



### The History of Baja California

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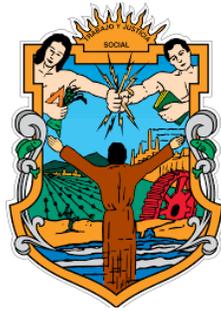
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Ways and Means



Seal of Baja California

#### Early History

Before the Spaniards arrived, the peninsula of Baja California was inhabited by three major ethnic groups: the Cochimí in the north, the Guaycura in the central section and the Pericú on the southern cape. Archaeological artifacts suggest that these tribes inhabited the peninsula and Cedros Island as early as 9,000-10,000 years ago. The Cochimí, who lived on the mainland, were hunters and gatherers, but an isolated group of Cochimí living on Cedros Island developed a fairly complex agricultural system. The Guaycura and the Pericú lived by hunting, gathering and fishing. Their descendants still live in Baja California, primarily on the northernmost part of the peninsula.

#### Middle History

After the Spanish conquered the Mexican mainland early in the 16th century, they began searching westward for a fabled island of gold. In 1532, the conquistador Hernán Cortés dispatched two fleets of ships to look for the island. When they failed to find it, Cortés decided to lead the search himself. In 1535, he landed north of La Paz (near the southern end of the Baja California peninsula) where he discovered black pearls but no gold. Cortés and his men returned to the mainland. Cortés returned to Spain in 1541 without fully exploring or colonizing Baja California. In 1542, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo ventured into the region, but it proved to be the last exploration for 50 years.

Later, as trade grew between Mexico and the Philippines, it became clear that a supply station on the western coast of Baja California would provide a welcome refuge for ships arriving from the long Pacific voyage. Beginning in 1592, Sebastián Vizcaíno undertook two expeditions to establish such a station, but he was unsuccessful because of repeated native resistance. In fact, a supply station would not be established in the area until 1730.

In January 1683, the Spanish government provisioned three ships with 200 men and gave them a mandate to colonize the peninsula. The expedition, led by Sinaloa's governor Isidro de Atondo y Antillón, sailed into the Sea of Cortés and attempted its first settlement at La Paz; however, hostility from local tribes forced the expedition to move on. When a second settlement failed for the same reason, the expedition returned to the mainland.

Twelve years later, in 1695, a Jesuit priest named Juan María Salvatierra established the region's first permanent Spanish settlement, the Misión Nuestra Señora de Loreto, which quickly became the peninsula's religious and administrative capital. Its success enabled other Jesuits to introduce more missions throughout the area. A total of 23 over the next 70 years. However, King Carlos III of Spain became wary of the Jesuits' growing power and, in 1767, ordered that they be

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expelled at gunpoint and returned to Spain immediately.

The Franciscans moved into the vacuum left by the Jesuits, and, under the authority of Father Junipero Serra they closed or consolidated several of the existing missions and established one of their own, San Fernando Velicatá. At the direction of the Spanish government, Father Serra continued to move north, where he established 21 new missions in Alta California (present-day California).

In the late 1700s, the Dominicans became active in Baja California. By 1800, they had established nine new missions in the northern part of Baja and continued to oversee the existing Jesuit missions.

The independence movement in Mexico began in 1810, but Baja California's involvement was minimal, given its small population. The Spanish presence on the peninsula consisted primarily of missions, and the missions were closely linked to the Spanish crown. The end of Spanish rule in Mexico spelled the end of the missions' administrative authority as well. After gaining its independence in 1821, Mexico established Baja California as a federal territory; in 1832, the governor converted all the missions into parish churches.

### Recent History

The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) had major repercussions in Baja California. The war began after Mexico refused the United States' offer to buy California, Nevada, Utah and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming. In the treaty ending the war, Mexico gave in to U.S. demands and ceded the vast territory in exchange for \$15 million. The original draft of the treaty included Baja California in the sale, but the United States eventually agreed to omit the peninsula because of its proximity to Sonora, which is located just across the narrow Sea of Cortés.

The territory did play a pivotal role in the Mexican Revolution. In 1911, a group called the Partido Liberal Mexicano (Liberal Mexican Party) organized a rebellion against the extended presidency of dictator Porfirio Díaz. Under Francisco Palomares and Pedro Ramirez Caule, both supporters of Francisco Madero, who initiated the Mexican Revolution in 1910 the rebel army took control of Mexicali in January 1911, followed by Tijuana in May. As the revolution drew to a close in 1921, Baja California aligned itself with the new president Carranza.

On December 31, 1952, Baja California officially became Mexico's 29th state, and in 1953 the state's constitution was adopted. Previously, the region's official name was Territorio Norte de Baja California, or Northern Territory of Baja California. Under the new constitution, Braulio Maldonado Sánchez of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) became the state's first governor, presiding over a government whose unicameral legislative branch comprised 25 members.

