

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 3, 1950

The Study Plan

For those of our readers who are not such old-timers as to remember what was happening in Pacific Grove in 1888, it might not be amiss to give a resume of what the Pacific Coast Branch of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle stood for. According to the catalogue it was a vast and thoroughly organized plan for home study. The central office was in Plainsfield, New Jersey, and the national assembly is held at Chautauqua Lake, N.Y.

Studies listed for the year 1888-1889 and the books to be read were: Greek History, by Vincent; Preparatory Greek Course in English, Wilkinson; College Greek Course in English; Chemistry, Appleton; Character of Jesus, Bushnell; Zoology, Steele; The Modern Church, Hurst. All of these study books could be obtained for \$5.40.

The Assembly of 1888 began on Thursday, July 5, with the organization of the Sunday School Normal Class and the opening of the Science Classes. Rev. C.C. Stratton of Mills College made the opening address.

At 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Mrs. Jennie N. Hughes met the Botanical Study group, under the subject heading: "Nothing But Leaves". Professor M.H. Alexander of San Jose spoke on James Russell Lowell. "Olde Tymes and New Times" was the title of Rev. S.W. Brown's talk in the evening.

Saturday was left open for recreation and rest. "Friends may arrange for walks or drives to one or more points of interest, of which there are a great variety; the quaint town of Monterey; Del Monte, the most beautiful of hotels and pleasure grounds; the Light House at Point Pinos; Carmel Mission and the various beaches – all most attractive."

One evening there was enjoyed an illustrated Astronomical Lecture "The Glories of the Heavens" by Rev. G.W. Jones of Oakland. "Robert Browning as a Poet", "Anglo-American Civilization"; "Gettysburg", "Education Among the Greeks and the Roman's"; "How the Dutch Took Holland"; "English Universities" and "Ourselves", are a few of the titles given to lectures, mostly offered by ministers of the various churches of California, one by a judge and another by a general.

On Saturday, July 14, the graduation exercises were held, with a procession, music, prayer, essays by graduates, president's address; presentation of diplomas and a benediction. Professor H.D. Pasmore directed the musical concert in the evening which brought the Assembly to a close.

Dr. L.C. Anderson of Santa Cruz, who was the Marine Botany instructor at the Assembly in 1888, had the following to announce in the catalogue: "In this climate 'sea mosses' and weeds (Algae) grow and may be collected in all seasons of the year, but usually from March to October the crop is best. In June and July there is the greatest abundance.

"No plants when properly mounted are more satisfactory and attractive than the sea mosses; and none keep with less care and bear handling with less injury.

"With few exceptions, all marine plants belong to the natural order called Algae. They are flowerless and generally grow by cell divisions, and without the aid of vessels to carry water or nourishment to the several organs."

Professor Josiah Keep of Mills College advertised his course with the following: "Monterey Bay is noted for the abundance of its mollusks, which vary in size from the huge Haliotis or Abalone to those minute specimens which are too small to be studied without the aid of a microscope.

"To become acquainted with the chief group of shells is not a difficult work; and yet it is sufficient to change the many strange and unknown forms into valued and familiar friends."

The Pacific Grove Museum and its collection of shells, seaweed and plant life is a valuable outgrowth of the early Chautauqua days. It is one of that city's most interesting and worthwhile projects. It is educational beyond all doubt and is bound to grow and expand into even larger quarters as its many appreciative friends give generously and continue to add to the collection. The butterflies which are exhibited at intervals and those which are always out are a continued source of admiration to the visitor. It is with pleasure that we recall the names of Mrs. Lucy Chase, the donor of the building; and Dr. Harold Heath, who for many years was a moving spirit at the museum, and Mrs. Theresa Lloyd, the curator. Now the compliments of the community should go to Mr. Burton Henshaw, the present curator.