

When San Jose Was Young

A Series of Interesting Articles of An Historical Nature Prepared Especially for The News by a Well Known Author and Journalist.

NO. 67 WAR IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY

PART IV

On the 17th of June, General Castro, who had stationed himself at Santa Clara, issued a proclamation to Californians to rise and defend themselves against the Americans who had raised the Bear Flag in California, and who held many of its citizens prisoners. About 160 men rallied to General Castro. Of these he sent 50 or 60 under de la Torre against the Bears at Sonoma.

At Olompoli, north of San Rafael, de la Torre met Podilla and the first battle of the war took place. Several were wounded, and one was killed. Fremont and his force marched toward San Rafael to meet de la Torre's men.

At San Rafael occurred the murder of the De Haros, sons of the Alcalde of San Francisco, and their uncle, Jose Berryessa, the owner of the land on which the discovery of the new Almaden was made. Kit Carson and Fremont's men, following Fremont's orders to "take no prisoners," were responsible for the crime.

The prominence and respectability of the victims, the treatment of them after they were dead, the looting of the Californians, and their neglect after death, was the only engagement of Fremont during the conquest of California.

Fremont's position would have been critical but for the raising of the United States flag at Monterey on July 2. On July 9 Harry Pitts rode into San Jose with the announcement that Monterey was taken by the Americans. He summoned Castro to surrender.

Castro brought his men into line before the old Juzgado in Market street. He told them he could not fight the United States army, and he was going

south to join Governor Pico. A few men followed him. They carried with them Charles M. Weber, a prominent German-American citizen who had been in close business relations with the Mexicans and had made from them considerable money. Weber was greatly hated among the Spanish Californians, because of the favors he had had from them, and because he turned from them to the Americans. Weber was released in Los Angeles.

Fremont started south to overtake Castro, but the Californians had already passed San Juan Bautista. Fremont succeeded in marching only into Monterey picturesquely at the head of his soldiers and trappers.

On July 13 Captain Thomas Fallon came to San Jose, took possession of the Juzgado, arrested Alcalde Dolores Pacheco and ordered him to surrender the keys to the archives. On July 13, 1846, an American flag was sent by Commodore Sloat from Monterey.

The Mexican flag came down from the flagpole before the Juzgado and for the first time in the valley, just 70 years ago, there rose the Stars and Stripes.