

HBSCA NEWS

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association Newsletter
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El Camino Real... - The Royal Road / The King's Highway



If you're a Californian, you know that the Camino Real "refers to the 600-mile California Mission Trail, connecting the former Alta California's 21 Missions, 4 Presidios, and several pueblos, stretching from Mission San Diego Alcalá in San Diego in the south to Mission San Francisco Solano in Sonoma in the north" according to Wally Gobetz on Flickr.com.

It is important to note that "the route of the actual El Camino Real was not fixed; the actual path changed over time as weather, modes of travel, and even the tides dictated." See this report from [KCET](#).

According to the California Federation of Women's Clubs website, "The notion of preserving El Camino Real was first proposed by Anna Pitcher, Director of the Pasadena Art Exhibition Association in 1892." In 1902, the California Federation of Women's Clubs and the Native

Daughters of the Golden West agreed to sponsor the program and by 1904 they had succeeded in creating the El Camino Real Association. The winning design was a cast iron bell hung from a bent guidepost. The very first bell was installed at the La Placita Church in downtown Los Angeles in 1906. By 1915, 158 bells had been installed along the Camino Real from San Diego to Sonoma.

Because the bells "often served as highway signage," the California State Automobile Association and the Automobile Club of Southern California began maintaining and replacing the bells. They also continued to add bells and there were approximately 286 bells by 1949.

Then in 1960, Justin Kramer of Los Angeles "won the bid to manufacture replacement bells and his design became the standard." Due to theft and vandalism, "the number dwindled to around 75." Eventually, in 1974, Caltrans became the "guardian" of the bells, repairing or replacing them and they began to make them out of concrete instead of iron (to deter theft.)

1996, Keith Robinson of Caltrans created the "Adopt-a-Bell" program along the same lines as the "Adopt-a-Highway" program. Once again, the California Federation of Women's Club rallied to adopt as many bells as they could! Other key organizations involved include the Automobile Club of Southern California, the Knights of Columbus, and the CA Sister Cities Program.



HBSCA members were in Loreto in October of 1997 when "a special bell was erected" to commemorate Loreto as the site of the first successful Spanish Mission in the Californias!

In June 1998, another bell was placed at the US/Mexican Border at San Ysidro/Tijuana by the CA Department of Transportation and the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History, with the California Federation of Women's Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Find the El Camino Real Song written by Jean and Justin Kramer [on our website](#). There is also a work for a concert band called El Camino Real written by Alfred Reed which you can listen to [here](#). Want to buy your own bell? Visit <https://www.californiabell.com/>

HBSCA NEWS, CONTINUED



September 16 “El Grito” – Mexican Independence Day -



Mexican Independence Day is September 16 (not 5 de mayo as many believe!) It commemorates the day that Father Hidalgo made a great speech in Dolores Mexico and the Mexican Revolution against Spanish rule began. You can read more about it [here](#).

We decided to end our **2020 Fundraiser “Love for Loreto (In the Time of COVID)”** on September 16 in honor of Mexican Independence Day. Our fundraiser supports all our programs dedicated to promoting peace through a people to people program. You can read more about our Paramedic Training Program in this newsletter below. We also added an additional program, Con Amor a Loreto, to support families in Loreto that are seriously affected by loss of income during COVID. See all our programs on our [website](#).



MUCHAS GRACIAS to those of you who have already donated! And if you haven't yet, you can click on the image to the right and give directly by credit card or send us a check to HBSCA at PO Box 1025 Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. There is still time to be included in our raffle for a Strand Cruiser or a Week in a One Bedroom Suite at Villa del Palmar Loreto!

October 2020 – What will our Loreto Trip look like this year?



Our Vice President and Adult Trip Coordinator George Barks is unsure what our trip will be like this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Over the past few years, in part thanks to the enthusiasm of the Woman's Club of Hermosa Beach, as well as our own outreach, we've had many more participants joining us in Loreto during our October trips. But this year, due to COVID-19 Pandemic, we are assuming that things will be different.

According to the [Mexico Daily News](#) “Loreto’s patron saint festivities, scheduled for September 6 through 8, have been canceled due to the coronavirus, the municipality reports. Normally the city celebrates with religious, civic and cultural activities and a statue of the Virgin of Loreto is paraded through the city’s streets as townspeople gather along the parade route. This year, the parade and other religious services will be carried out virtually, and residents are urged to remain in their homes, Peninsular Digital reports.”

We always time our trips to align with Loreto’s founding on October 25, 1697 and the festivities that accompany that famous date. While we still do not know what the end of October will look like, those of us willing to fly to Loreto plan to enjoy our 2nd favorite town! We will still arrange activities for anyone joining us: fishing, going to Coronado Island, driving up to San Javier (the second Mission of the California’s), and we can arrange other outings like lunch at Vista al Mar, a visit to Puerto Escondido, etc. Please contact [George Barks](#) for further information.

Loreto Paramedic Program:



Our Loreto Paramedics, Francisco Serna Murillo (Pancho 2) and Eduardo Martinez Baeza (Lalo) will be conducting training for staff at the hotels El Oasis, La Mision, and Santa Fe, as well as for personnel at the Ayuntamiento (Loreto City Hall) on the use of the Automatic Emergency Defibrillators we provided the Loreto Bomberos. In the event of a cardiac emergency, staff will be able to begin life-saving efforts as the Paramedics are called and respond, thus improving chances of survival.

HBSCA NEWS, *CONTINUED*



UPDATES:

- Don't forget to ask your friends and family to help support our fundraiser! Share our post on your social media and you can ask us for hard copies for you to mail out as well!
- Join us for our September **General Membership Meeting on Monday September 14 at 6:30pm** via Zoom (Details for how to join meeting on Zoom will be emailed.)
- **The Fire Truck** donated by Tulare Fire Department is in Cerritos where the Friends of Loreto Foundation have purchased a new battery and are outfitting it with as much equipment as it can possibly hold. The Loreto Mayor has written a letter that will be included in all the paperwork to the Mexican Government for permission to take it across the border and get it into the hands of our Bomberos in Loreto! Please join me in hoping the paperwork will go through SOON!
- **Do you need your knives sharpened?** Past Student Exchange Participant Max has a new business: <https://knifesharpenings.com/>
- Visit us on [Facebook](#) and post your favorite photos and stories of Loreto/Hermosa Beach!
- Visit our [website](#) for more information on HBSCA!

Stay Safe and Sane, Healthy and Happy Out There!

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association
presents
a one-year fundraiser
**LOVE
for
LORETO**
in the time of
COVID
SEPTEMBER 16

DONATE

Donate ANY amount! All contributions welcome!

hb-sistercity.org

Donate by September 16 to be eligible for drawings. Winners will be selected September 20.

Donate \$45-99 and you'll be entered to win a beautiful new bicycle donated by Hermosa Cyclery

AMIGO \$45
HERMANO \$60
FAMILIA \$75

Donate \$100 or more and you'll be entered to win a one-week stay in a one bedroom suite at the Villa del Palmar Loreto Resort

PATRON \$100

