For over two decades, many of you have worked with commitment to create a nationally recognized trail that commemorates the lives and courage of the men and women on the Anza Expedition. Through our efforts together, the Anza Trail has blossomed into a reality.

We have accomplished much over the past decade. The trail exists on a map, and each year, a little more of it is added on the ground. There is a brochure and a passport stamp. The auto tour route is marked in California, and Arizona is working on it. An auto tour brochure is ready to print. We have two full-time National Park Service (NPS) staff to work on the trail.

We have arrived at an important juncture in the history of the trail. There is an auto tour route and trail on the ground. Now, how can we better communicate the many stories of the Anza expedition to the public?

Increased educational outreach, like this recent Anza hike led by Interpretive Specialist David Smith at the Presidio of San Francisco, will strengthen interpreting the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Making the connection between these first settlers and the present day trail and visitor is the challenge at hand. In the NPS, making these connections is called “interpretation.”

We have so far relied on passive exhibits to tell the story. Twelve trail and roadside panels in Arizona and California depict the challenges of the expedition and describe the people they met along the way.

But these panels do not necessarily provide a consistent trail image or work together to tell the whole Anza story. They have been developed one at a time using our partners’ inspiration and the Challenge Cost Share Program as a funding tool.

Now that the Trail has an Interpretive Specialist, we can improve our approach to these exhibits. We can identify places where wayside exhibits are most appropriate and then find the funds to develop them. We can plan a trail-long approach to exhibits that tells the complete trail story and yet provides meaning at each stop.

Where Do We Go From Here?
The Long Range Interpretive Plan Begins

Volunteers like Velma Shoemaker (seated) at this fall’s Tubac Anza Days help interpret the trail to three trail visitors. The Long Range Interpretive Plan will identify ways we can help volunteers play their crucial role in interpreting the trail to the public.

(Continued on next page, Plan)
We can make these decisions, and many others about the direction our interpretation should take, through a process the National Park Service calls the Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP).

Instead of a few large meetings, we will host many small ones that coincide with our travel to different locations along the trail. We have already met with some of you. In addition, we have begun to send out questionnaires to reach people in locales often distant from the trail. Descendants and members of Los Californianos have received a mailer asking for their input on the trail.

Over the next few months, we plan to visit sites around the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Anza, El Centro, Yuma, Phoenix, Tucson, and Nogales. Along the way, we would like to meet with as many people as possible.

David Smith, NPS Interpretive Specialist, is organizing these informal stakeholder meetings. Although he will contact as many of you as possible, you can contact him in advance to schedule some time with him during one of these meetings. He can be reached by telephone at 510 817-1323 or at david_smith@nps.gov.

If you are interested in filling out a questionnaire, we will send you one by mail or e-mail to be answered at your convenience. We plan to share the information we gather through e-mail and through these newsletters.

When all of this information is compiled, it will tell us exactly what your expectations are for the trail and its interpretation. From there, we can better plan how and where to direct David’s energy.

We have learned one thing already from meetings with a number of you. The need for more information is a common theme that comes up again and again. You would like a newsletter on a more frequent basis that tells you what has been happening on the trail. Beginning with this newsletter, we will publish quarterly in January, April, July, and October to bring you up-to-date on newly certified sites and trail segments and what the National Park Service and partners are doing. We also hope to provide more on the history and life of the families involved with the expedition and the American Indian tribes along the way.

In many ways, we are now entering the most challenging phase of the Anza Trail. Each of you has a different idea of the story the trail can tell. In the past, your concerted efforts were responsible for creating a truly remarkable testament to the Anza expedition and the history of Arizona and California. Your continued effort today is equally important as the trail embarks on its third century of existence.

**On the Trail in Mexico**

By David Smith, Interpretive Specialist

In May, I fulfilled a grant to hike portions of the Anza Trail in Mexico. Following is an account of some of my experiences visiting Sinaloa and Sonora.

