

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Mariposa's Centennial**

From May 7 to 16 the County of Mariposa will hold centennial celebrations honoring also, the anniversary of its court house and of the Mariposa Gazette according to an announcement appearing in "Notes" from the California Historical Society. The latter organization has been invited by Judge Thomas Coakley to hold its May meeting in Mariposa, and the board of directors has accepted the invitation.

Other organizations meeting in Mariposa at the same time will be the State Mining Board, the Western Mining Council, the board of governors of the State Bar Association, the directors and City Attorneys' Division of the League of California Cities, the Conference of State Judges, and the California Newspaper Publishers and California Press associations. The Supreme Court will call calendar during the week, as will the District Court of Appeals, Third District. The Historical Society's meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16.

The annual meeting of the California Historical Society will be held during a luncheon meeting on Friday, Jan. 22, at 12 noon in the Comstock Room of the Palace Hotel. Immediately following the business meeting and election of officers, Walter L. Huber, who has just completed a term as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, will speak, appropriately, on "One Hundred Years of Engineering in California."

The announcement of the centennial of the Mariposa Gazette brought us to the search of information regarding early California newspapers previous to the establishment of the Gazette. The Californian, published first in Monterey as the first newspaper in California, was followed, we have found, by the Star, which was published regularly each week until June 10, 1848, and was suspended on account of the gold excitement as announced in an extra sheet of June 14. Then the Alta California, put in its appearance on Jan. 1849, and became subsequently one of California's leading newspapers for many years.

Herbert Fahey of San Francisco tells us in his "Early Printing in California" that the Sacramento Transcript published a series of articles beginning in October, 1850, giving the history of the California press up to that date. He states that from May 26, when the Star ceased

publication, until the latter part of June there was no newspaper printed in California.

In the latter part of June, a party of young printers from the mines re-established the Californian. In September of that year Kimble, who had published the Star, returned from the mines and purchased the California Star and the Californian. The combined papers then took the name The California Star and Californian. It expired in December, 1848.

The Placer Times was probably the next paper in the state. It was founded in New Helvetia in April 1849, by Kimble. The Pacific News, a tri-weekly, appeared on August 25, 1849. At that time the supply of paper became very short and often times it was with extreme difficulty that enough was procured to enable the Pacific News to appear. As high as \$60 a ream was paid, relates Mr. Fahey in his history of the publishing business before 1850. In the States it could be purchased for \$2.50. It is told that at one time the Pacific News obtained a few reams of tea-paper from a physician, who had used it to wrap drugs.

The News continued its tri-weekly publication until it became a daily on March 4 of '49. In the first month of 1850 W. Bartlett started The Journal of Commerce, a daily, and so the Alta California also began publication as a daily, followed by the Pacific News on March 4. At this period, we learn, there were four papers in California – Alta California, a daily; The Placer Times, a weekly; The Pacific News and The Journal of Commerce dailies.

During March of 1850 The Stockton Times was started. By April The Sacramento Transcript appeared as a tri-weekly. In June the Transcript became the first daily out of San Francisco, followed 10 days later by The Placer Times. The San Francisco Herald was established on June 1 and just one month later the California Courier made its appearance.

The first evening newspaper in California was The Evening Picayune, appearing on July 25, 1850. The Sonoma Herald was founded July 4<sup>th</sup> and The Marysville Herald on August 6 as a semi-weekly. The first of the semi-monthly publications was the California Illustrated News, which appeared first on September 1.

The first steam press, Hoe's Napier press, arrived in San Francisco, May 1850, and was first used on the Alta California, July 4.