

T'epot'aha'l

The People of the Salinan Tribe

Vol. 10 No. 3

March 2010

Salinan remains returned to rest

Tribe reburies bones uncovered during building of Nacimiento Water Project

By Melanie Cleveland for the Telegram Tribune – No Photos of the actual Reburial area was allowed.

In an unprecedented move, the Salinan tribe invited reporters, Roman Catholic priests and Army soldiers to a sacred native reburial ceremony Tuesday at Camp Roberts.

The skeleton of an adult Salinan man, between 35 and 45 years old, along with bone fragments of another human, were uncovered last November while crews were digging a pipeline for the Nacimiento Water Project, according to Clinton Blount, an anthropologist and president and co-founder of Albion Environmental.

A team of Albion anthropologists removed the bones in December while the pipeline work was completed at the camp. After studying the bones and other archaeological remnants, such as fire-cracked rocks and stone flakes, they believe the bones were of Salinans who had been quarrying stones for cutting tools and arrows. Because no other human remains were uncovered, the team did not believe the area was used by a large community nor was it a large burial ground, Blount said.

About 40 people, half of whom were Salinans, gathered to listen to John Burch, co-leader in the Salinan tribal council, perform a purification ritual, complete with burning sage, before the final reinterment ceremony.

"I know our ancestors came back today for a reason — to offer us an opportunity," he said. A blast of ammunition boomed from Army maneuvers nearby on Camp Roberts, which is a training ground for artillery.

"I see the ancestors agree," he said, with a laugh. "We believe they have brought this gift for us to unwrap, a present of peace, harmony and goodwill."

The Salinans hope the ceremony will draw attention to their desire to have federal recognition, something the tribe has been working toward for many years, tribe spokesman Chris Molina said.

"We are only state-recognized, and because of that, we do not have the authority to take care of our own and get our ancestors reinterred here," he said. "It is our hope one day that we will have the (federal) recognition we need to gather all the bones that are out there, dug up and on shelves in places like Cal Poly or Berkeley, and return them back in the ground, where we feel they belong."



Tribal updates

The Salinans are believed to have lived near Nacimiento River for as many as six to eight thousand years, Blount said. The anthropologists are still waiting for the results of carbon dating to determine the age of the remains, but they feel certain the bones predate the arrival of the Spaniards in the late 1700s, because they found no evidence, such as glass beads or other Spanish artifacts, at the site.

The missions of San Antonio and San Miguel were established in Salinan territory in 1771 and 1797. The mission's early counts of Indian baptisms numbered in the thousands. Tribal rolls today number about 600, Burch said.

One of the tribal leaders, Gary Pierce, said the priests were invited to the ceremony as a peace offering. Some critics of the Catholic Church think it was responsible for the demise of the Salinan culture and the people themselves.

"It's a misconception that the Padres used Indians for slaves," Pierce said. "They offered their missions as sanctuaries to Salinans who had bounties on their heads."

Camp Roberts, a California Army National Guard installation, encompasses 42,000 acres in San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties.

The spot for the final burial of the Salinan ancestors was underneath oak trees and green steep hills about a hundred feet above the river and about seven miles from Highway 101.



The bones were placed in a plywood box about 3-feet-long by 2-feet-wide and lowered gently into a small rectangular hole about 4-feet deep.

After two priests baptized the remains, a female Salinan elder gave a blessing: "We are the gathering of Indians. We pray that you now then go ahead. Fly into the world beyond. Go and be happy."

The brown paper bags that had held the bones were placed on top of the coffin in the hole and were burned. Then the anthropologists took shovels and filled in the grave.

The Rev. Larry Gosselin of San Miguel Mission said, "Certain things need to be buried here, but we recognize that the grave is not the end. It is a door, a gate to something new."

REMEMBER TO PRAY TO kensha:nel (CREATOR) TO keeheak (PROTECT) ALL lu wa' (MEN) AND lets'e (WOMAN) SERVING IN THE WAR. AND BRING THEM Ta'ma (HOME) SAFE.

USDA/1994 Tribal Scholars Program

Application Booklet

For Students Attending 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities

Seeking careers in food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences, and/or other related disciplines

Call or Email the Tribal office for application

➡️ ————— ➡️ **Business Meeting Protocol** ⬅️ ————— ⬅️

Tribal business meetings start at 6:30 pm The first 10 minutes are reserved for open comment from tribal members or can be used by council members for input on a personal matter that they may want to bring before the council.

To reserve this time you must call the Tribal office by Monday before the next business meeting. If the matter needs further attention it will be put on the agenda for the following week or when time allows.

