

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 18, 1959

Three Meetings

A few months ago, the Monterey County Historical Society dedicated a plaque on the old San Juan road commemorating the Battle of Natividad and the men who were killed in the battle of March 1846.

Col. Fred B. Rogers (USA-ret) was the speaker at the society's dedication last Nov. 16. He recently spoke at a luncheon meeting of the California Historical Society in San Francisco, telling in an enthusiastic talk of his research and of findings of Capt. John C. Fremont's experiences in Monterey County at the time of the battle.

"The place where Capt. John C Fremont camped, built a breastwork and raised the American flag in defiance of General Jose Castro in March 1846, is not within the present confines of Fremont Peak State Park" Col. Rogers reported in a brief but absorbing reconstruction of some historical detective work on the event. He based his assertions largely but not, exclusively on Fremont's own statement regarding his elevation at 2,200 feet and his distance from San Juan Batista of four miles. This, said Rogers, would place the site in the vicinity of Hill 2146 (Yates triangulation station).

Col Rogers commanded the 1934 acquisition of the spectacular park site on the Gabilan Range and suggested its extension to include the area of Hill 2146, two miles nearer San Juan Bautista.

Richard H. Howland, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is to be in California this month. He will discuss the National Trust and preservation programs on May 22 at 8 pm., at the home of Mrs. S A. Wood, 53 Presidio Ave., San Francisco. All members of the organization are invited to attend, including members of the History and Art Assn. and Monterey Foundation. The National Trust is the owner of the Casa Amesti in Monterey, now the Old Capital Club.

The Monterey Bay Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will hold an important annual meeting on Wednesday evening, May 20, at 8 p.m. in the Library of the Carmel High School. Dr. Herbert L. Mason, of the Dept. of Botany, University of California, and a member of the Board of Governors of the National Organization of Nature Conservancy, will be the speaker.

During the evening, a report will be made on the progress of the projected Garrapata Canyon Nature Reserve in where all plant and animal life will be allowed to remain in unaltered conditions. The area consisting of 387 acres, contains a fine stand of redwoods, riparian woodland bordering a perennial stream, and extensive chaparral hillsides.

The preserve will be maintained as a biological study and research area by San Francisco State College. It will also be available for special research projects that may be undertaken by students from other institutions.

Moreover, all those persons whose interest and activities are consistent with the principles of the Nature Conservancy will be welcome, according to Laidlaw Williams, vice chairman, Monterey Chapter.

Speaking of trees and forests we came across this item in History News published by the American Association for State and Local History:

"The Michigan Botanical Club is searching for outstanding trees in Michigan which are over 100 years old in order to mark their locations and save them from destruction.

Trees are tagged, their locations and pertinent data recorded, and effort are made to save them if they are in good health. A hemlock measuring 148 1/2 inches in circumference, and a cedar measuring 202 inches around, were recently visited and marked by the club."