

## Preface

As I traveled up and down California and Arizona on the path taken by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775-1776, I took note of its many sights and sounds. Some of these sounds, some natural and some man-made, were those that Anza and the members of his expeditions could have heard. This delighted me, as I am a descendant of several of the expedition's members (including Josef Apolinario Bernal y Soto, Luis María Peralta, and Juan Salvio Pacheco). I attended performances along the trail by groups such as the New World Baroque Orchestra and the Mission Santa Barbara choir group. I sat with my Californio cousin, Ryusona, and listened to her play the music of our ancestors on her violin. The music seemed to have the ability take people back to a time when California was but a lonely outpost on the northern-most frontier of what was then called New Spain. Slowly, an idea took shape. What if we could re-capture some of the sounds that were heard in those days gone by? We could give this to people with enough information so that they could go to the places where the sounds were heard. This was the beginning of the idea for the Anza Trail Guide CD.

So you might ask, "Why is this important?", or even, "Why is the Juan Bautista de Anza trail important?" My answer to this question is this: It allows one to realize that California was settled long before the Gold Rush (1849), and even before the United States was an independent country. First of all, there were the American Indians who settled the area starting some ten thousand years ago. Long after that, there was the Spanish Empire that sought to extend her settled possessions beyond her northern-most frontier. This was the reason for the expeditions of Juan Bautista de Anza, who was serving his king, Carlos III of Spain. Many races were represented by the people Anza brought to California in 1775-1776: Spanish born in Spain, Spanish born in the New World, Indian, Indian-Hispanic mixtures and African-Hispanic mixtures. These people obviously believed that the new land in California would bring them new and better opportunities. This, in my opinion, is an example of the "*American Dream*" expressed even before California was a possession of the United States. My motivation in bringing people to understand the trail, its story and the story of the people of the Anza expeditions is therefore to inspire immigrants, Hispanic and non-Hispanic alike. I would like to convey to them that the issues that they face are not so unlike those of previous generations.

Another motivation stems from the fact that as California and Arizona develop, the Anza trail could serve as a means to preserve natural areas for the enjoyment and enlightenment of future generations. This centers on the public learning to appreciate the areas on and around the trail, and to become active in their preservation and restoration. The diaries of Anza and his chaplain, Franciscan Father Pedro Font, paint a vivid picture of the natural and political environment of their time. For the former, this can serve as a guide for restoration of areas along the trail, and from the latter, one can gain insights as to how history often repeats itself.

I have worked to combine text, images, and sounds that offer users a sense of what members of Anza's expeditions experienced. My research has led to the recording of historically accurate musical arrangements from both the Spanish and the American Indian groups along the trail. I've sought to record these in authentic settings, and to include many of the sounds the expedition may have heard. This guide is not intended as the ultimate guidebook for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. It is merely a start, a beginning. "A journey begins with a single step."

Greg Smestad, Ph.D.