Tribal updates continued
Salinan Heritage Preservation Association
General Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2010
Shandon Park Community Hall

12:30-1:30 lunch and member input

Council Present: Gary Pierce, Dayna Sciocchetti, John Burch, Susan Latta, Bruce Flood

Elder Council Present: John Piatti

Members and Guests Present: see attached sign-in sheet

This meeting was audio taped.

I. Housekeeping and Old Business

- a. Bruce Flood has a copy of the Carcieri vs. Salazar case. No Indian tribe can take land into trust based on a 1934 case. It was passed around to the group.

II. Financial Report

- a. Deferred until next time as our financial officer was not present.
- b. The Shandon Park Community Hall did not cost us anything to use it for the meeting.
- c. 50-50 drawing \$43.00

III. New Business

- a. Nacimiento Water project reburial. John spoke on it and let us know that this process isn't traditional as our ancestors didn't have to do this like we do. He explained the process and ceremony and emphasized that because of the political awareness of this ceremony that he was combining different beliefs to incorporate everyone's ideology.
- b. Bruce had a list for Native American Scholarships that he also passed around and asked that it be put in the newsletter.
- c. Denis Radke informed us that the McMillan's are selling Indian artifacts on Craig's list. The council informed him that it needs to be checked out and if true that he should notify the County Sheriffs Office.
- d. Tulle Huts need work. Mary Rogers is the lead on that. Please contact her. There are many events coming up at the Santa Margarita Ranch and poor looking huts would not look good for us.
- e. The Congressional letter needs to be put in the newsletter again.
- f. Cappy Culver Elementary school would like us to do a presentation at their school either for a class or the entire school. This will be on the next business agenda to get it started.
- g. Gary Pierce went over the lead positions.
- h. The idea of the lone wolf was discussed. We only represent ourselves when we are out at events not the council or the tribe.
 - i. April 10, 2010 is Mission Days-article needs to go in the newsletter
 - j. Adobe wants our stuff for gift shop.
- k. Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Dayna Sciocchetti Non Profit Secretary

February meeting minutes are a draft only and will be approved at the next general meeting.

The next general meeting will be at the Atascadero Lake Park from Noon-3:00 pm on March 14th. The council will be B-B-Qing tri-tip so members and guests are to bring a side dish. We will also be holding a horseshoe tournament. Pam Flood will be making pies for tournament prizes. We will be located near the restrooms and playground. Also the zoo should be open. So bring the whole family for a day of fun. Make sure you bring chairs for your family.

Tribal updates continued

We will begin selling tickets in March for our annual fundraiser dinner and trap shoot, that we are planning for May of this year.

Members!

There is very important information on the bottom of the Sponsor page, and on the back of the calendar. Please take the time to review the information and responded to the need. We are asking again that all tribal members make copies of the letter on the back of the calendar and mail them to the people we have listed with the letter. This is very important if we want the Federal government to put land in trust for us."

San Miguel Scene

Health services offered to residents.

San Miguel community leaders attended an informal luncheon Jan. 12 hosted by Community Health Centers and the Community Support Center at CasaSan Miguel, 1383 Mission St., to learn what benefits they offer.

The San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation, in partnership with Community LINK and the San Miguel Resource Connection, funds the support program.

CHC offers basic on-site medical evaluations and treatment to patients with or without insurance, and referrals for more specialized treatment Call 467-2344 for their hours, which vary.

The Community Support Center may be contacted through Family Advocate Diana Resendez at 712-5327. She has access to resources from basic necessities through counseling services. Both groups offer their services to the San Miguel area regardless of age or income.

Tribal Member Stories

I thought I'd send in some good news for the next newsletter:

I have wonderful and exciting news! Both Mary and I have just heard that we have both been granted a scholarship to attend the 2010 SCA (Society of California Archeology) Meeting this year in March down in Riverside. There are only 5 scholarships/grants given by the SCA to California Indians to attend the event each year. We will bring information back to share with our tribal council and general council members. I feel this is pretty good news as we will have 2 council members attending - not bad out of 4 total chosen.

