

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **The Story Of Eusebio**

There was once a young Indian boy who was raised at the San Antonio Mission by the Mission Fathers. His name was Eusebio. As he grew up, he was kept by the Mission Fathers as a courier or messenger boy to carry messages to the missions north and south of San Antonio in the Jolon Valley. It was while on one of these trips to San Miguel that he met an Indian girl whom he brought back with him to be married by the priest at Mission San Antonio.

Victor Mossop has told us this story as it was told to him by Frank Avila of Jolon and we feel that it is part of the history of Monterey County and a delightful addition to our collection of Californiana.

After secularization came to the mission in 1834 or a little after, the priest who was in charge at that time got Eusebio and his wife a piece of land about 25 miles above the mission and at the head of the San Antonio River. This land had belonged to the mission and there was a two-room adobe house on it that the fathers had built in the early times to house soldiers that were kept there to catch runaway Indians from the mission.

As Eusebio's family began to increase and as other Indians came to live there with them, they would build an addition until the house had at least seven additions and was at least 200 feet long. As the dwelling was built on sloping land each addition was about a foot lower than the other. It made it look as if it was built on steps. (They did not have bulldozers in those days.)

A funny little story, Mr. Mossop tells us, was told by an old man who was born in the San Antonio Valley 86 years ago. It is the story of how Eusebio and those Indians got the name of Encenales.

It seems that along in the 1860's, William Earle was appointed as registration clerk of that district, so all the men came from all over the country as far back as the coast to register to vote and so did our friend Eusebio. He wanted to vote too. But when Mr. Earle asked him for his full name, he said that Eusebio was all the name he had.

So, Earle told him that he would have to have another name. And as he lived up there along the Encenales meaning "live oak trees", he said, "I will put your name down as Eusebio Encenales."

Which he did. And from that time on the family all went by the name of Encenales.

On a little round hill about a half mile above the old adobe house one can see a large cross on the very top of the hill. There lies Eusebio Encenales, his family, and friends, the last of the San Antonio Mission Indians. The tiny cemetery is much neglected now, but maybe someday someone or some organization will decide that those first Californians should be honored with an historical marker. The place is now known as "The Indians."