



Chapter 15

Featured Articles

We have included some of the significant articles about pin trading that have been featured on our LITPC website, as well as other publications. We feel that it is extremely important to “capture” these for the enjoyment of our future pin traders, and for our current audience who might have missed them for whatever reason. We hope you enjoy them.



Collecting Varieties

Harry Fulwiler III, Virginia

“Variety is the soul of pleasure”, or spoke 17th century Arthur Aphra Behn. I certainly can agree with that thought when it comes to pin trading and collecting. There are many of us in the pin trading community who have been reinvigorated in this hobby by searching for, identifying, and collecting pin varieties. One of my good friends, Lion **Joe Trezza**, California, was an early pioneer in identifying and collecting pin varieties. He cataloged many of his finds in his book, “*State Pin Color Pictorial Guide*”. His book was the first attempt at documenting some of the many varieties of State pins. When his book was issued, we had many purists complaining that the book contained all kinds of junk. Now, many of those same people try to collect every variety type they can find. I for one really enjoy the thrill of finding a new variety. There are many different varieties and we will discuss some of them here.

Probably the most common variety is two pins from the same manufacturer having different color shades. This can be caused by a thicker or thinner coat of paint or by a batch of paint being mixed differently. Examples of this type variety are numerous. Quite a few of the pins in the Alaska animal series have different shades, as do many of the 1980 and 1984 Wisconsin State pins. Some pins are altogether different in color from other pins of the same date and State. An example of this is that some of the 1990 Maine pins are a dark gray while the regular issue is light green. Some of the lighter colored pins, when put in certain weather conditions will fade thus causing them to appear to be a variety of this type. Care must be taken not to classify a faded pin in that category.

Occasionally, the initial order of a pin is not sufficient to meet demand and it is reordered. This often results in varieties. For example, look at the 1994 Maryland and the 1994 Washington, D. C., pins. The original order of these two pins was not sufficient to meet the demand. When the reorder was placed with the same company, the price was raised considerably. The order was then switched to a new manufacturer who made a somewhat different pin. A reorder of the 1981 Tennessee Cat has a small star to the left of the word “Phoenix”. There also exists examples of a pin having a plain back and a waffle back. I believe that most of these are pins that were reordered. Most of the early Arizona Kachina doll pins have plain and waffle backs, and some are numbered on the back. Other examples include the 1985 Georgia and the 1988 Minnesota pins.

There are also numerous examples of varieties that are purposely created. Examples are the dated and undated Oklahoma pins, and the 1994 MD 4 pins. Most of these are cataloged.

Many varieties are caused by errors on the part of the pin makers. Examples are described below.

- a. Pins that have not been completely painted. I have found several pins in sealed wrappers that were not painted, including a 1986 North Carolina pin and a 1989 Mississippi pin.
- b. Pins that have been painted a different color (1974 Connecticut, 1986 Alaska, 1982 Oregon, and 1990 Maine).
- c. Pins where some of the blanks were silver and some gold colored. The 1970 Virginia, the 1962 and 1963 Indiana, the 1986 Illinois, and the 1981 Kentucky pins are examples.
- d. Silver emblem and gold emblem, as well as the size of the emblem. This is very common and can be found on many pins with glued on emblems, like many issued by the State of Michigan.
- e. Pictures inverted. The 1986 New Jersey State pin and the 1988 Colorado State pin, (see picture at the end of this article.)
- f. Different metals used in the production of the same pin. Examples are found in the 1972 MD-4 pin, 1974 and 1977 Mississippi State pins, and the 1984 South Carolina train set.
- g. Different size lettering. The 1985 South Dakota pin is an excellent example of this.
- h. Location of the Lions emblem on the pin, as found on the 1996 West Virginia State pin.
- i. Misspelled words like the 1974 Texas, the 1992 Saskatchewan, the 1984 Georgia, and the 1986 prestige Massachusetts pins.
- j. Wrong dates. Good examples are the 1993 Connecticut, the 1996P Wisconsin, and the 1971V Indiana pins.

