

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 25, 1959

### **Outdoor Laboratory**

There will be an informal gathering of the members of Nature Conservancy, Monterey Bay Chapter, in Garrapata Canyon tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock. This will last for only a few minutes and will be followed by a hike of a mile and a half (three miles round trip at stream level along Garrapata Creek through the property of the Carmel Development Co. The Nature Conservancy hopes to purchase this land for the use of San Francisco State College as an outdoor biological laboratory. The college is joining the Nature Conservancy in the fund-raising effort.

Members and their friends and others who are interested in the objectives of the Nature Conservancy are invited to attend this meeting and hike, but are asked to bring lunches. Turn left at the north end of Garrapata Creek bridge approximately 11 miles south of Carmel and drive for about 3/4 of a mile to the end of the road. The meeting place is about five minutes' walk beyond that point. Directions will be found at different points.

Mrs. Margaret Owings has kindly offered to provide truck transportation beyond the regular road for a limited number of people who may be unable to walk the distance. Her address is Big Sur, Calif., if anyone wishes to make reservation for this service. The road in this part of the property is too rough for ordinary automobiles.

In a recent issue of the Peninsula Diary we wrote about El Camino Real Bells and the revival of interest in these markers which indicate the distance between the 21 missions in the chain from San Diego to San Francisco. Now we have learned still more of their history from Claude Faw of Carmel who has had an interest in the bells since their birth and first installation on U S Highway 101.

The California Mission Trails Assn., Ltd. Traveletter contains this report: "The installation of the first El Camino Real Bell Marker on U S Highway 101 as called for in Assembly Concurrence Resolution 52 was the occasion of a dedication ceremony in San Diego, July 24, presided over by Assemblyman Jack Schrade of El Cajon, author of the Resolution. Representatives were present from the Grand Parlor of the Native Daughters of the

American Revolution and Automobile Assn. of Southern California.

On Aug 1, a simple ceremony dedicating the installation of the El Camino Real bell marker at the entrance to the Ventura was held at the location of the bell.

In accordance with the Senate Bill 123 passed during the last session of the Legislature, the Department of Public Works has begun its work of installing the bells in earnest. At the time the new signs go up the Cabrillo Highway, signs will be removed from both 101 and the Alternate Dedication ceremonies will be held as each bell is installed.

In September and October, 1958. the centennial of the first mail from the East to the West, was celebrated by a group of people, who believed in keeping our great American heritage alive. This group formed an organization known as "Butterfield Overland Mail Caravan", and anyone wishing to go along might do so. This Caravan left Tipton, Mo. Sept 15, 1958 and followed Butterfield Trail to San Francisco, picking up mail at every Post Office along the route, to be canceled upon the Caravan's arrival there, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.

Eight songs were composed from the true history taken from Ormsby's Diary. Mr. Ormsby was the only one to make the complete trip on the first stage from Tipton. Mo., to San Francisco in 1858. The songs and music were written by Pat and Marge Patrick of Springdale, Ark. For background music of a documentary film of the Butterfield Overland Mail Centennial. They have kindly sent two copies to the Monterey History and Art Association for the Library.