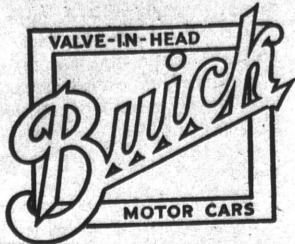


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ISLA DE LOS MUERTOS (DEAD MAN'S ISLAND)

An illustration of nature's progress in removing one of her old landmarks, a little island in the Los Angeles Harbor, San Pedro, known as Dead Man's Island, or more properly Isla de los Muertos, exhibits a fine example. Within a few years the whole faces of the island will be changed from its present appearance by the erosive power of waves and tides, as well as by the winter rains. The case of Dead Man's Island daily dashed by the rushing waves shows the effect of breakers and tides in their action off Ploocene rock, and that the upper stratum, or summit, is the destructive power of rain in a more recent or quarternary formation. To old residents and those who are familiar with the history of Dead Man's Island, and watched nature's changes on this old historical spot, many of whom have spent many pleasant and profitable hours on this lonely island, they cannot suppress an abiding sorrow to witness the devastation that is constantly and rapidly going on by the relentless waves. With the recollection of some of the residents now living in San Pedro the island has diminished one half or more, and there are living now those who will see the tides sweeping over the spot where the preceding island now stands, unless some steps are taken to protect it.

A few years ago the ocean side of the west of the island could be reached either by way of the inner harbor or by climbing to the top of the island, then descending down the precipitous trail, but now one can walk all around it without obstruction. This has been made possible by an arch cut through the solid rock. A hole that appeared to be an entrance to a small cave in the rock has been rapidly enlarged by the waves and breakers, which beat with prodigious force against the base of the island until an arch has been formed in the solid rock. When the tide is low, one can easily pass through it around the island.

Dead Man's Island, or "Isla de los Muertos," comprises about a half acre of ground and appears like a pile of sandy soil in the ocean when viewed from the mainland, but many islands of far greater dimensions are of less value to his story or to science. Historically it is identified with the taking of the capital of California, at that time the Pueblo de Los Angeles, and scientifically it has a national reputation on account of its fossil shells. At one time it was possible to wade in the low lands water from the town of San Pedro to the island, but the building of the inner harbor between these two places has brought on a stretch of water that can only be spanned by a skiff or boat. A breakwater, a mile and a half long, formerly known as "Rattlesnake Island," though known now as Terminal Island, is connected with Dead Man's Island by a huge pile of rocks that complete the strip and which completes the breakwater for the inner harbor.

On a clear day the view from the summit on Dead Man's Island is fine. One can see on the west the little watering place, Catalina Island, or Santa Catalina, the famous summer resort, with its narrow isthmus plainly visible from twenty-five to thirty miles out in the Pacific ocean. On the mainland, cutting out from the Palos Verdes Hills, Point Firmin, the lighthouse defines itself against the horizon, then westward along, one after another on the high bluff, the towns of San Pedro, Wilmington, Long Beach and Alamitos encircle the bay of San Pedro.

It is easy to conjecture why the island is given so gruesome a name as "Dead Man's Island," or "Isla de los Muertos," by the Spanish of California, as the name hints at a legend. Mr. Stephen C. Foster says that Col. J. J. Warner, who came to the coast in 1831, told him that the island got its name from the fact that a sailor who died on a vessel trading on the coast was buried on the island. This was before Col. Warner came, however, as it bore that name when he arrived.

Some years after when R. H. Dana, Jr., was a sailor before the mast in the American merchant service, he sailed on the California coast, and he has given us a graphic picture of the island. While their ship was lying in the bay he was sent ashore to guard a shipment of hides that had come down from "Puebla," and as he sat there near the present post office site of today in San Pedro, he writes: "The only thing that broke the surface of the great bay was a small, dreary-looking island, steep and conical, of a clayey soil, and without the sign of vegetable life upon it, yet which had a peculiar and melancholy interest, for on the top of it were buried the remains of an Englishman, the commander of a small merchant brig, who died while lying

in this port. It was always a sorrowful and affecting sight to me. There it stood, desolate, and in the midst of desolation, and there were the remains of one who died and was buried alone and friendless. Had it been a common burying place it would have been nothing. The single body corresponded well with the solitary desolation of everything around it. It was the only spot in California that impressed me with anything like poetic interest. Then, too, the man died far away from home, without a friend near him—by poison, it was suspected, and no one to inquire into it—and without proper funeral rites, the mate (as I was told) glad to have him out of the way, hurrying him up the hill and into the ground without a word or prayer."

