

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Historians Busy

What is being done in communities other than our own? Let's take a look today.

Nevada County residents opened a museum in downtown Nevada City on March 15 of this year, dealing entirely with Indian life in California. They have assembled a fine collection of Indian artifacts, according to the chairman, Sven Skaar, and will keep the museum open seven days a week with no charge.

A covered bridge was honored on the 23rd of May at Bridgeford, Nevada County, with a bronze plaque and made a historical landmark by the California State Park Commission with the Nevada County Historical Society and the William B. Meek – William E. Stewart Chapter No. 10 of E. Clampus Vitus cooperating.

The Sunnyvale Historical Society reports that the site of the first mission in the Santa Clara Valley was recently marked. The Santa Clara de Thamien was established by Franciscan Padres Thomas De La Pena and Joseph Antonio Nurguia, Jan. 12, 1777. The marker reads, in part: "Here at the Indian village of So-Co-Is-U-K, they erected a cross the shelter of worship and brought Christianity to the Costanoan Indians."

The Society of California Pioneers, San Francisco, recently received the deed of the site of the old D. Ghirardelli Co. store through Mr. Harvey Ghirardelli. This general merchandise store in Hornitos was owned by Domingo Ghirardelli during the 1860's.

The Tulare County Historical Society reports that the Cramer House, built over a century ago, is almost back together again. The society moved the old house, from its original location on the North Tule River, to Mooney Grove and re-erected it. It was once a stage station, inn, post office, and possibly a hideout for train robbers.

The Mono County ghost town of Bodie became a state park in 1956. On Sept. 12th, two plaques will be placed in Bodie, one a national historic site plaque, the other a California State Historical site marker.

Mrs. Ella Cain, born in Bodie in 1882, writes in the foreword of her book, "The Story of Bodie," that the town deserved and sustained its reputation of being the most lawless, the wildest and toughest mining camp the Far West has ever known. An historical society is being

formed in Mono County at the present time to assist in the marking and dedication of the plaques in Bodie.

On Tuesday, April 28, a bronze plaque commemorating the site of the first Pacific Coast salmon cannery as a national historic landmark was placed on the Yolo County side of the Sacramento River opposite the foot of K Street in Sacramento. Undersecretary of the Interior James K. Carr unveiled the plaque. Senator E.L. Bartlett of Alaska was the speaker at the luncheon following the dedication.

At its meeting in Vallejo on July 7, the Solano County Historical Society participated in the keel-laying of the USS "General Mariano G. Vallejo," the Navy's largest Polaris submarine. The date was selected because it was the 156th anniversary of Gen. Vallejo's birth in Monterey. This singular honor to General Vallejo ranks him with the Presidents George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt. He is the first westerner to be so honored.

The UNESCO General Conference, at its tenth session, authorized the director-general of UNESCO to "encourage and assist member states to develop and improve technical and legal measures for the protection, preservation and restoration, of cultural property, and for safeguarding of the beauty and character of the landscape."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in close cooperation with the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, is sponsoring the American celebration of UNESCO's International Monuments Year with a nation-wide program entitled "The American Landmarks Celebration."