

SCOTT, & MORRIS



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California Compromise Postponed Civil War

Hooray! We've had another birthday!

It's our 118th, in case you didn't know. Or forgot to celebrate.

Some businesses were closed today to give their employes a holiday, observing the fact that California officially became a state back on Sept. 9, 1850.

Even native Californians, that's anyone who has lived in the state longer than six months, as well as those who had the good fortune to be born here, had to be reminded that it was the date that President Millard Fillmore signed the bill making California the 31st state in the Union.

Even the 92,000 residents in the new state didn't celebrate their new status the same day the bill was signed.

Those were the days before television recorded the actual signing of important bills by a president. Those were the days before news was flashed instantaneously around the world via satellite or by wire.

Besides, most of the 80,000 who had rushed into the state the year before were from other states and countries, too interested in digging for gold to be concerned with affairs of government.

It was almost a month before the news of the action in Washington reached San Francisco, via side-wheel steamer.

It took eight months of debate in Congress to approve California's admission to statehood.

The hangup was on the stand taken at that convention held in Monterey in August 1849.

The men who drafted the constitution included Miguel de Pedrorena, whose wife, Dona Maria Antonia Estudillo, had been given the 48,000-acre El Cajon Rancho in 1845. Anyone who lives in El Cajon, Lakeside, Santee and points east shares a piece of her property.

Henry Hill, along with Don Miguel, were San Diego's

What the "compromise" did, most historians say, was to postpone the Civil War another decade.

The Bear Flag those Americans raised in 1846 in California to proclaim an independent republic from Mexico is now the state flag, redesigned and adopted in 1952.

Those not sympathetic to the cause of the Americans called the grizzly on that first flag a "hog." The flag has a red star in the upper left hand corner, and a blue stripe across the bottom, with the words, California Republic.

The state motto: Eureka (I have found it), is on the Great Seal of the state which also has a seated Minerva, a small bear, the 31 stars, ships and the sea, mountains and miners.

San Diego county had an area greater than 12 states in the union in 1850. It included all of what is now Imperial, most of Riverside and San Bernardino and parts of Inyo counties. San Bernardino and Inyo were first to break away, in 1851. Riverside County was created in 1893, Imperial in 1907.

Little did those 650 residents of San Diego in 1850 realize that some day their state would have the largest population of any of the 50 states. More and more came to the "Golden State" daily with the population figure rapidly approaching the 20 million mark.

Proud of their heritage are those members of the Patriotic Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West.

The "Sons" organized their first parlor July 11, 1886, in San Francisco. They were one short of 14,000 members the first of this year. The "Daughters" called their first chapter Ursula, (the Bear) since it suggested courage and strength. Two hundred of these parlors have been founded since the first on Sept. 11, 1886, in Jackson, Amador County.

For 30 years, beginning in 1886, the day after Mission Day meant the start of the grape picking season on the Boston Ranch in El Cajon Valley.

The Indians would come down from the hills and camp along the roadside. Mexicans from Tijuana would