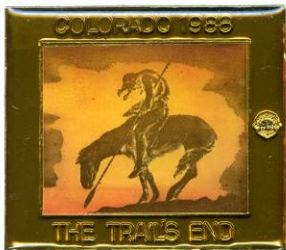
Collecting Varieties

The foregoing are just a few of the numerous varieties that have already been discovered. I'm sure there are still other varieties out there waiting to be found. One of the recently discovered varieties that has been around since 1986 but was just "discovered" is the 1996 P West Virginia State pin. That pin has one variety with the stamped Lions Club emblem to the left of the tree, while the other variety has the stamped Lions emblem in the center of the tree. The late Lion **Kurt Bentsen**, New York, discovered this variation when comparing several of these pins. Another recently made discovery was a light blue and a dark blue 1991 Utah pin. Credit for that discovery goes to the late Lion **Tom Banyard**, California, and Lion **Don Gordon**, Washington State. Yours truly recently discovered the 1990 Maine gray variation. Both of these finds took place at the 2003 Western States Pin Swap. Since then, both of these new varieties were found on a fellow pin traders' sheets at the Virginia pin swap. Quite often new examples are discovered when comparing similar pins side by side at pin trading tables. The point is that there are many still available. There are different items made from pins such as tie clasps, jewelry such as many of the New Hampshire pins, bolos, and many others. There are many items that most pin trader's are not aware of unless they stay cognizant of the varieties. For instance, most of you know that Oklahoma usually puts out a bolo tie of their State pin. Were you aware that West Virginia put out a Bolo of the 1998 State pin? If you collect varieties, that would be one of the items you would want.

The list of pin traders who are looking for variations is growing daily. Some of the company I keep in looking for varieties include **Joe Trezza**, California; **Don Gordon**, Washington State; **Jim DeRouchey**, Texas; **Bill Sour**, Colorado; **Bill Prucha**, Illinois; **Elwyn Beane** and **Boyd Engbloom**, Wisconsin; **Jim Minnich**, Delaware; **Pete Kowalick**, New Jersey; and **Bill Smith** and **Verle Malik**, Virginia. This list is far from inclusive but it does show that there are some serious pin traders who are into variety collecting.

To me, this is an exciting arena that still has many undiscovered pins looking for a home. Word spreads pretty quickly when a new variety is discovered. As mentioned earlier, Joe Trezza's book is a great place to see many of the varieties. Verle Malik has a varieties section in his catalog. Any of the Lions mentioned herein can give the novice help in getting started in variety collection, and can certainly answer questions concerning these pins. Some of these pins are very valuable and certainly add prestige to your collection. In recent auctions at the several pin swaps, some of the highest prices have been given for varieties.

All of us have favorite varieties. Some, such as the 1986 Alaska, the 1974 Arkansas, the 1988 Colorado, the 1974 Connecticut, and the 1982 Oregon State pins are listed in Joe's catalog. Examples of some varieties are shown below.



1988 Colorado - Inverted example on the right.



1981 Idaho - Color variety on the left.



1986 Alaska - The regular issue is on the left.



1977 Alaska - Note that the one on the left has an Emblem and on the right, there is none.



1998 Alaska - A color variation makes this a highly collectible item.

Note: All pins on this page have been reduced to conserve space. This article was written several years ago, and references may not necessarily be correct in the current timeframe.

Kutztown, Pennsylvania Pin Series

PCC Bill Smith, Past President, LITPC

Welcome to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. More specifically, welcome to Kutztown, Pennsylvania, the home of Kutztown University, and the Kutztown Lions and Kutztown Lioness Clubs. This rather picturesque community is located geographically between Reading and Allentown, Pennsylvania, and its primary “industry” is education. My wife and I first became familiar with Kutztown back in the early 1950’s when we traveled between our home in Virginia and her birthplace in the suburbs of Allentown. There was a little diner adjacent to the local airfield that provided us with an ideal comfort stop, as well as some of the best food we’ve ever tasted on the road. Funny thing is we still visit that same diner next to the airfield most every time we’re in the area for some of the outstanding food. Anyway, the most prominent thing about the town then, and now, was the quaint little Kutztown State Teachers College along the highway. The only difference now is that it’s a good-sized institution called Kutztown University. Not being in Lions at the time, we obviously were unaware that one day this little Pennsylvania Dutch Country town would become famous for us as the home of what arguably is one of the most collectible series of pins in our pin trading community.

