

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 18, 1956

Restoration Near Arcadia

Today we will leave the Peninsula area and journey to Southern California for our story, not as a vacation spot, although that would be exciting also, but to tell you about a restoration of two historic places near Arcadia known as the Hugo Reid Adobe and the "Lucky" Baldwin Carriage House on the grounds of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Insofar as possible the Hugo Reid adobe, built in 1839 and still standing, will be re-established to its appearance of the "hide and tallow" days, when it was the home of rancher Hugo Reid and his wife, Dona Victoria. This was discussed at a conference with members of the Arboretum Foundation's committee and Dr. Aubrey Neasham, historian for the State Division of Beaches and Parks, when it was decided to start work on the two projects as soon as money was available. Co-chairmen of the Foundation Historical committee are Mrs. Richard Dakin and Mrs. John Mage. Mrs. Dakin is the author of "The Lives of William Hartnell" and "A Scotch Paisano," the story of the life of Hugo Reid.

The Hugo Reid adobe, constructed on an ancient Indian campsite, is typical of the earliest non-aboriginal architecture in California, the entire Southwest and Mexico, its admirers declare. It was built by Indians, supervised by the "Scotch Paisano" himself and a padre from nearby San Gabriel Mission.

It is planned in addition to re-establish the plantings surrounding the adobe to conform almost exactly to the time of the early Spanish days as Hugo Reid kept an accurate horticultural diary.

The meeting of the state authorities with the Arboretum Historical Committee was held recently beneath a spreading camphor tree planted in the early days at Rancho Santa Anita, formerly the property of the late "Lucky" Baldwin. Also growing nearby is a pomegranate shrub said to date back to 1840.

The Baldwin Carriage House, also standing, will be restored to its gala appearance of the gayer 1880's when it housed some of the best livestock and immaculate coaches and buggies of California. The State Architect's office will be in charge of both the adobe and the carriage house restorations.

In an advisory capacity with State Historian Aubrey Neasham will be Glenn Price, curator of the Will Rogers State Park at Pacific Palisades.

The second annual meeting of the Conference of California Historical Societies will be held in San Jose, June 21, 22, 23, 1956. On Friday, the first day of the conference, at 10 a.m. Woodrow J. Hanson, department of social studies, Napa College, will speak of "Men of the Constitutional Convention," to be followed an hour later by a report of "California's First Legislature," given by Herbert C. Jones, former state senator and an authority on California history. For the centennial celebration of the meeting of that first legislature in San Jose, Jones gave a like address before the California Historical Society. The luncheon speakers are to be Rev. John B. McGloin, S.J., Ph.D., historical archivist, University of San Francisco; and George Markikian of San Francisco whose subject is entitled "My Song of California."

The afternoon session will be presided over by Dr. George Hammond, director of the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, who was the speaker at the Merienda on Monterey's birthday. "The Society of the Southern Mines" will be the subject for an entertaining talk by Dr. William Robert Kenney of Sacramento. Dr. Glen S. Dumke of Occidental College will discuss "The Boom of the Twenties"; and Charles W. Kenn of Honolulu will speak of the "Descendants of Captain Sutter's Kanakas."

There will be other talks, a workshop for museums, libraries, collecting, research and records, centennials, mails and transportation, landmarks, organization of societies, membership, dues, and publications. There will be special group luncheons and a business meeting for reports and election of regional vice presidents and new business.

The Monterey History and Art Assn. is a charter member of this state organization and several of the members are planning to attend the San Jose conference.