

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **'The Hundredth Book'**

"The Hundredth Book," a bibliography of the publications of the Book Club of California and a history of the club by David Magee and printed by the Grabhorn Press for the club, is now in the hands of its membership.

Magee writes in the foreword; "It is with considerable and unabashed pride that The Book Club of California announces the publication of "The Hundredth Book." I has long been thought necessary that an authoritative records of the club be made and surely no better time could be chosen than now, as the club approaches its golden anniversary and has reached in its publications that magic number one hundred.

We think it is important to have told the story of the history of this important club which has played such a great part in keeping alive the interest in California history and providing fine material for the collectors.

Here, then is the story of the Book Club of California from its inception in 1912 to the present day, with the list of the hundred books and the historic material which they contain, the authors and the price. It is not a mere listing of the club's publications, its keepsakes and ephemera, full of figures and bibliographical jargon, but rather a chatty informal history of each book. It has been the aim of the compiler to make the book interesting to all members and not those of bibliographical turn of mind. Possibly its most engaging feature is the history of the club, for few members know of its struggles, its fortunes and misfortunes over the past 46 years.

Magee reports that it is fitting that "The Hundredth Book" is printed and designed by Grabhorn Press who have been associated with the club since 1921 and have printed more books for its members than any other shop. The volume is a handsome folio, with many illustrations to enhance its beauty. The edition is limited to 400 copies at \$30 a copy.

This December issue of Westways, published by the Automobile Club of Southern California, has two pages devoted to "Renaissance at Cannery Row" in Monterey. Photographs by J.R. Lewis illustrate the short descriptive text. A curio shop, Wind's Butterfly House, Neil DeVaughan's Fish and Steak House, an art gallery,

dancing school students, Gamble's Furniture shop, the entrance to the Department of Public Health office and Wing Chong's are all attractively pictured.

Decatur House on Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C., is now open to the public under the jurisdiction of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which inherited the house from the late Mrs. Truxtum Beale. Built in 1818 by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the United States Capitol, the house was acquired by the Beale family after the Civil War. It was restored in 1944 from eleven of Latrobes' original drawings.

The National Trust also owns Casa Amesti in Monterey, now the headquarters of the Old Capitol Club on Polk street.

We recommend to motorists of the Monterey Peninsula a visit to California's Kern County Museum at Bakersfield. The members of the Kern County Historical Society and the staff of the museum recently dedicated its newly completed 'gay nineties" general store and barbershop in the eleven-acre Pioneer Village.

Natchez, Miss. Will celebrate its Natchez Pilgrimage Feb. 28 through April 1. The pilgrimage will feature tours of the old Natchez houses, evening presentation of the brilliant Confederate Pageant depicting scenes of the Old South, and "highway to Heaven" a program of Negro spirituals presented thrice weekly. The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Natchez garden Club and the Pilgrimage Garden Club. We made this tour two years ago, also attending the annual visit to the historic homes in Charleston, and we heartily recommend these tours to everyone who expects to be southeast coast visitors this spring.