The first pin in the Pennsylvania Dutch Farm Life series was issued in 1976 and it depicted a farmer behind a plow. This pin and the next six pins have only the Lions emblem. Beginning with the two pins issued in 1983, which depict a Farm Lady and a Farmer, added the Lioness emblem. A local artist who just happens to be a member of the Kutztown Lioness Club, started designing the pins and she included both the Lion and Lioness emblems on many of the pins thereafter. As a matter of fact, the pins from 1983 to the three Spinning Wheels issued in 2005 were actually issued by the Lioness Club. Since most of the members of that Club had and still have some kind of affiliation with the members of the Lions Club, there has been acceptance by all concerned. The last pin to have been issued in 2006 is strictly a Lions Club production and shows the Lions food stand that is a permanent fixture at the Kutztown Fair Grounds. Each year during the Folk Festival, many Lions from all over the country stop by the food booth and inquire about the availability of the Kutztown Lions pins.. Finally, it was decided to create a pin that the members could have for trade or sale when they were asked for pins. In addition to the farm life series, there are two other Kutztown Lions Club items that were produced by the Club for their 50th Charter celebration. One is a pewter key chain and the other is a gold Lions Club pin that attests to the 50 years of service. Both items are shown on page 15-5. Although they are not considered a part of this farm life series, they are highly collectible and can attract much interest at any auction.

We featured the Farm Life series in an article in the LITPC “*Trading Post*” in 1996, that seems to have helped create the interest that is so widespread today in the pin trading community for anything that says “Kutztown”. Another significant contribution was when the first pin in the series was initially offered at an auction during a Virginia pin swap and the price soared to \$100. Getting that kind of interest for a club pin certainly caught the attention of many more collectors who have joined in the hunt for the pins..

Although we would like to reveal the name of the designer of most of these pins, we respect the request that she remain anonymous. She is obviously a very talented artist but is not a pin trader and does not have samples of her little creations. As a matter of fact, it’s not even clear whether she owns a collection of the pins. As you can see from looking at the pictures, she produced pins on a yearly basis up until 1999. There were even multiple pins in a couple of years during this span. Since then, there was one in 2001 and then the three spinning wheels in 2005. Being avid collectors, we certainly hope that she will find the time and the urge to share some more of her creations in the near future. This is just simply too good of a series to let it “die” while there are so many other objects of Pennsylvania Dutch Country to cover.

Because the demand for the pins remains high, it makes sense that other pins and badges from Kutztown seem to attract the collectors, even though they are clearly not originated by the Lions. They have that magic word “Kutztown” and that’s about all it takes. The ones we have shown in this presentation are from the fabulous Kutztown Festival that is held annually during the first week of July. The little quilt pins are outstanding and give some emphasis to the fantastic handmade quilts that are on display in the quilt barn at the Festival. If you happen to be in the area of Reading or Allentown, Pennsylvania, during the Fourth of July annual celebration, and you have some spare time, we highly recommend a visit to the Kutztown Folk Festival. We think you will agree that the effort was worthwhile.

To give you the full appreciation of this wonderful collection of pins, we have pictured the pins in full size, and are shown on the following pages.

