

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Mariposa's Centennial

Citizens of Mariposa County are going all out this year to welcome visitors from throughout the West to help them celebrate the centennial of their historic courthouse. The observance will start on Friday, May 7, and continue through Monterey, May 17.

Tied in with the community celebration is the observance of the Centennial of the Mariposa Gazette, the oldest weekly newspaper in California in continuing publication, and a meeting of the members of E. Campus Vitus – a fun-loving charitable organization of men which dates its beginning to the Gold Rush Days.

According to the announced schedule of events, the opening day, May 7, will be Mother Lode Day, featured by sessions of the Mother Lode Highway Association; the Golden Chain Council of Mother Lode Counties, Inc.; various other Mother Lode groups including chambers of commerce, the California Newspaper Publishers Assn. and the California Press Assn. Charlie Palmer of Madera, a veteran newspaperman, will be there with his old-time press and exhibit. Palmer will be remembered in Monterey for his exhibit in the Old Custom House plaza during the 1946 centennial celebration of the raising of the American flag.

On Saturday, in addition to the second-day meetings of the above groups, there will be a gathering of members of E. Campus Vitus from throughout the state, and a conclave of the California Horsemen's Assn. William J. Crabbe of Pacific Grove is an enthusiastic member of the James Marshall Lodge, No. 49, of the Clampers of Hangtown (Placerville). Other members of that group are Guy S. Curtis, Frank Gilbert, Frank Stuart, William Beattie, W.R. Holman and Fred Diefendorf, all of the Monterey Peninsula.

For the most part all Clampers have one thing in common, that is, an appreciation of the good things of life and the ability to laugh and have a good time.

Another trait in common is an abundant appreciation for the part played in history by those who built this land – with little or no thought for posterity. The present day Clampers have kept the organization alive to preserve the "spirit of the days of gold."

On Sunday the Clampers will journey to Hornitos for a "brunch". The "Notis" reviews briefly participation by

the Clampers in the program of the centennial, ending with: "Wash up, brush up, and present yourself prior to 2:30 p.m. on May 8, at the Mariposa County Courthouse fully attired in your wife's idea of a 49-er costume, and carrying your idea of a typical article of miner's equipment or tools."

Rotary International and the California State Board of Agriculture will dominate the program on Monday. Tuesday the Merced Trade Club and the California Youth Authority will take over and on Wednesday no fewer than six of the state's leading legal and bar associations will hold their sessions in the courthouse along with the Legal Advisory Committee of the Supervisors Association of California. The State Forestry Board will join the groups on Thursday. The following day the members of the California Historical Society and the Society of California Pioneers will arrive on the historic scene to hold important meetings.

At Frogtown, south of Angels Camp, the annual Jumping Frog Jubilee will hold the center of the stage at the Calaveras County Fair, with the finals of the international frog jump scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, May 23.

In Columbia, now a State Historical Monument, preparations are being made for the observance of the community's 104th birthday with the highlight of a three-day celebration scheduled for Saturday afternoon, May 22, when state officials and officers of Wells Fargo Bank and Union Trust Company of San Francisco gather in the town for the official dedication of the recently restored Wells Fargo Express office building.