

DONNER PARTY: When Grandma Key died in the trek overland in the summer of 1846, her illness delayed the Donner party to such an extent that the greatest tragedy of overland travel was enacted in the Sierra Nevada range. Caught in early snows, the Donner party starved and more than 50 per cent died before a rescue was effected. A great-granddaughter of Grandma Key, two great-great-grandchildren and one grandchild four times removed met in Twin Lakes last Saturday to celebrate birthday anniversaries. Pictured above are (standing) Miss Rose Smith, Scarcey, Ark., a friend visiting here; Frazier O. Reed of San Jose, a great-great grandchild of Grandma Key; Frazier Reed of Oakland, grandchild four times removed, and (seated) Mrs. Susan Reed of Oakland; Sidney T. Graves of Santa Cruz, host; Mrs. Helen Reed of San Jose; Mrs. Roberta DeZaldo, great granddaughter of Grandma Key, and Florence Lewis Graves of Santa Cruz, granddaughter of Patty Reed and great-great-granddaughter of Mrs. Key.

FIESTA THREE-DAY PROGRAM OPENS FRIDAY NIGHT

Santa Cruz will celebrate her 179th anniversary with a three-day fiesta this week-end, beginning with a pageant in civic auditorium tomorrow morning at 8:15 under auspices of the Business and Professional Women and the Santa Cruz Exchange club. Admission charge will be 50 cents.

Here Queen Beverly Thomas and her ladies in waiting, Beverley Bright and Carolyn Rogers, will be placed on, the fiesta throne in coronation ceremonies at which Mayor Sam C. McNeely is to officiate.

A historic pageant, re-enacting scenes of infant days of this city, will be staged by local talent directed by Ronald Foote.

Under auspices of the Santa Cruz Breakers, there will be several gay exhibitions of folk dancing and square dancing, followed by a prize waltz and old time dance for the public.

Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, Queen Beverly will officially start a

treasure hunt at the beach where some 3000 children from 12 on down will tear up the sands in search of 500 prizes that the junior chamber of commerce is providing.

Saturday afternoon will see the arrival of the modern Portola expedition and at 4:30 o'clock the fiesta parade, replete with bands, floats, riding and marching units and drum corps, will form at the auditorium and proceed along Pacific avenue to Laurel street.

In this parade will be the riders of the Portola Trek and the famous California Centennial Commission float, a historic mural of the days of '49.

At 8:30 o'clock the Shell Oil company, through the efforts of its local distributor, Clem King, will put on a display of fireworks at the beach.

At 9:30 o'clock the annual fiesta costume ball, under the auspices of the Lions club, will open, with Queen

Beverly and her ladies presiding.

Here the best, worst and most unusual set of whiskers will be judged and prizes awarded. Incidentally, there will be prizes for moustaches, chin whiskers and the scrawnier set in town will be selected.

Many prizes will be awarded for costumes in several classifications.

"El Dedo" (the Finger), who has been prowling the streets the past week, will be un-hooded and the winner of the guessing contest will be named. This swashbuckling Mexican bandit has caused a lot of interest.

Tickets for this event are selling for one dollar. A good orchestra is promised.

In front of our Mission, at 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning, members of the Portola trek, assisted by local talent, will stage a pageant of Portola's arrival here 179 years ago. This is under the auspices of the Native Sons and Daughters, Knights of Columbus and Young Ladies Institute.

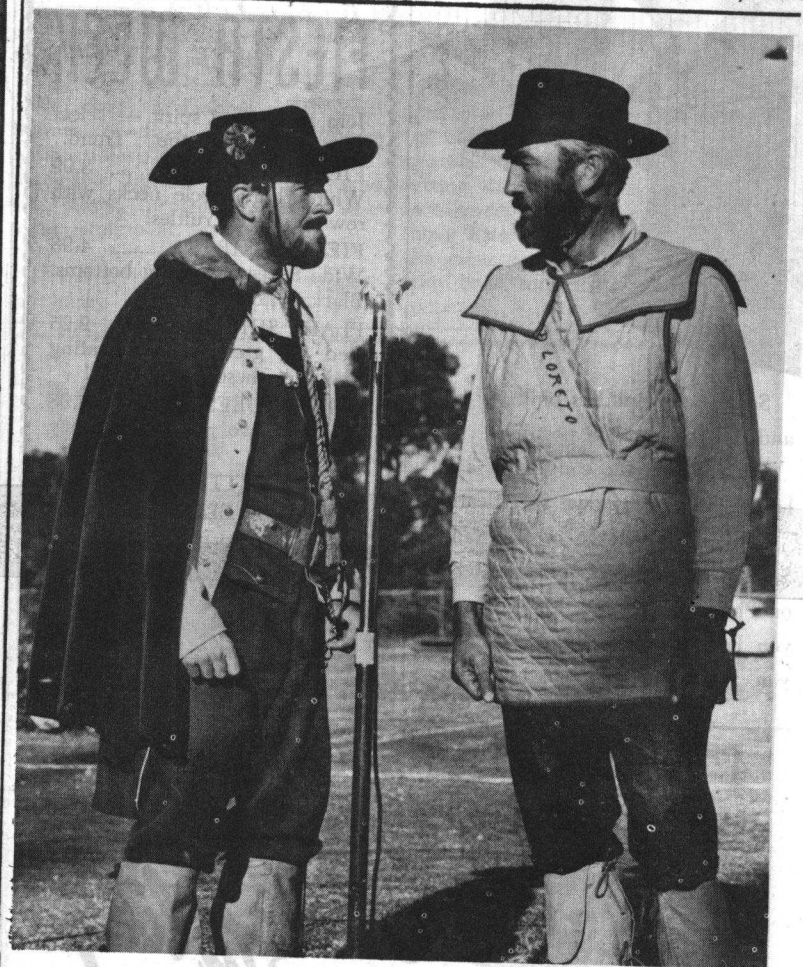
Sunday afternoon, beginning at 1:45 in the civic auditorium, 650 folk dancers from 23 clubs will stage a gaily colored folk dancing festival. It will continue through the afternoon and there will be no charge. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Acknowledgement