Kutztown, Pennsylvania Pin Series



1976 Plowing the Fields



1977 Hot Air Balloon



1978 Blue Milk Can



1979 Wood Cook Stove



1980 Farm Lantern



1981 Pennsylvania Dutch Barn



1982 Coffee Pot



1983 Farm Couple



1984 Chickens



1985 Sleigh



1986 Bonnet



1986 Water Pump



1987 Butter Churn



1988 Pot Belly Stove



1989 Outhouse



1989 Jug



1990 Coal Bucket



1991 Hay Wagon



1991 Pink Boot

Kutztown, Pennsylvania Pin Series



1992 4 Poster Bed



1993 Blanket Chest



1994 Rocking Chair



1995 Baby Crib



1996 Red Milk Can



1997 Amish Buggy



1998 Country Store Scales



1999 Basket



1999 Brogan



2001 Quilt Patch



2005 Spinning Wheel Pink



2005 Spinning Wheel Blue



2005 Spinning Wheel Green



2006 Lions Food Stand



50th Anniversary

Kutztown, Pennsylvania Pin Series



Kutztown, Pennsylvania Pin Series



The Hershey, Pennsylvania Lions Club Pins

Lions Tim and Lana McCaulley Pin Traders Club of Pennsylvania



1965



1966



1967



1968



1969



1975



One of the most interesting and most highly collectible club pin sets that originated in the great State of Pennsylvania is the Hershey Lions Club pins. Over the years, these particular pins have been highly sought after items by all pin collectors and novices who simply collect world known brands.

The Hershey Candy Company is located in Hershey, Pennsylvania. If you have never been to Hershey, you have missed a tremendous opportunity to see one of the great candy manufacturers of the world in operation. The streets are lined with lampposts in the shape of Hershey Kisses. The entire city is owned and operated basically by the Hershey Candy Company. The founder of the company has long since passed away, and the Hershey family is only peripherally now involved with the manufacturing of the candy. However, a trust continues the operation of the Hershey line in Hershey.

Hershey pins were truly original when they were brought into existence in 1965 when the Hershey Lions Club thought this would be an interesting and sought after pin. They were right. The Hershey Club issued pins every year from 1965 to 1969. After 1969, the Club Issued pins on a five year basis. There were two in 1975. The first was a 30th year pin, and the second was a pin recognizing the Club's 30 years of existence. In 1980, an additional pin was issued. In 1985, 1990, and 1994 the 50th year pin was issued. There is a Chocolate Town, USA pin which is not an official issue of the Hershey Lions Club. However, it is highly desirable and collectible, along with the other Hershey pins.

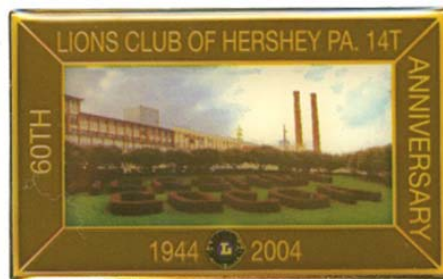
These pins, particularly the early ones of the 1960's are highly sought after and are quite rare. Some of them bring more than \$100 each, when they are available. They are not always available.



1979



1984



2004



1989



1994

The Fiberglass Montana Pins

by
Past International Director Tom Lehman

PID Tom is a long time member of the LITPC and has been one of our strongest supporters at the International level. He served as an International Director from Montana from 1992 to 1994.

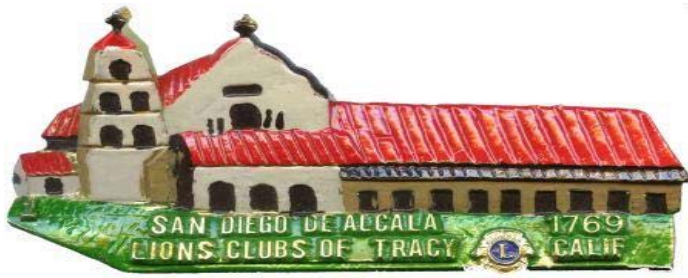
When I had my “Pets and Hobbies” store, Wayne Gibson and I formed “Wayne-Tom Enterprises”. One of our many projects was making the fiberglass pins. We had a rock saw to cut the rocks and a mold that had 6 Montana shapes. At that time, all pins had to be ordered through the Club Supplies at Lions Clubs International. They couldn’t find a manufacturer so they sold us the Lions emblems to embed in the fiberglass, and allowed us to make the pins. It was a very time-consuming endeavor. There were three (3) layers of fiberglass to each pin, and we were able to produce only six (6) pins each day. We sent between 200 and 300 to Tokyo for the 1969 LCI Convention with Past District Governors Ted Witzel and Lew Arnold to trade for us. The rest of the pins that we had, Wayne and I traded for a few years both as a Club and as a State pin, depending on the label that we inserted. (You will note that the main difference between the Club pin and the State pin is the designation “Bozeman” for the Club and “Montana” for the State.)



