

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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New Books

Perhaps the most important single event to come out of the meeting of the California History Foundation and the Conference of California Historical Societies held at the College of the Pacific in Stockton, in March, was the organization of the Jedediah Smith Society.

Founded to emphasize and perpetuate the cultural contributions of the Americans in the building of California, the organization has selected as its name that of the first and greatest American overland explorer.

Jedediah Smith's career was so fantastic and so important to all later explorers that it has seemed worthy of special consideration and emphasis. Not only was he the first to reach California via the overland route, but he was as well: The first to blaze the southern route, the first to blaze the central route, though not the first; he traveled the northern route; the opener of the Oregon - California trail, the first white man to cross the Sierras, the announcer of the importance and significance of the south pass as an open roadway to the Great Basin, the senior member of a firm which successfully competed against the century - old Hudson's Bay Co, and the greatest American mapmaker of his day.

He did all these things without a cent of government aid, and as a sideline to making a living for himself and his men.

"A Navy Surgeon in California, 1846-1847," is the title of the journal of Marius Duvall, edited by Fred B. Rogers. This work, heretofore unpublished, records the observations made by Dr. Duvall during his California service and is a fresh source of material dealing with the great transition period in California, written at least weekly by one who was observant, discriminating, and certainly forthright. The book contains as illustrations a view of Monterey in 1846, a portrait of the author, a drawing of Portsmouth and reproductions of every rare California imprints. There are notes, an appendix, and an index. The edition is limited to 600 copies, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy, The price is \$10 plus sales tax.

The Academy Guild of Fresno has published "In Black and White," the evolution of an artist by Ernie

Palomino. All the drawings are in black and white, most of which were exhibited in the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco during the period that the Kress exhibit of paintings were showing. We enjoyed viewing them then and are again enjoying them as they appear in book form.

Ernie Palomino, a native of Fresno, received no formal art training studying only in the Fresno public schools with Mrs. Elizabeth Daniels Baldwin, a portrait artist and former San Francisco teacher. Palomino has recently accepted a one-term working scholarship to the California School of Fine Arts. He dedicated his book "to Elizabeth Daniels Baldwin, My Teacher."

The volume has been interestingly arranged by Mrs. Baldwin. It is divided into eight sections. The first, the beginning, contains the pictures drawn by Palomino in the seventh grade, when, he was 14 years old, the growth covers the period between 15 and 18 years of age. He was 19 when he did his first oils. He served a brief time in the Marine Corps.

The California Historical Society has chosen to publish "Port Admiral, Phineas Banning, 1830-1885" by Maymie Krythe. Banning was a Southern California pioneer who made over the transportation methods of the area and whose dream of a Port of Los Angeles became a successful reality. Banning has been known by various titles in addition to that of admiral. He arrived in San Pedro in 1851 and founded Wilmington, became "Master of Transportation" and the "Duke of Wilmington." In addition, he had the conversational titles of "major," "general," "judge," and "senator." It is said of him that he liked being given titles and encouraged the practice.

The price to members of the California Historical Society is \$6, to non-members, \$7.50. The address of the Society headquarters is 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco, 9.