

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 4, 1958

### **History Foundation Institute**

"A Century of Light" was the theme for the opening banquet of the Eleventh Annual Institute of the California History Foundation held at the College of the Pacific in Stockton. To introduce the theme, the table decorations were placings of old-fashioned oil lamps, large and small electric light bulbs of various colors and for various uses, mingled with many colors and varieties of camellias which grow and bloom so gorgeously on the campus of the college.

A. J. McCollum, manager of advertising and publicity for the P.G.&E., was in charge of the program, with John Cobb, senior nuclear engineer of the American Standard Radiator Corporation, as the speaker on the "Future of Light." All this was most impressive, and we were interested, tried our best to learn a lot, but we readily admit that a great deal of the information was well over our head.

It was history nevertheless, and someday we will all have a better understanding of these new words, meanings, globes, use and necessity for the modern and advanced equipment, but right now we are all possibly confused by the mystery of the atomic age which is upon us.

The meetings of the board of directors of the Jedediah Smith Society, a conducted tour through the 400-unit Women's Dormitory, in the process of being completed: exhibits in Anderson Hall and Western Americana Library, were most entertaining. Then came the outstanding program of the conference.

Dr. Hector of Chico State College presented Miss Thelma Wilson, Gridley Union High School teacher, who spoke of "My People of Northern California." Miss Wilson who looks like a high school student herself instead of a teacher, is a full-blooded Indian who was born and raised on the Indian reservation near Chico. She gave a delightful talk, without apparent notes, concerning her grandparents, her parents and herself. It was perfectly delightful and by the applause which occurred at the end of her talk, everyone in the audience wished there might be more time allotted to such a brilliant and interesting speaker.

Dr. Frank M. Stranger of San Mateo Junior College, described "Historic Values and Our Changing Scene."

Such a talk as Dr. Stranger gave would be well to present in Monterey, but unfortunately many people who like to hear such a talk were not in the audience.

The speaker at the annual Foundation luncheon was Robert West Howard of Chicago. Reviewing "The Peril of the American West," he was most critical of the programs on the moving picture screens and TV depicting gun fights, Indian massacres, and wild west cowboys, which do not present a true picture of the west and are not educational but harmful for our young people both in this country and abroad.

In the "California Woman," a publication of the Business and Professional Women, we came across this brief paragraph which we thought amusing and worthwhile: "Peninsula's Assistant Editor to the California Woman is amused by many of the very clever names that the club bulletins carry and pass on to everyone: Alum Rock, the Alum Rockette; Campbell, Campbell Hump; Crystal Springs, The Crystallizer; Los Gatos, The Cat's Meow (Los Gatos meaning "The Cats"); Salinas, El Rodeo; Sand Carlos-Belmont, Bits Bout Beeps; Watsonville, Sauce and Applesauce (Watsonville beings famous for its apples); Willow Glen, Whispering Willows.

And speaking of Bulletins – this is the 37<sup>th</sup> year for San Jose's "The Spokeswoman" - can any club top that?"