

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 18, 1957

A Norris Memorial

The annual meeting of the Monterey History and Art Assn. will be held Monday evening, at 8 o'clock in the USO building.

The committee in charge of the evening's program has planned the 26th annual meeting in memory of Thomas Wayne Norris, the president of the association from 1950 to the time of his death in 1952.

Dr. Lindley Bynum of the Bancroft Library, University of California, long-time friend of Mr. Norris, will speak on "Thomas Wayne Norris, the Man, the Collector." The Norris collection of California Indian baskets, and his valuable collection of Christmas cards which he mailed to his friends each year, featuring bits of Californians from his own collection, will be on display.

J. F. van Loben Seis, president of the association, will preside. Annual reports, election of directors and refreshments, will be on the agenda.

The annual business meeting and election of directors of the California Historical Society will be held on Friday, Jan. 25, in the Rose Room of the Sheraton - Palace Hotel, preceded by a luncheon at noon. Immediately following the luncheon and reading of reports, the meeting will be addressed by Donald McLaughlin, eminent authority on mining, whose subject will be "Gold That Built California and the West."

Mr. McLaughlin's parallel careers of distinguished scholar and successful businessman have led him to an original and interesting approach to his subject, a few days short of the 109th anniversary of James Marshall's fortuitous discovery.

President of the Homestake Mining Co., author of many articles on ore deposits in the United States, and former dean of both the College of Mining and the College of Engineering of the University of California, Mr. McLaughlin has a background as valuable as the topic of his speech.

We noted in "Notes, California Historical Society" that Mrs. Philip Van Horne Lansdale had presented the society with a silver coffee service. Not only, according to the announcement, will it be useful in entertaining in the new Jackson street headquarters, but it is of historical value as well, having been made by Shreve

and Co. and presented by the regents of the University of California to Civil War Gov. F. F. Low. It would be very nice if some member or friend would present a silver service to the Monterey History and Art Assn., which could be used at their several social affairs throughout the years,

The first Crescent City lighthouse, one of the oldest of such installations on the Coast of California, has now been leased by the Del Norte County Historical Society from the federal government for a museum. In its original setting and with the antique banjo clock, logbook, and Fresnel lens of former days, this historic place may be visited at low tide. Other valuable relics — marine life, mining equipment from the ghost town of Altaville, Indian objects from the South Fork of Smith River, etc. — also grace its shelves and exhibit cases, according to an announcement from the Del Norte Society.

It was on March 3, 1855, that \$15,000 was appropriated by Congress to build the Crescent City Lighthouse. On Dec. 10, 1856, "Mr." Van Court lit the first light. On Feb. 17, 1857, Theophilis Magruder was officially appointed as the lighthouse keeper at a salary of \$1,000 per year. Listed as an item from the first stores received is a time clock, presumed to be the banjo clock which the Del Norte Historical Society listed as one of the treasured items of the new museum.

If any of our readers should be interested in the history of farms and farm horses in California even before the turn of The century they might be interested in "Wheelers, Pointers and Leaders," a book written by Monroe Griggs of Exeter, Calif. The author came to Tulare County in 1876 at the age of nine years and has resided there since that date. His experiences as a teamster form the background for the story. He used horses for farming, hauling lumber, staging; he operated a livery stable, "packed" in the mountains and with the advent of the automobile he purchased a two cycle, three cylinder Elmore to use as a stage from Visalia to Badger.

Grigg's book was published by the Tulare County Historical Society. The price is \$1.50, tax and postage paid, by writing to the Society, 701 Watson Ave., Visalia.