Sunday November 5th – San Andreas Valley

The party continued south through the valley keeping the dense, green low woods on their west side and ranges of grassy knolls on the east. In three leagues they stopped close to a lake again filled with countless numbers of fowl.48 Scouts report that wildlife is abundant with herds of deer as large as fifty, and tracks of bear and buffalo49.

Figure 16  An 1855 map showing the San Andreas Valley with Laguna Grande (right of Laguna Creek lettering), the only sizable lake in the valley. Crystal Springs Dam will be built near ‘Kelly’; north is to the left

47 Crespi, pg 597-599
48 This lake is not mentioned in the Final Report only in the fieldnotes. Is this the same lake mentioned in the Final Report on the previous day? This description would match Laguna Grande. This is the assertion of historians and the National Park Service (Top of the Peninsula), as a transposition error from transcribing field notes to the Final Report.
49 Tule Elk?

Figure 17 Looking down San Andreas Valley in 1800s with road in the foreground, oak studded knolls, and open fields

Figure 18 Rancho Map showing southern San Andreas Valley with Laguna Grande
They are met by three villagers [Uturpe?] with gifts of black pies and ‘cherries’ close to a stream of running waters.

California State Historical Landmark #94
37.495,-122.33

PORTOLÁ EXPEDITION CAMP — The Portolá Expedition of 1769 camped on November 5 at a ‘laguna grande’ which today is covered by the Upper Crystal Springs Lake

No plaque nor marker

(map from 1932 landmark submittal)

Figure 19 In two leagues they went up and over a knoll, as the westerly mountains appear to close off the hollow. Looking southeast from November 5th encampment towards their march to Menlo Park

Monday November 6th to 10th 50 – Journey’s End

Continued through the valley along a stream keeping the mountain range to the west and the grassy oak studded knolls on the east. A league from the morning start they came upon a pool of water. Traveling a league and a half further they were met by three travelers carrying bows and arrows who lived in a village in the mountains. The locals continued with the expedition when they meet a larger group of about 40 men, some carrying large painted staffs decorated with feathers. They exchanged staffs and gruel for some beads. They were met by two men from another village bearing more food. Again, they were invited to visit their village, which the party declined again.

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50 Crespi, pg 599-609

In two leagues they went up and over a knoll, as the westerly mountains appear to close off the hollow\textsuperscript{51}, where they noticed that the great sea arm, about a league away, still continued to the south. They bayside was a large level grass grown, but burnt, plain, five to six leagues extent grown over with white oaks and few live oaks.

Scouts report there are a great many villages from which they can see three or four smokes of the nearby settlements. The land supports countless sorts of fowl, geese, cranes, ducks, and others. The bayside marshes and sloughs are hard to traverse. Traveled another three leagues and made camp upon the plain, under the oaks close by a large stream. This is the farthest limit reached by this Expedition in search of \textit{Monte Rey} harbor.\textsuperscript{52} It is deemed as a most excellent spot for a very large mission. As soon as they made camp, they were visited by representatives from three different villages.

Very large bears, wolves, and coyotes have been seen, and the acorns have been dropping prodigiously to the point that the ground could not been seen. Some of the land in this area has not been burned off and the soil is noted to be not as fine as that earlier seen. It was noted the land is less foggy than the coastside, hot during the day and cold at night.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{map.png}
\caption{Avoiding the swampy lands and ridges around what is today Searsville Lake and Jasper Ridge, they traverse over the knolls eastwards towards the Bay near San Francisquito Creek. USGS Palo Alto 1899}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{51} Costansó, pg 111
\textsuperscript{52} Crespi, pg 605
Nov 7th – scouts are sent out for four days to assess the port and ship sighting. They are accompanied by locals as guides.

Nov 9th – reading was 37 degrees, 46 minutes North. Having traveled south for three days, Crespi noted the reading was 3 minutes less from last bearings at San Pedro on November 1st. Crespi was unsure this could be (he would have expected to be 8 minutes less, almost three times more). It is estimated that the sea arm is about ten leagues inland, its width nearest the harbor two leagues, and one league at its narrowest.

On the 10th the scouts who had left four days earlier return having reached the inlets’ end where there was a river feeding the bay. The banks were full of cottonwoods, sycamores, willows and other unknown trees. Five to six leagues beyond they reached a large stream upon another great plain but their reception with the locals was far different. They ascended hills and view a great distance; estimated they still had a weeks’ worth of exploring before they could circumnavigate the bay. Lack of trees, burnt grasslands, and uncooperative inhabitants, it was a toilsome journey for their mounts.

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Figure 21 Portla camp would be above (north) San Franciscquito Creek and the clearing to the left of the ‘highway or middle road’ on this 1840 rendering

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53 This measurement was inscribed in the margin, originally had four to five leagues, then reduced to three to four before this final revision.
Figure 22 Marker #2 is near BM72 and the historic Palo Alto tree in Menlo Park. USGS Palo Alto Quad, 1961

California State Historical Landmark #2 at the intersection of East Creek Dr and Alma St, Menlo Park

37.447843,-122.170901

From the Plaque: November 6-10, 1769. Near "El Palo Alto", the tall tree, the Portolá expedition of 63 men and 200 horses and mules camped. They had traveled from San Diego in search of Monterey but discovered instead the Bay of San Francisco. Finding the bay too large to go around, and deciding that Monterey had been by-passed, they ended the search and returned to San Diego.

