

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Days of the Auto

"Early Automobile Days in California" will be an entertaining subject for discussion at the first fall meeting of the California Historical Society to be held Thursday, Sept. 17, in the Comstock Room of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Following luncheon, Mr. Edwin S. Moore, assistant general manager of the California State Automobile Association, will tell of these historic days of the early automobile in the state.

In these affluent days everyone has a personal interest in the automobile, and many of us remember the difficulties and excitement of the first, tentative touring trips. "Those who remember," writes the editor of 'Notes' the Society's official publication, "will be reminded by Mr. Moore's talk; to those younger listeners the stories of a day when roads were corduroy and dust was ever-present will come as a pleasant revelation of the ease of today's motoring."

Plans are being initiated in New York for the construction, by popular subscription, of a gigantic "Hall of Our History" which is to be built on a site, contributed by the State of Georgia, on the plateau of Pine Mountain. The vast, rectangular edifice is to be 400 feet long, 258 feet wide, and 90 feet high; on its inner granite walls the history of the United States from earliest times will be portrayed by heroic sculpture and carved inscriptions under direction of Eric Gugler, architect and chairman of the policy board of the organization in charge.

Among the trustees are such nationally -known names as those of Milton Eisenhower, John L. Lewis, Basil O'Connor, Walter P. Reuther, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and George A. Sloan.

Henry R. Wagner, who has in preparation a reprinting of the account of the visit, in 1796, of Capt. Ebenezer Dorr to Monterey in the ship "Otter," is seeking descendants of the captain.

A contemporary oil portrait of Dorr hangs in the California Historical Society room on McAllister Street in San Francisco. Doctor Wagner states that there was, in the eighties, a well-known literary figure in San Francisco, Herbert C. Dorr. It is descendants of this latter-day Dorr with whom he wishes to communicate.

His address is 1135 Winston Ave., San Marino 9, California.

Majorie Trumbull wrote in "Exclusively Yours" in a San Francisco newspaper, a delightful column about Martin Baer, a former resident of Carmel, a member of the Carmel Art Gallery Association, and a friend of this editor of the Peninsula Diary. Martin Baer is now a resident of San Francisco and one of his paintings now hangs in the Rabow Galley there. As we write these words we are admiring a painting of three small peasant girls who reside on the Island of Ibiza, off the coast of Spain, a picture we never have tired of admiring.

The Book Club of California has announced the printing of "Pioneers of the Sacramento" a group of letters by and about Johann Augustus Sutter, James W. Marshall and John Bidwell. The introduction has been written by Jane Grabhorn of the Grabhorn Press.

"Pioneers of the Sacramento" the first book printed for the club by the Colt Press of San Francisco, is limited to 400 copies and the price per copy is \$7.50. Eventually it will become a collector's item. This book produced by the Grabhorn Press is printed on paper from Holland and bound in marbled paper boards with cloth back. In addition to the five letters the work contains a reproduction of a rare early broadside honoring James W. Marshall, and one of a map of the gold fields based on surveys made by John Bidwell and first published in 1848.

Originals of the letters published in the book are in Sutter's Fort Monument collection, California State Library, University of California's Bancroft collection and the Grabhorn collection.