GOLDEN JUBILEE OF CALIFORNIA

Anniversary of the Discovery of Gold by Marshall in California to Be Celebrated With Pomp and Ceremony.

CALIFORNIA as a state and as a people will soon celebrate in San Francisco the discovery of the glittering gold that has since made her a great and influential empire.

On January 24, 1848, fifty years ago, gold was discovered by James W. Marshall, a mechanic from Pennsylvania, in his millrace at Coloma, on Sutter's creek. Then, Minerva-like, a state sprang into existence whose subsequent history is an integral part of that of our glorious union. Her inspiration dates from that day.

The "find" had a world-wide impression. It caused the development of the great Pacific slope 200 years in advance of natural processes and added largely to the wealth of the universe. The fiftieth celebration of any event—a marriage or a coronation—is called a "golden jubilee," and hence the special signification of this forthcoming joyous day, for it is one of gold.

The Klondike can only add to California's greatness. No commonwealth will ever be founded on an ice-floe. California's gold is not only in the hills and streams, but in the sunshine, flowers, fruits, grains and wine—perennially and inexhaustively golden.

The Society of California Pioneers having decided to celebrate the semi-centennial of the first discovery of gold, will make herculean efforts to have the occasion worthy of that memorable event.

It will be far more imposing than the celebration which marked the fortieth anniversary, seven years ago, of the admission of California to the union. All the state associations will share in it. San Francisco will be in gala attire and dressed in gay ribbons.

Of its importance to the individual in many ways there can be no doubt, but one of the novel features will be the arousing of an intense interest in historical data over which the veil of obscurity has gradually been drawn.

After January 24, 1898, the rising generation of the great Pacific commonwealth will know more about the early mining days than even the numerous text books of their schools have recorded.

Few of them could now locate in the modern geography the old-time towns of Bloody Flat, Poverty Bar, You Bet, Moonlight Flat, Blanket End, Chivalry Hill, Dad's Gulch, Greenhorn Bar, Hangtown, Last Chance, Happy Camp, Yuba Dam, Mad Mule, Yankee Jims, Nip and Tuck, Poker Flat, Roaring River, Mountain Brow, Piety Hill, Red Dog, Boneyard, Dead Horse, Whisky Slide, Sublimity, Fiddletown, Hungry Hollow, Two-Cent-Ranch, Jimtown, Dirty Bar, Poor Man's Creek, Rough and Ready, Nary Red Diggins, and Sky-High Diggins.

What an atmosphere of Bret Harte there is in this nomenclature of the Argonauts! What pages of history are unrolled! It is truth and poetry and romance.

John A. Sutter, the son of a French-speaking Swiss, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1803. He came to New York in 1834, and soon went to Missouri, and three years later (1837) was hastening on his route, by way of the Oregon trail, arriving finally at Fort Vancouver, in British Columbia. After sailing to the Sandwich islands and passing through exciting adventures, he reached Yerba Buena, new San Francisco, on July 2, 1839. He was, at last, allowed by the Mexican governor, Alvarado, to settle in the Sacramento valley, agreeing to build and maintain a fort, and thus permanently established himself on the American river, about two miles above its junction with the Sacramento. There he erected what was subsequently known as "Sutter's fort," with a colony in the beginning of three whites and eight Kanakas, and located the Mexican grant of land that he had obtained at the junction of the American and Sacramento rivers, embracing the site of the present city of Sacramento.

The fort is now little more than a memory. The adobe walls were pulled down and used in making levees, or filling in city lots, and the only relic left standing in the main building of the interior, 35x 60 feet square and two stories high. There is a plan to purchase the original site and restore the walls as they were when first built, after which the rejuvenated historical monument will be presented to the municipal guardianship of Sacramento.

During the large emigration to California in 1848 many people settled in the valley of the Sacramento under protection of Sutter's fort. There being a large demand for lumber, Gen. Sutter decided to build a mill for that purpose and entered into a contract with Marshall. The first furnished the capital and the latter was to have a share of the lumber for his compensation.

Marshall was eccentric. Though not a millwright, he was an ingenious mechanic; but, aside from a genius for "tools," he was singular. He built a good sawmill, but his selection of a site was strange, because, for lumber purposes, there were places nearer the fort where better timber grew and where roads could be made cheaper. There was no lack of water-power anywhere on streams winding through the pine belt of the mountains.