Riptide herewith presents an edition devoted to Santa Cruz as it was a century ago as an adjunct to its "annual birthday party" which this year should have taken on a "centennial" theme, but which, instead, will be largely devoted to the 179th anniversary of the arrival in these parts of the exploration party led by Don Garpar de Portola.

We desire to give acknowledgement to Leon Rowland, secretary of the Santa Cruz historical society; to Native Daughters of the Golden West, particularly Mrs. Mildred Baird, who has been active in promoting the fiesta.

But this could not have been produced without the wholehearted co-operation of the city and county library. We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the advice and assistance of Mrs. Geraldine Work, librarian, and her entire staff.



PORTOLA: Lt. Don Pedro Fages (represented by Robert Quinlan of Los Angeles) and Sgt. Jose de Ortega (Carroll Stockdale of Paso Robles) seem to be calling good wishes to the heathen Indians as they participate in re-enactment of the Portola trek along California's coast of 1769.

Aulinta, meaning howling of the wolves, was the Indian name for Santa Cruz, according to one legend.

The party of Don Gaspar de Portola consisting of 15 Christian Indians, 27 leather jacket soldiers, seven Catalinian volunteers, Fathers Crespi and Gomez, and several scouts and lieutenants.

Following up the coast, they were hemmed in by the Santa Lucia range, were forced to the Salinas and camped on the headwaters of that stream without recognizing Monterey bay. Supposing it to be filled in by sand in the 167 years since Viscaino's visit, but hesitating to turn back before making further exploration, they continued northward and on October 16, 1769, camped on Soquel creek.

Crespi's diary gives this account of the discovery of Santa Cruz:

"Tuesday, October 17. We set out about nine o'clock in the morning to the west-northwest and traveled over good land well covered with grass and in the sight of the seashore, although it was about a league away, and having the redwood trees still with us. We traveled about three hours and made about two leagues, during which we found three arroyos, two of them with running water, one with a buey of water, and all with plains of good land and a heavy growth of cottonwoods and alders in their beds.

"At the end of the day's march we turned to the west. Not far from the sea we came to a large river which, in the place we crossed, it must have been about 18 varas (about 16 yards) wide, and which in the center reached to the bellies of the animals. It is one of the largest we have met with on the journey. In its bed there is a thick growth of cottonwoods and alders and it has good meadows for raising crops by irrigation. It is not far from the shore, and according to what the explorers say, it empties into an estuary of a bay. We made camp on the other side of the river, the descent and ascent of which cost some trouble to clear and make a passage. Besides the growth along the river there are many redwoods. Not far from the stream we found a good patch of ground that is not burned, and it is a pleasure to see the grass and the variety of herbs and roses of Castile. This river was named San

Lorenzo. We did not find a single heathen on it, nor did we see one in the whole day's march.

"Wednesday, October 18. About eight in the morning we started, taking our way along the coast, which runs to the north-northwest, over high hills precipitous on the side towards the sea. Five hundred steps after we started we crossed a good arroyo of running water which descends from some high hills where it rises. It was named Santa Cruz." (This is the Majors mill creek which once dropped over the bluffs at what is now School street steps). "Afterwards we crossed some large mesas of good land which could easily be irrigated by the water of this stream. The mesas which end in cliffs at the sea, must be about one league wide, extending to some hills at the foot of the mountains. We traveled three hours and a half, but only made two leagues, during which we descended and ascended four deep watercourses carrying running water which empties into the sea. Only in the watercourses are any trees to be seen; elsewhere we saw nothing but grass, and that was burned. About halfway on the march we left the redwoods behind us. We stopped at the fourth arroyo, which ends in an estuary; it was named Arroyo de San Lucas, but the soldiers called it Las Puenteas, because it was necessary to bridge it with poles and earth before it could be crossed."

Years later, Thomas W. Wright, the county's first surveyor, assisted by translations by E. L. Williams (uncle of Laurence Canfield) and Fr. Adam of Holy Cross church, worked the route out thusly:

"On October 15, the expedition camped at Valencia lagoon, near Claus Spreckels' residence" (entrance to Rio del Mar). "On the following day they passed over the hill, crossing Aptos creek near where Spreckels' hotel stood. They ascended the hill where is now the county road and kept about 40 rods southerly of this road on what was substantially the California cart road, crossing all of the marshes and camping at Soquel.

"They crossed Soquel creek just above the Iron bridge at the end of Porter street leading to Capitola. Coming toward Santa Cruz they kept about a mile and a half from the

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QUEENS: Mrs. Carolyn Rogers, one of the maids-in-waiting for the queen, and Mrs. Beverly Thomas, queen of this week-end's Santa Cruz fiesta, captured in a pensive moment with one of the herd of chinchillas jointly owned by John Endicott and Peter Alsando at the latter's Scotts Valley breeding farm. No one explained why queens and chinchillas went together. Probably it was this: chinchillas equal fur; fur equals clothes and Santa Cruz' fiesta queens would be fully gowned.