

DID YOU KNOW?

Rancho Monserate Country Club is named after the nearby 1557-foot mountain named by a Spanish soldier in 1795, after the Monserrat Monastery in his home province of Catalonia, Spain. Monserrat means serrated and was aptly named for the rocky mountain with its jagged profile of huge boulders. The spelling has changed over the years, by dropping an R and ending up with an E.

Douglas Shearer, an MGM sound technician and brother of Norma Shearer, purchased the land along the river in 1937.

The Rancho Monserate chapel was restored and dedicated in memory of Toni Evans, who worked diligently on the project.

Rancho Monserate lies in the boundary of Bonsall Township but because they wouldn't deliver the mail here (we would have had to go to the Bonsall Post Office), it was decided to join the Fallbrook Township and get the mail delivered.

The Chapel was divided into two areas, chapel and cook house, by a 20" wall in 1863. It was located about half way between the Franciscan Mission of San Luis Rey and San Antonia de Pala. The padres traveling between these missions would spend the night at Rancho Monserate.

It was rumored that Dona Maria Moreno Alvarado had brought jewels of fabulous value with her from Spain when she married Don Tomas and that these jewels were hidden somewhere beneath the floor of the hacienda – supposedly never found!

The San Diego Historical Society recognized the existence of the old Alvarado buildings, but they were never placed under the Society's protection.

The Chapel was dedicated in a non-denominational service in May 1977.

The Pollack family who developed the Park in 1971 inspired most of the streets with his family names.

The main thoroughfare is named Dulin Road after a former property owner, Edgar S. Dulin (whose ranch was adjacent to our park).

The hacienda is now used for golf activities, meeting rooms and storage, and referred to as the 19th hole.

In 1979 a fire station opened on the bluff overlooking the golf course and was moved to the Pala Mesa area.

Reason why the numbers are mixed up? It was decided to just add on, instead of renumbering the entire park.

The 1st tee was located where #6 hole is now.

Once upon a time there was a waterfall at the guard gate.

The 19th hole was the original home with two-foot-thick adobe walls – volunteers put in the two windows.

In 1964 Dick Rosen designed our golf course as well as Pala Mesa golf course.

At one time we had a hot dog and hamburger stand, before the health department closed it down.

There was a big flood in the 1990's – wiping out the bridge and one of the greens.

We had a great little pro shop where the storage and refrigerator are now.

The golf course was once opened to the public and they charged a whopping \$3.00 per round.

Ryan Holly hired Simon and he successfully laid out the sprinkler system for the park; he looked after us for many years.

Dulin Road was originally a dirt road. In 1976 the county had put in sidewalks. Pollack proposed to the county that if we refurbished the chapel as an historic site, would they pave the road? We had to take out 87 palm trees.

We have three water wells coming from under the riverbed, used to water the golf course and plants in the common area.

We're 10 degrees warmer in the winter and 10 degrees cooler in the summer than Lawrence Welk Resort – Champagne Village. We get the breeze from the ocean.

There is a plaque near the front door of the Club House with all the Board of Directors Presidents' names.

Rue McClanahan, from the "Golden Girls," performed with us once, for two performances of our Christmas show.

The RV park was located on the other side of the tennis court until they needed the lots for building homes.

Sources of information:

Gloria Seelye
Ben Ritter
Grace Russell
Penny Curran
Las Noticias