

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Museum Conference

The 19th annual meeting of the American Association of Museums is to be held in Santa Barbara May 26-28. Announcement has been made that the museums of Santa Barbara – the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Art, and the Botanic Garden, through their trustees, directors and staffs – are arranging for a memorable visit by the hundreds of AAM members and museum delegates who will attend. The Western Museums Conference will be held in conjunction with the national meeting instead of in the fall as it is usually held. The Monterey History and Art Association is a member of this Association.

Attending from the Peninsula will be Mrs. Mary Greene, curator of the Old Custom House; Mrs. William Kneass, curator of the Stevenson House; Mrs. Isabel Hartigan, curator of the First Theater; Miss Myfawny Lloyd and Mrs. Vera Stewart, assistant curators; and Mrs. W.M. O'Donnell, secretary-treasurer of the History and Art Association.

The opening general session will be at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on the morning of the first day with William M. Milliken of the Cleveland Museum of Art, president of the American Association of Museums, giving the presidential address.

On each of the two days following proceedings are to begin with a general session – one devoted to “Constructive Direction of Youth,” and arranged by the Childrens' Museums section through its chairman, Miriam Wood, chief of the Raymond Foundation, Chicago Natural History Museum; and the other to “Television”, arranged by the Education Section through its chairman, W. Stephen Thomas, director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Santa Barbara's plans for entertainment are inviting according to the announcements. They begin with an informal dinner party at the Montecito Country Club, with Sam D. Hinton, curator of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, in charge of the musical program. The Museum of Natural History asks all to luncheon on the opening day. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art plans a supper at the end of the second evening, and there will have been on that day also a reception at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. To

make the events more enjoyable, bus transportation will be provided and on Friday they will end by taking members to see either gardens or art collections at homes of friends of the Santa Barbara museums.

The State Division of Beaches and Parks, under whose supervision the State owned historic sites and buildings are administered, feel that the conference is of sufficient importance to make it possible for all the curators to attend, providing substitutes during their absence in order that all the buildings in Monterey may be open to visitors on the usual days and for the same number of hours.

Many of the members of the Santa Barbara committee for this event are well known on the Monterey Peninsula. It includes the officers of the three host institutions: Harold Chase, president; and Arthur Sterry Coggeshall, director of the Museum of Natural History; Mrs. Lockwood De Forest, president, and Mrs. Ala Story, director, of Museum of Art; and Sellar Bullard, president, and Katherine K. Muller director, of the Botanic Garden. Dr. Coggeshall is chairman.

The American Association of Museums has met only once before the West Coast – at San Francisco in 1939.