### Baja California Today

The state's economy is bolstered by agriculture, maquiladoras (manufacturing assembly plants), mining and tourism. The state is also well known as a tourist destination, thanks to its countless beaches and proximity to the United States. With six border crossing points into the U.S. state of California, Baja California sees many thousand crossings each day. In 2000, an estimated 180,000 cars crossed the international border daily. Tijuana is the largest Baja California city.

### Facts and Figures

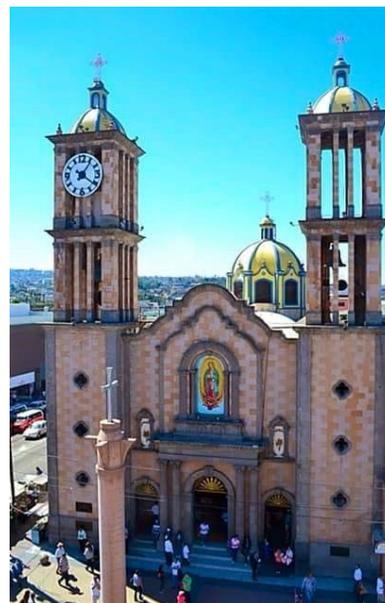
**Capital:** Mexicali

**Major Cities:** (population): Tijuana (1,410,700) Mexicali (855,962) Ensenada (413,481) Tecate (91,021) Playas de Rosarito (73,305)

**Size/Area:** 56,017 square miles

**Population:** 2,844,469 (2005 census)

**Year of Statehood:** 1952



Our Lady of Guadalupe established January 20, 1874. Construction began in 1909 and was completed in 1956 in Tijuana.

## Presidents Message

Hello, all members of Friends of Taxco!

I cannot believe how fast this year is proceeding. We have had a busy year since the first of January and continue to have a lot of activities that have been planned and still have room for more. If you have any more ideas just contact any of the board members and we will proceed.



Bruce Troe

We have another exciting event this month with special thanks to Jo and Bobbie the BINGO is returning to the Eton Mobile Home Park on Saturday night March 14. Special cooks are preparing Irish Stew, Neeps, lettuce, green beans and lots of other GREEN things! Hope to see all of you there and ready to yell out... BINGO! Thanks so much for all of you that worked with this program and continue to work with all of our programs.

Randy and Linda have been working on their COOKBOOK for helping all of our sister cities. Thanks for all of your dedication. Coming up is the cultural visitation from our Friends of Taxco in June. Please contact Barb or any board members for further information as soon as possible if you would like to be entertained and educated in Taxco. Also remember that we are continually working for the children of Taxco by raising donations for schools in Taxco. See you soon!

Bruce Troe

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## Poem Written By Barbara White



### **Taxco – The Silver City of Mexico**

A city built on hills with cobblestone streets  
 Streets that stretch uphill and downhill  
 Hotels and restaurants have lots of levels  
 Uphill, downhill, sometimes stairs  
 Looking up, looking down  
 Stairs not elevators  
 Paper fans not air conditioning  
 White buildings, red roofs - the city feels  
 Like it has not changed through the years  
 Walking up, walking down  
 Of course it has grown  
 But even new construction has to be in the colonial style  
 There are a lot more people living here  
 A lot more cars and congestion, the city has expanded outward  
 Outward and upward  
 Still, nothing outshines the purity of its silver  
 Nor the towering presence of the Santa Prisca church  
 Nor for that matter, a cold limonada up in Bar Paco  
 As we watch the pedestrians and vendors below.





Barb White

**Canoga Delegation Visit to Taxco 2020**

It was decided at our Joint Board Meeting in November that our visit to Taxco this year would be from Saturday, November 28 to Monday, December 7. We will be there for the Feria de la Plata – the Silver Festival in Taxco – which takes place between November 28 and December 6. There is a final celebration where we will see who is chosen as the Silver Queen, the winner between several contestants, and we will see all of the beautiful silver items made to showcase the Taxco artisans.

There is also a Festival of the Flor de Noche Buena – the Poinsettia Festival, where a large poinsettia will be created in the zocalo using real poinsettia flowers. That festival starts December 8. We won't be there for that unless those that choose to travel to Taxco opt for slightly different dates. Taxco is actually urging us to think about a slight change to include the Poinsettia Festival. But if we only have working members travelling to Taxco, they may prefer the original dates that were decided in order to have less days off of work.

If you are considering travelling to Taxco in November/December 2020, please contact Bruce Troe or Barb White.

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**Taxco Delegation Visit to Canoga 2020**

Get ready for a wonderful time again! We just heard that our Taxco delegation would like to come to Canoga from June 3rd to June 12th. When it is confirmed, I will let you know! Let me know if you would like to be on the planning committee for the visitation.

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**Art Exchange Between Canoga Park and Taxco**

If you haven't heard, Bob Blumenfield's office arranged an art exchange with Taxco and when our visitors came in November the first art exchange took place at our Welcome Party! Jorge Sierra had brought 4 drawings from Taxco from a college level architecture school. Cameron Gil from Blumenfield's office brought 4 small paintings from the New Academy of Canoga Park, an elementary school. OK, the "level" of the two schools did not match, but this is the first attempt and we hope that it will continue.

