

February 8, 1963

### **'Historic' Seaside High**

Seaside High School buildings were officially named after prominent early Californians who are still identified with historic events in Monterey in the late 1840's and the early 1850's. Among those who will be thus honored are: Francis Doud, Samuel Hopkins Willey, Gen. Richard B. Mason, Gen. Bennett Riley, Peter H. Burnett, Gen. Henry Walker Halleck, Robert Baylor Semple, Maj. Robert Seldon Garnett. The decision to thus honor these men was made Jan. 21 at a meeting of the board of the Monterey Union High School District.

The music building will be named for Francis Doud whose grandchildren and great - grandchildren still are residents of the Monterey Peninsula. Francis Doud was sergeant - at - arms of the Constitutional Convention held in Colton Hall in 1849. He was born in Ireland and came to California when he was 18 years old. He immediately enlisted in the U. S. Army and served in Florida during the Seminole War. He served under Gen. Bennett Riley during the Mexican War and fought through the Battles of Monterey and Vera Cruz. Because of wounds, he was discharged in 1848 and settled in Monterey. During this time, he became a close friend of Robert Louis Stevenson; renewed his friendship with Gen. Riley and helped found the Bank of Salinas.

The library is to be known as the Samuel Hopkins Willey Library. Willey was an ordained minister who came to Monterey to open a mission. Monterey was at that time the residence of the governor and Army headquarters, and Willey remained until the importance of the place passed from the organization of a state government. During this time, he became the first schoolmaster of Colton Hall and established what was probably the first library in California. He served as chaplain of the Constitutional Convention which opened Sept. 1, 1849. He established and was pastor for 12 years of the Howard Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and took an active part in the establishment of schools. Soon after his arrival in California he became interested in founding a college. On the 13th of April 1855, the legislature incorporated the College of California in Berkeley, which he had founded with Henry Durant. He became a trustee, vice president and acting president until 1869. He was regent for 40 years.

Gen. Richard B. Mason will be remembered by the Mason Gymnasium. He was the first military and civil governor of California. In 1817 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 8th Infantry of the regular Army. On July 31, 1819, he was made a captain of the 1st Infantry, which participated in the Black Hawk War. Mason accompanied Gen. Kearney on his conquest of New Mexico and California. Upon the resignation of Kearney, Mason relieved him and became military commander of that region. His report at Monterey, Aug. 17, 1848, remains today the most authentic and descriptive story of the gold deposits in California, especially at Sutter's Fort.

The stadium in the future will be known as Gen. Bennett Riley Stadium. Riley was military governor of California in 1849. He was commissioned on Jan. 19, 1813. Until 1848, when he was transferred with his regiment to California, he spent 25 years fighting Indians, in the Black Hawk War and the Mexican War. In 1848 he was assigned the important command of the military department on the Pacific and became , ex-officio provincial governor of California. In 1849 he convened the constitutional assembly at Monterey which drew up the first Constitution for California and applied for admission to the Union. His able direction of affairs of this critical time greatly hastened the formation of the new state government in which he relinquished his authority in November 1849.

Robert Baylor Semple will be honored with his name upon the entrance to the industrial arts building. Semple, was a printer who, with Walter Colton, established and published the Californian, first newspaper in the state, at Monterey. He studied dentistry, law and medicine and in 1825 he traveled west from Independence, Mo., and came to Sutter's Fort. He joined Fremont's dragoons, only to resign to establish the weekly Californian in 1864. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and was chosen as its president.

The arts and crafts building will bear the name of Maj. Robert Seldon Garnett, who designed and drew the great seal of California. He graduated from West Point in 1841 was assistant instructor in Infantry tactics at West Point, 1843-1844, participated in the military occupation of Texas and the Mexican War; 1852-54 he was commandant of cadets and instructor in military tactics. When the Civil War broke out, he resigned from the Army and entered the service of Virginia. He was

commissioned brigadier general and given command of the Confederate troops. He was killed while directing a retreat from the forces under the command of Gen. McClellan.

The name of the first governor of California, Peter H. Burnett, has been chosen as the name for the special classroom. Burnett was a pioneer of California and Oregon. He had moved from Oregon to California in 1848 because of the Gold Rush and became general agent for John A. Sutter Jr. In 1849 he left the employ of Sutter and was appointed by Gen. Bennett Riley as judge of the superior tribunal of California. He took an active part in the movement for statehood and in the election, which ratified the Constitution was chosen governor. He resigned this post on Jan. 9, 1851, to follow the practice of law, and later with Sam Brannan and Joseph Winans, founded and became president of the Pacific Bank.

The general discussion classroom will be known by the name of Henry Wager Halleck. He was a signer of the California Constitution, an Army lieutenant and secretary of state under Gen. Mason and Riley. He resigned from the service in 1854, completed his study of law and became head of the leading law firm in California. He was director-general of the New Almaden, quicksilver mine, president of the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad, and major general in the California militia. He was commissioned major general in the regular Army by President Lincoln. Gen. U.S. Grant succeeded Halleck as chief of staff of the Union Armies. Halleck became commander of the Department of the Pacific in 1865. He died in 1869.

(Material supplied by the Committee on Research, Myron Greene, principal of Seaside School, chairman.)