

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 15, 1957

Jedediah Smith

The Jedediah Smith Society, an affiliate of the California History Foundation, was organized Saturday morning of last week at the annual institute of the foundation held at the College of the Pacific in Stockton.

The Society will acquire and preserve materials relating to Jedediah Strong Smith, the first American overland explorer into California. The nucleus for the collection has already been supplied for the new group by Leland D. Case of Chicago, editor of the national magazine, "Together." Case has gathered together a large number of books, letters, documents, maps, and notes about the pioneer, who first entered California in 1826.

Attending from the Monterey History and Art Assn. were Mrs. Mary Greene, Mrs. Alla McCarthy, Mrs. Waiter Collison and Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell.

The 10th annual foundation banquet was held Saturday evening in the Anderson dining hall of the College of the Pacific with Dr Robert Burns, president of the college, presiding.

It is always a pleasure to greet and talk with Dr. George P. Hammond and Mrs. Hammond Dr Hammond, director of the University of California's Bancroft Library, presided later in the evening when Dr. Burns and Dr. Malcolm R. Eiselen spoke on "Russians in California - Two Californians in Russia," meaning themselves. The colored slides taken on a recent tour of that country by the two educators, were most revealing and in most cases very beautiful.

W. H. Hutchinson (Old Hutch), author of "A Bar Cross Man" and other popular books, made a great impression upon his audience Saturday morning when he told the story of "The First V-Flume in California Lumbering," an informal review of the first draft of his new book to be published soon by the Diamond Match Company, relating the history of the lumber industry in the state. His humor was appreciated and his story historically correct and entertaining.

A reception and tea in the Pioneer Museum and Haggin Art Galleries, and the presentation of "The Lady's Not for Burning" by the College of the Pacific Players, closed a most successful institute.

The board of directors of the new Jedediah Strong Smith Society includes Reginald R. Stuart, director of the California History Foundation; College of the Pacific President Robert Burns, and Dr. Tully Knoles, chancellor of the college.

Smith first led a camping party into California in 1826 by the Colorado River and the Mojave Desert to Mission San Gabriel. The following year the party traveled north through the San Joaquin Valley and camped for several months on the Appalaminy (Stanislaus) River, and later moved "a few miles north," according to Smith's diary which was recently published.

Reginald Stuart believes this latter camp was probably located on the present site of French Camp. He believes the French fur trappers of the Hudson Bay Co., who later gave French Camp its name in 1830. used maps prepared by Smith, and in all probability, used the same camp site as he had established earlier.

The third annual conference of the California Historical Societies will be held in San Diego from June 20 to 22.

The 10th Annual Tour of the College of the Pacific of the Missions of California will be held, as usual, during the week preceding Easter - April 13 to 20, 1957. The tour is to be made by bus and Monterey will be one of the "ports of call." All of the 21 California missions will be visited, and the history of the great movement told in fascinating lectures by Prof. J. Randolph Hutchins of the College. We have been asked and permission has been granted, for the guests on the tour to visit Casa Soberanes during the evening they spend in Monterey.