Another highly collectible fiberglass pin was the one made by the Kalispell Lions Club in Montana. However, contrary to what was originally assumed, this pin was NOT made from the so-called “Bozeman Moulds”. The Kalispell pins were produced from moulds that were available from local hardware suppliers.



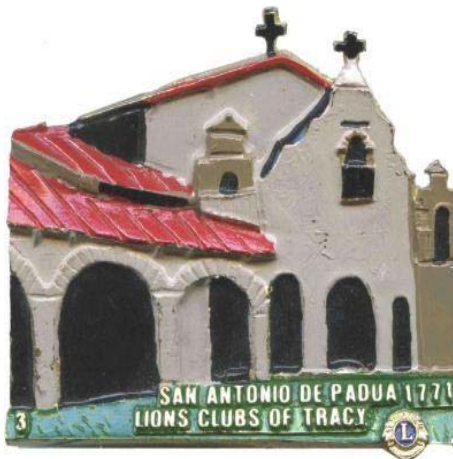
NOTE The Kalispell pin has been slightly enlarged to highlight the “dog face” Lions emblem. This type of emblem is obviously NOT sanctioned by LCI and is considered to be in violation of the registered and copyright provisions exercised by LCI. Once again, as stated in the article by PID Lehman, these pins were not made from the moulds approved by LCI and used in the production of the Montana state pins and the Bozeman Lions Club pins. The emblems in those pins were procured from LCI.



No. 1 San Diego of Alcada



No. 2 San Carlos Borromeo Cammello



No. 3 San Antonio of Paqua



No. 4 San Gabriel Arcangel

The California Missions

by Lion Richard Hall, California

The creation of the California Mission pin set was the joint effort of two California Lions clubs - Tracy and Mt. Eden. The Tracy club began the set by producing the first six pins, and then, for some reason, lost interest. The Mt. Eden club then completed the project. The set consists of 21 pins which show the front of the missions as they exist today, which is a far cry from their appearance when first begun and their existence through the years that followed. The centerpiece of the set is a cut out map of California, with a portrait of Father Junipero Serra (now St. Junipero) in the center. Father Serra is considered the Father of the California Missions. It is his statue that represents California in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

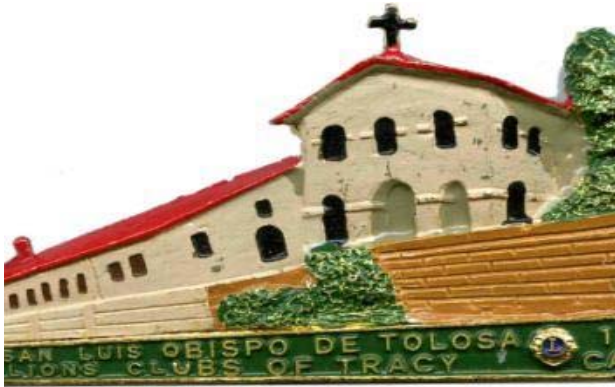
A Brief History of the California Missions

The California Missions were built and operated by the Franciscan Missionaries, beginning in 1769 with Mission San Diego de Acala and ending with Mission San Juan de Solano (now known as the Sonoma Mission, located just north of San Francisco Bay). They were built in no particular geographical order but in those places where there was the largest congregation of Indians, as well as the greatest amount of fertile land. When completed, there was a string of missions beginning in San Diego, and ending in Sonoma. They were spaced between 30 to 50 miles apart, about as far as a person on horseback or wagon could travel in one day. The missions were connected by a single wagon trail and given the very auspicious name of *El Camino Real*, or The Kings Highway. In modern times, this is the basic route of U.S. Highway 101. As the years passed, the missions were more than training grounds for the Indians. Everyone was welcome and could always count on a place to stay overnight and have a good meal.

The California Indians serviced by the missions represented only a small fraction of the Indians living in the State, and were considered by most anthropologists to be the most culturally backward of all American Indians. There was no permanent housing; no crop cultivation; no tailored clothing; and few of the cultural achievements attained by other native peoples of North America. Their only significant accomplishments were their ability to leech the tannic acid from the acorns to make them edible, as acorns were the staple of the Indian diet and were in great supply. They also made the baskets in which to gather the acorns. California Indian baskets are considered by many to be the best ever made by any native group. Small game animals, such as rabbits, squirrels, and other rodents were sometimes eaten when available. Larger game animals were not hunted.

