



by Wallace E. Knight

On July 8, 1755, fury struck the handful of settlers at Draper's Meadows, Virginia. From the surrounding woods painted Shawnee swooped down, firing rifles and waving torches. They killed four persons, looted the cabins, and rounded up the horses. Then

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## Mary Inglis' Long Walk Home

*Much of present-day California was originally explored and settled in the 1700s by people from New Spain—what is now the Republic of Mexico. Today that Spanish heritage is very much alive in California, where there are still many people of Spanish and Mexican descent.*

Gaspar de Portolá stood on the top of a little hill on the northern California coast. He was exhausted, but it wasn't the climb up the hill that had wearied him. It was what he saw—or rather, didn't see—now that he was at the top.

The view was beautiful enough. To the north a long tongue of land stretched into the ocean, and to the south a shorter one, a hill wooded with pines. In between, miles of glittering sand dunes ran along the shore.

"Surely that point to the north is Punta de Año Nuevo, and the one to the south must be Punta de Pinos," said Portolá's friend, Father Juan Crespi.

"Yes," sighed Portolá, "so it would seem—the Point of the New Year, the Point of the Pines. But if they are here, where is Monterey? Where is the fertile valley and the beautiful harbor that Sebastián Vizcaíno described in 1602, nearly two hundred years ago? Have we come so many hundreds of miles for nothing?"

"We must be near Monterey," Father Crespi said. "It may be a little way north of here, or it may be south and we missed it when we had to detour through the mountains."

"Perhaps," Portolá said, but his frustration didn't leave him. According to all the landmarks they could recognize, they should be at the Bay of Monterey right now. But Vizcaíno had said Monterey was a rounded,

curving bay, and this inlet seemed to be shaped like a fishhook!

"We must go on," Portolá said. "We *must* find Monterey." His orders from King Carlos of Spain were to find the port of Monterey and set up a fort there, because a settlement at Monterey would be extremely important if Spain was to control this new land, Alta California.

"I don't know how much longer we *can* go on," Father Crespi said. "Our provisions are low, we have little to eat, and soon we will have nothing but what we find on the land. Many of the men are sick, and the others are tired from having to do their own work as well as that of the sick men. It is late autumn now, too, and winter is coming."

"I know all those things," Portolá said impatiently. "But we must continue all the same. We must trust God to lead us to the port of Monterey."

As they went further north, more and more men, including Portolá, became sick. Many could not walk. They had to be carried in hammocks slung between pairs of mules.

On November 1 a few of the men went hunting for deer. They climbed into the mountains near their camp and came back with reports of an enormous bay, its waters sparkling in the sunlight. In the distance they saw the dots of the Farallon Islands and the long arm of Point Reyes. They had discovered San Francisco Bay! They were probably the first Europeans to see it from that point.

But it wasn't Monterey, so Portolá wasn't interested. "Discovered nothing," he wrote in his diary for that day.

By now everyone agreed that they must

have passed Monterey. It had to be south of them. On November 11 they agreed to turn back and explore the area around the Point of Pines again, since that was where Vizcaíno had said the port was. By this time Portolá was becoming disillusioned with Vizcaíno's description.

Once again they found none of Vizcaíno's landmarks, and by now snow was falling in the mountains and the winter winds tormented the sick and starving men.

At last on December 9, 1769, after a violent storm, even Portolá gave up and agreed that they would have to return to the settlement of San Diego, the place they had started from almost six months before.

Before they left they planted a large wooden cross on a hill near Carmelo Bay. On the cross were carved the words "Dig, and at the foot you will discover writing." At the foot of the cross Portolá buried a bottle with a message in it. The message told all the facts of the unfortunate expedition. Perhaps, Portolá thought, the message would help some other, luckier explorer someday. At least there would be some record of his miserable journey.

Portolá and his men were warmly welcomed in San Diego. There Portolá met Captain Vicente Vila of the ship *San Carlos*, and when Captain Vila heard Portolá's report he said, "Go back when spring comes. You found what you were looking for and did not know it. I saw Monterey from the sea, as Vizcaíno did, and it may look very different when you see it from land. But believe me, the place where you left your cross and your message was the Bay of Monterey."

On April 16, Portolá took Vila's advice. By May 24 he stood again beside the cross with the message buried at its foot. Now Portolá, Crespi, and the others were able to look at the bay and see that it might look different from the land than it did from sea. This has to be the bay that Vizcaíno and Vila saw, thought Portolá.

On June 3, 1770, Portolá and his men, with Father Junípero Serra and Father Juan Crespi, celebrated mass at Monterey. They claimed the land for Spain and put up a *presidio*, or fort, and a mission there. The *presidio* and mission of San Carlos de Borromeo de Monterey were the first *presidio* and second mission in California.

## CHECK YOUR READING

1. Most of the students at Geneva College came from
  - A large cities
  - B foreign towns
  - C farm villages
2. The letter from the town council indicated that the students were
  - A unhappy
  - B unruly
  - C untruthful
3. Dr. Lee, on receiving Dr. Warrington's letter, can best be described as
  - A upset and worried
  - B calm and amused
  - C angry and determined
4. Apparently Dr. Warrington looked upon Geneva College as a
  - A first choice
  - B sure thing
  - C last resort
5. Dr. Lee and Dr. Hale hoped that the students would
  - A vote to admit Miss Blackwell
  - B vote to reject Miss Blackwell
  - C never reach a decision
6. The main concern of Dr. Lee and Dr. Hale was how to avoid offending
  - A a hopeful student
  - B a fellow doctor
  - C their Quaker students
7. The students voted yes because they
  - A believed in women's rights
  - B were in the mood for a joke
  - C had up-to-date views
8. If the "no" vote had remained unchanged, Elizabeth's application would have been
  - A rejected
  - B accepted
  - C reconsidered
9. The vote was changed by means of
  - A outright trickery
  - B earnest argument
  - C physical force
10. Elizabeth spent only two years in medical school because
  - A she was an extremely rapid learner
  - B a more important job needed doing
  - C medical courses were shorter then