

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 4, 1954

In Other Octobers

On the 13th day of this month 1849 California's first constitution was adopted by the delegates elected to the constitutional convention held in Colton Hall in Monterey. The constitution established the boundary of the state, provided for the election of executive, legislative and judicial officials, created a system of taxation and ordered the foundation of public schools.

On the 10th of October, 1849, joint boundary commissions of the United States and Mexico established the southern border between Mexico and California, in L. Lat 33-31-58-59 and W. Long. 7-48. 20-1 (a marine league south of San Diego Bay), whence it was to run in a straight line easterly to the converging of the Colorado and Gila rivers.

Another important date in the history of California falls on Oct. 18, 1850, for it was that day that the first news of the admission of California to the Union reached San Francisco with the arrival of the mail steamer Oregon. It was written that the people were so overjoyed that they at once planned an informal and impromptu celebration, business was suspended, a procession forms, and bands played. A formal celebration of the event took place on Oct. 29 when a new star was added to the flag flying in the plaza.

California's present state capital, Sacramento, had its beginning on Oct. 14, 1848, when John Sutter transferred his property about Sutter's Fort to his son, John Sutter Jr. Immediately thereafter, young Sutter founded the modern city of Sacramento along the embarcadero of the Sacramento River, three miles below the site of the original Sutterville. The city adopted its first charter on Oct. 13, 1849.

On Oct. 8, 1860, according to information supplied by Phil Townsend Hanna in "California Through Four Centuries," the first telegraph line between San Francisco and Los Angeles was opened with a flowery message of congratulations from the editor of the San Francisco Bulletin. It was a year later, Oct. 24, 1861, that the first transcontinental message was transmitted across the United States. The overland telegraph line built westward from Omaha and eastward from Placerville, was joined at Salt Lake City. The line was built by the Western Union Co. under an annual subsidy

for ten years of \$40,000 a year, plus a grant of a quarter-section of land for every 15 miles of line constructed.

By an Act of Congress on Oct. 1, 1890, we have today Yosemite National Park., a preservation of a valley of unusual beauty created by glacial action, waterfalls, big trees and wildlife. The park contains 1,176.16 square miles, of which the valley proper contains but eight square miles. The valley was discovered in 1831 by Maj. James D. Savage, who led an expedition into the Sierra in pursuit of marauding Indians. By another Act of Congress on the same day, the Gen. Grant National Park was created to preserve the remaining specimens of Big Trees (*Sequoia gigantea*). This park is four miles square.

Sixty-three years ago on Oct. 1, opening exercises of Leland Stanford Jr. University were held. The University was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford in memory of their son, who died in 1884. A date important to the women of the state is Oct. 10, 1911 when California voters ratified a legislative enactment providing suffrage for women. The first woman in California to exercise the privilege of equal suffrage was Mrs. Sadie E. McLeod, wife of a Stockton publisher, who on Nov. 14, 1911, cast her vote in a municipal election held to determine whether or not the city of Stockton should install and maintain an electric lighting system in the business district.

Another date of interest to women fell on Oct. 30, 1911, when San Antonio township drew the first venire of women ever called for jury duty in California. Thirty-six names were drawn, all women, and not one of them refused to serve.