

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **A New Curator**

A young man who once was a teacher at the Sunset school in Carmel has become the curator of the Pioneer Museum of the Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco. Elliot Evans is his name. His home was in Santa Cruz, where a number of the members of his family still live. That museum to which he has been chosen to administer is the property of the oldest historical society in the state.

Dr. Evans is a graduate of San Jose State College and of Stanford University, where he studied for his Ph. D. in history. He has been associated with the University of Colorado; Stephen F. Austin State College in Texas, and Santa Barbara College of the University of California where he was chairman of the Department of Art for several years.

Dr. Evans is also a director of the Society of Architectural Historians and past president of the Pacific Coast chapter. He has written extensively on art and architecture for local and national publications. In December of 1954, the California Historical Society printed in its Quarterly, an article written by Dr. Evans on William S. and William D. Jewett. William Smith Jewett came to San Francisco in 1849 when he joined the Gold Rush, but he also came "equipped to paint", according to Dr. Evan's account of his life. Paint he did, for nearly 20 years, but when he left California he practically vanished. William D. Jewett was the son of William S. He graduated from the University of California and became a portrait sculptor.

Under Dr. Evan's guidance the Society of California Pioneers is planning an extensive program in conjunction with its California Pioneer Foundation.

"Areas Administered by the National Park Service," a compilation of basis data on each of 181 areas as of last December, is just of the press of the Government Printing Office. The booklet may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 20 cents a copy. Broadened public interest in the National Park System has created a steadily increasing demand for the booklet which the service is no longer able to meet, It thus becomes a sales item this year for the first time, after a dozen years as a free publication.

In addition to the areas administered by the service, the booklet lists and describes briefly the 12 national historic sites not owned by the federal government. These have been established under authority conveyed by the Historic Sites Act, passed by Congress in 1935.

A news release from the office of the President of the American Assn. for State and Local History issued July 2 was carried by the Associated Press and the United Press services. It urged diligence in searching for and preserving worthy relics of the Civil War as the centennial approaches.

Six pieces of the original parlor furniture which were in the Custis-Lee Mansion (then Arlington House) during the occupancy by Robert E. Lee and his family, have been returned to the mansion and are now on public display.

The Lee heirlooms have been placed at Arlington through the generosity of Mrs. George Bolling Lee, owner of the furniture and widow of Gen. Lee's grandson, the late Dr. George Bowling Lee. It has been 96 years since the furniture was taken from the house. It was returned on an anniversary - the 126<sup>th</sup> - of the wedding anniversary of Robert E. Lee and Mary Ann Randolph Custis.