On the National Park Service map it is pretty straightforward—the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail begins in Nogales and ends in San Francisco. But anyone who has read about the Anza Trail knows that the original settlers came from Culiacán, Villa Sinaloa, Alamos and many other settlements—hundreds of miles south of the present day border.

Today, the Mexican segment of the Anza Trail exists only in the minds of a few Anza fans and history books. But that trail was just as important to the success of the Anza expedition as the long trek from Tubac to the San Francisco Bay.

This summer, I began my hike from the ultra modern Culiacán bus station. Walking into town along the main thoroughfare, I was struck with just how tropical the town is. Mangos grow in yards. Palm trees line all of the major streets. A crack in the sidewalk becomes the perfect place for a tree to sprout.

Less than a hundred miles north of the tropics, Culiacán is a wet, humid town, where tropical fruit grows intermingled with vines along lush tree lined rivers. With
a wet summer monsoon season and a relatively dry and warm winter, Culiacán stands in marked contrast to Alta California where the expedition members would eventually settle.

In the heart of Culiacán runs its namesake, the Culiacán River. City planners have designated it a green belt with ample hiking trails lining the waterway. It is easy to imagine families of settlers riding northward in the river’s flood plain. With ample vegetation for grazing and abundant water, traveling along the river would have been a pleasant, relaxing experience. Even today, during the heat of a summer day, thousands of people use the river daily as a way to unwind and enjoy their city.

As I followed the waterways north out of the city, the vegetation slowly changed from tropical, to subtropical, to desert landscape. By El Fuerte or Alamos, 150 miles to the north, the hillsides are covered with mesquite, agave, and cacti, making cross-country travel less and less welcoming.

During my hike, I was struck by just how inhospitable the landscape is to someone not using a car. The search for water is a constant concern the farther into the desert you go. The rainy season gets progressively shorter as you move north, making farming more and more challenging. Imagine families, moving away from their friends and farms and being confronted with an increasingly desert-like landscape.

I am surprised that the settlers did not thank Anza for his time and effort and return home. It is a testament to their fortitude and Anza’s inspiration that they continued with their journey. As I daily was confronted with the scrapes and bruises that occur in desert hiking, my appreciation for the will power of the expedition members continued to soar. With over a third of the expedition members under the age of 12, it must have been a major effort on the part of the parents to look out for their welfare.

About 200 miles north of Culiacán, I entered the Reserva de la Biosfera de Alamos. While the danger faced by the Anza expedition was Apache raids, my challenge was the contrabandista – the drug smuggler.

Meeting with some of the park rangers that help manage the Reserva, I was amazed to discover that most do not travel into the park for fear of confronting armed bandits or stumbling across a guarded marijuana patch. They gave strict instructions to hike only along existing dirt roads in the reserve and to stay out of the backcountry. In the end, everything turned out fine. I only saw one lone vaquero in the company of his cows. I am sure my fear of smugglers was similar to the trepidation the expedition members felt toward the Apaches.

The farther north I got, the hotter and more difficult it became to hike. By the time I reached Hermosillo, I could no longer carry enough water to safely hike during the day. From this point, I packed my hiking shoes away, content to enjoy the rest of the trip from the comfort of an air-conditioned bus.

By the time the expedition reached this area, they had already confronted what would be their biggest emotional challenge—leaving their communities and realizing that they were facing a world very different from anything that they had seen.

Breezing down the roads to Mexicali, as the desert turned drier and drier, I knew the Anza expedition had to cross another 700 miles before they would arrive in Monterey. Since I was exhausted after only two weeks on the trail, I could fully appreciate the strength and courage of the members of the expedition.

Cross Border Programs: Exploring International Trails

In October 2001, trail superintendent Meredith Kaplan and interpretive specialist David Smith attended a day long conference in Tijuana. They met with government officials and non-profit organizers from both Alta and Baja California. With 46 miles of the historic route running through the northern desert of Baja California, trail managers hope to explore the idea of an international Anza Trail.

In December 2001, David met with the Field Coordinating Committee, a Department of the Interior group, dedicated to working on border related issues. In San Diego and south of Ensenada, David presented the story of the Anza Trail to the group and met with managers from various Bureau of Land Management offices to discuss continuation of the Anza Trail across the California and Arizona deserts.

