

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Overland Mail Days**

Many organizations and individuals, coast to coast, will join in celebrating the Butterfield Overland Mail Centennials this coming fall. The Post Office Department, St Louis, Tipton, Mo., and San Francisco, and a chain of cities and post offices in between will participate.

Historical societies, chambers of commerce, and eight Overland Mail States with numerous committees including descendants of Butterfield. Ormsby and other great names associated with the 1958 Overland Mail, will cooperate in celebrating the Overland Mail contract to John Butterfield and associates and the great century of postal progress that followed.

Many of the events will take place in connection with a Centennial Carnival scheduled to move from Tipton, Mo., to San Francisco, between Sept. 16th and Oct. 10th. It will proceed on a daily schedule and a modern route as nearly as it can be projected on the schedule and trail of the first westbound Butterfield Stage.

The caravan will be composed of several units which will negotiate the entire 2,800-mile trek, and many local units which will travel all or part of the state trails. Nightly stops will be made at two "corral cities" where special events and programs will be enacted.

Overland mail days will be declared by gubernatorial proclamation in each of the states through which the Butterfield Trail passed. The days designated will be those during which the Centennial Caravan is actually crossing the state concerned. The first of these proclamations was issued April 30th by Gov. Raymond Cary of Oklahoma designating Sept 19 and 20 as Overland Mail Days in that state. California's Overland Mail Days will be Oct 6 to 10.

A unique feature of the Centennial will be the preview showing of a documentary film "The Butterfield Trail" in each of the "corral cities" along the way. Caravan director H. W. Moore of Eureka Springs, Ark., and Hollywood has been compiling material over a period of years for an educational film to be released next year for public school use. It will picture in a dramatic way the story of the Butterfield Trail, following the Ormsby ride with the first westbound mail pouch. First preview will be at Tipton, Mo., Sept 15, on the eve of the

caravan departure for the Golden Gate; last preview will be at San Francisco, Oct. 10.

Somewhere out of Texas (at Bowie, or San Angelo, or some other point not yet determined) the longest pioneer trail in the world (Butterfield), will intersect the longest modern highway (Inter-American). The program at this point will be a Salute to Latin America.

In line with this gesture, various centennial events are focused toward friendly feelings for our Latin-American neighbors. At Bolivar, Mo., for instance, the California Committee will present the city with a memento of Simon Bolivar; the great South American liberator, associated with the organization of his 1816 Expedition of Liberation. And, as an overall gesture, any net proceeds from the previews the Butterfield documentary film will be contributed for promotion of unfinished links of Inter-American Highway.

The California committee has already entered two units: The State Unit will make the 2,800-mile trek with a portable exhibit of Overland Mail Books and Authors. The Anvil Unit is a covered wagon-Butterfield's Traveling Blacksmith Shop and Museum. It will be equipped with anvils for ringing salutes along the way as a part of California's contribution to the national program. The unit will be operated by members of El Clampus Vitus, and is being prepared by Clamper Al Ferris of Huntington Park.