Marshall intended to haul his share of the lumber down the banks of the creek to the river, there fasten it into rafts and float them down to Sacramento and on to the bay of San Francisco. He called the distance from the fort to the mill thirty miles, but by the present road it is fifty, and by his original crooked route it must have been a hundred.

No other man would probably have chosen such an inaccessible spot. If gold had not been discovered, Sutter would have selected a more favorable location. He had confidence in Marshall, however, and gave orders for the erection of the mill without going to see the place. The lumber enterprise would have resulted naturally in a disastrous failure.

It was on the south fork of the American river, afterwards called Sutter's creek, that Marshall began the construction of the mill, just above a bar or rapids, where a dam could be built. After digging a tail race, he turned into it the entire force of the water for the purpose of widening and deepening the channel. In doing this a quantity of mud, sand and gravel was carried along with the stream and deposited in a heap at the foot of the tail race. The next morning, after the gates were closed, Marshall walked along his newly formed waterway and saw numerous glistening particles among the sand and gravel. One larger than its fellows he picked up, and after a cursory examination, was induced to gather others along the banks. This is Marshall's own story.

Then it was that Sutter wrote in his diary, at the town he had named New Helvetia:

"Friday, January 28th, 1848.

"Mr. Marshall arrived from the mountains on very important business."

The "importance" of the business is indicated by the statistics that tell of $1,303,571,508 taken from the ground in California since "Mr. Marshall arrived from the mountains." He brought a nugget to Sutter's fort that was tested and found to be pure gold.

It is not a new story to Californians, but it is an ever-popular one, and the people will display their understanding of it in the forthcoming celebration.

Gen. John Bidwell, who was a clerk at Sutter's fort at the time of the discovery, says in an unpublished letter to Alphonse Sutter, of San Francisco, the settler's grandson:

"In regard to the relations of Sutter and Marshall in building the sawmill at Coloma, it was emphatically Sutter's enterprise, for it had been for years his fixed purpose to build a sawmill somewhere as soon as a feasible site could be found in order to supply his increasing wants for lumber.

"Previous to the building of the mill at Coloma all lumber had to be sawed by hand. One hundred feet for two men was a day's work. At first Sutter's supply was from the redwoods nearest the bay and from Bodega, on the Coast, where he sent men to saw lumber in 1842. In 1843-44 he had men saw lumber from cottonwood on Feather river.

"In 1845 he sent men to saw lumber in the Sierra Nevada mountains south of Cosumnes river, and about forty miles from New Helvetia. Still his principal source of lumber was from the redwoods, and he was constantly sending his launch to the bay for lumber and other supplies.

"Almost every year he sent out parties to explore for lumber—to find the most feasible site for a sawmill. Twice he sent me—once to the Coast range in 1844, and to the mountains north of Feather river in 1846. Two or more parties were sent in 1847. The last sent was Marshall."

The two men intended to keep this glorious good fortune a secret, but there was a boarding house for employes at Sutter's mill. Marshall had foolishly given to Mrs. Weimar, the cook, a piece of the gold, and she had placed it in a kettle of boiling lye to see what effect would be produced on the shining stone, and a few days later there were over twelve hundred people in the vicinity busily at work with all kinds of implements, digging and washing.

There was wild excitement and scramble, and the entire world began sending its hosts of adventurers. Two hundred and fifty thousand of the wildest, bravest, most intelligent men ever before seen, gathered in a small section of country, with a great many of the most reckless and dangerous characters on earth. There was more nervous energy to the cubic inch of brain than since the Spanish conquests. There arrived in San Francisco in the last nine months of 1848 549 vessels from home and foreign ports; 35,000 passengers came by water; 42,000 immigrants crossed the plains. In September, 1853, there were more than three hundred vessels lying at anchor in the port. They brought the products of the earth—flour from Chile, potatoes and fruit from Hawaii, luxuries from France, and necessaries from the Atlantic coast. The employer paid with lavish hand. Labor was $16 a day, and fortunes were made and lost in a single month.

Gold in the earth, gold in the air, gold in the trees. Gold was everywhere in the new country, and the immigration was such that in comparison with it the Alaska rush is but an incident.