This May, everyone interested in the Anza story in Mexico can take part in the Annual World Anza Conference, slated for the small village of Arizpe, Sonora, Mexico from May 3-5, 2002.
News from Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona

By G. Donald Kucera
President of the Coalition

Phil English, the former contributor to Noticias de Anza for the Coalition and the editor of our newsletter el pliego, has retired from those responsibilities. He has decided to reduce his volunteering, but will remain a member of the Coalition. Muchas gracias, Phil, for all your past help in making the Coalition a working organization. We wish you free time to enjoy all aspects of your life in Green Valley.

The Anza Route in Arizona

Pima County has contracted to have a master plan developed. It is presently in review by county staff and will be available for public review later this year. Additionally, Pima County received $500,000 in TEA-21 funds to develop trail improvements on a five-mile segment of the Anza Trail within the county-owned La Canoa property (south of Green Valley). Pima County provides a $117,000 match. Included in the proposal are interpretive signage, traditional-style shade facilities, and native vegetation for buffering and shade.

In Green Valley, the Anza Trailhead at the Springs development plan is complete. The only issue now is finding funding for construction. The local Rotary Club has donated $15,000 for a start to the project.

A new group, the Southern Pima County Trail Association (SPCTA), formed out of the group that worked on the Anza Trailhead at the Springs. It will look at hiking, horseback, and historic trails in southern Pima County. The Anza Trail is the spine with most of the other trails connected to it. The Coalition has a representative in SPCTA. Monthly meetings are held to keep motivation going.

In Tucson, two interpretive plaques are in the design phase. They will be placed on the certified segment along the west bank of the Rio Santa Cruz.

Mexico

Representatives of Arizona, Sinaloa, and Sonora met in the Tucson area to develop closer links between the United States and Mexico. Discussions on international trails included native, mission, and Spanish colonial trails. Interests range from history to ethnotourism. At the 2001 National Historic and Scenic Trails Conference at Casper, Wyoming, a subcommittee was established to look into international trails between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. We can look forward to more interest in this area.

Harry W. Crosby Images Archived

Harry W. Crosby gave the Coalition approximately 200 transparencies taken in 1969 as he retraced the Anza route from Sinaloa to San Francisco. Some of his images were published in Anza Conquers the Desert by Richard F. Pourade in 1971. He requested that these be available to the public in the promotion of the Anza Trail. We are cataloging the images and will relate them to maps. As soon as the catalog is completed, a notice will be published in Noticias de Anza. We will protect the transparencies in archival sheets and storage containers.

Many thanks to Mr. Crosby for his generosity in making these images available for public enjoyment.

From the Superintendent

By Meredith Kaplan

Eight miles of unpaved road in Bautista Canyon between the towns of Anza and Hemet provide a landscape experience unparalleled along the trail. The twisting and often rutted road slows the driver, almost forcing an appreciation of the setting. On a recent trip, the bright yellow of the cottonwoods lit the bottom of the canyon where Bautista Creek runs, glowing against the dark greens and subtle grays of the chaparral. Manzanita, chamise, and oaks grow to the very edge of the road creating the feeling of being in the landscape. The drive is like a trail experience.

The majority of the canyon is within the San Bernardino National Forest. The road is owned by the forest but maintained by Riverside County. Both agencies are now interested in paving the road, and federal highway funds are available to do it. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is preparing the design and construction documents and performing the environmental analysis.

A recent walk along the entire stretch of road with representatives of FHWA, the county, and the Forest Service revealed...
Connections on the Trail

By David Smith

With over 1200 miles of trail, I still have a long way to go before I can hope to become familiar with the whole route. Still, my first six months on the job have brought me in touch with groups working on the trail all the way from San Francisco down to Culiacán.

