

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### Key November Dates

Let's go back a few hundred years and remember that it was Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain, who discovered California. Since there has been so much recent comment as to the nationality and the sponsorship of this famous navigator, we think that this month is the appropriate time to discuss this important event in California history, for it was in November that Cabrillo first saw Monterey Bay. We also feel that along with Father Serra, Portola, and others, we should have an historical marker somewhere to the memory of Cabrillo. He is credited by most historians as the discoverer of our state.

Cabrillo set sail for Spain, commanding two vessels, the San Salvador, and the Victoria, and on Sept. 28, 1542 he entered and discovered the present Bay of San Diego, naming it San Miguel.

On Nov. 16, 1542 Cabrillo sighted Monterey Bay, which he called "Bahia de los Pinos," or "Bay of Pines." Two days later Cabrillo named the Coast Range the "Sierras Nevada." The name, identifying the present Sierra, first appears on the map of Father Pedro Font in 1770.

Cabrillo died at La Posesion (Cuyler's Harbor) on the present San Miguel Island. In the Santa Barbara chain of islands, from a broken arm, probably infected, which he suffered in a shore journey to the island. Cabrillo was buried on the island, but his grave has never been found.

Cabrillo discovered the present Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands. He went ashore on one of them, but history does not tell us which one. He named the former "San Salvador" and the latter "Victoria" after the two vessels which he commanded at that time.

Another Portuguese navigator, Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeno, in the service of Spain, commanding the San Augustin, under orders to survey ports on the northwest coast of America that might afford protection to the Spanish galleons, sighted California in the vicinity of Cape Mendocino, Nov. 4, 1595. His ship was wrecked in what today we call Drake's Bay but which he called San Francisco Bay. He proceeded south in a small boat, missed the Golden Gate, and sighted the present Bay of Monterey, which he called San Pedro Bay. He did not land here.

Still another November date which is important in Monterey history is the arrival of Sebastian Vizcaino in San Diego on the 12th of the month. It was Vizcaino who discovered the Santa Catalina Island and named it. The following December he anchored in Monterey Bay. The port was named "Monterey" in honor of Gaspar de Zuniga y Acedo (Count de Monterrey), viceroy of Mexico. Vizcaino also discovered and named the Carmel River.

Add another November date to the history of Monterey. On Nov. 21, 1770, Capt. Pedro Fages, with six soldiers and a muleteer, left Monterey for an exploration through the Santa Clara Valley. They traveled up the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay and back to Monterey, which he reached Dec. 4. That journey was the first inland exploration undertaken from Monterey.

Twenty-two years later on Nov. 14, 1792, Capt. George Vancouver, distinguished English explorer, arrived in California. He anchored the sloop of war, "Discoverer" in San Francisco for eleven days, then proceeded on to Monterey where he remained for five days. He included his findings and experiences of that journey in a book "A Voyage of Discovery" to the North Pacific Ocean and Round The World," which was published in London in 1798.

Forty-eight years later, a November date of importance occurs again, Nov. 20, 1818, Hippolyte Bouchard; commanding French privateer, carrying the revolutionary flag of Buenos Aires, with two frigates, the Argentina and La Gentila, and the Santa Rosa or Liberted, anchored at Monterey. Bouchard attacked the port on the 21<sup>st</sup>; landed and captured the town on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; and departed on the 26th.

The standard of Mexico replaced the Spanish flag on April 11, 1822 in Monterey. The ceremony was conducted by Gov. Pablo Vicente Sola, his officers and soldiers at the Presidio of Monterey. Thus, California ceased forever as a province of Spain and became part of the future Mexican Republic. Nov. 2, 1822, the first "diputacion" or provincial legislature in California was elected and installed at Monterey. That same month Capt. Luis Arguello was elected governor. He reached Monterey August 30th, 1815.