

Plan Historical Centennials For California

Plans for the celebration of California's three great centennials—Gold Discovery in 1848, Gold Rush in 1849 and California Statehood in 1850—were discussed by city and county officials, representatives of historical groups, veterans organizations and others at a meeting April 9 sponsored by the Southern California Travel and Recreation Committee of the State Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held at the Biltmore Hotel starting at 2:30 p.m.

Joseph R. Knowland, of Oakland, chairman of the State Park Commission, past president of the State Chamber, State Commissioner of Historical Monuments, and chairman of State Chamber's Travel and Recreation Committee, presided at the meeting.

William A. Smith, chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and president of the County Supervisors Association of California, is assisting Mr. Knowland on the State Chamber's Centennial coordinating committee. Interested in helping plan the celebrations are the Historical Society of Southern California, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, the Native Sons of the Golden West, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion, local chambers of commerce and others.

Gasoline Tax Of California Sets Record

Producing highway revenues at the rate of \$201,503 a day, California's gasoline tax for February has broken all previous records.

The State Board of Equalization made this revelation as it announced that the tax for the month had been \$5,642,092, based upon distribution of 188,069,739 gallons of motor vehicle fuel.

Although the February tax was \$191,429 under that for January, the yield per day was \$13,325 greater, even exceeding that for last September, which was the highest previously recorded. In that month the tax averaged \$192,205 daily.

"Contrasted with the gasoline tax for February, 1945, that for February of this year marks an increase of 44 percent as compared with the 35 percent gain registered in January over the corresponding month of 1945. Since seasonal factors usually make February a low month in motor vehicle fuel consumption, this trend may lead to a much larger tax yield in 1946 than ever before.

"EXAM" FOR U. S. PILOTS

The Civil Aeronautics Administration has made arrangements so airline transport pilots based in Europe can obtain their six-months physical examination over there. The arrangement is temporary pending the appointment of CAA medical examiners abroad.

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HOME AGAIN . . . Elmer R. Vandegrift has returned from two years' overseas service as a corporal with the infantry in the E.T.O. His discharge follows three years' Army service. Following a vacation with relatives and friends in Oregon, he joined his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Vandegrift of 1007 Arlington ave.

Purple Heart Chapter To Be Formed

Veterans who were awarded the Order of the Purple Heart will have a helping hand in organizing a chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Torrance, according to Commander C. Earl Conner, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3251. There are some 40 holders of the Order of the Purple Heart in Torrance.

Commander Conner said that they are being especially invited to the installation of the officers of the post on April 29.

Harold H. Bartlett, adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Long Beach chapter No. 210, was in Torrance Saturday in reference to the coming convention of the Department of California of the order in Long Beach June 13 to 16.

He said that he is especially interested in seeing a chapter organized in Torrance and having representation in the convention in June. The department has opened headquarters for the convention at 1050 Atlantic ave., Long Beach, and invites inquiry from holders of the Purple Heart who have not yet joined the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A. F. Palmer, quartermaster of the Torrance VFW post, is assisting Bartlett in seeing that Torrance has representation in Long Beach and in determining the attitude of the local Purple Heart holders toward organization of their own chapter.

ANAHEIM PAYING AWAITS INSTALLING OF PIPE LINES

Griffith Co. has completed the fill in Bixby slough preparatory to paving 2,000 feet of Anaheim st. near the Gaffey st. intersection. Twenty thousand cubic yards of dirt were used.

Before paving can start, gas and water lines must be installed, Lee Belding, superintendent, explained. The time taken for the lines to be installed depends on how quickly materials arrive, he added. Cost of the project is \$36,849.97.

Work on the widening of Western ave. between Pacific Coast hwy. and Anaheim st. from 20 to 48 feet was delayed by the rain, causing the completion date to be postponed from tomorrow to the middle of next week, Belding said. Cost of this is \$10,956.

Motorists Promised Two 1947 Plates

The average California motorist is now driving a car more than eight years old but he is going to be able to doll up the old jalopy with two brand new license plates for 1947 if the Warren Administration and California peace officer groups have their way.

State officials, such as Governor Earl Warren and Director of Motor Vehicles Edkar E. Lampton feel two plates are necessary to help reduce traffic accidents. They assert it easier to nab hit and run drivers, speeders, drunken and reckless drivers and to recover stolen cars when a shiny new plate is displayed at either end of the car instead of one old plate displayed on the rear.

Numerous law enforcement bodies take the same view and have sent telegrams to Warren and Lampton demanding that two plates be used next year. These include the California State Sheriffs Association, the California branch of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Peace Officers Association, the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Association, the Orange County Peace Officers Association, the Bay Counties Peace Officers Association, the Justices and Constables Association and numerous individual sheriffs and chiefs of police. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators is also on record for two plates.

As a consequence, Governor Warren has directed letters to all the motor steel companies asking that they set aside enough steel to service the more than 3,000,000 vehicles in the state.

National Guard Air Service Enlistment Open

The State Adjutant General's office is now prepared to receive informal applications from Army Air Force veterans of World War II in the San Francisco-Oakland and metropolitan Los Angeles areas interested in part-time service in California's Air National Guard, Brigadier General Victor E. Hansen, the state adjutant general announced today.

Especially desired are combat pilots with experience flying fighter and attack aircraft to man the planes of the California National Guard's three fighter squadrons and one light bombardment squadron to be activated. General Hansen said. It is expected that the fighter squadrons will be equipped with P-51 Mustangs, the attack squadron with A-26s.

Officers and men are also sought with experience in signal and communications, radar operation, aircraft maintenance, weather, armament and gunnery, administration and flight surgeons.

Program for the Air National Guard calls for at least one weekly training period supplemented by special schools and 15 days of active duty on maneuvers each summer. Full pay is given for all active duty under this program.

Qualified World War II Air Force veterans upon writing to the State Adjutant General, Sacramento, California, will receive a questionnaire and informal application papers, the adjutant general said.

Delinquent Tax Refunds Await Service Families

Persons who paid delinquent taxes, penalties, interest and costs while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during the last World War now can apply to the Board of Supervisors for refunds.

County Assessor John R. Quinn said today that under legislation adopted at the last session of the California State Legislature, this provision was established for veterans, or any person now serving in the military and naval branches.

"Penalties which have been applied to real estate for the non-payment of taxes since Sept. 6, 1940, and within six months after the veteran's separation from the service, are waived," the assessor stated.

He urged all veterans to take advantage of the act, which applies to real property which has become tax delinquent and still on the rolls in his name or that which has been sold to the state after five years of delinquency. Quinn cautioned that the applicants be sure to include costs, penalties, etc.

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