

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **The Westerners Foundation**

Articles of incorporation for the Westerners Foundation, a non-profit historical research and publication organization with headquarters at the College of the Pacific, have been filed with the secretary of state in Sacramento by Assemblyman William Biddick of Stockton, COP President Robert E. Burns has announced.

The announcement came during conferences here with Philip A. Danielson of Evanston, Ill., president of the board of trustees of the foundation, and Glen W. Price, foundation director. Dr. Burns is vice president of the enterprise.

Organization of the Westerners Foundation stems from the original "Chicago Westerners," founded in 1942 by Leland Case, now editor of the national Methodist magazine, "Together," and Elma Scott Watson, professor in the Northwestern University School of Journalism. Case was formerly editor of the "Rotarian" magazine.

In September, Price was appointed director of the foundation and established an office in the Irving Martin Library where COP'S extensive special collections of western American historical materials are housed. Also named assistant professor of history at COP, the director has taught frontier and California history at the University of Southern California.

Danielson said the original purpose of the Chicago "corral" of the Westerners was to disseminate knowledge of western frontier history and folklore. To do this they hoped to establish a foundation press for publishing books and articles, and to provide a tax-exempt organization to receive (income from publications and contributions.

He said College of the Pacific was eventually, selected for the headquarters because the Westerners were looking for an institution not too large, but with wide recognition, located in an historical area of the West, able to provide office space and service, with an established research program in the field, and a special interest in the purpose of the Westerners.

The California History Foundation, the Jedediah Smith Society, headquarters for the California Historical Societies, and the Western Americana Library, all

developed at COP since World War II, provided this background.

Ralph LeRoy Milliken, author of "California Dons," with Mrs. Milliken, was among the members of the California Historical Society who visited Monterey recently and toured our State Historical Monuments. The Millikens are residents of Los Banos.

Mr. Milliken, autographed our copy of "California Dons" and then told us, with sincere enthusiasm, that his home city of Los Banos could now boast of a new museum known as the "Henry Miller Museum," and built by the county to house the historical items of that great cattle and agricultural community.

Milliken will be the first curator. Already George Miller Jr. has placed there Henry Miller's silver mounted saddle, which bears a Gilroy saddle maker's stamp. Residents of the county have given photographs and other interesting items for display.

During the recent Overland Mail Centennial Celebration, when the caravan passed through Los Banos, the museum was the center of attraction when the residents for miles around came to town to celebrate the arrival of the overland mail.