

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 1, 1951

Revolts Are in Order In November

Once again it is the first of November and another year is almost passed into history. November events of the years gone by which had particular bearing on the history of Monterey will be worth calling attention to this column today.

The first Nov. date we find was on the 16th in 1542 when Cabrillo sighted Monterey Bay, which he called "Bahia de los Pinos," or the "Bay of Pines." Fifteen days previous he discovered the present Santa Lucia Mountains, which he called the "Sierras de San Martin," in virtue of the fact that they were sighted on Saint Martin's Day. On the 18th Cabrillo named the Coast Range the "Sierras Nevadas." The name, identifying the present Sierra first appeared on the map of Father Pedro Font in 1777. (Through Four Centuries).

A great deal happened in Monterey from 1542 until 1770 for other explorers landed in California and came to Monterey but as just the November dates are being considered today, it was not until November 21, 1770 that another important event took place in that month which had to do with the past history of the town. On that date Captain Pedro Fages, with six soldiers and a muleteer, left Monterey for an exploration expedition that led him through the Santa Clara Valley, up the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay to the vicinity of the present city of Alameda and back to Monterey on December 4. Fages' journey was the first inland exploration undertaken from Monterey.

Captain George Vancouver, distinguished English explorer, commanding the sloop-of-war Discovery arrived in San Francisco on November 14, 1792, on the first of three visits to Calif. He stayed in San Francisco for eleven days and then proceeded to Monterey, where he remained until January 14, 1793, he came again to Monterey in 1793 and remained five days. On his third visit he was in Monterey from November 6, 1794 to December 3.

Hypolyte Bouchard, commanding a French privateer carrying the revolutionary flag of Buenos Aires with two frigates, the Argentina or La Gentila, and the Santa Rosa or Liberatad, anchored in Monterey on November 20, 1818. Bouchard attacked the port on the 21st; landed

and captured the town on the 22nd, and departed after looting it on the 26th.

Monterey begins to grow. On November 9, 1822, the first diputacion or provincial legislature in California was elected and installed at Monterey.

On the 22nd of November Capt. Luis Arguello was elected governor to succeed Pablo Sola, who had been thoroughly dissatisfied with his position. He had reached Monterey from Spain on August 30th, 1815, following his appointment as governor.

Disaffected soldiers rebelled, seized Monterey on November 12, 1829, chose Joaquin Solis as leader, and revolted against the Mexican administration in California. The revolt was broken when forces of Governor Jose Maria de Echenandia recaptured Monterey on January 20, 1830.

Revolts seemed to be in order in November for on November 3, 1836, Don Juan Bautista Alvarado and Jose Castro, with one hundred Spanish-Californians, led a revolt against Nicolas Gutierrez at Monterey, instigated by opposition to the Mexican practice of sending Mexicans to rule California when many California leaders were available. Monterey capitulated and Gutierrez surrendered November 5th. Castro occupied the office until November 29, being succeeded by Alvarado as governor.

November 8, 1836 the territorial diputacion, or assembly, of California adopted a declaration of independence from Mexico. The territory, it was declared, was to be known as "the free and sovereign State of California."

November 4, 1841, the first overland train of emigrants to California from mid-western United States, arrived at John Marsh's ranch, Los Medanos. There were thirty-two men, one woman and one child in the party, under the leadership of Captain John Bartleson. Included in the group were John Bidwell, Josiah Beldon and others destined to become celebrated citizens of California. Six days later an emigrant party of 23 men from New Mexico under the leadership of John Rowland and William Workman, arrived at San Gabriel.

Monterey grows. The first regular post office of the United States Post Office Department, was opened in Monterey November 21, 1848.

November 13th, 1849, by a vote of 12,064, to 811, voters of California ratified the State Constitutional

Convention at Monterey on October 13. At the same time they elected Peter H. Burnett as the first constitutional governor.