

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 15, 1959

Friends Among the Pines

We recently wrote an article entitled "Saving Our Pines" in the Peninsula Diary. It included excerpts from a letter written to us by Ronald L. Church, formerly of Pacific Grove and a graduate of the Pacific Grove High School whose present address is Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Life Science Bldg., University of California at Berkeley. Ronald has gone far in his studies and his success in life since we knew him as a very young man living with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Church, in Pacific Grove.

Ronald's present interest is in the preservation of at least one forest of Monterey Pine, through the organization known as "The Nature Conservancy" which has set up a program to preserve our heritage of wild nature. The organization has been incorporated in the District of Columbia for non-profitable educational and scientific purposes. Its work began in 1917 as a national committee organized as an independent group, and in 1950 adopted the name of Nature Conservancy.

Now we have learned through a call from Laidlaw Williams that there is a chapter here on the Monterey Peninsula which is actively engaged in interesting residents and even in a broader scope the whole of California and the nation in the protection of sections as preserves for natural growth. The Monterey Peninsula has just so much land and when that land is gone there is no more and the natural Monterey Pines will have disappeared from California.

The organization on the Monterey peninsula is known as the Monterey Bay Chapter of "The Nature Conservancy," membership in which includes interested persons from San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Laidlaw Williams of Carmel is vice president, and Mrs. James Moody of Carmel is secretary. Anyone interested in the objectives of the group are invited to write Mr. Williams, at Rt 1, Box 128, Carmel; or Mrs. Moody, Box 3014, Carmel. An annual meeting of the group will be held in May.

The 20th annual institute of the California History foundation was held at the College of the Pacific over the weekend. The Monterey History and Art Assn. is a member of this organization. Dr. Robert E. Burns, president of the College of the Pacific, is a retiring

member of the California State Parks Commission, owner of a home in Carmel, and an interested and frequent visitor to Monterey and the Peninsula. He presided at many of the sessions of the foundation.

Group meetings during the conference were held by the Jedediah Smith Society, The Pacific Historian, San Joaquin Genealogical Society, the California-Nevada Conference Committee, Westerners Foundation, and Stockton corral of Westerners.