

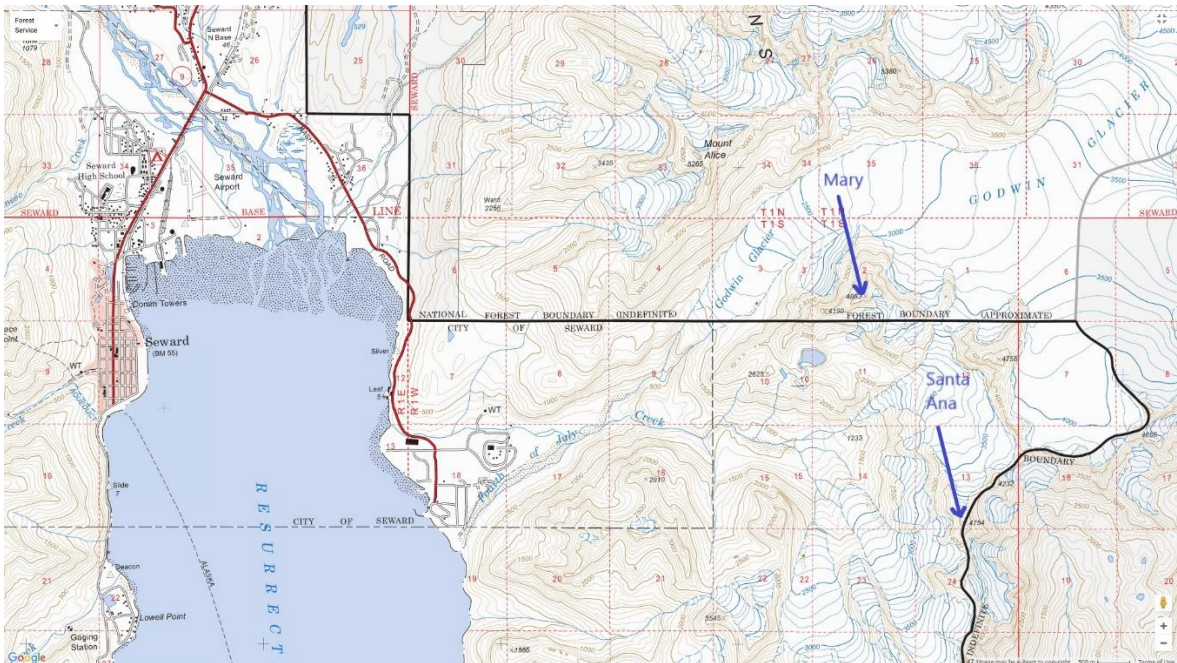
Santa Ana Peak

Santa Ana (4754') is about 2.5 miles southeast of Mount Mary, at the south end of the level glacier area east of Fourth of July Creek.



Santa Ana Peak from the south side of Mount Mary.

The name Santa Ana Peak would be in memory of the steamship which brought the pioneers to Resurrection Bay in 1903 to start the town of Seward. The local Resurrection Peaks, Mount Ascension, and Phoenix Peak reference the historic Russian contacts, and Santa Ana would be intended to follow that pattern and commemorate the arrival of Seward's original permanent settlers.





(photo from internet search)

The S.S. Santa Ana, arriving in Resurrection Bay with the Seward pioneers, 1903.

The Santa Ana, along with sister ships the Jeanie, Santa Clara, Dora and the Excelsior, was owned by E.E. Caine and his Alaska Pacific Navigation Company. The ships regularly plied the waters between Seattle and Alaska, carrying passengers and freight to supply the gold fields, trading, and exploration. John and Frank Ballaine contracted to use the Santa Ana, piloted by Captain Caine, to bring the settlers and supplies to Resurrection Bay when they established the base for their enterprise to build a railroad into the interior of Alaska. The ship arrived on August 28, 1903 with 60 passengers, 14 horses, and construction equipment including a pile driver and a sawmill. The new town which quickly sprang up was soon named Seward, in memory of William H. Seward, who as Secretary of State negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. A rocky headland ten miles south of Seward on the west shoreline was named Caines Head in honor of the Santa Ana's owner and captain.

One hundred and nine years earlier, the first ship constructed on the west coast of North America was built in Resurrection Bay. A party of Russians lead by Alexander Baranov built the ship the Phoenix using local supplies, completing the project in 1794. All evidence of their shipyard and settlement has since been lost. A 5155-foot-high mountain directly west of Seward was named Phoenix Peak in memory of the launching of that important early ship.

It would be entirely appropriate to continue that naming pattern to honor the Ballaine pioneers' ship by placing the name Santa Ana Peak on unnamed Peak 4754, a fine summit visible from the City of Seward.