

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 20, 1961

What Are Our State Colors?

Do you know . . . California's official state colors?

They are a combination of blue and gold, adopted by the State Legislature in 1951. The State Motto is "Eureka" which appears on the Seal. The State Flag is the Bear Flag adopted by the State Legislature in 1911. The State animal is the California Grizzly adopted by the Legislature in 1953. The California state tree is the redwood chosen in 1937, and the state bird is the California Valley Quail adopted in 1931. The oldest State official insignia is the Golden Poppy chosen in 1903. Our state fish is the South Fork Golden Trout adopted in 1947. No State insect has been adopted by the Legislature, but the California Dog-face Butterfly is supported by the California Conservation Council. The insect was selected in 1929 by a vote of the entomologists in the state.

"I Love You California" was officially adopted by the State Legislature as the State song in 1951. A state nickname has not officially been chosen but "Golden State" has been popularly used for many years.

The Tuolumne County Historical Society published its first Quarterly this month at Sonoma, California. The leading article concerns the life and history of Colonel B. F. Moore, compiled by Margaret Hanna Lang, formerly a resident of Monterey and now making her home in the country between Sonoma and Columbia.

Col. Moore was one of the first to draw the attention of the new territory of California to Tuolumne, aside from gold, writes Mrs. Lang. When General Bennet Riley called the convention at Monterey September 1, 1849, to frame a constitution for the newly acquired territory, Col. Moore was elected one of the delegates from the District of San Joaquin. At the time of the convention he was 29 years old, the only delegate to list his profession as "gentleman of elegant leisure," no doubt, satisfying a life-long ambition.

Three buildings - a carriage house, state coach house and stables - have become additional attractions at the Governor's Palace at Colonial Williamsburg. The newly reconstructed buildings were opened to the public at the eighteenth-century capital of Virginia May 20. The Governor's Palace is the most popular of all the colonial buildings at Williamsburg according to visitation totals.

The three reconstructed buildings mark the completion of all major structures known to have existed on the property in the eighteenth century.

At the 44th annual meeting the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments submitted to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall a resolution recommending that two historic structures in Sacramento, California, be preserved. The buildings, now threatened with demolition for highway construction are the Pony Express terminal and the Big Four house, where the Western end of the first transcontinental railway was planned. The board suggested that the buildings be listed as eligible for Registered National Monuments status and recommended that the governor of California be "advised and urged" to protect them against impending destruction. Both structures are located in a rundown section of the city scheduled for redevelopment.