

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### History Making Month

It was 374 years ago today, June 15, 1579, that Sir Francis Drake, pious English buccaneer, commanding the "Golden Hind" landed at Drake's Bay, north of the present City of San Francisco. Drake took possession of the land for England by setting up a post and nailing a sixpence to it. He christened his discovery "New Albion." While on shore he held a religious service which is the first recorded Christian religious service to be held in California.

Possibly it was because the California weather is at its best in June that so many interesting and historical events have taken place in Monterey during this month. Aside from Sir Francis, many other navigators sailed into Monterey and visited on shore. Sir Francis apparently missed it although someday some historian may yet prove that he visited our shores.

It was on June 29, 1769, 190 years after Drake, that Don Gaspar de Portola, governor of the Californias, arrived in San Diego in advance of the final contingent of the sacred expedition, which he commanded. The following year on June 3, 1770, Portola, assisted by Father Junipero Serra and soldiers, founded the presidio of Monterey and took formal possession of the land in the name of Charles III, King of Spain. The formalities consisted of the planting of the royal standard, the uprooting of plants, and the casting of stones, the later symbolizing the seizing of the territory.

The establishment of the mission San Carlos de Monterey, which in 1771 was moved to the Carmel River and re-named "San Carlos de Borromeo del Carmelo," was also performed on that day. The Monterey mission was the second to be founded by Father Serra in Alta California and was named for Saint Charles Borromeo (1538-1584). Archbishop of Milan and Papal Secretary of State under Pius IV.

Governor Felipe de Neve drafted his subsequently famous "Reglamento," during June of 1779. It was approved October 24, 1781, by the King of Spain, providing a complete code of legislation for the province of the Californias. It detailed laws for the government of the presidios and regulated colonization. Under its provisions the pueblo of San Jose was re-organized and Los Angeles was established.

During June of 1797 Mission San Jose was founded by Father Fermin Francisco Lasuen who named it in honor of Saint Joseph; and Mission San Juan Bautista was begun under the direction of Fathers Lasuen, Martiarena and Catala and named for Saint John the Baptist. They were the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the chain of missions.

On June 26, 1803, Father Lasuen died at Mission San Carlos, where his body was buried. He had founded eight of the missions and had been selected president of the missions following the death of Father Serra.

It was on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1846, that the Bear flag, standard of "The California Republic," was raised over the Plaza at Sonoma following the capture of Col. M.G. Vallejo, Lieut. Col. Victor Prudon and Capt. Salvador Vallejo.

Fifteen years after the raising of the Bear flag, the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California, destined to build the first transcontinental railroad, was organized, with Leland Stanford as president; Collis P. Huntington, vice president; Mark Hopkins, treasurer; James Bentley, secretary; T.D. Judah, chief engineer; and, with those above named E.B. Crocker, John F. Morse, D.W. Strong and Charles Marsh, directors. The capital stock of the company was \$8,500,000.

Ground was broken for the first cable street railway in the world in San Francisco on June 2, 1873. The cable railway was devised by A.S. Hallidie, a San Francisco manufacturer of wire rope, and William Eppelsheimer, mechanical engineer, the first section being built on Clay Street, from Kearney to Jones. The railway was completed and started successful operation in September, 1873.

Yosemite Valley was first opened to travel by wheeled vehicles upon completion of the Coulterville and Yosemite Turnpike Company, on June 17, 1874.