

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Hoovers Married by Padre**

During meeting of the museum board directors of Colton Hall Museum on April 9, 1962, a letter was read from the late President Herbert Hoover with a bit of Monterey history regarding his marriage in Monterey at his wife's home, the Lou Henry house, 302 Pacific Street:

"I am sorry to see the old house go ... I was enroute from Australia to China and had but one day to get married. The protestant minister was away on vacation. But Mrs. Hoover was a friend of the Padre (Fr. Mestres) and she arranged for him to do the job, for which I secured permission from the bishop, to marry a pair of Protestants."

I wonder how many of us when, we gaze and study the Bear Flag of the California Republic, wonder where those old settlers got the materials put in the various colors they see on the new flag. Do you know where the wide red stripe across the bottom of the flag came from? Well, here is the answer, contributed by the Pacific Telephone Company:

Throughout history, flags have served as symbols indicating ownership of a certain territory. And almost without exception these flags tell a certain story about the land they represent. Many times, the first flags to fly were constructed out of materials on hand at the time. Such was the case with Betsy Ross and the first Stars and Stripes. And such was the case with the early settlers in Sonoma in 1846 when the California Republic was born.

On some white home-spun cloth these settlers painted a red star in the upper left-hand corner with some berry juice — the star to show sovereignty. In the middle of the flag was painted a grizzly bear to show strength. Below the bear were the words "California Republic." Finally, they put a bar of red across the bottom of the flag symbolizing courage. A red petticoat from a nearby clothes-line provided this finishing touch.

Up the flagpole it went on June 14, 1846. But within a month, Old Glory was raised in its place. The Bear Flag came down, but it wasn't forgotten. Sixty-five years later on February 3, 1911, it became the official California State Flag.

The Sacramento Historical Society monthly bulletin editor went back to over fifty years to bring back to us memories of the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition held in San Francisco. It is so well described in a short paragraph that it is repeated in column today.

"The Innocent Fair" is a film of the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. Designed by the finest architects of the time, adorned by leading artists, a dream world was created which has never been surpassed. The Tower of Jewels actually glittered with thousands of faceted colored glass "jewels". The great bands of the nation played in the protected inner court yards. Stretching from Gas House Cove, across the Marina and deep into the Presidio it was one of the larger fairs of history.

When it was over thousands of people sang "Old Lang Syne" and cried as they sang. There was war going on, and the world would never be the same again.