

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 3, 1954

### 'Mr. California'

Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, director of the California History foundation at the College of the Pacific was officially and appropriately titled "Mr. California" on his 86th birthday, Feb. 3, 1954. Acting for Gov. Goodwin J. Knight, the honor was conferred by Joseph R. Knowland, president of the California Historical Society.

At the opening of the seventh historical institute of the College of the Pacific on March 19 and 20, a formal presentation will be made of a portrait of Dr. Hunt, by Nan Rice of Stockton. Herbert C. Jones of San Jose, former state senator from that district will speak on "The Fight for the Water Hole."

On the morning of March 20th Clyde Arbuckle will preside at a panel devoted to publicity programs for local historical societies; a general session presided over by Dr. Will G. Paden, with talks by W. Turrentine Jackson and R. Coke Wood, will follow. The Institute will close with the annual luncheon and a tea at Pioneer Museum and Haggin Art galleries.

Dr. Hunt, is not old enough to remember any of these dates but we think the events which occurred during the month of March in the years between 1840 and 1847 in California are worth recording to refresh the memory of both old and new residents of California. On March 10, 1840, the first Supreme Court of California, or "Tribunal de Justicia," was formed by the junta departmental, acting under authority of the law of May 23, 1837. The judges or 'ministros' were: Juan Malarin, J.A. Carrillo, J. E. Estudillo, and A.M. Osio, with Juan Bandini as secretary. Many descendants of these early citizens of California are living on the Monterey Peninsula today.

On March 27, 1828, twelve years before the above event took place, Sylvester Pattie and his son, James Ohio Pattie, with six companion trappers, arrived in San Diego under an order of arrest signed by Gov. Jose Maria de Encheandia, after which they made their way westward from Santa Fe to Mission Santa Catalina, in Baja California. These two men were the ancestors of the late Thomas W. Norris of Carmel, former president of the Monterey History and Art Association and an ardent and well known collector of Californiana

The Patties spent two years in California, mostly in confinement, but their visit was notable in virtue of their observations, which young Pattie recorded in his "The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie of Kentucky" a copy of which we have before us as we write. The narrative is now out of print and is a collector's item. It was first published in Cincinnati in 1831. That the father and son were able to vaccinate 22,000 Spanish-Californians for smallpox in 1829, vaccine for which they had carried with them, probably saved the life of the younger Pattie but the father died in prison and was buried in San Diego.

March 6, 1847 the first detachment of New York Volunteers, recruited in New York as a part of Gen. Stephen W. Kearney's Army of the West, mustered in at Governor's Island Aug. 1, 1846, and arrived in San Francisco under command of Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson. The regiment had made the journey to California around Cape Horn in five small transports. Necessity for their help in the hostilities no longer being necessary, the soldiers were employed in garrisons in San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara and elsewhere. While in Monterey, the men amused themselves producing old time plays in what became California's First Theater, now a state historical monument.

Many of the descendants of these soldiers are now leading citizens of Monterey.