph file

San Diego  Archaeological Center
preserving pieces of the past...

Rose Canyon

The mission of the San Diego Archaeological Center is to preserve and curate prehistoric and historic archaeological artifacts and to promote the educational, cultural and scientific use of archaeological collections in partnership with American Indians, cultural groups and the communities we serve.

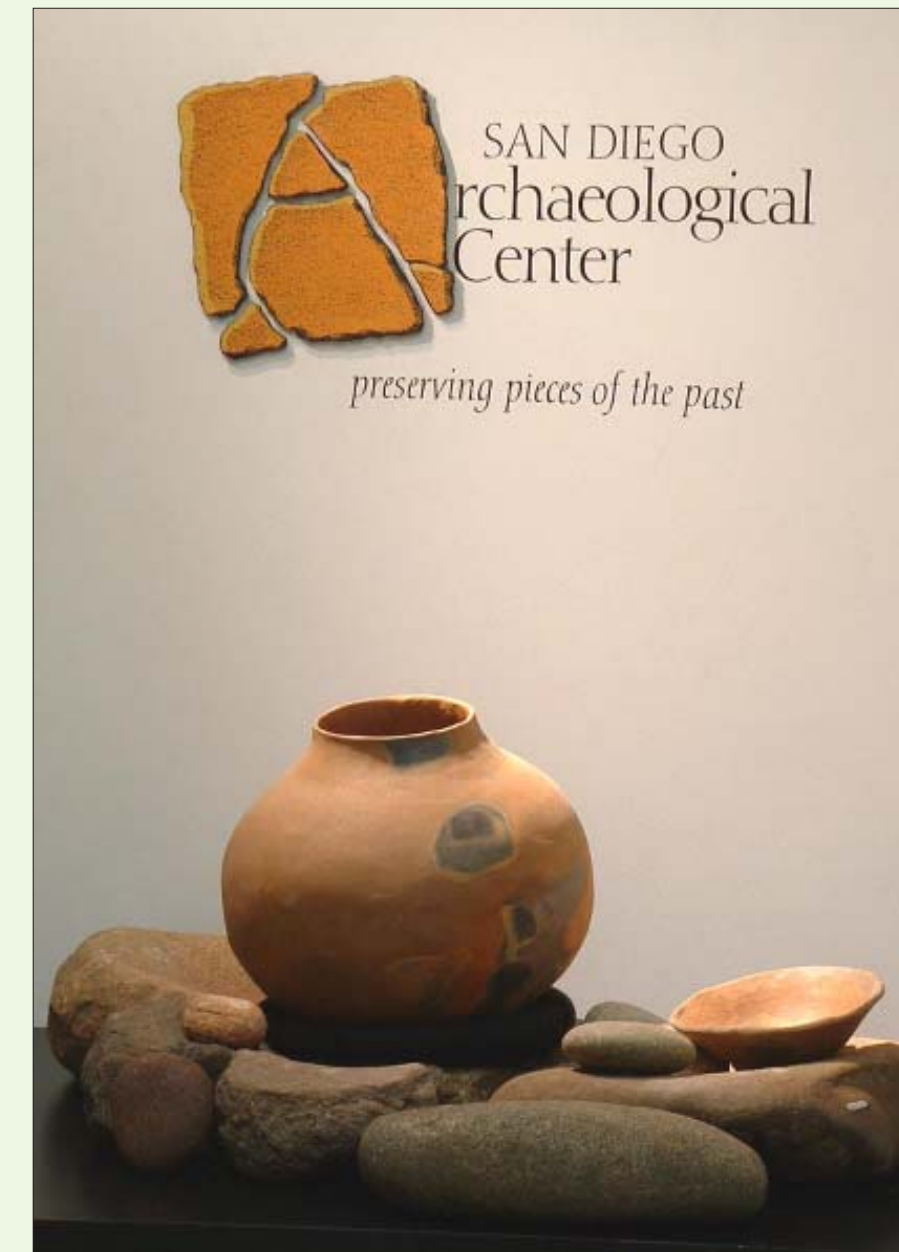
The San Diego Archaeological Center was established for one purpose—to preserve our region's archaeological legacy. For over 10,000 years people have been living in the San Diego area for the same reasons we do today—mild climate, beautiful beaches, warm valleys and cool mountains. The people who lived in the San Diego region left behind stone tools, pottery, rock art, bottles, metal tools and adobe bricks which offer clues about past lifeways.

Our modern lifestyle threatened to destroy this precious legacy until state and federal laws were enacted which required archaeological material to be collected before roads, malls and housing developments were built. "Salvage archaeology" brought to light so many prehistoric and historic objects, there barely has been time to study them, share them with the public or maintain them for posterity.

The San Diego Archaeological Center curates archaeological collections, preserving them for the future and making them available to the public today. **Curation** is the **care, management** and **use** of collections. Care means that collections are packaged in an archival manner; management

means that collections are organized and accessible; and use means that collections are *used* for exhibits, public education, research and cultural renewal.

We believe that our strongest contribution to the community is providing tangible history. Since 1850, more than half of the people living in California today came from someplace else. Currently, 24% of the population of San Diego County is Hispanic, 6% Black and 9% Asian and other. Sharing our past can increase our sense of community. In a recent study done by the California Council for the Humanities, 65% of the respondents said that they knew only a little or nothing at all about the cultural backgrounds of the people in their community. However, 44% believed that sharing family histories is a good way to strengthen their communities. By bringing archaeological collections together and making them available to explore, people can share history and culturally affiliated groups can recapture their past. The San Diego Archaeological Center recognizes and respects our cultural diversity, both in the past and in the present.



From chaos to curation: Archaeological artifacts are rehabilitated at the San Diego Archaeological Center for continued research, public education and cultural uses.

San Diego Archaeological Center Board of Trustees 2002

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Curation Crisis