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THE LOG - BOOK IS GOSPEL TRUTH

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For more than four centuries, people have been making, and recording, the history of the Pacific Coast. So far as we in California are concerned, it goes back to 1542 when a retired corporal of crossbow-men, a Portuguese explorer named João Rodrigues Cabrilho discovered the coast of Upper California. Because he was sailing for the Spanish Kingdom, and because to many there is no virtue in any California history unless it be Spanish, we know him better in the Spanish version of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

Cabrillo, to go along with the Spanish routine, man have been the first Caucasian to set foot on what now is California soil -- and he may not. It was in late September of 1542 that he landed in what we call San Diego but he called San Miguel -- but don't forget that Ulloa discovered the Colorado River in 1539 and the following year Alarcon went up that river for an estimated 225 miles. He must have landed from his boats every night, and it is unlikely that all of his landings were on the left bank of the river. If he landed on the right bank, and that far up, he qualifies for membership in either the Imperial County or Riverside County Chamber of Commerce. However, to Cabrillo goes the honor of discovering our West Coast. When he died at San Miguel Island in January of 1543, from injuries received in landing through the surf, his faithful pilot, Bartolome Ferrelo, kept on to the north, and Cabrillo's ships probably sighted the Oregon coast before bad weather drove them home.

Upper California, at the time, seems to have bored the top Spanish brass, for they did nothing about it. The overseas trade, rather than the coastwise, had their interest, and some 20 years after Cabrillo's death the first of the Manila galleons set out from Acapulco, on a route which they were to sail for more that two centuries; they dropped down south until they

