

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 9, 1960

Pioneers In S. F.

A coming event of importance will take place in San Francisco on Saturday, Nov. 12th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., when the Pacific Coast Section, Society of Architectural Historians will assemble at the Society of California Pioneers for a day of program, tours, luncheon and dinner.

The program will begin with a welcome to the national president, Miss Barbara Wriston, followed by papers: Marlon Dean Ross, "The Nouveau Louvre" in Oregon, Rollin Jensen and Stanford Stevenson, "Classification of California Architecture," with comments by Frank Jenkins, Elliot Evans, directors of the California Pioneer Society's headquarters, 456 McAllister St., San Francisco; and Robert D. Clark.

Luncheon at the Octagon House will be followed by a tour of San Francisco houses and buildings and at 5 o'clock a champagne reception at the California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco.

A week or so ago an architect from San Francisco, representing the National Park Service, and a photographer visited Monterey and spent the day taking pictures of the interior and exterior of Casa Soberanes, the fireplaces at Colton Hall, Casa Alvarado, the home of Mrs. Mrs. Wesley Heard; the fireplaces in Casa Abrego, and at Casa Serrano, as well as the later home of Mrs. Alma Fleishcher, the lovely yellow Victorian house at 410 Monroe, where pictures were taken of the exterior and the fireplace. These pictures will be placed in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. All the measurements, location and history of Casa Soberanes will accompany the photographs of Casa Soberanes, to take place with those already there of the Casa Amesti and the Larkin House. These facts are another reason for Monterey to be proud of its heritage and to endeavor to preserve as much as possible of the old adobes and historical atmosphere of the old town and first capital of California.

On October 26th the California Historical Society observed the centennial of Col. Edward D. Baker's American Theater speech. The ceremony took place on the site of the American Theater at 350 Sansome St., the corner of Sansome and Halleck. A pivotal event in California history, Col. Baker's speech served to insure

the allegiance of California to the union and guarantee presidential victory to his great personal friend, Abraham Lincoln. At the time of the speech, Col. Baker was serving as U.S. Senator from Oregon. He was later killed in action in leading the California Brigade in the early forceful engagement of the Civil War, the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

A plaque will be placed at a later date on the building at this corner, owned by the Three-Fifty Sansome Company, to commemorate this famous speech. This centennial observance of the crucial campaign of 1860 is particularly significant today, falling as it did in the closing weeks of the 1960 presidential race.

The Allen Press of Kentfield, Marin County, has announced a "deluxe folio" edition of "The Splendid Idle Forties" by Gertrude Atherton, one of the most important books about California and Monterey in particular. Oscar Lewis wrote the preface which will accompany the bound edition.

Gertrude Atherton wrote in 1888-89 11 tales of the Spanish in California during the 1840s. The collection appeared in 1894 with the title, "Before the Gringo Came"; and in 1902, with two additional stories, "As the Splendid Idle Forties." This volume, selected as one of the 80 most important books on California, has been described as "the best collection of stories telling of that picturesque period of the far West when the incoming Americans were mingling with the Californians of rancho, presidio and mission."

The edition is limited to 150 copies and the price is \$30.