

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 1, 1968

Early Day Prospectus

May we again quote from the little booklet "Early Printing in California" by Herbert Fahey, and continue the story of the publication of the four-page Californian, the first newspaper published in California and in Monterey

A prospectus was printed in first issue of the Californian. A part of the item follows. The exact spelling, grammar, and all the wording as printed in the paper are used in the various excerpts printed in the booklet:

PROSPECTUS

"This is the first paper ever published in California, and through issued it shall contain matter that will be read with interest. The principles which will govern us in conducting it, can be set forth in a few words.

(Paragraphs followed advocating freedom of speech and press, severance with Mexico promoting California's interests—social, civil and religious.)

This press shall be free and independent; unawed by power and untrammelled by party. The use of its columns shall be denied to none, who have suggestions to make, promotive of public weal. We shall lay before our readers the freshest domestic intelligence and the earliest foreign news. We commence our publication upon a small sheet, but its dimensions shall be enlarged as soon as requisite materials can be obtained.

Our Alphabet—our type is a Spanish font picked up here in a cloister and has no W's in it as there is none in the Spanish alphabet. I have sent to the Sandwich Islands for this letter, in the mean time we must use two V's. Our paper at present is that used for wrapping cigars: in due time, we will have something better, our object is to establish a press in California, and this we shall in all probability be able to accomplish. The absence of my partner for the last three months and my duties as Alcalde here have deprived our little paper of some of those attentions which I hope it will hereafter receive—
Walter Colton.