Plaque placed by the state Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Portolá Expedition Bicentennial Foundation, November 9, 1968.

Saturday November 11th 54 Saint Martin’s Day– Turnaround decision

It was declared that they had found San Francisco Harbor and its inlet, confirmed by the sighting

54 Crespi, pg 609-611
of the Farallone Islands, they have to return back to the coast to the point-of-pines and find *Monte Rey.* “May God let us find it; it would be a great mischance for this entire Expedition.”

They left in the afternoon returning by way they had arrived going two leagues; camped within the San Andreas valley, close to a pool of water.56

*Figure 23  The lands north of Searsville had several pools of water. Stanford University Geological Survey B. Olshausen, Bear Creek, 1900*

California State Historical Landmark #92

-37.4295,-122.25354

*On November 11, the Portolá Expedition of 1769 traveled two leagues, about 5.26 miles, to a point in the lower Cañada de Reymundo, and made their first camp on their return trip.*

No plaque nor marker

(map from 1932 landmark submittal)

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55 Crespi, pg 611

56 From their campsite in Menlo Park and going in the most direct route to San Andreas valley would be more than two leagues. Walking from Menlo Park to Laguna Grande would take more than four hours to cover ten miles, requiring travel and camp setup in the dark which they hadn’t done before. There was a 400-foot wide pond in Woodside that could have been the stopping place.
Sunday November 12th 57 St Jame’s Day – Small Stream Encampment

Notes from journals and diaries from this point on are minimal. After saying Mass at the pool, proceeded through the valley for four leagues to a small stream of running water where there was wood and good grass at its northern end. This most likely put them in the San Andreas Valley or, maybe, the San Mateo Creek watershed.

Monday November 13th 58 – Return to San Pedro Valley

They have not seen any locals in two days of marching nor at the valley they stopped at on October 31st, finding this unusual considering the welcome they received last month. They estimated traveling southwest for a league and a half.59

Tuesday November 14th & November 15th 60 – Return to el arroyo hondo del Almejar

On the 15th they spent most of the day harvesting mussels, replenishing supplies after traveling one league the previous day. Reconfirmed on the 14th the observations of October 30th 61. The estimate that Estero de San Francisco (coastside San Francisco port) being four nautical miles north, its latitude would be 37° 35’.

Thursday November 16th 62 – Return to Pilarcitos Creek

On a foggy day they reconfirmed the observations of October 29th on a course of south-southwest traveling along beach part of the way. They were greeted by the same tribes they had met at Pilarcitos Creek. Observed thousands of geese, three types of which were not seen on their previous pass through. Estimated they are 10½ leagues from Estero de San Francisco63.

Friday November 17th 64 – Return trek Southward, north of San Gregorio

Continued due southward in the rain along the shore for three leagues: crossing San lvon65 at two leagues where they had halted to say Mass on the way north. After another league south they

57 Crespi, pg 617
58 Crespi, pg 617
59 Costansó, pg 115 states two leagues
60 Crespi, pg 617
61 Costansó, pg 115 The actual calculations for their latitude are recorded with octant reading 33° 50’, adjust for 40 feet up on a cliff -6’, refraction -1’, semidiameter of the sun +16’, plus other measurements for zenith distance and declination resulting in the latitude being 37° 31’, 2’ different from the October 31st reading.
62 Crespi, pg 619
63 Costansó, pg 117
64 Crespi, pg 619
65 Different spelling from lvo
stopped for the night at a stream, farther south of Ranchería de las Pulgas, as the rain had become an impediment.

California State Historical Landmark #375 location at the mouth of Tunitas Creek at Tunitas Beach, 1,000 ft W of State Hwy 1 (P.M. 20.9), 6.8 mi S of Half Moon Bay

~37.356719,-122.399125

Approved November 1941

TUNITAS BEACH – INDIAN VILLAGE SITE ON PORTOLA ROUTE The Portolá Expedition of 1769 discovered this Indian village on Tunitas Creek, in the southwest corner of Rancho Cañada de Verde y Arroyo de la Purisima, the rancho was granted to José Maria Alviso in 1838.

No plaque nor marker

Saturday November 18th – Return trek Southward, south of Pescadero

Three leagues march due southward: After a league they passed the stream and valley of Santo Domingo (San Gregorio). The village was abandoned. Continued on two leagues to a lake at San Pedro Regalado.

Sunday November 19th St Elizabeth Queen of Hungary Day – Return trek Southward, Point Año Nuevo

Three and half leagues march due southward: Heavy frost when they left San Pedro Regalado. In two leagues they returned to San Juan Nepomuceno. The village was abandoned. Continued on for another league and half and made camp close to a cliff near an oak lined stream in sight of Punta de Año Nuevo.

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66 Tunitas?
67 Costansó, pg 117
68 Crespi, pg 619-621
69 Costansó, pg 117 Valle de los Cursos
70 Lake Lucerne? Costansó only mentions a stream.
71 Crespi, pg 621
72 Costansó, pg 117 recorded four leagues
73 Costansó, pg 117 recorded one league
74 Costansó, pg 117 Ranchería de la Casa Grande
Monday November 20th

Marched southeastward out of San Mateo County toward Santa Cruz for four leagues to *Alto del Jamón.*

Sources


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75 Crespi, pg 621