During the summer, I was able to offer interpretive hikes about the Anza Trail in San Francisco, Gilroy, and San Juan Bautista. Additionally, I have met with school groups at various Bay Area Schools. This has blossomed into a fourth grade curriculum which is now used to take students for day long hikes through the Presidio. By working with the San Francisco Community Partners group, we have been able to find new ways to reach children of color and students in poorer districts.

Along the trail, I met with the Gilroy Historical Society to explore trail possibilities in the city. In addition to providing an interpretive program, I was also able to join the group for a hike along the proposed trail route.

In Santa Barbara, I met Gary Coombs of the South Coast Rail Museum. Gary runs a docent program aboard the Amtrak Coast Starlight, interpreting the California Coast and portions of the Anza Trail. We will be providing his organization with a variety of maps and brochures that they can share with their visitors.

During the final months of the year, I joined the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona at Anza Days in Tubac and the Tumacacari Fiesta. Using the uniform of a Sodado de Cuera, I met with hundreds of park visitors to talk about the trail.

Although most of my efforts over the next few months will be directed towards finishing the Long Range Interpretive Plan, I will continue to offer various hikes and presentations along the trail.

Along the Trail


- Twenty-four walkers and joggers participated in the first annual five-mile Anza Trail run from Salinas to San Juan Bautista over the Old Stage Road in San Benito County on April 1, 2001. Granite Rock Corporation, represented by Jim West, was a major sponsor of the event helping with event management, publicity, transportation, prizes, refreshments and a water stop. Supervisor Ruth Keslar promoted the event and presented trophies to the winners.

- Riverside County dedicated two interpretive exhibits at the Hamilton Schools and community library in Anza, California on April 20, 2001. The Hamilton School band performed, and several classes of students attended. Jeannie Gillen, southern California Chair for Amigos de Anza, encouraged the students to pledge their care for the national trail in their community. Paul Fransden, Marc Brewer, and Kim Jarrel-Johnson, Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space staff, developed the exhibits with matching Challenge Cost Share Program funds. Also participating were two county park commissioners, a member of the county historic commission, county park staff, the school principal, and the head of the county library system.

- A cast of locals performed the annual Juan Bautista de Anza en Calabasas Pag-
eant, a dramatic reenactment of the Anza expedition arriving in Calabasas (Los Angeles County) on April 29, 2001. The pageant honors the memory of Juliana Townsend Gensley who created the original script. Her daughter, Robin Mitchell, has carried on the tradition and formed the Calabasas Anza Heritage Association. Ralph Lee Anza now leads the group. The date for the pageant is permanently set for the last Sunday in April.

Nearly 1000 people took part in Presidio Pasados, the commemoration of the history of the San Francisco Presidio and San Francisco’s 225th Birthday on June 30, 2001. Events included a morning conference on Cultures of New Spain, a Fandango by Coro Hispano de San Francisco and Conjunto Nuevo Mundo, National Park Service walks guided by David Smith throughout the afternoon, and archeology field talks.

In the fall, the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department completed the survey of a trail easement across the Haven Golf Course. After years of negotiation, the county and the Golf Course management are near to an agreement on access and uses of the easement. This year the county will construct a bridge across a drainageway within the easement, making it possible for walkers and horseback riders to stay within the easement to follow the trail rather than stray onto golf course property. This segment of trail will be certified as an official component of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Steve Anderson and Rafael Payan, Park Department Director, have led this work for the county.

Ten riders from Paso Robles Trail Association held an Anza Trail ride on Camp Roberts on October 20, 2001, through “beautiful rolling hills surrounded by breath-taking vistas” according to Lydia Francis, Vice President and Trail Coordinator for the organization.

Lon Allen of Atascadero led 50 people on a history walk on the trail along the Salinas River on October 27, 2001.

The Back Country Horsemen of California, San Diego Unit, under the leadership of Tom Marshall, hosted their annual Anza-Borrego Desert State Park trail clean-up in Coyote Canyon on November 8-10.

Don Kucera spoke at the Tucson Museum of Art as part of the Cultural Infrastructure Project in December. He reported on the current status of the Anza Trail in Arizona. He was joined by other speakers on themes concerning border issues, cultural interchange, and south-west history.

