

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Benicia Capitol Dedication**

A celebration marking the restoration of the early California State Capitol Building at Benicia is being announced by a committee formed in that city. The building will be dedicated as a California State Historical Monument, during a celebration to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 14, 15 and 16, in Benicia, Solano County.

The entire celebration will depict the years of early California history and especially of 1853-54, when the old State Capitol Building housed the State Legislature of California, having previously been at San Jose, following the first Constitutional Convention in Colton Hall in Monterey in 1849.

An old-fashioned "torch-light" parade at 8 p.m., Friday, March 14, will be one of the main attractions of the gala celebration. We were amused to read that the committee does not want participants to bring any majorettes - all participants must be in the costumes of the period.

October 27, 1958 will be the Centennial birthdate of the youngest man ever to be President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. The year 1958 has been designated by an act of Congress and an act of the California State Legislature as the centennial year of this great liberal president. Commissions have been set up to arrange suitable observances.

The legislature created a commission of seven members who were given an appropriation of \$5,000 to use in the encouragement of appropriate celebrations. Roosevelt was interested in many things of significance to the West, but probably the most important was in the area of conservation. He was the first president to recognize the need for conserving our natural resources. It was through his efforts that conservation became popular and many states undertook to assist the federal government in its efforts.

Theodore Roosevelt is credited with building the Panama Canal, raising the United States Navy from a third to a first, class power, forcing large, selfish corporations to submit to government control, personally assisting in winning the Spanish-American War, and popularizing many aspects of conserving the resources of the nation, according to an item published

in the Newsletter of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

The Del Norte County Historical Society publication announces the society is in the process of placing two markers on historical sites. The first at the Crescent City end of the New Road to Oregon via Low Divide which was completed in 1858, and the other is at Indian Village near Pebble Beach. It is nice to have our very northern neighbors interested in perpetuating the history in Monterey County.

The Monterey History and Art Assn., with the assistance of City Manager Al Coons and the Monterey street department, have just completed an attractive arrangement of native boulders and planting in Don Dahvee Park just off Munras avenue. Very soon a bronze marker will be placed on the largest boulder naming the park as follows: "Don Dahvee Park, presented to the City of Monterey by the Misses L., M., and V. Jacks, in memory of their father, David Jacks, October, 1953. Marker erected by the Monterey History and Art Association."

Myron Oliver was chairman of the committee from the association and the original plan for the marker was designed by Arthur Hill Gilbert. The large boulder was obtained in Pacific Grove and the smaller rocks from the ranch of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McFadden in the upper San Clemente. Yukio and Mollie Sumida of the Cypress Nursery gave the native plants for the planting and William Mitsuo gave his time to assist in the arrangement which has made a most attractive setting for the memorial to David Jacks. As soon as the bronze plaque arrives the marker will be completed and dedicated.