

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 11, 1960

Historical Society Tours

The California Historical Society is certainly alive with future plans for the entertainment of the membership. There are programs announced to be held in The Mansion on Jackson Street in San Francisco and tours and pilgrimages to historical spots. The March issue of "Notes" announces a "Spring Romeria," April 9-10, and an overnight pilgrimage to the Mother Lode country at the height of the wild-flower season; a tour to the Hakone Garden near Saratoga on May 7 and 8 and a lecture and exhibit in the Mansion of the evening of March 30th when Prof. Leopold Castedo, distinguished historian and art authority, will be the speaker.

The Hakone Garden was created in 1915 by a Japanese landscape designer who had formerly served the Emperor of Japan. Very rarely accessible to the public, it will be specially opened by the owner for the society tours while the Wisteria and Japanese Iris are in full bloom.

The Monterey County Historical Society is planning a Monterey County night with a program of short historical sketches of each community. The meeting will be held Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Lounge at Hartnell College. All members and interested friends will be welcome to attend the meeting.

The California History Foundation of which the Monterey History and Art Assn. is a member, will meet at the College of the Pacific in Stockton on Friday, March 25. The program to be presented then and the next day appears to be interesting, informative and sure to be enjoyed by persons of assorted tastes. Dr. Robert Burns, president of the College of the Pacific, and Dr. Rockwell Hunt, president emeritus, Conference of California Historical Societies, will welcome the membership, The Pioneer Museum and Haggin Art Galleries will be the setting for tea and reception in the afternoon of the opening day. There will be an early California art exhibit, and an evening banquet, followed by a talk "Our Neighbors in the Pacific" with slide accompaniment.

The Jedediah Smith Society will breakfast together Saturday morning. A Foundation luncheon will follow the morning program.

A note from the Whittier Antique Shop in Merrimac, Mass., tells us this exciting news: "I have recently found a log which I think to be of historical importance to your community. It is an "Abstract of a cruise in the Frigate United States, under the command of Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, with James Armstrong, Esq., Captain, in the South Pacific in 1842, '43 and '44, comprising latitude and longitude, ports called at, ships spoken and deaths during the cruise.

"Of special interest to you is this part of the page titled, "Monterey, California: I arrived here at Monterey, Oct. 19th, 1842, at 2:45 p.m., dropped anchor, demanded the surrender of the place at 11:30 p.m. The Mexican commission capitulated at 12 noon. The next day took possession of the town at 3:30 p.m. The Commodore received word from our minister in Mexico that war was not declared. The town and fort were returned to the proper authorities."

The above is a condensed version, the Whittier Antique Shop reports, of a full page report on Monterey, California. This log is all original, written in long hand by three different recorders.

"It is for sale at \$350.00. A small sum for such a rare article!"

So our correspondent ends his letter.