

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 5, 1959

Museum Meeting

The Western Museum Conference, a division of the American Association of Museums, is a 17-year-old organization representing all the Museums of the Western United States. The objectives of the Association are many and are in general sense best expressed by the subject of the 1959 Conference which is "growth through service."

Specifically, the conference provides that necessary link for exchange of ideas in the fields of art, history, science, historical homes, and many other areas now covered by the museums of the west. No other group brings the museum scientists, the museum historian, the museum administrator, etc., together with the single purpose of the advancement of the cultural and educational facilities of the communities of the west.

The 1959 Conference will be held at Asilomar with the Monterey History and Art Association as co-hosts for the event. The committee has planned a program which includes dinner in Memory Garden at the Old Pacific Building, patterned after the annual Merienda with Spanish music played by strolling musicians, table decoration in the manner of the days of the middle 1900's, and a tour of the historical places on the Monterey Peninsula. The dates are Oct. 9 and 10.

On Friday, Oct. 9, a general meeting will be open at 3:00 for business. At 8 p. m. that evening dinner will be held in Asilomar cafeteria with Joseph Patterson, director, American Assn. of Museums, as principal speaker. Saturday at the general session starting at 9:00 a. m. Dr. Roy E. Simpson, state superintendent of public instruction, as speaker, followed by special sessions including discussions of history, restoration and collecting. That afternoon there will be a tour of historical places on the Monterey Peninsula by private cars but in organized groups.

From 3:30 to 4:45 p. m. special sessions will be held. Donovan Worland, manager-exhibits, famous Chicago Industrial Design Firm and designer of Hinsdale Museum exhibits on "Exhibits and Design Techniques", "Both How and Why."

Stockton Day for the Friends of the Bancroft Library has been set for Sunday, Oct. 4, 1959, at the ranch home of

Helen Weber Kennedy. It was her father, Capt. David M. Weber, who founded the city of Stockton in 1850.

Friends of the Bancroft Library are invited to enjoy a light lunch at 12:30, followed by short talks recalling early days in Stockton. Historic rooms, with furnishings from the old Weber home, will be open for the enjoyment of all who attend. We have been a guest in this home several times and sincerely recommend to the Friends of the Bancroft Library on the Monterey Peninsula that a visit there is well worth while. It is not a museum and is not open to the public except upon special invitation from the owner, Mrs. Helen Weber Kennedy, the occupant of the home and a Friend of the Bancroft Library University of California.

To acquaint our readers with the fact that one should always get expert advice on all items found in attics, old letters, etc., before destroying them, we repeat this story: "Some years ago, while the main floors of the Flood Bldg. in San Francisco, were being ripped out for a new tenant, one Henry Schmid was walking past when a piece of rolled up paper came scooting down the wooden rubbish chute, landing at his feet. Picking it up, he discovered it was a handsome watercolor of Candlestick Point, dated '36 and signed Kingman." He took it to Gump's and said: "Is this worth framing, or do you want to buy it?" One quick look was all the Gump's man needed.

"An original Kingman!" he enthused. "I'll give you \$250 for it right now." "Frame it," ordered Schmid. The picture that came down the rubbish chute now adorns Schmid's room and even Kingman could not get it away from him.