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Introduction

Welcome to Mission La Purísima Concepción! Missions are a enormous part of California history. A mission is a building, or church, where Catholics can worship and expand their religion. Also, the Catholics taught the Native Americans about Christianity and, the Native Americans got jobs. As you can see, Missions really did play a big role in the California we know today.

Father Junipero Serra’s Life

Father Junipero Serra was born on November 24, 1713 in Majorca, Spain and died on August 28, 1784. He was buried at Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo in Carmel. Father Serra’s full name was Jose Miguel Serra and he had been a priest in Spain. He was chosen to be the President of the Mission System in 1769, Alta California. Some of Father Serra’s accomplishments were when he was given the title of Missionary work in the New World, and founding the mission system. Also, we remember Father Junipero Serra, as a founding father who founded nine of the missions.

La Purísima Concepción Facts

 Mission La Purísima Concepción was founded in 1787 by Father Presidente Firmin de Lasuen, and is located in Lompoc, California. La Misión de la Purísima Concepción de la Santisima Virgen Maria is actually the full name of Mission La Purisima Concepcion, but it is rarely used. In English, Mission La Purísima Concepción means The Mission of Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. Lompoc, California was chosen for La Purísima Concepción location because the Spanish and the Chumash both knew the site very well and even had their own names for it. They thought a well know place would be good for the mission.

The Chumash Tribe

At La Purísima Concepción, there were four different tribes, the Hupa, Poma, Yuma, and the Chumash. Though, the biggest and most famous tribe is the Chumash. The Chumash people actually chose to live at the mission because they saw that it had good jobs and they would be able to eat lots of food. Though, the other people of the Chumash tribe who had not come to the mission, were suffering. Once at the mission, the Chumash people were now called Purismeño.

 At La Purísima Concepción, the mens’ jobs were leatherworking, woodcrafting, farming, and hunting. The Purismeño men’s work in woodcrafting has now become famous for their *tomols* which are the canoes that they made. The women's jobs were to make paint, instruments, and to gather berries and seeds. Lastly, the children. They didn’t exactly have jobs; they learned religious instruction from the priests at the church.

 At first, the Purismeño loved La Purísima Concepción and didn’t want to leave. But then, they started getting unfair treatment such as, not being able to do all of their jobs so they didn’t get rewarded the same as usual and other treatment like that. Next, the soldiers started taking advantage over the Purismeño, so they revolted and took over the mission. Though several of the Chumash people not at the mission died, those who hadn’t, still did not come to La Purísima Concepción.

Life at Mission La PurÍsima Concepción

Life at Mission La PurÍsima Concepción was *very* busy. This was the schedule: At 6:00am, the mission bells ring and everyone goes to the church to pray. Then, everybody has breakfast. At 7:00am, all of the Purismeño men and women started work, while the children stayed behind and learned religious instruction. For the women’s work, they made candles, soap, clothing, and Spanish stews. For the men’s work, they did leatherworking, woodcraft, farming, and hunting. After lunch, they had a *siesta,* which is a break or nap, then, they worked until 5:00pm. At 5:00pm, everybody would pray and eat dinner. The women went to bed earlier than the men, at 8:00pm, while the men, at 9:00pm. Then, the day was over and the next day, everyone would do the same thing.

At La PurÍsima Concepción, the crops that were grown at the mission, were: figs, pears, grapes (for wine), garden vegetables, corn, peas, beans, peaches, and olives. Some of the farm animals at the mission were: cattle, sheep, goats, and turkeys. Out of these crops and meats, the women made two different types of Spanish stews which were *pozole* and *atole.* A few products at La PurÍsima Concepción were: adobe bricks, acorn flour, soap, baskets, candles, instruments, and various tools.

Building the Mission

Right after La PurÍsima Concepción was built, there was a significant earthquake that damaged it so much, it was nearly gone. The friars tried their best to completely rebuild it, but eventually, the neophytes had to finish it up. At the mission, there are some really cool fun facts, here are some of them: Part of the mission is a salmon-pink color, it is one of the largest missions there is, but Mission San Juan Bautista is the largest, and Mission La PurÍsima Concepción is one of the three missions that is a state park. The mission has a garden, a bell tower, a fountain, and the original wash basin from the mission’s past. The cemetery is right next to the bell tower, which has three bells on it.