

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Columbia Gazette**

The restoration of the old Columbia Gazette building in Columbia (1855) and the proposed publishing of a real live newspaper in Columbia is under way by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Fred Jones, director of Parks and Recreation, speaking at the groundbreaking ceremonies in Columbia State Historical Park on January 7, 1966, said:

“Back in 1952 the Newspaper Publishers Association conceived the idea of re-establishing a newspaper in Columbia as a memorial to all pioneer California newspaper men. The idea took root, grew and reached full bloom in 1965 when the association presented the state with a check for \$12,000 as its contribution. . . The Columbia Gazette will not only be a living and lively newspaper, but the building will also serve as a museum for early day printing presses and other equipment common to a newspaper of those days. The building is expected to be completed in June of next spring.”

The California Historian of March 1966 contains an article which should be of interest to all of Monterey County. Under the title “California Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee at Work,” the article goes on to state that adopted procedure and criteria for the registration and recording of historical sites of secondary importance and chiefly of local significance. In legislation passed at the last session of legislature, the Department of Parks and Recreation was authorized to register these sites of secondary interest if they qualified by having contributed to the Social, economic, cultural, military, political or religious heritage of the area.

The Department of public Works is required to erect and maintain “points of historical interest” signs on streets and highways. The Division of Highways is developing a unique and appropriate sign. Directional signing on city and county sites will be the responsibility of the respective local governmental body. It will be the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to request the official marker from the Department of Public Works.

These sites will be reviewed by the Historic Landmarks Committee and recorded with the Department of Parks and Recreation. It is planned that all requests for marking of these local sites be cleared through the

County Board of Supervisors, and it is suggested that local historical landmarks advisory committees be set up as screening agencies to forward recommendations to the supervisors. The site should be available to the public.

A number of county historical societies have already persuaded County Boards of Supervisors to set up historic landmarks committees.

The Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco) has issued its first publication in time for its third anniversary dinner on January 15. Thomas W. Chinn is editor and H. K. Wong, associate editor. The society held its meeting at the Golden Pavilion at Grant and Sacramento streets. President Walter Frame and Dr. R. Coke Wood of Stockton and Edwin Gleahill of Santa Barbara, and their wives were special guests at the banquet. An exceptionally fine program was enjoyed by over 200 guests. The Chinese wish to take their proper places in our history. This new publication of the Chinese Historical Society will help a great deal in the effort to make a better evaluation of their place in California history.