

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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USO Month Success

With USO Month half over we predict that it has been a great success at Monterey's USO.

There has been something doing every afternoon and evening for the entertainment of both the public and the armed services. It has given the residents of Monterey a chance to know the boys and girls who are a part of the Army and Navy personnel and the opportunity for them to become better acquainted with us.

We have shared in some of the social events, educational programs and supper parties, much to our satisfaction and enjoyment and assure the management – Frank Adams, Harold Brewer, and the others who make up the efficient staff at the El Estero USO – that we have appreciated their hospitality and have welcomed the opportunity to share in the activities.

A "Cotton Ball" is scheduled tomorrow night, with a Fashion Show for Guys and Gals, presented by Holman's department store. There is ballroom dancing every Wednesday and Saturday evening.

Next Sunday afternoon's tea should be a must, when the Nisei VFW will be hosts and hostesses. The Japanese girls will be gowned in their colorful and beautiful native costumes. In the evening the Italian Catholic Federation will be supper hosts and Hartnell College from Salinas will present a variety show. The American Assn. of University Women will entertain at supper, and a group from San Jose State College will present Thursbers: "13 o'clock."

Every Tuesday evening there is Folk Dancing at the USO, with Lesley Robertson as the instructor, and never have we seen a more congenial and fun-loving group having such a good time, with a world of exercise thrown in for good measure.

A TV program is scheduled for 7 o'clock tonight. Mary Rogers and Marie Shirley will be on hand with six tickets for a performance at California's First Theater to present to service men who would like to attend that entertainment.

Perhaps the biggest news is that the Russian Choir from the Army Language School will give a special program at 8:00 o'clock tonight, under the direction of Nicholas

Vorobion. Michael Tarakus and his Balalaika will also play. This program should fill the house and it undoubtedly will.

More men graduate from military training each year than qualify for diplomas from all the colleges and universities in our country combined. Most of these were away from home for the first time, many of them in foreign countries.

What happens to the morals, character, personality, attitudes and thoughts of these three million men now in the armed forces, and the millions more to follow them? These youngsters do not suddenly learn what to do with their spare time when they put on a uniform. They still need the guidance and the social opportunities that were given by the Boy Scouts, the Boys' Clubs and the Y's before they went into the service.

USO gives our servicemen this guidance when they are off duty. They provide a "home away from home" not only while they are in the United States but in Tokyo, Okinawa, Istanbul, Rome, Seoul, Fairbanks and Casablanca.

We were reminded of this "home away from home" Monday evening. It was "house party night" and we were most happy to share in it. A party of 19 started out from the USO at 6 o'clock going first to the home of Mrs. Mae Sweeney where they were served a fruit cup with a hearty welcome, then a call was made at Casa Soberanes where they made a tour of the old adobe home and partook of a mixed green salad, then on to the Frank Adams home in Pacific Grove for miniature meat pies and hot French bread and finally to the home of Miss Helen Colburn for coffee and cake.

We consider that that evening was the best possible kind of off-post recreation and entertainment.