

Father and Son Vary in Story of Adventure in Mexican Waters

WAS IT AN ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING OR A RIDE?

"Amusing" is the word George Lancaster used this week to describe an unusual incident that enlivened the month's cruise he enjoyed aboard a 50-foot schooner 200 miles below the Mexican border. His father, Dr. J. S. Lancaster, regards it as "a real adventure" but George, a Junior year at U. S. C.'s medical school, would like the story "played down."

Father Lancaster, who has been vicariously thrilled by his son's story, would prefer—after the manner of fathers the world over—to glorify the account. And any sensation-seeking news-hawk would prefer to accept Dr. Lancaster's version but George, when he was pressed for first-hand details by The Herald, insisted that "it wasn't much of an adventure."

This, then, is George's story—as much as The Herald would like to follow the well-known medical's more interesting account, including as it does the sound of 30-30 bullets whistling thru the air to halt a band of Mexican kidnapers disguised as humble abalone fishermen.

Visit Mexican Boat
Young Lancaster was a member of a party of six young people invited by Mr. and Mrs. Austin Jones of Los Angeles for the cruise aboard their schooner, Landfall. The voyagers sailed south from San Diego after clearing the customs there and at Ensenada.

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Brief Highlights of California History

By ROY W. CLOUD

Executive Secretary
California Teachers Assoc.

U. S. Sovereignty

The Bear Flag Republic lasted just 24 days, or until the American flag was raised at Monterey by command of Commodore John Drake Sloat on July 7, 1846, or 26 days, if we allow for the two days it required for the news to get to Sonoma, capital of the Republic.

War had been declared be-

tween the United States and Mexico prior to July 2, 1846, when Sloat dropped anchor off Monterey bay. There was a delay of five days before Sloat demanded the surrender of Monterey. Some authorities ascribed the delay to the occurrences at Sonoma and the institution of the Bear Flag Republic.

However, on the seventh of July, Sloat made formal demand on the Mexican commandant for the surrender of the capital, landed a force of marines and seamen, took possession of the port, and ran up the American flag to a salute of 21 guns from the three warships under his command in the harbor.

Fire Destroys Relic

Sonoma received the news with acclaim two days later. The Bear Flag was promptly and officially supplanted on July 9, 1846, by the Stars and Stripes, and California came under the rule of the United States.

The Stars and Stripes were raised at Sonoma by Lieutenant Joseph Warren Revere, of the warship Portsmouth, then lying at San Francisco. Lieutenant Revere, a grandson of Paul Revere, and, on his mother's side, of General Joseph Warren, the hero of Bunker Hill, took the Bear Flag with him on his return east. Some years later he gave it to the Society of California Pioneers, where it remained until 1906. In that year this historic relic was lost in the fire that devastated a large portion of San Francisco, destroying the Society's headquarters.

The war with Mexico ended February 2, 1848, and California, by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, became a part of the United States, without a government other than might be

given arbitrarily to it by the President. California, in fact, never held "territorial" status. It came full grown into the Union.

Gold and Statehood

The civil administration of California, under United States control, from 1846 until Statehood, in 1850, was directed by a succession of military Governors.

Gold, discovered by James W. Marshall at Captain John Sutter's Mill, at Coloma, near Sacramento, January 24, 1848 (the date fixed in the diary of Henry Bigler, a workman at the mill) soon focussed the world's eyes on California, and the greatest population stampede, probably, in history began.

General Bennett Riley became Governor of California in April, 1848. Administrative affairs of the department California, as the province was now known, were in a chaotic condition. Governor Riley, an able, efficient executive, crystallized the feeling of the people that conditions should be stabilized, by calling a Constitutional Convention. The convention duly met at Colton Hall, Monterey, September 3, 1849.

87 Years Ago Today
Dr. Robert Semple, the state's first newspaper publisher, and a leader in the Bear Flag "rebellion," was chairman. The delegation apparently gave little thought to the formation of a territory, the established procedure preceding Statehood. A constitution was adopted, with the provision that slavery—then a burning issue in Congress—should not exist in California. A statewide election was held, Nov. 13, 1849, and a Governor, other state officials, a legislature and members of Congress were elected. The legisla-

People

what they're doing

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Riddle and daughters, Pat and Pat of Ventura are guests this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Higgins, 2372 Torrance boulevard.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Deininger and daughter Karina and Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Deininger spent Sunday at Lake Elsinore.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Post and family of 1541 Post avenue, returned home Monday after spending the past two months at Balboa Beach.

Guests at the W. E. Bowen home, 1327 Cota avenue, this week are Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Zeller and son Kenneth of Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Fernley, 1552 Post avenue, spent Monday in San Diego.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGuire, 1411 Beech avenue, returned Tuesday morning from a ten-day vacation at Mineral King in the High Sierras.

Miss Phyllis Sears of El Prado is spending the week with Miss Ruth Montgile in Yucaipa.

Picnicking at the Torrance Park Thursday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Trezise and sons Bob, Harold and Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Linder, Bob Sleeth and Sheldon Blatter.

Only Treat for Father
When Dr. Lancaster was confronted with his son's version of the story and asked to explain his account—including the gun-play, he said:
"Well, a vicarious thrill is about the only one a father gets these days. He's got to stay home and work while his son gets around and really sees things. Anyway, I still believe I could have told a better story than George did if I had something like that happen to me!"

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ture in turn elected two United States Senators—although California was not yet a state—Senators John C. Fremont and William M. Gwin.

The newly-elected Congressmen and Senators proceeded at once to Washington, where, after a prolonged battle over slavery—the states of the Union at that time being divided in Congress 15 to 15 on the slavery issue—Statehood was finally granted California 87 years ago today—Sept. 9, 1850. Thus California became the 31st in the Sisterhood of States.

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