

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

December 7, 1960

USO Facelifting

The Monterey USO is enjoying the results of a face lifting both inside and out, following several weeks of activity in which a number of service men, individuals and organizations took part. The grounds have been cleaned, the snack bar has been renovated and the USO signs have been given a coat of paint.

The orchid for October went to a group of students at the Army Language School. Arriving a few weeks before their course was scheduled to begin, they spent two full days at the USO with a truck, trimming, cutting and cleaning the ground around the area. This general cleaning also included the painting of the signs. The regular monthly meeting of the Military Disciplinary Control Board again proved how effective the coordinated effort has been in terms of the some 35,000 in this area.

At the last monthly meeting of the Board of Management it was announced that all regular scheduled activities were well attended. Numbers participating in the program over the numbers using the facilities proved that the USO is primarily a program club. In addition to the program, during October the facility was used on 51 occasions by 30 different groups for different programs. A good percentage of these groups were made up of military and military families and their activities were open to all interested service personnel.

The League of Women Voters held a "Candidates' Meeting" in the social hall at which all candidates spoke. Before the session got underway there was standing room only. This is one of the many community services provided by the USO which makes the operation the spot around which the life of this community rotates, in the opinion of the management and the board of USC directors.

Under the heading "Here and There" in the monthly report we read these notes: The USO assisted in the capacity of receptionist at the Symphony Concert Association's Annual Gourmet Party. The USO is headquarters of the newly formed Monterey Peninsula Council of Churches and a staff member serves as secretary of this organization. The USO assisted the

World Affairs Council in entertaining Belgian royalty during October.

The Sports Car Assn, of the Monterey Peninsula has named the USO the charitable organization to benefit from this activity when the racetrack at Fort Ord has been paid for. A member of the staff serves as secretary of this: organization. The Pacific Coast Grand Prix held in October at the racetrack grossed over \$105,000.

At the November meeting of the board it was voted to name the library in the building "The Ellis Hill Fitch Memorial Library in memory and honor of Mrs. Fitch, who was a charter member of the Board of Management and had remained a faithful attendant for the 10 years of its existence, until her death a few week ago. The room is to be redecorated and it is hope that her friends and those of the USO will donate new or used books for the bookcases. Many of the books there at present are old and soiled which makes a unkept look and as "though no one cares." But we assure you that the room is certainly used and enjoyed by the service men most of whom consider the USO their home away from home.