

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 23, 1960

A Busy Organization

Sitting in on a regular monthly meeting of the USO Board of Management we were amazed at the amount of work, the late hours, the programs, and the civic service that is performed daily by the staff at the USO at the corner of Webster and El Estero in Monterey.

The narrative report starts out with the announcement of the 19th anniversary Dinner this evening, when service awards will feature the evening. There are still a few tickets available for this dinner at the USO. Mrs. Mae Sweeney has planned a turkey dinner with all the trimmings for this important event.

On Tuesday, February 2nd, Henry Wilkinson left the USO as neat as a pin, as he has done for the past 19 years, and went home to die. Eighty-three years young, Henry lived his work. We do not know whether the USO taught him anything, but the staff claims that they learned a lot about 'service', and how much more important people are than things from him. As a tribute to Henry, the governing board voted on Monday to name the social hall, which was his pride, Wilkinson Hall, and to dedicate it to his memory the night of the anniversary dinner.

When the Wharf Theater burned and the Girl Scout House had a fire recently the USO came to the rescue and allowed both groups to use the USO facilities. Service personnel were invited to attend the Players production of "Oklahoma".

The board of management were pleased to hear for the first time the Monterey Rotary Club's gift of a Hi Fi Stereo public address system with all its attachments. The social hall is now probably the finest listening post in the area, and to the thousands who enjoy the activities in this area each month, this is truly a gift most appreciated. One immediate result was the creation of an Opera Workshop.

Each Monday for the next few months the USO will provide the only place on the Monterey Peninsula where individuals may receive free help in filing income tax. By special arrangement a person from the Collector of Internal Revenue office is present on that day. This service is used by hundreds of service personnel and civilians each Monday. On Wednesday one room of the

USO becomes the office of Social Security, and this service saves individuals a trip 79 miles each way.

The Monterey Peninsula Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at the USO in the future and has pledged to take the responsibility for floral decoration at the club. The Opera Workshop, under the capable direction of Nancy Ness Bowman, will hold its weekly meeting in the TV room. Voice training will be given this group along with the study of operas.

Civic groups using the USO are: Ministerial Assn., Stamp Club, Community Chest, Red Cross blood bank, Native Sons of the Golden West, Marina Garden Club, Navy bridge, practical nurses, Toastmasters Club, CLU Insurance, PTA, FECC, MPVS, Wharf Players, Garden Club, Department of Internal Revenue, MARK, Girl Scouts, Opera Workshop, Home Economists, Social Security, Delta Kappa Gamma and VFW.

Mrs. Mae Sweeney and Wally Holm were unanimously elected to membership on the governing board of the USO at last Monday's meeting, in recognition their very important and appreciated work for the betterment of the USO in Monterey.