

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 10, 1957

Occupation: Loafing

An announcement from the California Historical Society is important to all residents and historians of California for it concerns a noteworthy project - the indexing of each name listed in the U.S. 1850 census for the counties of Butte, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Tuolumne and Yuba, the only California areas for which this census has survived over the years.

Letters of inquiry were sent to interested research organizations, and to other states which previously had indexed their own decennial censuses, before the society initiated the California project.

The Bancroft Library has stated "that such an index would be extremely valuable." Allen Ottley, California State Library, wrote the society that "an index to the population schedule of the U.S. census of California would certainly be a helpful tool to genealogists and other researchers, and we hope that you will be able to find volunteers to do the work for you."

Notes from the California Historical Society reports that the project began on Page 1 of Butte County, and that even the census can be an intriguing document. Names of Hungarians, Hawaiians, Peruvians, East Indians, American Negroes, Manxmen, Down-East Yankees, and even a few lone "females" brought the whole panorama of the Gold Rush vividly to the eye. Giving their names and ages are traders, carpenters, gamblers, blacksmiths, thousands of miners, and even two honest men who described their occupation as "loafing." The Smith family, from their number, must have come to California "in toto."

The March 29 issue of the San Francisco Argonaut carries a feature story written by Pauline Barbour, curator of the Colton Hall Museum. The story is entitled "The Missing Delegates," meaning the photographs of delegates who attended the convention in 1849, which are missing from collection now under glass at the tables where each delegate approximately was seated during the business sessions of this now historic event.

Illustrations for the well-written article are of the convention hall on the upper floor of Colton Hall, the exterior of the building and a group of pictures featuring Thomas Oliver Larkin, John A. Sutler, W. E. P. Hartnell, Rev. Samuel H. Willey, Alfred J. Ellis (a delegate

from San Francisco and for whom a street there is named, and Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. Photographs of all these men are on exhibit. The 11 delegates, whose pictures are still missing are Charles T. Botts, Lewis Dent, Julian Hanks, Joseph Hobson, Henry Hill, Benjamin S. Lippincott, Benjamin F. Moore, William H. Steuart, Thomas L. Vermeule, William E. Shannon, and Winfield S. Sherwood.

At the close of the April meeting of the board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Assn., it was voted to hold a meeting of the entire membership in the Community Hall of the Monterey Public Library on April 29 at 8 o'clock in the evening. The program will consist of a showing of a group of colored slides of the adobes and historic buildings in Monterey, all the photographic work of Claude Faw of Carmel, one of the directors. Mrs. Mary Greene, curator of the old Custom House will be the commentator. The photographs will show the interiors and exteriors of most of the buildings and those of many of the exhibits which make the Custom House and the Stevenson House so interesting to the visitors and the school children of Monterey and other parts of California who travel long distances to visit them.