

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 23, 1962

In Monterey

Two - groups from the University of the Pacific at Stockton are coming to Monterey during November and December of this year.

On Nov. 4, a group of registrars and admissions officers of the Pacific Coast Assn. are holding a 36th annual conference at Casa Munras through Nov. 7. Miss Ellen Deering, registrar at the University of the Pacific, is in charge of the program for the Monterey meeting.

Miss Deering writes that she has tentatively scheduled a short walking tour of historic sites near Casa Munras on Tuesday, Nov. 6, for the wives of the delegates. She expects that there will be at least 25 or more ladies who will wish to make this tour,'

On Sunday, Dec. 2, the University of the Pacific will sponsor a piano concert to be given by Mrs. Johana Harris at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club.

Dr. Robert Burns, president of the university, will give a short talk telling something of the activities on the campus at Stockton.

The Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific St., Monterey, is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1 o'clock until 4, with hostess members of the Monterey History and Art Assn. in attendance to show the interior of the old adobe building and explain its history and tell of the history of the furnishings. The public is invited to visit this historic building, built about 1845 and later acquired by Florencio Serrano, who later became alcalde of Monterey.

Dr. Eliot Evans, curator of the headquarters of the Society of California Pioneers building and museum, 456 McAllister St., San Francisco, has written asking for information about Ben Lears. He is said to have died in Pacific Grove about 1912. He was born in Sonora and possibly was buried there. Dr. Evans writes, "Surely someone in Monterey must have bought one of his paintings. He could have been a very good artist. We have five or six of his paintings on loan at the moment, and our Lears biography data is surely deficient."

If anyone has any knowledge of this artist, please let Dr. Evans know.

Mrs. Guernsey V. Nevius of Monterey has made a generous gift to the Monterey History and Art Assn. in

the form of a framed etching of the "Plaza at Monterey" done by Bertha Jaques. The setting is Pearl street looking east from Alvarado street, showing the old adobe known as Castro's headquarters, which no longer exists, and opposite it three adobes which were torn down about 1927 in order to extend Tyler street through to Munras. This etching will be shown at Casa Serrano.

The September issue of History News, published by the American Assn. for State and Local History, announces that 37 certificates of commendation for 1962 have been issued. One is the Division of Beaches and Parks of the State of California, for its creative housing and display of the Wilford R. and Zena Holman collection in the Pacific Building in Monterey. Also, the Holmans of Pacific Grove, for their public benefaction in giving to the people of California their collection of Indian artifacts.

A history of the Pacific Coast chapter, Railway and Locomotive Historic Society, Inc., (San Mateo, Calif.: Pacific Coast Chapter News, 1962) is now available to those interested in railroading. This 25th anniversary booklet tells the story of the active Pacific Coast chapter, including in its narrative much of the history of railroad development in the West. The booklet is well illustrated with photographs during the chapter's beginnings in 1937 to 1981 and contains a photographic section.