

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 6, 1954

Some Interesting Books

Today we have before us a group of good books which we recommend to our readers. One of our nicest Christmas gifts was an autographed copy of "My Heart Lies South," the story of a Mexican marriage by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino, the bride of the story. The author was born in Bakersfield, graduated from Stanford, studied violin in Boston, and then began a newspaper career on the Boston Herald.

The story begins when Mrs. Trevino was sent to Monterrey, Mexico by her paper. From Laredo to Monterrey and all during her week's stay in that city, Luis Trevino was her guide and escort. A year later she returned to Monterrey as Luis' bride. Custom-bound provincial Mexico was strange indeed to an American girl, and it is about these customs that Mrs. Trevino writes most entertainingly. Today a full-fledged senora, Mrs. Trevino "has come to know and understand a world where the clock still points to the 1800's."

Another valuable book issued by the University of California Press for the Friends of the Bancroft Library, is "The Opening of the California Trail," the story of the Stevens Party from the reminiscences of Moses Schallenberger, as set down by H.H. Bancroft about 1885.

The notes were expanded and edited by Horace S. Foote in 1888, and now edited with introduction, notes maps, and illustrations by George R. Stewart. Only 350 copies of this book have been printed and specially bound for members of the Friends of the University's Bancroft Library.

The document supplies the story of Moses Schallenberger, one of the great human interest stories of the early west, as well as the details of the opening of the first wagon-road to California, and its discovery and surmounting of Donner Pass.

From the Desert Magazine Press at Palm Desert there has come to us a copy of "Lost Mines and Buried Treasures Along the Old Frontier" by John D. Mitchell. The author has selected from the hundreds of legends and histories of lost mines bequeathed to the Southwest by its early adventurers, 50 thrilling, mystery-laden tales. John Mitchell declares that he believes implicitly in the truth of the tales he has related

in this book, and is confident that sooner or later many of these treasures will be re-discovered.

The Book Club of California and the Grabhorn Press of San Francisco have recently published a book, "Pioneers of the Sacramento," which is certainly destined to become a collector's item. It is composed of a group of letters by and about Johann Augustus Sutter, James W. Marshall and John Bidwell. Jane Grabhorn has written the introduction.

A colored map of the Valley of the Sacramento, including the gold region, is the interesting frontispiece. It is a facsimile of "a correct tracing of the map of Bidwell by Thomas O. Larkin Esq., late consul of the U.S. for California; and by him stated to be the best for reference in California." Only 400 copies of the edition were printed for the Colt Press.

Sutter's letter to Bidwell is in the collection in Sutter's Fort in Sacramento; Bidwell's letter to Sutter is owned by the California State Library; Bidwell's letter to Captain W.F. Swasey is in the collection of Edwin Grabhorn, as is the "Broadside: Account of the Discovery of Gold"; and originals of James W. Marshall's letter to John Bidwell and J.A. Sutter's letter to Mrs. General John Bidwell, are in the Bancroft Library at the University of California. All these valuable documents were used through the courtesy of their owners.