Probably there never has been such an invasion of a land since the days of Peter the Hermit and the Crusaders. And there never was another country on earth where the climate conditions and the local surroundings were so favorable for the disposition and general comfort of such a body of people as was the California of that day.

The first gold nugget that Marshall gave to Mrs. Weimer is now owned by W. W. Allen, a San Francisco lawyer, and will be given a prominent exhibition, as it was with a collection of other nuggets at the World's fair of Chicago.

Mr. Allen contributed to the support of the Weimars in their poverty-stricken old age, and prior to her death, in 1888, Mrs. Weimar handed him the nugget. Her husband lived four years more.

The lawyer has said: 'During Marshall's lifetime I met him a number of times, and he would always request me to produce the gold that he might see the first nugget he had picked up and through which such fabulous wealth had been created. Although he was a man of rude, crude habits, and uncultivated in mind, he was sensitive and kind-hearted, and always felt that the government and state of California had not done what they should have done to the discoverers and promoters of the great mining industry, which they undoubtedly were. He died alone in the cabin at Kelsey's Diggings, Eldorado county, in 1857, with not enough wealth to defray the expenses of a simple funeral.' The state of California, by an act of the legislature in 1887, appropriated $5,000 for the erection of a monument to his memory. The monument was built and placed upon the hill overlooking the point where the first nugget was discovered. The figure of the statue points down to the very rock where he picked it up. The monument was unveiled May 3, 1890."

It is well to know, however, that this important day was long supposed to be on January 18 or 19, and that Gen. Sutter deserved a share in the credit of the discovery, though he never claimed it. The sawmill at Coloma was his enterprise and Marshall the manager. The settler of New Helvetia cleared the way for the chance discoverer, but the uncovering of the mineral wealth was Sutter's financial ruin. He saw only the wealth of the golden grain. His only care was for the agricultural control of the estates which had been his cherished dream on making his way to the great, boundless West—a dream which became a reality, vast and glorious, and then faded away into dreamy memory.

In an Eastern village is the grave of Sutter. On the mountain side where he searched for the timber lies the discoverer, Marshall. There is nothing in the story of one that can detract from the honest fame of the other, and of the two it may be said in common:

They served as means by which the ripened wealth of a golden land became the property of mankind.

The following communication of recent date from one of the surviving companions of Marshall to the historian John S. Hittell is of interest:

"St. George, Utah.

"Dear Mr. Hittell: Yours of the 31 inst. to hand, in which I learn that the Society of California Pioneers is considering the project of celebrating on the 24th of January next the semi-centennial of the discovery of gold at Coloma.

"You wish me to give you a list of the survivors, with their precise names, post-office addresses and any information I have in regard to their health and streng.

"James S. Brown—I met him at our great jubilee in Salt Lake City last July. He was in his usual health, quite lively and talkative as ever. His address is 51 North First West street, Salt Lake City.

"Azariah Smith a few years ago was living in Manti, Sanpete county, Utah. I have not heard of his death or of his leaving that place. At last accounts his health was pretty good, though he was somewhat afflicted at times with fits.

"William J. Johnson—His address at last accounts was Ramah, Valencia county, N. M. His health was good then.

"My comrades who were with Marshall at the time he found the gold at Coloma are all dead, so far as I know, except myself and the names I have just mentioned. My health is pretty good for a person of my age—now in my 83d year—appetite good, and people say I hold my age splendidly; and my walk is brisk, though I have to use a cane to steady myself, as I am so light-headed and liable to fall. I am pleased to hear of the move about to be made to celebrate the 24th of January, 1898, and hope you will have a nice time, and it would please me to witness and be a partaker in the grand festivities on that ocasion.

"Any information I may have that you would like to know you have only to write, and it will be a pleasing task for me to give it if I can. Respectfully yours,

"HENRY W. BIGLER."

If possible, these survivors of the party that accompanied Marshall will be brought to San Francisco for the celebration, as their presence would impress the people that the discovery is still within the memory of the living.

