

THE



LOG

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Pt. Arguello L. T. S.

POINT ARGUELLO
LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION

Located in the middle of "No-Man's-Land" is the Coast Guard Loran Transmitting Station at Point Arguello. It's "No-Man's-Land" unless you're one of the 13 men stationed there or unless you have a pass to enter the restricted area.

Lying some 50 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, the 50 acre area on which the Loran Station is located close to Point Arguello Missile Facility. It was due to the missile hazards that the Coast Guard in April 1963, moved it's dependents from the area.

Before going into the history of Point Arguello, let's meet the Commanding Officer and his crew.

Chief Radio Electrician W-2 Gustav R. Froehlich, Jr., a veteran of 18 years service, reported to Point Arguello on 29 March 1963 as Commanding Officer. Prior to this assignment, he served in the Electronic's Office at the Office of Commander, 11th Coast Guard District.

Second in command is William F. Hiller, chief electronic's technician. Under him are Samuel Esparza, boatswain's mate first class; Andrew F. Harris, electronic's technician first class; Gary N. Dierking, electronic's technician third class; Richard B. Hershey, II, electronic's technician third class; Ronald W. Nelson, fireman engineman; George L. Greenig, seaman apprentice; and Randall D. Mackie, fireman apprentice. (Also 2 dogs and 1 cat.)

Taking a look at the history books, Point Arguello has a record of being infamous for ship wrecks along its coast. Having been termed "The Graveyard of the Pacific", there have been many ship wrecks logged in the immediate area. Probably the worst tragedy was the wreck of the YANKEE BLADE on 1 October 1854, when 415 persons lost their lives after the vessel hit the rocks some 250 yards offshore. She also carried a fortune in gold bullion which has since been recovered.

More recently, the U. S. Navy lost seven destroyers and 23 men when they ran aground on 7 September 1923.

Entries in the log, which was started when the station was first put into commission on 22 February 1901, contained much information. The following entries stand out:

"22 February 1901 - STATION PLACED IN COMMISSION; 7 February 1911 - SS SANTA ROSA WRECKED ON ROCKS AT PT. PERDENALES; 18 January 1912 - TELEPHONE SERVICE INSTALLED; 4 January 1913 - VAPOR LIGHT INSTALLED; 7 September 1923 - 7 NAVY DESTROYERS WRECKED AT PT. PERDENALES, 23 LIVES LOST; 15 March 1925 - INSTALLED 250,000 CANDLEPOWER LIGHT; 1 April 1925 - BUILT NEW POST OFFICE AT ARLIGHT (name of town); 25 September 1925 - NEW SCHOOL HOUSE OPEN FOR CLASSES; 21 February 1926 - MOVED POST OFFICE TO LIGHT STATION; 1 April 1926 - NEW ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLED; 30 May 1931 - SS HARVARD WRECKED ON ROCKS AT PT. PERDENALES, NO LIVES LOST; 28 May 1933 - SS NIPPON MARU WRECKED ON ROCKS AT PT. PERDENALES, NO LIVES LOST; 20 August 1934 - INSTALLED DOUBLE DIAPHONE FOG SIGNAL; 12 October 1934 - CHANGED POWER OF MAIN LIGHT TO 1,200,000 CANDLEPOWER; 6 September 1935 - TOWN OF ARLIGHT ABANDONED; 12 January 1948 - LORAN STATION ESTABLISHED; 11 July 1949 - SHIP KALUKUNCHIS AGROUND FEW MILES NORTH OF STATION, NO LIVES LOST; 16 December 1963 - SS ELLEN AGROUND, NO LIVES LOST."

The area of land now known as Point Arguello was originally known by the Canalino Indian name "Nacto" and was part of the territory ruled at the time of the advent of the Mission Fathers by Chief Salipuata. The Indians were part of the third people indigenous to the area, the Canalinos. The first people, of Mongolian stock, were called "The Grove People". They vanished some hundreds of years before the beginning of the Christian era, and after a period of yielding no archaeological remains, a second group, also probably Mongolian in origin and semi-nomadic in habits arrived. These "hunting people" gradually merged with the third race, the Canalinos.

On 28 August 1769, the Portola expedition camped near Point Arguello where they found a small Indian rancheria, the locale of which abounded in excellent flints, whence they named it Los Perdenales (The Flints). This name continued to be used on Spanish maps until the Mexican revolution. The American and European designation was Point Arguello, from the name assigned by Vancouver in 1793, in honor of Jose Mario Arguello, then Commandant at Monterey.

What does the future hold for Point Arguello? Some radical changes will take place within the next few months. The Radio Beacon will be relocated. The antenna and associated ground system will be installed. The new electronic fog signal will be installed and both the fog signal and light will operate continuously. The combining of both the Light and Loran will consolidate and modernize the Coast Guard's function and facilities at Point Arguello.

Drop by the station some noon hour and join the crew in a rip-snorting game of volleyball. Their court is the latest in design, having been constructed with the cooperation of the local Navy unit.

Mr. Froehlich says that the Coast Guard at Point Arguello is referred to as "McHales Navy". Take another look at the photo on the front; there is a slight resemblance!

Think you might enjoy a tour at Point Arguello? Better hurry and check with your personnel officer.

DISTRICT COMMANDER

A. SAVINGS BOND PROGRAM

Enclosure (1) is a reprint of a recent letter from Admiral

Edwin J. Roland, Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, concerning the participation of Eleventh Coast Guard District personnel in the Savings Bond program.

ENGINEERING

A. SAFETY AT LIGHT STATIONS AND OTHER SHORE UNITS

A number of our shore units are built on promontories which are high above the ocean beach. These

steep cliffs are dangerous to the personnel of the station, their families and to visitors. Recently a very small child fell from the cliff at a shore station. This accident had a happy ending in that the child was not seriously injured. Quick and efficient action by one of the men at the