

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 12, 1960

New Historical Landmark

The newest historical landmark is to be placed on the Olympic ice arena in Squaw Valley and dedicated by the California Historical Society at impressive ceremonies on February 14 in Squaw Valley. Robert H. Power of Vacaville, a member of the Society, accomplished the extensive historical research and brought to light the facts that the Sierra Nevada was the first sport ski area in the Western Hemisphere and that by 1860 the pioneers had developed a mania for this sport.

The Eighth Olympic Winter Games in the Sierra Nevada commemorate the centennial and symbolically commence the second century of sport skiing activity, as noted in the Society's "Notes" for the month.

The wording on the plaque is as follows:

"Pioneer Ski Area of America

The VIII Olympic Winter Games of 1960 commemorate a century of sport skiing in America by 1960. The Sierra Nevada, particularly at the California mining towns of Whiskey Diggins, Poker Flat, Port Wine, Onion Valley, La Porte, and Johnsville, some 60 miles north of Squaw Valley, saw the first organized ski clubs and competition in the Western Hemisphere. California registered Historical Landmark No. 724. Plaque placed by the California Historical Society and the Organizing Committee, VIII Olympic Winter Games, February 14, 1960.

A chartered bus will leave the Society's Mansion in San Francisco on Saturday morning and return Sunday evening.

The Monterey County Historical Society will meet in Monterey Sunday afternoon, February 14th, at 1:30 o'clock. The Monterey History and Art Assn. will welcome them in Casa Serrano for the Society's regular meeting and to hear an informal talk on "Monterey's Place in History," after which the members will make an historical tour of the state-owned monuments.

The National Pony Express Centennial Assn. is organized with the express purpose of celebrating the centennial of the pony express during this year and to stage a re-running of the pony express both ways. It is going to be a real test of organization and horseflesh, to try to equal the 1860 schedule of ten days over 1,966 miles. The re-

running will be a race between east-west and west-east teams. The governors of eight states through which the pony express ran, are members of the board of directors of the association.

The Monterey History and Art Assn. Board of Directors has announced the date of the annual Adobe House tour for Saturday, July 2nd, 1960. Mrs. Tod Singleton will again head the committee on arrangements and many of the adobe private homes will again be open, as well as the state historical monuments with special exhibits for the occasion.

The second July event will be the re-enactment of the landing of Commodore John Drake Sloat at Monterey and the raising of the United States Flag at the Old Custom House, celebrating the 114th anniversary of that historic event. The Navy League is co-sponsor of this celebration, with Allen Knight, president of the History and Art Assn. as chairman.