

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **More February Dates**

Division gates were closed at Boulder Dam on Feb. 1, 1935. and the storage of water was begun. The engineers claimed that it would take three years to fill the huge man-made lake, during which time work would progress on the power houses and other construction as well as landscaping the surrounding grounds to add to the enjoyment of the tourists viewing the huge reservoir.

Death Valley National Monument in Inyo County was created by presidential proclamation on Feb. 11, 1933 to protect the numerous scenic and geographical curiosities of the lowest and hottest valley in the United States. It is surprising to note that the valley contains 1,601,800 acres.

Another important historical event happened in California 26 years ago on Feb. 26 when the first spadeful of earth was turned in the construction of the Golden Gate bridge at San Francisco.

"The bridge is to be one mile long," news stories of that date reported, "and will connect by direct highway San Francisco and the northern coast counties"

Forty-four years ago, on Feb 20, 1915, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition formerly opened on the Marina in San Francisco, to commemorate the completion of the Panama Canal. Exhibits were sent from all over the world, which, at the time, was considered remarkable in view of the fact that war was raging in Europe. The exposition closed on Dec. 4 the same year. The exposition at San Diego had opened on Jan. 1, 1915 at dawn by telegraphic signal by President Woodrow Wilson.

The California State Legislature adopted the Bear Flag, first raised on June 14, 1846, as the standard of "California Republic," on Feb. 3, 1911.

Going back a bit further in California's history, to Feb. 4, 1908, we find that the production of the first motion-picture for exhibition purposes was started in Los Angeles. Francis Boggs, director, and Thomas Parsons, cameraman, rented a Chinese laundry at Seventh and Olive streets and there began to film a one-reel production, "Across the Divide."

Previously a motion-picture had been made on May 3, 1904, by Roy Knabenshue's old dirigibles at Chutes Park, but as this was not made for commercial purposes, the motion-picture industry in California is considered to have started in 1908. We have quoted these facts from Phil Townsend Hannah's book, "California, Through Four Centuries."

A bill making the "Escholtzia" (golden poppy) the California State flower was passed by the State Legislature on Feb. 16, 1903. The poppy was classified first by Echoltz a German botanist, from specimens gathered by his friend Adelbert von Chamisso, who accompanied Kotzebue's expedition to California in 1818.