A day or so after this Dana writes "that the gale for which we slipped at Santa Barbara had been so bad a one here that the whole bay was filled with the foam of the breakers, and the seas actually broke over Dead Man's Island."

To further establish the name of "Dead Man's Island," or "Isla de los Muertos," it is necessary to go back to the time prior to the capture of the Pueblo de Los Angeles, when Commodore Stockton landed his sailors and marines in San Pedro in 1846. He came down the coast to capture Los Angeles. From San Pedro his sailors and marines began their notorious march, and the conquest completed, they returned to their ships in the bay to seek new fields of conquest.

Then came Gillespie's men after their disastrous experience with a Mexican revolution. Commodore Stockton had left Lieutenant Gillespie with a garrison of fifty men to hold Los Angeles. Gillespie, it is said, undertook to fashion the people to the manner and customs of a New England model. But he had not obtained the consent of the governed to the change, and they rebelled. Under the command of Flores and Vares, three hundred strong, they besieged Gillespie's forces and finally compelled him to evacuate the city and retreat to San Pedro, where they went aboard a merchant vessel and remained in the harbor. Down from Stockton's fleet came Mervine with 300 sailors and marines bent upon capturing the rebellious Pueblo de Los Angeles. Once again San Pedro held the onward march of an army of conquest. But San Pedro saw another sight, "when the drums beat at the dead of night." That other sight was the retreat of Mervine's men. They met the enemy at Dominguez and were defeated and retreated, the wounded borne on litters, their dead on creaking carriages and their flag left behind. Mervine buried his dead, five in all, on the Isla de los Muertos, and then—if not before—it was an island of dead men. Lieutenant Dana, in his book of the Savannah speaking of the burial of the dead on Dead Man's Island, says it was "so named by us." In this

mistaken. Ten years before Dana tells us the story of the Englishman who died in the port and was buried on this small, dreary-looking island, the only thing which broke the surface of the bay. Dana says: "It was the only spot in California that impressed me with anything like a poetic interest. Then, too, the man died far from home, without a friend near him, and without proper funeral rites, the mate, as I was told, being glad to have him out of the way, and hurried his body up the hill and into the ground without a word or a prayer." Dana calls the island "Dead Man's Island."

There are several legends told of how the island came by the gruesome name. This is the story of an old Californian, who has been a sailor on a former hide drogher long before Dana's time, told thirty years ago, some time before his death. "Away back in the early years of the last century some fishermen found the dead body of an unknown white man on the island. There was evidence that he had reached the island alive, but probably too weak to attempt the crossing of the narrow channel to the mainland. He had clung to the desolate island, vainly hoping for succor, until hunger, thirst and exposure ended his existence. He was supposed to have fallen overboard at night from some smuggler, and to have been carried in by the tide. From the finding of the body on the island the Spaniards named it Isla de los Muertos—the Island of the Dead, or the Isle of the Corpses."

There have been ten persons in all buried on the island—nine men and one woman, namely, the lost sailor, the English sea captain, five of Mervine's crew, two passengers on a Panama ship in 1851, and the last, a Mrs. Parker, in 1855. Mrs. Parker was the wife of Captain Parker of the schooner Parker in 1855. Mrs. Parker was the wife of Captain Parker of the Laura Bevilan. Once when a severe south-

eastern was threatening and the harbor bar moaning Captain Parker sailed out of San Pedro Bay. Nothing was ever seen or heard of him or the Laura Bevilan from that day to this. The ship and the crew lay at the bottom of the ocean. The captain's wife was stopping at the landing. She was slowly dying from consumption. Her husband's fate hastened her death. Rough but kindly hands performed the last rites for her, and she was buried on top of Dead Man's Island. The sea has not given up its dead, but the land has.

"The log book of the U.S.S. Savannah shows that she arrived in San Pedro October 7, 1846; an expedition was planned for the purpose of taking Pueblo de los Angeles—in official papers of the United States Los Angeles was written Los Angeles—'Capital of California.' On landing William Smith, L. C. B., was killed. This was before the battle and by the accidental discharge of a pistol.

