

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Important Month to Monterey**

The month of June is very important in the history of Monterey.

It was on June 3, 1770, that Gaspar de Portola, governor of the California's, assisted by Junipero Serra and soldiers, founded the Presidio of Monterey and took formal possession of the land in the name of the king of Spain, Carlos III.

These formalities we re-enacted recently in our Bicentennial year.

The establishment of Mission San Carlos de Monterey at the same time by Junipero Serra gave Alta California its second mission. It was moved a year later to the Carmel River and renamed San Carlos de Borromeo por El Rio Carmelo after St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584), archbishop of Milan and the papal secretary of state under Pius IV.

On June 11, 1774, Juan Perez, commanding the Santiago, sailed from Monterey to explore and take possession of the northwest coast of America up to 60 degrees. He reached the extremity of Queen Charlotte Island at 55 degrees then returned to Monterey and Mexico.

June 24, 1797, Mission San Juan Bautista was founded by Fr. Fermin Francisco Lasuen and companions Martiarena and Catala. It was the 15th mission in Alta California and named for St. John the Baptist.

June 14, 1846, the Bear Flag, standard of the "California Republic," was raised over the plaza at Sonoma following the capture of Gen. M. G. Vallejo, Lt. Col. Victor Prudon and Capt. Salvador Vallejo.

A proclamation issued on the 15th by William B. Ide, leader of the republican movement, charged that the citizens had been oppressed and deceived by the Mexican government; had been denied promised land and a fair and just government; and urged all peaceable and honest citizens to support the republic.

"California celebrated its first birthday as a constituent member of the United States." That announcement appeared in a headline in the London Times in June 1851.

The article continued: "Three short years ago the name of California conveyed no more impressive ideas to European or even American ideas than Kamschatka of Bhootan. The country itself was an unexplored desert, and the shores of the Pacific about San Francisco were scantily tenanted by a few scores of Russians and Spaniards, who lived without rivalry or suspicion, and who scarcely waited for the sanction of their respective governments to effect such changes or sales of ground as convenience might suggest.

"Nobody cared whether the enormous tract beyond contained inhabitants or not, and a journey across its plains was considered as remarkable as a journey through Central Africa. This remote district is now the seat of a powerful and independent state — a state which has been founded and constituted, from beginning to end, in about 30 months time."

The London Times continued: "Let the reader consider the character so extraordinary. Here was a community of some hundreds of thousands of souls collected from quarters of the known world — Polynesians and Peruvians, Englishmen and Mexicans, Germans and New Englanders, Spaniards and Chinese — all organised under Old Saxon institutions and actually marching under the command of a mayor and alderman. A third of the time which has been consumed in erecting our Houses of Parliament has here sufficed to create a state with a territory as large as Great Britain, a population difficult to number, and destinies which none can foresee."