



CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

Cornerstone

FEBRUARY 2010

Mission Bells Go to Ohio

The nine bells in the south bell tower have “journeyed” to Cincinnati where they are under the care of the Verdin company, the United States oldest foundry... Thanks to a grant which the Foundation has received from Dick and Mary McCormick’s charitable trust, the bells are being remounted and equipped with automatic strikers. Additionally, two of the oldest bells, Ave Maria and Animas, were cracked and have been recast in Holland. The bells will be returning in March. A celebration is planned to herald their restoration, the date to be announced subsequently. ❖



Foundation Receives Major Federal Grant

Save America’s Treasures, a division of the National Park Service, has awarded the Foundation a \$650,000 grant for restoration of the Mission’s historic buildings. The impressive award was based on the Historic Structures Report conducted by Architectural Resources Group of San Francisco which estimates that the Basilica and the adjacent historic structures are in need of \$1.8 million in repair and restoration work.

The grant is a matching one whereby Save America’s Treasures will match donor contributions to the Foundation for Basilica restoration expenditures on a dollar for dollar basis.

The Foundation is deeply appreciative of the advice and assistance that was received from the California Missions Foundation in applying for and obtaining this funding, along with the work of its fellow director, Lou Sanna. The Federal Save America’s Treasures program is one of the largest and most successful grant programs for the protection of our nation’s endangered and irreplaceable cultural heritage. Grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites.

Grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations through a competitive matching-grant program, administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

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MAJOR FEDERAL GRANT,
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The scope and size of the work to be performed on the Mission buildings is attributable largely to the gradual deterioration that has occurred over time. While the restoration work which spanned some 90 years was extensive, it was completed nearly 70 years ago, and the buildings are now experiencing significant structural problems: the stone walls of the Basilica are cracked and crumbling in some places, wood members have failed and the protective plaster coating is leaking causing damage to the underlying old adobe walls. Present planning envisions exploratory and design work and the



permit process to begin in 2010 and actual construction in 2011. The SAT grant requires that the Foundation “draw down” through matching contributions the entire \$650,000 grant by the end of 2013. ❖

The Carmel Mission Foundation, incorporated in April 2008 as the Friends of Historical Carmel Mission, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, is independent from any religious organization. Its Tax ID number is 26-2981780. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

A message from the President



Sam Wright

the founding of the Mission and then its subsequent construction, secularization, abandonment and final restoration and reconstruction.

The reader of this little book inevitably comes away with a deep sense of respect for what I think of as the Mission’s heroes and heroines, those people who not only had the vision and energy to build it in the first place, but then the ones who subsequently dedicated themselves to the financially demanding and painstaking job of restoring it. A list of the people so

involved of course starts with Serra and his Franciscan colleagues who founded and built the mission, but then goes on to include the likes of Robert Louis Stevenson and Helen Hunt Jackson, whose editorializing aroused public interest in the plight of the Mission; father Angelo Casanova (the first fundraiser!) who began in 1879 charging tourists ten cents for touring the ruins; Jane (Mrs. Leland) Stanford who made a pivotal contribution to placing a new roof on the church; and of course, Harry Downie who devoted some 37 years to supervising the reconstruction. Along the way these efforts were joined by thousands of people throughout the State of California who contributed to the rebuilding.

These people and the work that they did constitute our legacy, all of which underscores the value and the beauty of historical perspective. It is fair to say that a first time visitor to the Mission sees a beautiful and impressive assemblage of buildings, gardens and art, but of course what is missing is the drama of how all of this rose phoenix-like from its ruins. Telling this story is part of our challenge and devotion as a Foundation. We are in the process of

I confess to being a history lover, and when I first read Sydney Temple’s book, *The Carmel Mission*, I found that I had been introduced to a whole new piece of the history of the Monterey Peninsula that I knew little about. This is not to say I wasn’t familiar with the Mission in general, but Temple’s book is an in-depth analysis of the history of the mission from the birth of Junipero Serra in Mallorca to the Portola expedition,



Carmel Mission from a northern approach. The Priest’s Quarters and Mora Chapel stand to either side of the church entrance. Unknown Photographer, May 5, 1928

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

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finalizing a visual presentation that will allow us to take this story to the community in the near term, and longer term we visualize the mission and its museums as a teaching environment that will take the visitor thorough this very dramatic story. All of this will be the subject of future communications from us, so please stay tuned. In the interim we want to again express our appreciation for the early support that our foundation has received from insitutions and individuals alike in this our first full year of operation. ❖

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Did you know...

The Mission library is California's first? The collection dates from 1779 and consisted originally of volumes that Serra brought from Baja California. Subsequent additions during the 19th century brought the collection to its present inventory of over 550 books.



To Our Donors

In the Foundation's first year of operations we have received heartwarming support for our programs and for that we are deeply grateful and want to express our thanks to all of those who have contributed to our cause this past year!

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Newsletter of the Carmel Mission Foundation

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Current Exhibition at the Mission

Between 1750 and 1758, Junipero Serra and his companion Franciscans established 5 missions in rugged Sierra Gorda in Central Mexico which combine Catholic imagery



with native motifs. The current exhibition

“In the Footsteps of Father Junipero Serra, 1750-1758 — The Five Folk Baroque Mission Churches of Mexico’s Sierra Gorda” features 50 photographs and drawings focusing on the unique native art and architecture at the 5 locations. The exhibition is at the Mora Museum and will run through March 21, 2010. ❖

Our First Membership Event!

Among our many firsts this last year was our membership event marked by an evening at Crespi Hall attended by a number of our members and supporters. The Centerpiece of the evening was a presentation by David Wessel of Architectural Resources Group of San Francisco in which he discussed the Historic Structures Report that his firm has prepared for the older



buildings at the Mission and the restoration work that is required due to aging and deterioration. ❖

ABOUT US

Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was formed to fund the conservation and preservation of the historical properties and artifacts of the Carmel Mission. The Mission is part of the National Registry of Historic Places, a U.S. National Landmark and a California State Landmark. It is a significant part of California’s heritage.



The legacy of preservation and restoration for the past 125 years has now passed on to us. The Foundation’s intention is to continue the legacy of ensuring this important landmark and piece of history is preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Foundation’s focus covers four broad areas:

- To conserve and preserve the architectural integrity of the physical structures
- To foster restoration of the Spanish-Colonial arts and artifacts dating from the 16th Century
- To support historical and artistic exhibits
- To promote an understanding of the historical importance of the California mission system