The pins in the set show only the front exteriors of the missions. There was much more to them. The mission itself was built in the form of a square with a central courtyard. The most important part of all missions was the chapel, and was the first thing to be built. Every work day began with a religious service in the chapel, to which everyone was required to attend. They were summoned to worship by bells (some of which were made of wood, as nearly everything made of metal had to be brought in from outside, mainly from impoverished Baja California). The Indians were vigorously taught their catechism, and were severely punished if they did not learn.

The California Missions



No. 5 San Luis Obispo de Tolosa



No. 6 San Francisco de Asis



No. 7 San Juan Capistrano



No. 7 San Juan Capistrano

The arcaded rooms across the front of the mission were the communal living areas (living room, dining room, library, etc.) for the missionaries. Each Father had his own room for work and sleeping. The Indians, who did live in the mission, built their crude huts close to, but outside the mission, and had to come to the mission each day to do their work. The other rooms of the mission were work rooms where the Indians were taught such things as weaving, spinning wool into yarn, pottery making, and other things that could be done indoors. Anything to do with fire was done outside, including the cooking of food. Fire was the greatest danger, even more than earthquakes. The fertile lands were cultivated, mostly in grain which was ground into flour in a grist mill. Cattle were abundant and were used primarily for their hides. The Indians were taught to tan the hides for leather, to render the animal fat into tallow for candles, and to make wine from the vast grape vineyards. There were olive presses to process olives, ovens for baking bread and firing pottery and roof tiles. In short, the missions were virtually self-sufficient.

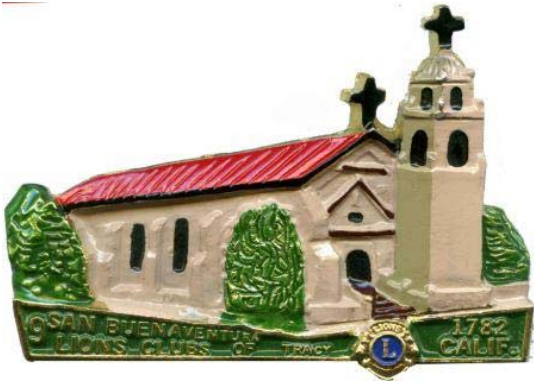
The Indians were not forced to become part of the mission life, but if they volunteered, they were committed as long as the Fathers deemed necessary. The original intent of the program was to teach the Indians a trade or occupation that would make them self sufficient. When that happened, the Indians were to be released from the mission, and returned to regular (Spanish) society as skilled, productive citizens, equipped with the ability to survive in a non-Indian society. Unfortunately, this never happened and the Indians became dependent on the missions. With all their basic physical needs being taken care of, they had little incentive to seek independence or to become self-sufficient. They became like children who were supported by their parents and never really became independent. Furthermore, the mission Fathers may have encouraged it since they had a valuable supply of inexpensive labor from which they had no desire to separate.

Originally, the Indians believed that the mission was their salvation, not only offering them eternal life, but food, shelter, and health care when in extreme need. But to many, it became a blessing in disguise, as some began to realize that mission life was not what they had expected (too much work; too harsh punishment). Some decided to run away, but were hunted down by soldiers stationed at the mission. Although the soldiers detested this service, they severely punished the Indians they caught. The punishment included beatings, amputations, and sometimes death since no punishment was too harsh for the sake of saving a soul.

When Mexico won its independence from Spain in the 1920s (California was a part of Mexico), the missions were converted to secular churches where only regular church services were performed. The Indians were turned away, and all lands, except the mission itself, was confiscated by the State. All but one (Carmel, which was made of stone) of the mission structures fell into nearly complete ruin. Mostly made of unfired adobe brick, there was no one to whitewash the walls regularly to prevent them from disintegrating from the weather. Roofs caved in as their rafters, held in place by rawhide thongs, rotted away. Today all of the missions have been restored to what they were just prior to secularization. All but two belong to the Catholic Church, and while services (mass, weddings, and funerals) are performed there, they are primarily tourist attractions. The two that do not belong to the Catholic Church are La Purisima Concepcion (near Lompoc), and the Mission at Sonoma. These belong to the State of California and are operated as historical museums.