The 310-acre boundary expansion for Tumacacori National Historical Park has moved to the floor of the House and must be introduced on the Senate side. The full Congress must approve the bills and then Congress must pass a separate bill authorizing the purchase. The House bill has the full support of Congressman Ed Pastor. This expansion will include about one mile of the Anza Trail.

**Challenge Cost Share**

We are seeking applicants for Fiscal Year 2002 Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) projects. Congress created CCSP in 1993 to increase participation of neighboring communities and qualified partners in preserving and improving the cultural, natural, and recreational resources for which the National Park Service is responsible. With a required minimum 50 percent match of non-federal cash or in-kind contribution, mutually beneficial projects are cooperatively carried out.

Partners can include groups, local school systems, colleges, universities, companies, corporations, state and local agencies, and other non-federal entities that will donate either funds, equipment, supplies, or in-kind services to complete a project. Projects are intended to be completed in one year and to help implement the Anza Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. Specific projects might include historical or archeological site restoration, surveys of the historic trail alignment, trail construction, interpretive videos for heritage education programs, interpretive exhibits, and so forth.

In the past, CCSP projects completed interpretive exhibits at Picacho Peak State Park, Yuma Crossing Historical Park and the Peralta Adobe, helped Web de Anza digitize all the expedition journals and develop interactive maps, and constructed trails in Henry W. Coe State Park and in the Conejo Park and Recreation District. Current CCSP projects include interpretive exhibits in Tucson, Los Angeles, and at Santa Clara University, a 4th grade curriculum project with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, and a trail construction project with the City of Palo Alto. If you are have an eligible project that we can work on together, contact Meredith Kaplan at 510 817-1438.

**The Town of Marana Incorporates Anza Trail**

Reported by Michael Reuwsaat, Assistant Town Manager in a letter to the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona.

The Santa Cruz River Study, conducted over a period of two years by Marana, identified the Anza Trail as a central cultural asset. It is incorporated where appropriate into each project the Town develops along the Santa Cruz River. The Town of Marana entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County to jointly plan and develop park, recreation, and trail facilities along the river and they are jointly working on the location of trail segments within the Town of Marana.

The Town received a TEA-21 grant for the portion of the Anza Trail within the Continental Ranch area and ranks 2nd in current grant applications to complete this trail segment, which begins at Cortaro Road and ends at the Los Morteros site, one of six Anza campsites in Pima County. The town is also working with a developer and the local school district to convey the Los Morteros site to Pima County to enable public access to the site.

**Corrections**

Jim Norris of Olive Press Publications offers corrections on the article “Sergeant Juan Pablo Grijalva” in Noticias No. 14. He writes that Santiago de Santa Ana was not the only Spanish rancho in Orange County. Bowman lists three others, all given to Manuel Nieto in November 1784. He notes further that Santiago de Santa Ana Rancho was patented for 78,946.13 acres.
In Memoriam

“William Mason, California historian and author, ... told us what our little pueblo [Los Angeles] was like when the 13 colonies of the Atlantic coast created the United States of America. ... But most important, he told us long before the word multiethnic came to be intertwined with Los Angeles that the pueblo-cum-megalopolis had been multiethnic from its very first encampment in 1781. Mason, long the curator of Southern California history at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, died on November 15, 2000.”
- The Southern Californian, Spring 2001, published by the Historical Society of Southern California

Mason's book, The Census of 1790, provides valuable information. His death is a loss for all those interested in the Spanish Colonial influence on California.
West of Santa Barbara lies the Gaviota Coast - a pristine and rugged shoreline. The Anza expedition followed the sandy and grass covered cliff tops as they made their way north, avoiding the rocky shore. Today, trail visitors can camp and experience the same coastal beauty as the expedition members at Jalama Beach County Park.

Noticias de Anza is a quarterly newsletter of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail published by the National Park Service. Articles relevant to the trail’s history, culture, and recreational use are welcome. The editor is Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent of the trail.