

Historical Ramblings

A Glossary of Lompoc Place Names

To new residents of Lompoc, a conversation with an old timer results in understandable confusion. Old timers describe places whose locations, although still clear in their minds, have become lost to history or obscured by development. To aid the new resident, a glossary of Lompoc place names follows:

China Creek: Miguelito creek becomes China Creek as it exits Miguelito Canyon. The creek has been a favorite of many adventurous youth throughout the years.

Whistlerville: A settlement at the mouth of Miguelito Canyon.

Chinchilla Heights: The site of W.R. Hull's Chinchilla ranch in the 500 block of East Locust Ave.

Lafayette Square: A small Spanish style 1930's housing development in the 300 block of South F Street. As a sales ploy, it was advertised that one of the lots had a sum of money buried thereon, which would become the property of any buyer of the lot.

Rodeo Hill: The site of Lompoc's rodeo grounds, east of South Seventh Street. It is now the site of Crestview Terrace.

Robinson Bridge: The bridge spanning the Santa Ynez River on Highway 246.

The Cherry Orchard: The historic Schuyler Cherry Orchard, located in the northeast corner of town, is now devoted to housing tracts.

Four Corners: An intersection south of La Purisima Mission on Highway 246. It has been reconfigured so it no longer contains four corners.

Rucker Crossing: Now known as the McLaughlin Road crossing, it was a fair weather river crossing.

Dyer Bridge: The bridge spanning the river at Floradale Avenue going toward the prison.

Renwick Crossing: Another fair weather river crossing at Renwick Avenue.

Huyckville: A settlement, primarily populated by members of the Huyck family on West Ocean Avenue, near Renwick Avenue.

Down the Valley: As you travel west, toward the ocean, you are going "down the valley."

Lompoc Landing: The site of the wharf that served the Lompoc Valley Land Colony, located north of Ocean Park and south of Purisima Point, on Vandenberg AFB property.

The Rocks: A favorite fishing spot for old timers near the Lompoc Landing site.

Honda: The district encompassing Honda Canyon and Point Pedernales, the site of the wreck of seven Navy Destroyers in 1923. Located approximately 5 miles south of Surf, on South Vandenberg AFB property.

Tranquillon: Pronounced Trank-ee-yone, it is an extinct volcano and is the highest coastal peak between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is the highest peak visible to motorists entering Lompoc from the North.

Rodeo Canyon: Now known as LaSalle Canyon, renamed for Charles LaSalle who purchased the property and settled in the canyon in the 1880's.

Beckwith Lake: A natural lake on Highway 246, current site of the Campbell Ranch. The lake was the site of many Model T races.

Santa Rita: The district between Lompoc and the current city of Buellton on the north side of the Santa Ynez River.

Santa Rosa: The area along the current Santa Rosa Road on the south side of the Santa Ynez River.

The San Julian: Used interchangeably to describe the historic Mexican Land Grant Ranch along Highway One, or to refer to the road (Highway One) itself.

Red Roof Canyon: A canyon located on the Sudden Ranch near Point Arguello. Named for the red roofs on the ranch buildings.

White Hills: A designation that still appears on maps referring to the diatomaceous earth mining operation south of Lompoc.

The Lagoon: Where the Santa Ynez River pools at the Ocean Park railroad trestle. It was once the site of summer cabins, boating and water skiing.

Lompoc Gardens: Located in the 200 block of West College Avenue, the Gardens was a County subsidized housing project. The original structures were moved to various locations, making way for the current homes, which are still administered by the Housing Authority.

The Manor: A 1940's housing development on the northeast side of town, comprised of small bungalows.

The Salt Water Barrier: A bridge that crossed the river east of Ocean Park. Its bridge was washed out in the 1969 floods. Remnants can still be seen as the access road turns west towards Ocean Park.

Although this list is not comprehensive, it will give new residents a basic knowledge of place names when engaging an old timer in conversation.