

the state

Region's first church found

United Press International
EL PASO — The recent rediscovery of a little known parish chapel established in a stable about 1730 is causing Roman Catholic historians to revise previous accounts of the church's history in the Southwest, according to a Vatican expert.

Nuestra Senora De Las Caldas (Our Lady of the Hot Springs) was the first parish church established in the region that now is Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, said the Rev. Ernest J. Burrus, director of the Jesuit Historical Institute of Rome.

Burrus said he hopes archaeologists will try to find the remains of the old parish church, which was destroyed in an Indian uprising 230 years ago.

Historians formerly thought the first parish churches were established in the region in 1852, Burrus said. In that year, Franciscan missionaries withdrew from the region and were replaced by priests

under the Bishop of Durango, Mexico.

But Tom Diamond, a historical researcher and attorney, recently discovered a 1744 map reference indicating the existence of Las Caldas a full century before establishment of the other parish churches.

"It was a parish with a nonmissionary priest in charge of it," Burrus said. "That's really what's sensational about this discovery."

The missions have drawn extensive historical attention, but Burrus said he could find only one modern-day reference to the parish church of Las Caldas. Dr. C.L. Sonnichsen's history book, "Pass of the North," devotes two paragraphs to Las Caldas.

Sonnichsen wrote that Benito Crespo, Bishop of Durango, sent the Rev. Jose de Ochoa to establish the church sometime after Crespo visited the area in 1730. Nearby Franciscans, according to Sonnichsen, felt the church, a converted

stable, was inappropriate for worship services.

In 1744, a visiting Franciscan showed Las Caldas on a map of all the Southwest Missions. The visitor also mentioned Las Caldas in a report to civilian and religious authorities in Mexico City, Burrus said. The traveler counted about 60 Indian families attached to El Capitan, the hacienda or estate which supported Las Caldas.

In 1766, another Franciscan reported to Viceroy Cruillas of New Spain that the Suma Indians revolted in 1745 "in the newly formed curacy of Las Caldas." The Indians destroyed the entire settlement in 1749, according to Sonnichsen, but were subdued and taken to the nearby Mission of San Lorenzo El Real, now located across the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

All the colonial maps identifying Las Caldas showed it a few miles Northeast of San Elizario, a historic community in the Texas Rio Grande Valley on the outskirts of El Paso.

Burrus, who worked out of the Vatican for 25 years researching and publishing books on Mexican colonial history, is a native El Pasoan who returned a year ago because of the harsh winters in Rome.

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Male queen draws line; kiss is out

United Press International
INDIANA, Pa. — Indiana University of Pennsylvania's 1979 Homecoming Queen plans to ride in the parade and do all that tradition dictates for a reigning beauty, but draws the line at kissing the college president.

Tim Carroll, 20, a junior journalism major, was announced the winner Tuesday in Homecoming Queen balloting by Indiana students.

Carroll said he entered the contest to underscore the absurdity of a contest based on beauty.

"The whole homecoming thing is a joke," he said. "There are no issues debated. You just have to put up a bunch of posters and whoever shows the most cleavage wins."

"I want to be called queen and I'll do everything expected of the queen, except kiss the IUP president (Dr. John Worthen)," he said.

Reservation may keep supervisor

United Press International
AUSTIN — Assistants to Gov. Bill Clements Wednesday said they would recommend to the Texas Indian Commission that Emmett Battiste be retained as supervisor of the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation be allowed to keep his post at least temporarily.

Members of the reservation's tribal council met with Paul Wrotenbery and Doug Brown for 1½ hours to discuss Battiste's ouster. The commission earlier had requested Battiste's resignation.

Battiste, who was present at the meeting along with the council, said he had been told that as of last Monday he was no longer the reservation supervisor. Battiste's ouster had been recommended by the commission's executive director, Walt Broemer.

But Wrotenbery said the tribe will be given until Dec. 15 to devise a plan to make the reservation solvent.

Wrotenbery also said they would recommend to the commission that Battiste be retained at least until the plan is devised and submitted to the governor.

Roland Poncho, the council's spokesman, said the long-rang plan would try to benefit the tribe socially and economically and make it self-sustaining. He also complimented Clements and his staff for trying to help the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation.

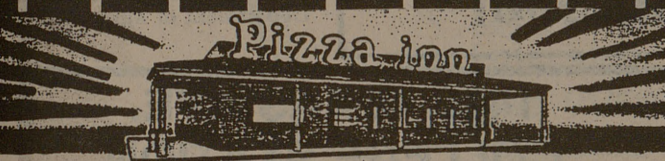
"This (the meeting) is one more step that demonstrates the sincerity of state government to help the reservation," Poncho said.

Poncho also said the tribal council's resolution asking for Broemer's resignation was "still in effect."

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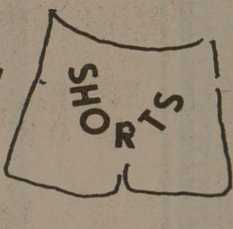
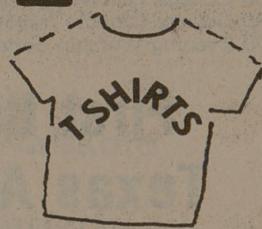
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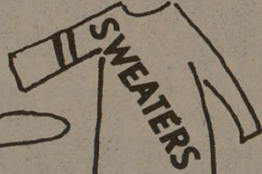
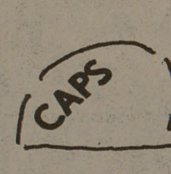
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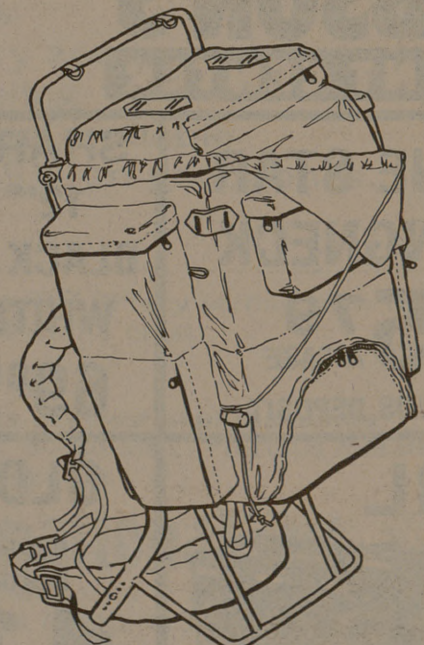


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