

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Californiana

How many of our readers are interested in what happened in California seventy-five years ago? Certainly some of the old-timers would be and possibly a few of the second generation will be, certainly most of the new-comers would like to know what was happening in their adopted state three quarters of a century ago. From that history we may make interesting comparisons with today.

According to the files of the Grizzly Bear, the publication of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, in 1878 a new bankruptcy law was soon to go into effect, making it more difficult for bankrupts to clear themselves of indebtedness; hence all who had that contingency confronting them hastened to take advantage of the old law.

While most of the applications were for moderate financial failures, several were of sufficient amounts and from citizens of such prominence as to attract statewide importance.

A census of schoolchildren this month showed the state had 205,000 between the ages of 5 and 17. San Francisco claimed 55,899, Los Angeles 10,446, and Sacramento 7,009.

San Joaquin County claimed it had 114,000 acres in wheat, 9,000 in barley, 2,000 in other cereals, 4,000 in hay, 500 in potatoes, and 40 in onions.

Telephones were being installed in several cities in the State, where circuits were organized at a rental of \$10 a year paid in advance. The renter also purchased a bell at \$15.

The citrus industry, at the time in its infancy in the state, was attracting attention. From 309 12-year-old trees, J. De Barth Shorb, prominent horticulturist of Southern California, netted a profit of \$6,334.50, equal to \$20.50 a tree or \$1,435 an acre. His entire crop was sold in San Francisco for \$25 a thousand.

The United States fisheries in 1878 were established in the district of the McCloud River for the purpose of gathering salmon eggs. Thirty men planned to gather 12,000,000 of them to be sent to various parts of the nation during the season.

The Combination Mining Company was organized to wash the sand south of the Cliff House, San Francisco, for gold dust.

Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, director of the California History Foundation of the College of the Pacific at Stockton, has signed a contract with Caxton Printers for the publication of a major new book on California, which will no doubt prove a significant addition to the already impressive list of Californiana from his pen. Publication is anticipated at the end of the year.

This new volume, titled "California in the making," will consist of a collection of Dr. Hunt's papers and essays, covering events of more than a century, most of them published in various periodicals and quarterlies. For example, "Legal Status of California, 1846-1849," appears in the "Annals of the American Academy" in 1898; "Plants that Came Around the Horn for Alameda Gardens" in Overland Monthly in 1907; "Great Women of California" in the Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly in 1949. In all, 23 essays are scheduled to appear, thus affording in a single volume a representative cross-section of the historical output of the prolific author through the years of his activity.