Also as part of this, Cameron wanted to arrange an artist to come up to Canoga from Taxco and make a presentation or have an exhibit here. I suggested Lily Castillo, a prominent silver designer from Taxco. Lily would come up using her own money – the Councilman's office was not equipped to provide expenses. And she would be asked to give a short presentation in front of the Councilmen in City Hall Chambers, as well as a longer presentation in City Hall in another room. And then a final presentation at Bob Blumenfield's office in Reseda inviting community to each event.

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**Possibly changing the name of the Clyde Porter Theater to the Theater of Taxco.**

We have been asked by the council office to investigate the interest in renaming the old Clyde Porter Theater to the "Theater of Taxco." What a wonderful idea, and if you would like to see this happen please come to the next fundraiser on March 14th and let us know. The building is right next door to the Canoga/Owensmouth Historical Society Museum located on Owensmouth.

## **Membership**

### **Welcome to the 2020 Membership Drive!**

3 checks arrived on the same day and they were the first to renew for the 2020 year! Ruth & Warren Bromund, Bill & Mary Ratner and Mary Galeana - thank you! Thanks to those who have followed sending in their dues and the form - we will get the updated roster out to the membership soon.



Jo Lamoureux

As you renew your membership or invite a friend to join, I find it always good to take a moment and reflect.

#### ***What did we accomplish last year?***

- ◆ We raised over \$2,500 in support of our Taxco gift.
- ◆ We purchased another medical microscope for Taxco High School. The school has an active program in connection with the local hospital to facilitate high school kids interested in the medical field to get a 'jump' on their career path by offering specialized medical education programs.
- ◆ We facilitated kindergarten and 5th grade letter exchanges with Colegio Miguel Angel in Taxco.
- ◆ Canoga Park delegation visited Taxco in June - celebrating the 56th Anniversary of the organization with the Mayor of Taxco Marcos Parra. Marcos participated in the sister City student exchanges in the 1970's, a 40 year friendship!
- ◆ We hosted the Taxco delegation for 10 days - enriching their cultural experience and cementing friendships.

#### ***How did we do it?***

- ◆ Through the membership participating.
- ◆ An awesome newsletter with great articles!
- ◆ Wide variety of events! Starting with the kick-off in January with the movie Oklahoma! - celebrating the 17th Amendment - hearing from Alison Turtledove about the Valley Relic Museum - Malibu winery event in the rain 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles - Horse Races - Cheeseburger in Paradise by the pool - Viva La Independencia! - ending the year with the Jingle Bell Toss party.
- ◆ Involved Board of Directors.
- ◆ Great members who stepped up to organize, host, or volunteer for events.
- ◆ By having fun!

Thank you for renewing your membership, inviting a friend to join and participating - it will make a great organization even better! See you at the March meeting!

Jo  
Membership Chair

|                    |    |           |    |    |
|--------------------|----|-----------|----|----|
| 10<br><b>BINGO</b> |    |           |    |    |
| 4                  | 27 | 32        | 55 | 73 |
| 15                 | 25 | 41        | 58 | 75 |
| 8                  | 26 | O<br>FREE | 59 | 70 |
| 7                  | 22 | 33        | 54 | 62 |
| 13                 | 17 | 43        | 48 | 67 |

# Saint Patricks' Day

SATURDAY - MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>

*Eton Mobile Home Recreation Room  
8901 Eton Ave.*



*The FUN starts at:  
6:00 PM*

*\$15.00 PER PERSON  
BINGO - \$10.00 FOR  
5 SPECIAL GAMES*

**B** Beef "Irish" Stew  
**I** Iceberg Lettuce  
**N** "Neeps" (Scottish for Potatoes)  
**G** Green Beans  
**O** Olives (Baked)



RSVP: Bertha Arvizu (818) 340-6598  
 Bobbie Strelow: [bobbiejoann2@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiejoann2@gmail.com) or (818) 388-7801

## Calendar of Events 2020

- March 14**      **Bingo Night With The Leprechaun - 6:00 PM**  
 \$15.00      Eton Mobile Home Park Recreation Room - 8901 Eton Ave.
- March 28**      **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**  
 Swoger Residence - 7821 Jellico Ave.
- April 18**      **Bunny Races & Dinner - 6:00 PM**  
 \$15.00      Eton Mobile Home Park Recreation Room - 8901 Eton Ave.
- April 25**      **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**  
 Lamoreaux Home - 20554 Chase St.



**FRIENDS OF TAXCO**  
 contact information  
 Randy Lewis - Editor  
 P.O. Box 9070  
 Canoga Park, CA 91309  
 (818) 998-0983  
[randy7547@gmail.com](mailto:randy7547@gmail.com)