

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Scenes Of Past Being Restored**

A glimpse of the past will soon be seen in San Jose when a long - range plan of recreation in that city of sixty years or more is finished on Kelley Park acreage. Plans call for the utilization of existing buildings of that era wherever they may be found in Santa Clara County.

A committee of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission is now inspecting existing structures that may be used. The city staff is preparing plans and specifications to ensure that such a museum will be authentic. If old buildings of each type cannot be found, the city will reconstruct available structures.

The completed project will include the state house, seat of California's first government; a school which will be closed for summer vacation, a church, jail, livery stable, carriage shop, telephone exchange and a winery. Visitors will also see a bakery, apothecary shop, grainery, general store and barber shop. On the corner will appear the doctor's office, and train depot and fire station.

Today there is only one building in the park—the Warburton family's doctor's office displayed by the Santa Clara urban renewal agency and purchased by the San Jose landmark commission's president, Theron Fox, for \$1.

The doctor's office, where three pioneer physicians practiced medicine for nearly a century, has been moved into the park from Santa Clara. The shingles had to be removed from the roof for clearing utility lines enroute.

Marysville, Calif., is also interested in saving the past for future generations. The latest addition to the city's historic past is an old home now known as the Mary M. Aaron Museum. The 1856 Marysville City directory lists among the "brick houses," a 40 by 40-foot two-story dwelling on the corner of 7th and D streets, built by Warren P. Miller at a cost of \$5,000. Mr. Miller, an architect, came from New York State.

Over 100 years later, the people of the community are fortunate to have had this home given to them by Frank Aaron as a museum in memory of his mother, Mrs. Mary M. Aaron, who lived in this lovely home for many years.

Mr. Aaron also left the interest from a trust fund for maintenance and operation of the museum.

The French Gulch Hotel in French Gulch, Trinity County, is also being restored to the appearance it had over 100 years ago. This antique hotel fairly breathes of the bawdy days of gold and glamor, when bright yellow ore spilled from the veins of the neighboring hills and across its dining room.

The hotel provided a temporary haven for the traveler, was a favorite spot for the Saturday night frolic of the town's many miners and offered a much longed-for home-cooked meal to the thousands that once strolled the streets of the bustling gold mining community.

The hotel's 25 rooms, many restored and in use, contain many of the original furnishings.

French Gulch is located 20 minutes from Redding on Highway 299 West.

At one time Morgan Hill was known as Burnett Township, named after the first governor of California, Peter H. Burnett, who had acquired holdings in that area. The highest peak in the township was "Loma de Toro", named by the Spanish in early days because of its resemblance to the shape of a bull, but called "Murphy's Peak" by settlers. Morgan Hill had a new home for his bride constructed so that she could view her beloved "Murphy's Peak" from the master bedroom as well as front rooms of the house.

So, my readers now know that Morgan Hill was named not for the hill but for the man who built his large home on the right-hand side of the main street as one leaves the town on the way to San Jose.