

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### 1770 Report

"Noticias de California" the first report of the occupation of California by the Portola Expedition, 1770, is the latest publication of the Book Club of California. The publication includes two facsimiles of the original printings, a new translation, two contemporary maps, an early view of the Presidio of Monterey, and a narrative of "How it All Came to Pass," by George P. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkley.

This is the "Extracto de Noticias" printed in Mexico in 1770 – an abstract or summary of the news that Galvez' plans to found a Mission and Presidio (called San Carlos) on Monterey Bay, and to take possession of California, had met with success. In searching for Monterey Bay, the expedition discovered the Bay of San Francisco, soon to become the site of Mission Dolores and the City of San Francisco. Both the folio and the quarto editions of the "Extracto," issued during the same in week in 1770, are printed in facsimile, accomplished by an English translation and narrative by Dr. Hammond. Also reproduced are two unusual maps.

Dr. Hammond writes in his "Why and How Spain settled California:" . . . "In this way Portola and Serra founded the royal mission and presidio at Monterey - San Carlos de Monterey - June 3, 1770. The anniversary of the founding is now celebrated by the citizens of the old city, proud of their historical heritage (sponsored by Monterey History and Art Assn.) Indeed, Monterey is the city which perhaps better than any other in California bears the marks of its glorious past."

On the 14th day of June, Commander Don Gaspar de Portola dispatched couriers by land to the Presidio of Loreto with the welcome tidings of the occupation of Monterey and the establishment there of the Mission and the Presidio of San Carlos. The tidings bore the news that abundant supplies, equipment, and provisions for a whole year were left for the new Presidio and Mission of San Carlos de Monterey, and for the purpose of establishing another mission at a suitable distance, under the patronage of San Buenaventura.

"It is presumed that Don Pedro Fagas, lieutenant of the Catalonian Volunteers who remained as military

commander of those new establishments with more than 30 men," the report continued, "will by this date have been joined by the captain of the Presidio of Loreto, Don Fernando de Rivera, with 19 more soldiers and the herdsmen and muleteers. They are bringing 200 head of cattle and an additional supply from the new mission of San Fernando de Vilicata, situated beyond the frontier of California, as formerly defined. Capt. Rivera left that place on April 14, bound for the aforementioned ports of San Diego and Monterey." Father Pator's "Noticias" reports May 23rd instead of April 14th, as the departing date for California by this expedition.

The Noticias announces that orders have been received for the San Antonio to return to San Blas at the end of October, and to make a third voyage from that port for the purpose of bringing additional stores as well as 30 missionaries from the College of San Fernando of the last group that camp from Spain.

This will enable new missions to be established in that, extensive and fertile country explored by the land expedition from the old frontier of California to the Port of Monterey, and make it possible to take advantage of the fortunate opportunity presented by the gentleness and good will of that great host of heathen Indians who dwell in Northern California."

In another translation of the Spanish version of the "Noticias" there is further comment on the Indians here: "In proof of the kindly nature which is characteristic of that vast and docile body of heathens, Commander Don Gaspar de Portola assures us - and in this the other officers and the missionary fathers concur – that our Spaniards are as free from danger at Monterey as if they were in this very capital. Nevertheless, the new presidio has been left sufficiently garrisoned with troops, artillery, and abundant munitions of war. And the Rev. Father President of the Missions, Fray Junipero Serra, assigned to the one at Monterey, sets out in minute detail and attests with great satisfaction the friendliness of the Indians and the promise they had already given to entrust their children to him for instruction in the mysteries of Our Holy Catholic Faith."