

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 8, 1961

Sacramento Talks

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold a California preservation conference in Sacramento March 18-19, during which time Stanford Hill of the National Park Service will honor Casa Amesti with a presentation of a citation to a representative of the National Trust Casa Amesti Committee in Monterey. Casa Amesti, now the Old Capital Club on Polk street, was willed to the National Trust of Washington, D.C. by the late Frances Elkins, and later taken over by the Old Capital Club by agreement with the National Trust.

Announcement of the California meeting by the National Trust was made by Robert R. Garvey, Jr., executive officer of the Trust. In cooperation with its affiliated organizations in the state, the National Trust has planned the conference around "Old Sacramento," in relation to freeway locations and the city redevelopment program.

The two-day conference, open to the public, will use as its headquarters the El Dorado Motel, 4 miles from Sacramento. Architects, historians, city planning authorities and state and national park officials will present the philosophy of preservation and its role in the development and renewal of cities, especially in the State of California and Sacramento.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, with headquarters in Washington, was chartered by Congress in 1946 as a non-profit educational organization and is charged with safeguarding America's heritage of historic sites buildings and objects. One of the historic properties which it owns is Casa Amesti on "Old-Capital Square" in Monterey.

Charles A. DeTurk, chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks of Sacramento, will preside at the first morning session on Saturday. Robert J. Kerr II, executive director of Historic Annapolis, Inc., Md., will discuss "The Role of the Preservation Agency." "The Role of Historic Society" will be discussed by Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Missouri Historical Society and the role of the state agency will be shared by Horace M. Albright, former director of the National Park Service; Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, director of the Department of the National Trust; Richard Peters, secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Section of the Society of Architectural Historians and

Marion Dean Ross, A.I.A., Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii representative of the American Institute of Architects Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings.

"The California Setting will be the theme of the noon luncheon, at which time Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr., president Of the Pacific Section of the Society of Architectural Historians, will speak on "California's Architectural heritage."

An interesting discussion will be held at the afternoon's meeting when "New Uses for Old Buildings" will be emphasized. Augustin Keane, president of California Heritage Council of San Francisco, will be moderator.

Mrs. Helen Bullock of the National Trust group, will speak on "Architecture Worth Saving"; William J. Murtagh, director of the Department of Education of National Trust, will discuss "Museums and Adaptive Use"; Gregor Norman-Wilcox curator of decorative arts of the Los Angeles County Museum, "Tides in Taste"; and Richard Hagen, historical consultant of the Division of Beaches and Parks and Memorials of the Illinois Department of Conservation will speak on "Telling the Story,"

An opportunity to meet and discuss problems with the speakers will be given at a reception to be held at 6 p.m. Mr. Albright will preside at 7 p.m. dinner and introduce Carl Feiss, AIA, AIP, city planner and urban renewal consultant of Washington, D.C., will conclude the Saturday conference with a paper on "Historic Renewal and Urban Redevelopment."

An all-day Sunday tour will be conducted of the historic district of Sacramento including historic sites such as the Crocker Mansion and the Governor's Mansion. A trip to Mokelumne Hill and lunch at the Hotel Legar will be followed by a visit to other Mother Lode towns, including San Andreas and Columbia.