

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Newton B. Drury

The April issue of "News and Views" published monthly by the State Division of Beaches and Parks, is an issue honoring the chief, Newton B. Drury. He has been a kindly friend of Monterey for many years as well as the State of California and has been the chief of the division since 1951, following his resignation as head of the National Park Service.

On Newton B. Drury's retirement from the National Park Service, Hon. Leroy Johnson made these, remarks in the Congress.

"A few weeks ago, when Newton B. Drury retired and returned to his home in California, Gov. Earl Warren promptly appointed him chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, an important bureau of California's Department of Natural Resources.

"Mr. Drury graduated from the law school of the University of California in 1912. During his college days he won the Carnot Medal, highest debating award, for which Stanford and the University of California competed. He had been elected president of the Associated Students, highest office within the student body, and served in this position during his senior year.

"On completion of his college course he joined the university faculty as an instructor in English, later becoming assistant professor of forensics and secretary to the president. In World War I he was lieutenant in the air service of the Army, an observer in the Balloon Corps.

"After his return to San Francisco and civilian life he and his brother, Aubrey, organized and operated a public-relations and advertising business in San Francisco. About this time the Save-the-Redwoods League was organized, and Drury and his brother were two of the moving spirits behind, the organization. Newton B. Drury became executive secretary and managed its affairs for over 20 years.

"As funds became available from private sources the State matched them with appropriations, reported Leroy Johnson to the Congress. A state park commission was authorized, and it engaged Mr. Drury to direct its purchasing program, which covered, in addition to the redwood groves along the coast, the Calaveras North Grove of giant sequoia trees, beaches, and scenic and

historic areas in all parts of California, including all the State parks and historical monuments in Monterey County.

"When the State park survey was authorized to develop a comprehensive plan for a system of beach, mountain, and historic parks, Mr. Drury was the liaison officer with the famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, who was engaged to make the survey and prepare the report. Olmsted accomplished this assignment at Point Lobos when that state reservation was purchased from A. M. Allen."

State Parks — what are they?

State parks are lands held and managed by the state expressly for the purpose that people of the state shall be able, by access to them, forever, to enjoy certain things of state-wide interest and importance of which the people would otherwise become deprived. Chief among these things, as listed by the Division of Beaches and Parks, are:

"Natural scenery of unusual beauty; natural objects of unusual education and scientific value, such as rare kinds and combinations of trees, plants, and wild life, and of forms of earth, rocks and waters: objects of state-wide historical interest; areas specifically adapted to such activities as camping, boating, fishing, bathing, hiking, and others characteristic of life in the open. All with special reference to their inspirational and recreational value for refreshment and upbuilding of body and mind."

Then we quote this item:

"Needless to say, a natural preserve like Point Lobos, with its rugged sea-coast crowned with windblown Monterey cypress, its wealth of flora and fauna, its clamoring sea lions on the offshore rocks, its rare sea otters and its birds of shore and sea, could be developed primarily as a great natural exhibit. It would be used with more restraint than would the recreational beaches of the south or the recreational areas of the shores of reservoirs, as at the developments at Folsom Lake."

As Newton Drury has quoted a comment on Sir Christopher Wren, so may it be quoted of him:

"If you seek his monument, look about you."