"The log for October states that at 2 o'clock the Angeles expedition arrived at the landing, having been unable to effect their object owing to the very superior force of the enemy. They met the enemy on the Dominguez ranch, near where Compton now is, mounted and carrying cannon.

"The following wounded and dead were brought on board: Michael Hoy, sea; David Johnson, O. both dead; Charles Somers, who was wounded; William Berry, sea, severely wounded, who was in yesterday's fray, departed this life. At 9:30 sent the body of William Smith, who was accidentally killed, and the bodies of Michael Hoy and James Johnson on an island for interment.

"On October 11 the log states that William B. Berry departed this life from wounds received in the action of the 8th. Buried body of W. B. Berry on Dead Man's Island."

Although the sea gulls winged their flight for many years over the solitary and desolate grave of the Englishman, later other victims were carried up the hill and lowered into graves dug on its summit which has caused variation in authorities on the given number of dead who were buried on this Isle of the Dead, but from best authorities the number is generally given as ten, as stated above.

As in the case of Captain Parker and his crew, the sea has not allowed ways given up its dead, but the land has.

When the government dredger began operations for widening the channel of the inner harbor the large steel crane dug open the graves, and as the tumbling earth fell down the sides occasionally the gruesome sight of a skeleton or a wooden box was uncovered. These were removed to a more suitable burial ground at Harbor View cemetery. Yet, as one sails around this historical island the sight of a wooden box, presumably that of a coffin, is exposed and it is said to be that of a coffin.

Dead Man's Island is probably used more by people who frequent the Los Angeles harbor than any other land mark in the harbor district, yet the great majority of those who speak of this island daily know nothing of its history.

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

Narbonne Ranch Water Company
to 5, Lomita, County of Los Angeles, California.

Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the directors of said Corporation held on August 8th, 1921, an assessment of Three (\$3.00) Dollars per share was levied upon the Capital Stock of said Corporation, payable immediately to the Secretary of this Corporation, at the Office of the Company, viz.: Pump House of said Company, at Lomita, Los Angeles County, California. Any stock upon which this assessment shall remain unpaid on September 10, 1921, will be delinquent and advertised for sale at public auction, and unless payment is made before will be sold on October 1, 1921, at 12 o'clock noon, to pay the delinquent assessment, together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

R. GEIST, Secretary.

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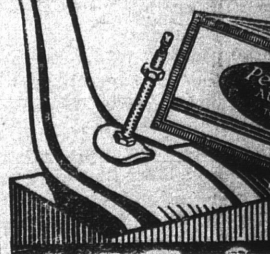
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Between Redondo and San Pedro

-Via-

Lomita and Torrance

Sunday, October 31, 1920

Leave	San Pedro	Lomita	Torrance	Redondo
A. M. 5:50	6:05	6:12	6:32	
6:50	7:12	7:19	7:41	
8:00	8:22	8:29	8:46	
9:00	9:22	9:29	9:46	
10:00	10:22	10:29	10:46	
11:00	11:22	11:29	11:46	
12:00	12:22	12:29	12:46	
P. M. 1:00	1:22	1:29	1:46	
2:00	2:22	2:29	2:46	
3:00	3:22	3:29	3:46	
4:15	4:37	4:44	5:01	
5:20	5:42	5:49	6:06	
6:15	6:37	6:44	7:01	
8:10	8:32	8:39	8:56	
10:00	10:22	10:29	10:46	
Leave	Redondo	Torrance	Lomita	San Pedro
A. M. 5:50	6:07	6:14	6:35	
6:35	6:52	6:59	7:21	
8:05	8:22	8:29	8:49	
9:05	9:22	9:29	9:49	
10:05	10:22	10:29	10:49	
11:05	11:22	11:29	11:49	
P. M. 12:05	12:22	12:29	12:49	
1:05	1:22	1:29	1:49	
2:05	2:22	2:29	2:49	
3:05	3:22	3:29	3:49	
4:10	4:27	4:34	4:54	
5:10	5:27	5:34	5:54	
6:15	6:32	6:39	7:01	
7:15	7:32	7:39	8:01	
9:15	9:32	9:39	10:01	
11:00	11:17	11:24	11:46	

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