

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 4, 1966

The Pledge Of Allegiance

Ask most people who wrote the Star - Spangled Banner and they will tell you Francis Scott Key. Ask them who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and many will say Thomas Jefferson. But ask them who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and most will not know. Until 1939, not even historians were sure who the real author was.

The Monterey Peninsula Rotary Club and the Carmel Rotary Clubs have both used the information about the Pledge of Allegiance in recent issues of their club bulletins and we repeat this information below with a special thanks to Rotary.

The pledge first appeared in the September issue, 1892 edition of the Youth's Companion as a part of the official program for the school children throughout the nation to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. The Pledge was first used at the dedication of the World's Columbian Exposition Grounds at Chicago in October 1892.

Two members of the Staff of the Youth's Companion were Mr. Francis Bellamy and Mr. James Upham. For 47 years the family of each man claimed authorship for him and held evidence to substantiate their claims. Finally, in 1939, a committee was appointed to weigh carefully the conflicting evidence. Unanimously they decided in favor of Francis Bellamy.

Unfortunately, Francis Bellamy, an ordained Baptist minister, had died eight years previously. Congress officially designed his work as the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag on Dec. 28, 1945.

The Pledge of Allegiance, as originally written, differs slightly from its present form. In 1923, the phrase "of the United States of America," was added following "the Flag." On Flag Day, 1954, which insert President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed, into law, House Resolution 243, which inserted the meaningful words, "under God," after "one nation."

The Maxwell Galleries Ltd. of San Francisco have sent out invitations to their friends to an opening of an exhibition of "One Hundred Years of California Painting from 1849" on Friday, March 4, 1966, from 5:30 until 8 p.m. at 551 Sutter street, San Francisco.

A note from Miss Pearl Chase in Santa Barbara asking for a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Monterey History and Art Association and the Monterey Foundation for their secretary's files and also relating what the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation are most interested in at present.

"You will be glad to know that the State Park Commission accepted the old Presidio adobe, commonly known as "El Cuartel," the Guard's House, from the Santa Barbara Trust as the first unit of the State Historical Monument in the Santa Barbara area. The Park Commission held its January meeting here and there was a civic luncheon sponsored by the county supervisors and the mayor and council of Santa Barbara, at which the presentation was finally accomplished and pictured," wrote Miss Chase.