

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Historic Scouting Program**

The Boy Scouts of America are launching a program which will earn a Historic Trails Award for individual scouts completing the program and will require the cooperation of local historical societies and agencies throughout the country.

Scouts units participating in the program will be required to complete two projects in order to earn a handsome leather insignia. They must:

- 1 - Plan and take a trip along a historic trail for a minimum of two days and one night.
- 2 - Cooperate with a local historical group in staging a pageant or other historical observance or, in cooperation with a local historical group, carry out a project to mark with a permanent sign or marker the spot where some historical event took place, Monterey Peninsula Boy Scouts should be able to pass this test right here at home with flying colors.

New Orleans, La., played host to two annual meetings early this month. The American Assn. of Historic Sites Administrators held its third annual meeting there, followed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The latter group are the owners of Casa Amesti, now the Old Capital Club headquarters, in Monterey. The old adobe home on Polk street was willed to that organization by Mrs. Frances Elkins a number of years ago.

Dr. S. K. Stevens, treasurer of the American Assn. for State and Local History, was elected president of the American Assn. of Historic Sites Administrators. "Trends and Prospects for Recreation in the United States" and "Certain Aspects of Historic Preservation" were among the topics discussed at this meeting.

The National Trust group toured the Vieux Carre, the Garden District and plantations. The meeting closed with a 138-mile trip to New Iberia, La., to view the newest trust property, "The Shadows" on the Bayou Teche.

The Historic Charleston (South Carolina) Foundation has been assured a \$100,000 revolving fund to restore architecturally important buildings in Charleston.

This fund had its beginning in March 1957, when the Richardson Foundation offered to put up \$25,000 if the

Historic Charleston Foundation could raise an additional \$75,000 for preservation purposes. The money was raised through donations.

Restored buildings will be resold or rented, so that the money can be used over again in other areas, which will raise property values in rehabilitated zones and encourage investment of private capital.

Those who have visited Williamsburg or have read about the restoration of that "Colonial City" will be interested in a recent announcement made by Kenneth Chorley, who retired last May as president of Colonial Williamsburg, that in the future the organization may add to its plant a colonial plantation, additional 18th Century craft shops, and the Theater of 1716. Chorley also suggests that automobile traffic may be removed from Duke of Gloucester Street in the restored area.

Colonial Williamsburg consists of 82 original 18<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, which have been restored, and 400 other buildings reconstructed on their original foundations. The restored area comprises 152 acres, including 83 acres of 18<sup>th</sup> Century gardens. The \$62,000,000 restoration project has been made possible by John D. Rockefeller Jr.