

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 20, 1953

Historical Landmark Conference

A conference, sponsored by the California History Foundation of the College of the Pacific, will be held in Columbia on July 24 and 25. Harold G. Schutt of Lindsay, California, is the chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements, and Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt of the history department of the college, and Clyde Arbuckle of San Jose, are his assistants.

Announcements say that the first session of the conference will be held in the garden of Dr. Robert Burns' summer home at Columbia at 8 o'clock on Friday evening, the 24th of July. This session will cover an introductory talk, a brief history of Columbia and a discussion of the historical marker program.

Saturday morning there will be a discussion of the "mechanics" of historical societies, organization and program, publications, small museums, research, interviewing and preparing materials, then a question and answer period. In the latter part of the afternoon there will be a tour of Columbia, now a California State Historical Landmark.

Saturday evening the summer session of the College of the Pacific, which is conducted in Columbia, will present "The Liars" in the old and historic Fallon Theater. This theater has a history going back to the early days of the Gold Rush in California.

First constructed in 1865, the Fallon House Theater gradually fell into disrepair through the years. In 1949, after Columbia, one of the quaintest and most historic locations in the Mother Lode, was declared a State Park, the Division of Beaches and Parks made a complete restoration of the theater. The auditorium with its picturesque horseshoe balcony conveys an impression of the late 1860's, while behind the proscenium arch the stage is completely equipped with modern facilities.

Invitations and announcements have been sent out by the California State Library for the interested public to attend an exhibition in the Prints Room during the present month. Northern California Arts will present graphic and decorative arts by local artists. There was a reception for the artists and their friends on Wednesday evening, July 8th.

Of interest on the Peninsula will be the news that Henry B. Collins had two of his lithographs passed by the jury

and they are now hanging in the show in Sacramento. Mr. Collins was formerly the curator at the Stevenson House in Monterey when it was first opened as an historical landmark. He was a member of Monterey Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West and is now an assistant at Sutter's Fort and Indian Museum at Sacramento.

One of Mr. Collin's lithographs is entitled "Korema Retto" taken from his combat sketch on D-Day, April 1, 1945, and the other is "Kosa Military Camp" on Okinawa.

The California Historical Society announces a new edition of its Drake's Plate publications. "Drake's Plate of Brass" and "Drake's Plate of Brass Authenticated," which contain evidence of the visit of Sir Francis Drake to California in 1579, are handsomely printed, and summarize the several bits of information which have appeared in the past fourteen years.

The Society also announces the following special publications; "A Doctor Comes to California, the diary of John S. Griffin, assistant surgeon with Kearney's Dragoons, 1846-1847." This tale is one of the few descriptive narratives extant of a journey over the southern route to California. He discusses early methods of medical and surgical treatment which makes the book extremely interesting and informative.

"California Gold Discovery," also a publication of the Historical Society, is a complete story of Sutter's sawmill, of the dramatic story of gold discovery and the discovery 99 years later, of the tailrace in which it was found, together with a description of the articles uncovered during the excavation.