

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 19, 1955

Chinese Centennial

The annual business meeting of California Historical Society will be of special interest this year when the members meet in the Comstock Room of the Sheraton Palace Hotel to elect officers and hear an unusually entertaining program. Friday, Jan. 28, is the date when luncheon will be followed with an address by Mr. Carl I. Wheat on "The Early Mapping of the American West," with special reference to Jedediah Smith.

Mr. Wheat has been a longtime director of the society and is co-author of the society's new publication on Jedediah Smith. His colleague, Dale L. Morgan of the Bancroft Library staff, and Lawton R. Kennedy, who was responsible for the splendid format of the volume, will also be guests of the society at the luncheon. There are many members of the Historical Society on the Monterey Peninsula who may be planning to attend the affair. Members of the Monterey History and Art Association are eligible to be present owing to the fact that the association is a member, but reservation must be made in advance as the seating capacity is limited to 200 persons.

Mrs. Edna Martin Parratt has been the managing director of the California Historical Society for the past nine- and one-half years. With the duties of that office have been combined the publication of the Society's monthly "Notes," sent to the membership, and which, we are certain, have been a source of enjoyment and knowledge of Californiana otherwise not obtainable in brief and accurate douses. Now we are informed that Mrs. Parratt is resigning, as of February 1st, to live among us.

Mrs. Parratt writes: "We ourselves are happy at the prospect of a garden in Carmel Highlands which we shall attempt to cultivate with the no doubt extremely active assistance of two dachshunds." We will welcome Mrs. Parratt to the Peninsula for she is also a member of the Monterey History and Art Assn. and has owned property here for a number of years.

Also observed in "Notes from the California Historical Society" is this item: "A series of six lectures will be given on Tuesday mornings at 10 o'clock in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, under the sponsorship of the

National Council of Catholic Women, with Mrs. George A. Applegarth acting as chairman. The course is entitled 'Historic San Francisco,' and the public is invited, there being no charge for admission."

Titles and speakers are most interesting: Jan. 11, "Background, Voyages of Discovery, Junipero Serra," Rev. Peter M. Dunne, S.J., University of San Francisco; Jan. 18, "Portola and Anza Expeditions," Claude T. Silva of City College. San Francisco; Jan. 25, "Founding of Mission Dolores and the Presidio," Most Rev. M. J. Guilfoyle, auxiliary bishop of San Francisco; Feb. 1, "Founding of Yerba Buena," William Richardson, Theodore E. Treutline, San Francisco State College; Feb. 8, "Historic Landmarks of San Francisco," A. T. Leonard Jr., M.D.; Feb. 15, "Literature on San Francisco," Dr. Peter T. Commy, Oakland Public Library.

Mrs. Applegarth, announced as the director in charge of the series of programs, is the daughter of the late Mrs. Laura Bride Powers, California historian, author of "Old Monterey" and first curator of the Old Custom House in Monterey. Mrs. Applegarth and her family are well known on the Peninsula. They formerly owned a home in Carmel and spent many vacations there.

"Notes" also informs us that centennials continue. Of all nationalities and races in California, the Chinese have been perhaps the most distinctive. Last month a handsome and distinctive red and gold invitation was issued by them for the centennial celebration of the King Chow Temple on Jackson street in San Francisco. The opening ceremony was held at noon, followed by a buffet and open house: festivities concluded with a Chinese opera in the evening.