Can't hold those Salinans back.:)

Francine Martinez

REMEMBER! Write or email the office with any articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month for the upcoming Newsletter. All photographs must be original scanned and sent to pgi@sti.net we will not use copy machine pictures. Check us out at: pgigraphx.com

Tribal Sponsors

The New World Baroque Orchestra
of The San Luis Obispo Early Music Consortium - Julia Hatten, Artistic Director



P.O. Box 2121
Paso Robles, CA 93447
ph: (805) 239 3022
em: info@nwb.org
website www.nwb.org



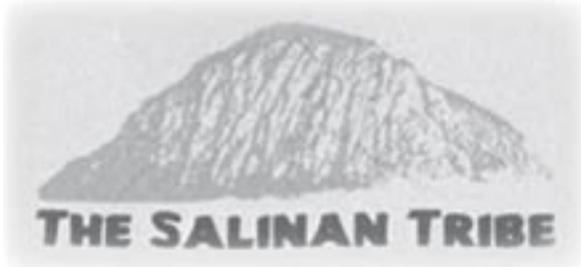
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e-mail: grigger@robertmjones.com • http://www.robertmjones.com
8655 Morro Road • Atascadero, California 93422

How do you get an ad on the Salinan Tribal Sponsor Page?
It's easy. Send your card or ad along with a donation of \$25.00 to the Salinan Tribal Office.
Your ad will then be placed here for 3 months. If you wish to place the ad for a year you
may do so by sending a donation check for \$90.00. Ads are also placed on the Tribal website
at **www.salinantribe.com**

We have new T-Shirts \$15.00 ea. Call Tribal office for colors and sizes 805.460.9202



We will also have T-Shirts at all general meetings for purchase.

Thank you for your support, all purchases help with Tribal needs and events.



**GET YOUR
BUMPER STICKER!**

\$5⁰⁰ EA.

cut out and send this to the Tribal office if you **DO NOT** want your phone number given
out to the phone tree committee to be used for tribal business only.

NAME: _____

Salinan Tribe
7070 Morro Rd.#A
Atascadero, CA 93422

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Vision of the Salinan Tribe

We, as the Salinan Tribe, follow the way of our ancestors as we walk the path of our heritage toward becoming complete individuals. We exercise our rights as a sovereign entity. We continue to reawaken our culture. Each and every tribal member has an equal voice.

We, as the Salinan Tribe, commit to honoring the rights of each and every tribal member to practice our spiritual, individual, or religious beliefs. We remember and honor our ancestors, elders, and children now and for all generations to come.

We as the Salinan Tribe, continue to gather as a tribal family.



Tribal Office 7070 Morro Road, #A Atascadero, CA 93422
 Phone: 805.460.9202 Fax: 805.460.9204 Email: salinantribe@aol.com

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	1 Happy Birthday Elder Joseph Bomar	2	3 Tribal Business meeting	4	5	6
7	8 Happy Birthday Elder Barbara Templeton	9	10	11	12	13
General Meeting Atascadero Lake Park Noon - 3:00pm	15	16	17 Tribal Business meeting	18	19	20
21	22 Happy Birthday Elder Rebecca Lopez	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Happy Birthday Elder Donna Lowy	1	2	3

Tribal business meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

← TRIBAL COUNCIL →

Traditional Lead:

John Burch
 c/o Atascadero Ins.
 7070 Morro Rd. #A
 Atascadero, CA 93422
 805.235.2730
 salinantribe@aol.com

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Elder Council:

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 radsciocchetti@tesn.net

Bruce Flood
 1256 Terebinth Lane
 Templeton, CA 93465
 805.434.9891 (home)
 805.459.0635 (cell)

Date:

To:

RE: Carcieri v Salazar

Dear _____ :

I'm a member of the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo & Monterey Counties, a State Recognized Indian Tribe. We are in the process of seeking formal federal recognition from the Department of Interior and have been working on our petition for over twenty (20) years.

Our journey has been very difficult but rewarding to say the least: dealing with all the regulations we must follow, obtaining the legal documentation necessary to meet OFA (Office Of Federal Acknowledgement) requirements, and dealing with the task of raising needed capital to pay for the legal processes.

This process is difficult enough without having to fight yet another battle our government has put in front of us. We now have to sit back and wait until the BIA figures out a way to deal with "Carcieri v Salazar" & the 1934 IRA (Indian Regulatory Act), or chooses to do nothing. In the meantime, we have lost our investor because they feel the federal government will choose to do nothing.

This case has to do with the government's ability to take land into trust after 1934 for a verifiable indigenes native american tribe. Well, we do fall into that very quandary; we have completed all of our research, and we can prove all the necessary criteria to become a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Our ancestors and their rightful lineages are no different now than they were before 1934. We feel like this is just another major injustice in a long line of injustices to our people.

We're asking for your immediate support and assistance with this matter, as we feel very strongly about our ancestors and the price they paid to afford us the ability to right a wrong that has gone on entirely too long.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Salinan Tribal Member

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202)224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-2501

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
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The Honorable Lois Capps
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