

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 27, 1951

### **Conference of Curators**

An historical event took place in Monterey on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> when the first annual Conference of the Curators of all State Historical Monuments in California met at the Stevenson House State Historical Monument in Monterey.

The event had been planned under the direction of the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks, Department of Natural Resources. Mrs. Mary D. Greene, curator of the Old Custom House, and Carroll D. Hall, Curator, Sutter's Fort State Historical Monument were co-chairmen for planning the program for the two day's sessions.

WHO WAS THERE – Attending the conference were Daisy V. Barbour, Mission Museum at Sonoma; Jack D. Dysen, San Juan State Historical Monuments; Charles Packard, Indian Museum, Sacramento; John C. McKenzie, Fort Ross State Historical Museum; Glen Price, Pio Pico Monument; Martin Cole, Sutter's Fort; Frank L. Gutierrez, La Purisima Mission; Mrs. William Kneass, Stevenson House; Richard T. Rodriguez, Columbia; Mrs. Lester Hartigan, California's First Theater; Eugene Velvey; San Clemente, assistant superintendent Southern district; Elmer C. Aldrich, superintendent construction and education, Sacramento; R.R. Empanan, Sutter's Fort; J.T. Chaffee, superintendent's office, Monterey; Mrs. Madie D. Brown, Vallejo Home State Historical Monument, Sonoma; Earl P. Hansen, acting chief Division of Beaches and Parks; R.S. Coon, Monterey district, superintendent; John H. Knight, central district superintendent; Everett E. Powell, Sacramento acting deputy chief; Henry B. Collins, Shasta; Edna G. Rogge, Monterey; and Miss Myfanwy Lloyd, assistant curator Monterey.

THE PROGRAM – Earl P. Hanson, acting chief of the division opened the sessions with an explanation of the Role of Historical Monuments in the State Park system. Deputy Chief Powell followed with a talk on the 'Rules and Regulations of Beaches and Parks which affect "Historical Monuments"'. Educating the public to the values of State Parks and Monuments was discussed by Elmer Aldrich and Mrs. Greene spoke on "Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Monuments.

Dr. Aubrey Neasham, regional historian, National Park Service addressed the group on Tuesday afternoon, taking as his subject 'Our Historical Heritage'. He discussed what is being done to preserve and interpret that heritage and showed a group of slides of historical buildings gathered together by the National Parks system, to illustrate his subject.

Monday evening the curators met at the old Custom House previous to enjoying dinner at Angelos on the Monterey Wharf; four curators in Monterey, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Hartigan, Mrs. Kneass and Miss Lloyd were hostesses at the Custom House.

"CUSTOM HOUSE" CUSTOMARY – Very often we are asked which spelling is correct "Custom House" or "Customs House". The Deputy Commission of Customs in Washington, D.C. writes: "As this department must follow the Style Manual issued by the Public Printer the word Custom House is used by the Customs Service in its publications and correspondence.

Webster's International Dictionary has been the accepted authority for Government printing for the past 85 years. That dictionary contains the word Customhouse as one word unhyphenated. The United States Government Printing Office manual (November 1935 edition) issued by the Public Printer under the authority of Section 51 of the Public Printing Law of January 12, 1895, contains the word "Custom house" as the approved form of the spelling of this word.