

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 25, 1956

The Vigilantes

On Friday, Jan. 25, the California Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the Sheraton - Palace Hotel and honor the centennial of the 1856 San Francisco Committee of Vigilance. As speaker, the society has been fortunate in securing John Ritchie McKee, great-grandson of the martyred editor James King of William, and grandnephew of Clancy Dempster, chief advisor of William Tell Coleman, the committee's leader. Mr. Dempster has titled his address, "The San Francisco Vigilantes of 1856."

The "Notes" from the Historical Society announces that descendants of the Vigilantes are particularly invited to attend luncheon, for it was their forefathers who organized the largest and most powerful group of its kind ever existing in the old West.

It is with pleasure, that we note that the Native Sons of the Golden West recently honored Joseph R. Knowland, Oakland publisher and the oldest living past president of the order. The Native Sons held their annual Northern California "Discovery or Gold" banquet in the Elks Club in San Francisco, as it honored Mr. Knowland.

Mr. Knowland is the chairman of the State Division of Beaches and Parks, is president of the California Historical Society and a part time resident of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club, where he owns a home.

There are still a few days left in this month to see the two very fine specimens of grizzly bear skulls in a small, special case in the Pacific Grove Museum. Merton E. Hinshaw, the curator, and his assistant, Mrs. Grace B. Selzer, will change this exhibit about Feb. 1, so to see them in special display it would be advisable to visit the museum very soon. With the skulls is the book recently published by Tracy Storer and Lloyd P. Tevis Jr., entitled "California Grizzly," into which the authors put many years of research and intensive study.

It is also interesting to note that one of the skulls was presented to the museum by the late Mrs. Herbert Hoover, who as Lou Henry lived in Monterey for many years before her marriage to the former President, and taught school here. Mrs. Jean Henry Large of Carmel is Mrs. Hoover's sister.