The California Missions

It was the Mission Indians that suffered most from secularization. Christianity and civilized living proved to be artificial cultural skin grafts that never took. When turned away from the missions, most migrated to the city, became derelict and often criminals. None were able to return to their old way of life, nor were they able to successfully fit into any new life. Did the mission experience do the Indians more harm than good? You be the judge.



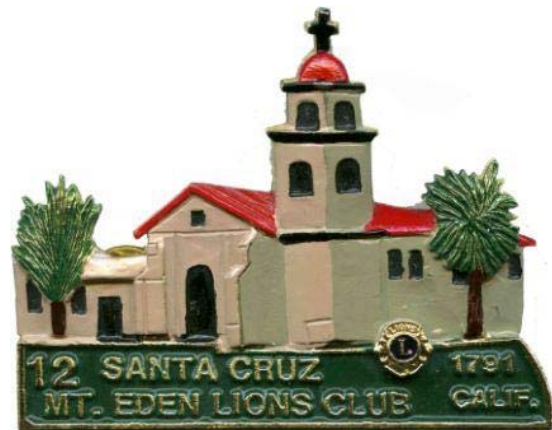
No. 9 San Buenaventura



No. 11 La Purisma Concepcion



No. 10 Santa Barbara



No. 12 Santa Cruz



No. 13 Nuestra Senora de la Soledad



No. 14 San Jose



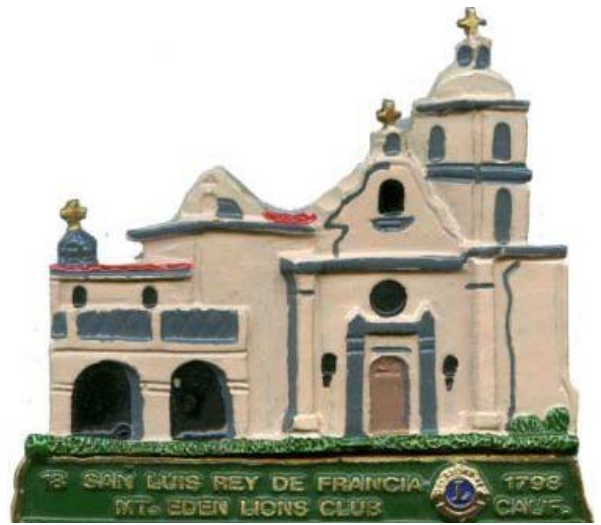
No. 15 San Juan Bautista



No. 16 San Miguel Arcangel



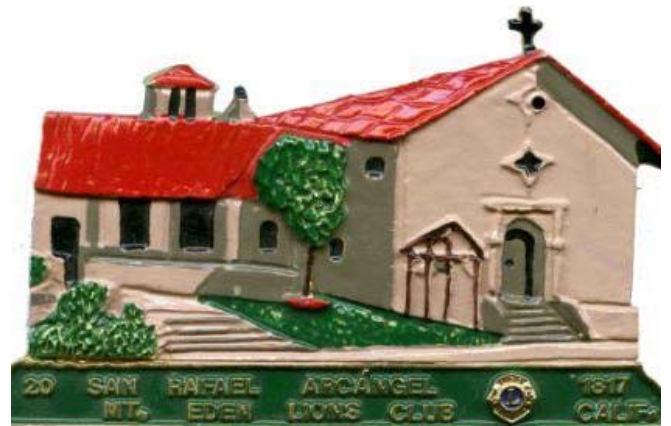
No. 17 San Fernando Rey De Espana



No. 18 Saint Luis Rey De Francia



No. 19 Santa Ines



No. 20 San Rafael Arcangel

The California Missions



No. 21 San Francisco De Solano



The Signature Pin in the California Mission Set

Our explanation of the California Missions is but a very brief history. If you wish to learn more about the Missions, we urge you to check the Internet. You should be able to download as much or as little as desired.