

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 30, 1961

Anniversary Celebration

It seems unbelievable that the USO is 20 years old and that on the 3rd of April this great organization will celebrate its anniversary with a well-planned dinner party in the USO building at El Estero and Webster streets in Monterey. The hour is set for 7:30 o'clock, starting with tomato juice cocktails in the lobby followed by dinner in the Wilkinson Hall. The price is \$1.50 - so little for such an occasion and in honor of this great club which accomplished so much during the war and has been carrying on so magnificently locally among the armed forces ever since. It is a home away from home for the men of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Language School.

Time has passed so quickly since we were giving generously of our time at the USO, doing Red Cross work, canteen, air observers, etc. We can look back with satisfaction to the hours we spent at the USO making scrapbooks to be sent to camps throughout the country. Stories were taken from old magazines and pasted in new scrapbooks with the illustrations and attractive cover designs. Most of these books were truly works of art and were reported as most appreciated by the boys overseas. We well remember the recipe for making the many gallons of paste used in the making of these books. And here it is:

USO Paste - 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of sugar, 2 teaspoons of alum, 1 cup of cold water. Mix to a heavy paste then add one more cup of cold water, then 2 cups of warm water. Put in a double boiler and cook 20 minutes, stirring most of the time. When you first wish to use the paste, put your brush in hot water, then in the paste. We remember that we found a small paint brush most efficient. This paste is guaranteed not to show through the paper and to stick well.

At the anniversary dinner on April 3rd, Charles Simpson, Monterey's Chief of Police, will be the M.C.; Sarge Cunningham is program chairman; Mrs. Mae Sweeney is planning the dinner as usual (we guarantee that it will be good); the Ordette Cootiettes will assist and serve the chicken patties, salad, vegetables, ice cream and birthday cake.

Ed Bliss, chairman of the USO Board of Management, will welcome the guests who will include Navy Air

Facility, Postgraduate School, Fort Ord, and Presidio Army Language School representatives.

There will be a "capsule" version of 1961, rewards and reports (two minutes each) of hostesses, folk dancers, Sunday dinners, chess players, ping pong, opera work shop and out-of-building programs; Caravan to Yosemite, Tahoe, Ice Follies, house parties, roller skating, swim party, trips to Seacliff beach, Big Trees and Mystery Spot. An entertaining program on the stage will complete the evening's program.

Twenty-one community groups used the USO four times during the past month. Servicemen's suppers were provided by Monterey - Pacific Grove Republican Women's Club, Navy Bridge Club, Monterey Peninsula Catholic Community Service Committee and the Night Owls: Two winter Caravans to Yosemite were held and eight social dances took place in the USO building, featured by a Valentine and birthday dance. On Sunday evening, Feb. 12, Joe E. Brown spent the best part of an afternoon and evening at the USO. He became so interested in the activities and meeting the boys that he literally had to be dragged away to keep another appointment. It was a real treat for some 200 service men to find him serving on the "chow line" and without a spill he had a "gag" for each of them.

The Monterey Peninsula Concert Assn., in their plans for the coming year, have included the presentation of a block of tickets to the USO to be made available for service personnel for each of the concerts.

The Monterey USO is one of the agencies of the Community Chest.