

" . . . A Land-Locked and Very Good Harbor"

It was a mere fifty years after the historic voyage of Columbus when João Rodrigues Cabrilho, a Portuguese navigator sailing for Spain, set out from the little port of Navidad, ~~on the coast~~ <sup>on the</sup> West Coast of Mexico, to explore the upper coast and, hopefully, reach the Orient. The date was June 17, 1542.

It took him better than three months to get to San Diego, which is not surprising when you consider his tiny ships, the San Salvador and the Victoria. Locally built and by soldiers and amateurs, they were a bit on the crude side, and call to mind the line from that old chantey about the ". . . soldiers and tinkers and tailors and all, who shipped as prime sailors aboard the Black Ball." Cabrilho -- or Cabrillo, as he is more widely known -- made port on Sept. 29 and named it San Miguel. He also called it "a land-locked and very good harbor" and a detail <sup>of</sup> was sent ashore in search ~~for~~ <sup>of</sup> fresh water. Hours later they returned, <sup>(scratched lost, and)</sup> were horrified to see no ships at anchor; ~~and~~ <sup>they</sup> started to walk back home, better than a thousand miles away. Soon they came upon another bay, and there were the ships. So they named the scene of their discomfiture, <sup>quite logically,</sup> False Bay, ~~and~~ <sup>it was called</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>wondering</sup> it was called ~~and~~ <sup>for more than three centuries.</sup> Then, in the 1880s, a magazine publisher decided that False Bay, was a terrible name, meaningful or not, and mounted a campaign which resulted in it being given the highly original and imaginative <sup>title</sup> ~~name~~ of Mission Bay. With "Spanish" or "Mission", in San Diego, you can't go wrong.

Cabrillo pushed on to the north with his pathetic little fleet, far up the coast and returned to winter quarters in the Channel.

