

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Historical Landmarks

Preservation! The California Historical Society, by the action of its board of trustees, has gone on record with two strongly worded resolutions addressed primarily to the state's Division of Beaches and Parks on behalf of the preservation of historical landmarks.

The first was occasioned by a proposal that the state conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a park in Nevada City to be composed of buildings and sites of historic importance.

Recognizing the significance of Nevada City as a living example of the California heritage, the board endorsed the proposal for the park and urged prompt and favorable action by the division.

The covered bridge at Bridgeport (Nevada County) occasioned the second resolution. This bridge has stood since 1862 and is therefore one of the oldest in the West. The society has asked the Division of Beaches and Parks to consider restoring the bridge and creating it and a small surrounding area as an historical monument.

Nearly 140 years ago, the chief mountain men, including Jedediah Smith, named their annual get-together "Rendezvous," and that is what the coming event will be, according to a letter from the University of the Pacific.

"A French Journalist in the California Gold Rush, or The Letter of Etienne Derbec," edited by A.P. Nasatir. Derbec, later editor of the famous early San Francisco newspaper, "Echo Du Pacifique," wrote a series of lengthy and intelligent letters, recently published by The Talisman Press, Georgetown, Calif.

This note in the book is amusing: "The second misfortune of these gentlemen was bringing their wives. Seated on stools embroidered in silk, they were expected to pick up the gold with the aid of some pretty little silver tongs which they brought with the stools, if I relate these things it is not to make fun of their misfortune, but to spare others a similar fate."

Tiburcio Vasquez, notorious bandit, is the subject of a book for Dominga Cervantes Hoffer, formerly of Monterey. She writes, in announcing the publication,

that she was born in Monterey in 1900 and now lives at 3116 W. Greenwood, Tacoma.

I found "Military Governments in California, 1846 Through 1850" excellent reading as well as a source of a great deal of information. A chapter is included on their prior use in Louisiana, Florida and New Mexico. The author is Theodore Grivas, professor (associate) of history at Sonoma State College. It is one book in a military series published by Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale 4, Calif. The price is \$8.50 net, prepaid.

A chapter on Alcalde Rule brings out the many-sided functions of that office, humorous incidents of Alcalde justice, and the importance of alcaldes in support of the military rule.