

The Birth of Mount Ecclesia

On the Winter Solstice of 1910, December 21, 1910, the Teacher appeared to Max Heindel and instructed him to look for the new Headquarters of the Rosicrucian Fellowship, as the space conditions in Ms. Augusta Foss's cottage in Ocean Park exceeded capacity, with mail coming in from all over. The Teacher gave him a mental or telepathic picture of the Headquarters of the newly formed Rosicrucian Fellowship and sent him on his way to find it somewhere south on the southern coast of California. For months Max Heindel and Augusta Foss spent their weekends searching down the California Coast for the location that matched the vision, without much success. It took months and they were getting desperate not being able to fulfil the Teacher's request. Finally, one Sunday, on April 30, 1911, they decided to visit the Mission San Luis Rey, built in 1798 by the Franciscan Friars, to say a prayer and find guidance.

Arriving at the train station in Oceanside, they hired a young boy with horse and buggy and rode on Mission trail, a dirt road to the Mission. Once they arrived at the top of the plateau overlooking the San Luis Rey Valley, the young boy stopped the buggy and showed them the Mission down in the valley.

At that very Moment Mr. Heindel exclaimed with excitement: "This is the place we've been looking for!", talking about the view of the valley and the snow-capped mountains, Mount San Gorgonio, Mount San Jacinto and Mount Palomar, that decorated the far landscape.

And while he looked on the left side of the road, he saw a "For Sale" sign in connection with a large, mostly barren bean field in which stood a tall water tower.

They immediately turned around, skipping the visit to the Mission, and requesting that the young boy take them right away to the real estate office in downtown Oceanside. But, to their great disappointment, a note on the door said: Office closed. Agent will return on Wednesday May 3! Mr. Heindel was extremely anxious that, after so many months of searching, he might not be able to secure the precious purchase. And what if, he thought, someone came and bought it from under them before he had a chance to purchase it?

Ms. Foss reasoned with him and calmed him down, saying: we have business in San Diego, so this will give us ample time to do all of it, and we will return on Wednesday. And they took the train down to San Diego. But Mr. Heindel hardly slept, having great concerns that someone might place a bid to buy the lot before he had a chance to do so....

So on Wednesday they returned to Oceanside and on that day, May 3, 1911, at 3:05 p.m., they purchased the bean field for \$4,000. This marks the official birth of TRF Headquarters, as that same afternoon, on their way back to Ocean Park, Mr. Heindel actually named it "Mount Ecclesia".

It took over six months for them to pack up Augusta Foss's Ocean Park cottage, and on October 28, 1911, they return to the Oceanside bean field and held a ceremony at 12:40 p.m. to dedicate the land to the Great Work of the Elder Brothers of the Rose Cross, with the planting of a Rose Cross. The ceremony is recounted in the book *Teachings of an Initiate*.

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