January 24 will be a legal holiday. Some of the features of the celebration will be literary exercises; president of the day; orator and poet; music and song interspersed in the programme; parade of the state militia and troops of the United States army; commercial, mercantile, manufacturing and labor organizations of the city and state; floats representing the different eras of California; leading divisions representing the same to follow in order the survivors of Marshall's party; Spanish navigators, native Indians, vaqueros; pioneer outfits, such as mud wagons, ox teams, pony express and other forms of primitive conveyance. The California eras will be represented by the aborigines, the missions, Mexican occupation, American conquest, agriculture, horticulture, commerce, civilization and a single allegorical representation embracing all these ideas, culminating in the pageant of the "Golden Jubilee."

There will be a mining exhibition in the Mechanics pavilion, while the event of the day will be the laying of the corner stone of the commemorative arch. Civic bodies, fraternal societies and military and social organizations from every county will add to the splendor of the procession, and the children of the public schools of San Francisco will assist prominently in the exercises. Souvenirs, badges and emblems of the jubilee will all be tinted in the distinctive and appropriate color—gold.

Ample arrangements have been made for the transportation and accommodation of the naturally expected hosts of visitors.

Rugged miners will come into the city. They will appear from the historic gulches of Amador and Tuolumne, from the gravel beds of Calaveras, from the golden bedded streams of Sutter, Yuba and Butte, from the fertile valleys through which meanders the Sacramento and from the fastnesses of the granite ribbed and snowy topped Sierras. Then there will be also pastoral pioneers from the sun-scorched plains of Southern California, where cattle browse quietly in the balmy winter time; from the orange groves of Los Angeles and San Bernardino, from the vast wheat empires of Kern and Tulare, and from the vine-covered sands of sun-kissed Fresno.

With blare of trumpet, beat of drum, glow of colored light and torch, shriek of rocket and detonation of the bomb the opening hours of Monday will usher in the auspicious event.

The general officers in charge of the jubilee work are: President, J. H. Jewett; vice presidents, J. H. Neff and Mrs. Belle W. Conrad; secretary, S. H. Daniels; treasurer, Henry S. Martin. The executive committe is formed of representatives of the Pioneers, Native Sons of the Golden West, Native Daughters of the Golden West, California Miners' Association, San Francisco Miners' Association, with Gov. James H. Budd and James D. Phelan, mayor of San Francisco.

On the finance committee are Wendell Easton, Leon Sloss, Charles Montgomery, C. B. Stone and other leading citizens.

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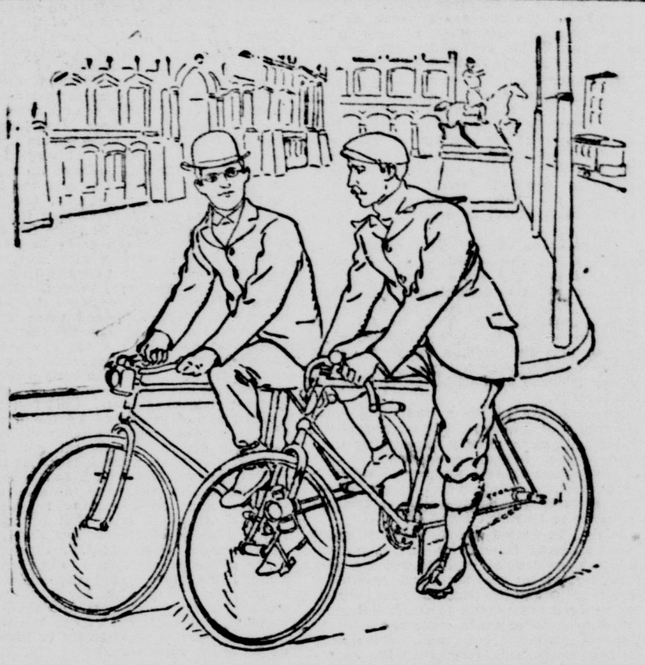

As two ardent members of a leading Quaker City Bicycle Club were rounding City Hall on their return from a century run, one was heard to say: "This is the earliest spring long distance ride I have taken during my eight years of riding." "I suppose you attribute your improved condition and better muscle to Ripans Tabules," said the other laughing. "Well," was the answer, "I do. They have put my system in better shape than it has been for years. The tired feeling one gets so quickly on re-entering the sport after a winter's non-indulgence I have not felt this year."

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

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