

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Historical Societies

The Monterey History and Art Assn. now steps from plans and realization of a successful Merienda in celebration of Monterey's 185th birthday to further plans for an annual conference of California Historical Societies to be held in Monterey June 24-25, with the association as host to several hundred persons coming from all parts of the state to discuss the interests of historical societies.

Not all plans for the event have been completed, but the arrangements which have already been made by the chairman, Clyde Arbuckle of San Jose and Mrs. Mary L. Greene of Monterey, chairman of arrangements, appear to be most interesting and educational. The Peninsula Convention Bureau has made the House of Four Winds, which is owned by the Monterey Civic Club, available for the meetings.

The History and Art Assn., the Monterey County Historical Society and the Historical Society of Watsonville, are to be hosts on the first day of the conference at a Merienda in Memory Garden. The Salinas group will provide the green salad from lettuce raised in that valley, and the Watsonville group will feature apples for the dessert.

The History and Art Association will provide barbecued salmon steaks, Spanish beans, coffee and all the other appointments. There will be music, a dance program and other entertaining features to the Merienda.

Friday morning, June 24, there will be a guided tour to many of the historic monuments and a few of the private homes in Monterey. After the Memory Garden Merienda, Mrs. Fremont Older of Cupertino, will speak of "Research on Vasquez' Birthday and other Historic Places in Monterey Area." Eric A. Falconer of San Francisco will follow Mrs. Older with "Research on Location of Drake's Bay and Placing of Drake's Plate of Brass in 1579."

The late afternoon program sounds interesting. Dr. Earl E. Rhoads of San Jose will entertain with "A Kodachrome History of the Donner Trail Through Nevada and Placer Counties."

In the evening there will be a special performance in California's First Theatre when the Troopers of the Gold

Coast will produce "Stolen Fruit" for the pleasure of the Conference guests.

Dr. William Shephard of the University of California, will open the Saturday morning program with a talk on "Frenchmen in the Gold Rush," to be followed by H. Price Webb, director of the San Jose Adult Center, who will speak on "The Adult Center Vagabonds, or Studying California History via Greyhound Bus." Before the luncheon hour Dr. Joseph McGowan, Sacramento State College, will give an "Interpretation of Relations Between California Mission and Indians."

The program part of the conference will end with a talk by Dr. Benjamin Gilbert, San Jose State College, on "A Survey of Techniques and Procedures Used by Historical Societies in Other States."

General business, election of officers and other matters of business will be taken up Saturday afternoon before adjournment. It is expected that most of the guests will remain through Sunday to enjoy the pleasures which the Monterey Peninsula provides.

The Sacramento County Historical Society in cooperation with the State Division of Beaches and Parks, have dedicated its first marker, celebrating the groundbreaking centennial of the Sacramento Valley Railroad in 1855. Speakers were Joseph Knowland and Allan Ottley.

The current project of the Society is to mark the 1848 Gold Discovery Trail from Sacramento to Coloma. The committee has gone over the route and made tentative selections of locations for bronze plaques which will be erected in cooperation with the State Division of Beaches and Parks and the Golden Key, historical society of El Dorado County.