

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 10, 1965

Random Notes

Do you know California's official state colors?

They are a combination of blue and gold, adopted by the legislature in 1951. The state motto is "Eureka," which appears on the state seal. The state flag adopted by the State Legislature in 1911, is the Bear Flag.

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 legislature as a state song in 1951. A state nickname has not officially been chosen, but "Golden State" has been popularly used for many years.

A few months ago there was an article published in Life magazine that should have been of particularly interest to everyone who cares about preservation of the old and historic. Called to my attention by Dr. Carl L. Fagan, it was headed "Doomed."

The article cites Nevada City, Calif., which is trying to preserve its image of the gold-fever days but is threatened with a four-lane highway through the town, just another victim of the march of progress to the sound of trumpets and "the public be damned".

Dr. Fagan goes on to write: "Perhaps you can use the quotation enclosed for yet another plug for the preservation of the Rodriguez-Osio adobe. I understand that it is claimed that the cost of restoration is too high; but does it need to be completely restored?"

"The adobe walls have stood for about 125 years and with reasonable care will last indefinitely, and as the years go by the building would become more valuable, until it could overshadow the entire urban renewal project, as it became outmoded."

I would like to add to the above that it would be a joy to see the shop restored with adobe bricks and the balcony restored, as could also happen to "My Attic."

Leave the tiny old balcony there as it has been these many years. I well remember many years ago, when I visited Old Monterey, there was a candy shop on the lower floor and luncheon was served upstairs. We sat on the tiny balcony to eat our lunch and viewed the passers-by on Alvarado street.

This is the statement from Life as sent to me by Dr. Fagan.

"From east to west, the wrecker's ball and the bulldozer are lords of the land. In the ruthless, if often well-intentioned, cause of progress, the nations' heritage from colonial days onward is being ravaged indiscriminately – for highways, parking lots, new structures of modernized mediocrity. Some 2,000 buildings classified by the government as major landmarks of history and beauty have vanished in the last 25 years.

"... Unless citizens and officials act to halt the holocaust, the noble, the picturesque and all that is beautiful in America's architectural heritage will be memories and a handful of dust."