

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **History Gets Housekeeping**

The 14th Western Museum Conference will be held in San Francisco Friday and Saturday, October 5 and 6. The California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate park will be the setting for the meetings, with Dr. Robert C. Miller, director of the Academy and president of the Conference, welcoming the members. Several members of the Monterey History and Art Assn. will be in attendance as well as curators from the State and city owned historical monuments in Monterey.

The fifth annual Symposium of the Historical Societies of Northern California and Southern Oregon will be held in Sonoma, Oct. 12, 13, and 14. The program for these meetings sounds most interesting. Among the speakers will be Dr. Aubrey Neasham, historian, State Division of Beaches and Parks, who will speak on "Sonoma Valley's Place in California History." Dr. John Hussey, regional historian, National Park Service, will relate the "Story of the Bear Flag and Revolt." Mrs. Helen Giffen, secretary, California Pioneers, is scheduled to tell the "Story of the California Missions," illustrated with slides.

There will be conducted tours of historic spots in Sonoma, tours of the wineries, a visit to the Pony Express Retreat and Pony Express History and Art Gallery at San Rafael. Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Emparran are in charge of the arrangements for the symposium, assisted by Waddell F. Smith.

Members of the History and Art Association are eligible to attend any or all of these meetings as the association is a member of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

We can imagine nothing more interesting and worthwhile than to be able to attend the tenth annual meeting of The National Trust for Historic Preservation to be held in Washington, D. C., Oct. 19-21st. The Monterey Foundation is a member of this important organization, which is the owner of the Casa Amesti, now the home of the Old Capital Club.

On the way to Washington, it would also be thrilling to stop off at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts from Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Assn. for State and Local History. There are to be such discussion as "Treasure Hunting in Americana", "Financing the Historical

Society", "Educational Work of the Historical Society", and a tour of the village. All the speakers are important persons interested in education and history and in the preservation of historic sites in the United States.

"Have you a house that's just a wee bit historic? Has your neighborhood an antique building which could use a spot of professional preservation? is there, handy by, an old fort, mill, store, theater, or laboratory, which might be restored? Or even a section like Beacon Hill in Boston?" asks the San Francisco Argonaut in Mary Van Rensselaer Thayer's Washington column.

This question was asked apropos of the tenth annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 350 of whose members are converging on Washington for a session brim full of enthusiasm for patriotic preservation, historic housekeeping, and sightseeing.

Featured guest will be J. F. W. Rathbone of the trust's opposite number in England. "The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty." The British Trust has been operating for many years and has preserved some of the finest homes in the British Isles. The National Trust in the United States is a non-profit, non-governmental membership organization chartered by Congress in 1949, to assist in historic preservation.

"Under its charter it now administers Woodlawn Plantation at Mt. Vernon, Va.; Casa' Amesti, an historic adobe in Monterey, Calif.; Decator House, the home of a naval hero of the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812; and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson has announced her intention of bequeathing the house and a part of its contents on S. Street to which the World War I President retired and where he died," Miss Thayer reports.

During the three-day sessions, the visitors will tour Decator House, willed to the Trust by Mrs. Truxton Beale; The Coach House, once Abraham Lincoln's stables; Woodlawn, the property given by Washington to his stepdaughter as a wedding present. There will be teas, luncheons, and meetings in several other historic places as well as sessions where prominent persons will talk on the subject most interesting to those in attendance.