

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Twelfth Mission Tour

The Pacific Historian, the quarterly bulletin of the California History Foundation of the College of the Pacific, announces the Twelfth Annual Mission Tour, starting tomorrow and ending eight days later. The tour will be by bus escorted by Reginald Stuart, director of the Foundation, Mrs. Stuart and J. Randolph Hutchins, associate professor of history. College credits are given to those who make the tour and wish them.

The itinerary seems interesting. First stop after leaving Stockton will be at Sonoma Mission and the old Vallejo home, then the trail will proceed eventually to Monterey and on south.

In Monterey they will visit the Casa Soberanes by special arrangement as has been the custom for the past several years, as well as a number of other historical monuments.

Near Petaluma the group will visit Casa Grande, Vallejo's ranch home, said to be one of the largest adobe homes ever built in California. Then the tour will head on to Mission San Rafael, over the Golden Gate Bridge, through San Francisco Presidio, to Mission Dolores, and over the southern end of the bay to visit San Jose Mission. The night will be spent in Palo Alto. Sunday will include a visit to Stanford Memorial Chapel, then on to Santa Clara Mission on the Santa Clara University campus for a tour to be conducted by the Jesuit Fathers. Then through the Pueblo San Jose de Guadalupe and over the mountains to Santa Cruz Mission and Pueblo Branciforte, thence to the fascinating town of San Juan Bautista to visit the mission, the plaza and the historic adobe buildings which surround it. Box lunches will be served in the plaza there.

Leaving Monterey early on the morning of March 23, the pilgrimage will roll down the Salinas Valley to see the crumbling ruins and the new chapel at Mission Soledad, on to San Antonio de Padua, San Miguel, San Luis Obispo and the county museum there. After a night at Santa Maria Inn the tour will lead on to La Purisima, Santa Inez, and Santa Barbara, where the night will be spent and visits made to the two museums and the botanical gardens.

March 25 will find the pilgrimage wending its way along the ocean shore to Ventura Mission, then San Fernando and San Gabriel missions. A stop will be made at the Huntington Library.

Dinner will be enjoyed at Padua Hills near Claremont, where fascinating entertainment will be presented, and an early California play will be given by the internationally famous Mexican Players. (This will be an unforgettable experience - I had the pleasure once on my birthday and it has been a lasting memory which someday, I hope to repeat.)

Next on the program will be San Juan Capistrano Mission, Mission San Luis Rey, the Junipero Serra Museum in San Diego, Old San Diego, and the San Diego de Alcalá Mission. Moving inland the pilgrimage will visit Pala, the best known of the old mission asistencias.

March 28 the tour will travel from Riverside, journey over Highway 395 across a part of the flower bedecked desert of Mojave, and over Tehachapi Pass. After a visit and lunch at Tehachapi prison, the tour will continue up the San Joaquin Valley and arrive back in Stockton about 7:30 p.m.

We consider that this would be an ideal way to spend an Easter vacation.