

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

11 December 1952

Mr. Don G. Kelley
143 Willow Avenue
Fairfax, California

Dear Kelley:

Mr. Fred Links, Assistant Director, California State Department of Finance, plans to have a bill introduced in the 1953 Legislature to define the form of the California Bear Flag. Like the comparable bill in 1937 on the state seal, this will require an illustration. Legislative bills are printed on rather poor quality of paper, about like newsprint, hence the illustration should not "mud-up" in the press. The type bed is about $4 \frac{1}{8}$ inches, and an original of the bear about 8 inches long would be appropriate.

For your guidance I enclose the following:

1. State Flag, 23 x 36 inches
2. Photo of Nahl grizzly painting (Colton Hall, Monterey), Ca 1850
3. Photo of Nahl bear, woodcut by D. Van Vleck, [18]50 copied from Hutching's California Magazine 1853 or 1858 (reversed to match preceding)
4. Photo of 4 grizzlies, Yellowstone, Jos. Dixon, 1929

I am advised that no. 3 was basis of flag design by Emerson Manufacturing Company, 161 Natoma Street, San Francisco, one of the principal producers of flags for the State and private customers. He (and presumably other manufacturers) has a large investment in silk screens for flags from 4 x 6 inches up to 10 x 15 feet or more. The bear design for the legislative bill should depart as little as possible from the existing flat manufacturers' design so they will not be put to heavy expense in changing screens -- yet we want a good bear! I infer the manufacturers used the major furrows of the Van Vleck cut for shading and I presume they can be as shown.

As to details:

A. Claws should be more terminal on all feet -- they show in a grizzly track -- and have very slight curve. (See specimens in North American Hall; also Burt, "Field Guide to the Mammals", page 25); those of the flag show too much curve.

B. Canine teeth on flag are not right; lower equals upper in size and on closing is just in front of upper; no teeth should show behind canines (there is a space -- see a skull).

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- C. Lower left lip droops too much; use less curve.
- D. Hair on lower jaw of Nahl illustration too much like sideburns (see Dixon photo); reduce in amount, with less forward sweep.
- E. Brow a little too abrupt.
- F. Make ears slightly lower in height and a little more rounded at tip.
- G. Smooth top line of neck more.
- H. Make shoulder hump a little sharper behind.
- I. Rump should slope off more behind.
- J. Shanks on forelegs a little thin.

Bob Orr may be able to aid in your enterprise, perhaps with photos in books that will help in correcting some details. The flag bear is said by some to be too porcine; let's make it ursine.

Mr. Links will pay for the drawing.

I will hope to see you next week.

Good luck,

Tracy I. Storer

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