

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 28, 1962

### History Books

The Book Club of California has just published "A Vacation Among the Sierras, Yosemite in 1860," by Thomas Starr King, edited, with introduction and notes, by John A. Hussey of Piedmont, Calif., regional historian for the National Park Service in San Francisco.

In addition to this latest book, Dr. Hussey wrote the introductions to the book club's earlier publications, "The Voyage of the "Raccoon," and John Swan's "A Trip to the Gold Mines of California in 1848." The book is illustrated by rare early photographs of Yosemite and Mariposa from the collections of the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley. Designed and printed by The Ward Ritchie Press, the book is, needless to say, a handsome volume. It consists of 118 pages. The price is \$13.75. Only 400 copies have been printed.

The diminutive but dynamic Starr King was one of California's great heroes, He is still honored for his patriotic services during the Civil War. He also is remembered as one of the nation's outstanding preachers and orators.

Soon after his arrival in California from Boston during 1860, King joined a small group of friends for an excursion to Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove. On his return, he described the trip in a series of eight letters to the Boston Evening Transcript. These letters, never before printed in their entirety, form the body of "A Vacation among the Sierras."

"The Admission of the 31st State by the 31st Congress" is just off the press and is for sale by The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale. Robert C. Cowan is the editor. The book is an annotated bibliography of the congressional speeches upon the admission of California."

There are 232 speeches referred to in this work beginning in 1848, occupying much of the 30th Congress in 1849 and absorbing all of the attention of the 31st Congress the following year. President Fillmore, on Sept. 9, 1850, signed the bill which admitted California as the 31st state in the Union.

The author, a well-known bibliographer, is eminently qualified for this task. He collaborated with his father, Robert E. Cowan, in producing the No. 1 guide to California books, "Bibliography of the History of California:" also "Booksellers of Early San Francisco,"

and is himself author of "Ranchos of California" published in 1956.

The Sacramento County Historical Society announces that the city council of Sacramento and the Southern Pacific Co., have given consent to the use of a site on the Sacramento waterfront for a state historical marker to be dedicated by the society next January commemorating the centennial of groundbreaking for the first transcontinental railroad. Plan for the dedication ceremonies will be announced later date.

Mrs. Margaret Hanna Lang has sent to the Monterey History and Art Assn. two maps, "Oregon and Upper California from the survey of John Charles Fremont and other authorities, drawn by Charles Preuss under order of the Senate of the United States, Washington City 1848". One of the historic maps is to be placed in the Fremont Adobe on Hartnell street and the other in the Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific Street, headquarters of the association.

The map is from executive document No. 17 in possession of Mrs. Lang, formerly of Monterey who now makes her home in Columbia, State Historical Monument. In the right hand corner below the map is this explanation: "While Fremont was absent on his third topographical expedition to the West, the Senate, on Feb. 2, 1847, passed a resolution directing two maps be made, one of the central section of the Rocky Mountain and the other Oregon and California.

"Charles Preuss, who had accompanied Fremont on his first two surveys, was employed to construct these maps from records already assembled, with additions upon the return of the third expedition.

"The map of Oregon and California was given priority by Fremont and was completed with Fremont and Preuss working together. It was submitted to the Senate in 1948.

"The map was committed to committee of the whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed - Jan. 24, 1850."