

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 20, 1958

Monterey's USO

We have received a booklet from the Monterey USO which acquaints us and all others who have been privileged to be on the mailing list of such a publication, with such a worthy organization.

There is a Volunteer Guide for the local USO, the Narrative Report for summer of 1958 and the USO Pal Day program, aside from the history of the establishment of this United Service Organization. This list of titles does not sound very entertaining as a bit of reading on a sleepless night, but we wonder how many folks on the Peninsula appreciate what the USO has done for the men in the service these many months and years, since it was established here.

When war is over, we are apt to forget, unless we have a son or a husband in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, or any other of the services. The USO endeavors to be a home away from home for the boys and men who wish for entertainment, the good company of girls who are properly chaperoned and older women who will listen to their story as well as talk with them about the things they are interested in or the important news of the day.

There is a great variety of entertainment planned for the USO at El Estero and Webster Streets in Monterey. There are social dances Wednesday and Saturday nights, folk dances Tuesday and Friday nights, beach parties Sunday afternoons, bingo and refreshments Sunday evening with often a variety show. There are movies, GI talent contests, roller skating, swims in the Naval pool, ping pong tournaments, progressive house parties where the different courses are served in private homes. Carmel Valley hayrides, ice follies caravan and musicals.

There is an information desk at the USO. Here the men are informed where to locate shaving equipment, electric iron, tickets for movies, sporting events and special activities.

One of the most important events scheduled for the near future is Pal Day, Monday, Nov. 10, starting at 7 o'clock, Mrs. Mae Sweeney will serve a turkey dinner. Special Services at Fort Ord will provide the entertainment. Sarge Cunningham is chairman for the evening and annual event, with Allen Knight, Chaplain

Ed Hemphill, Miss Claire Drommer, Dr. Frank Granito and Harold E. Brewer assisting. The Nisei VFW and VFW Auxiliary will donate their time as waiters and waitresses.

The purpose of Pal Day is to re-open the hearts and homes of the Community to America's sons and daughters in uniform, to feature the theme that we must not forget those who cannot forget us and to dramatize the fact that America's remembrance is channeled through the USO at home and overseas.

Tickets for the Pal Party are \$2.50 for a serviceman and a civilian, and may be purchased up to Saturday, Nov. 8th, What could possibly give more pleasure than to give a soldier boy a dinner at the Monterey USO!