

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Historical Society Elects

Dr. Albert Shumate, born in San Francisco and member of a pioneer San Francisco family, was unanimously elected president of the California Historical Society at the Jan. 19 meeting of the board of trustees.

Naming Dr. Shumate as president is an appropriate culmination of a long period of dedicated service to the society of which he has been a member since 1934 and a trustee since 1958. Dr. Shumate is an enthusiastic student of Western United States history, a discriminating collector of California art and a bibliophile. His collections are housed in his family home a charming, authentic, and beautifully preserved example of Victorian architecture.

He has served as president of the Roxburghe Club, director of the Book Club of California, and a member of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles.

Educated at the University of San Francisco, Dr. Shumate's distinguished career includes an assistant professorship of dermatology; Stanford Medical School, former president; clinical staff of St. Mary's Hospital; former president, San Francisco Dermatological Society; and fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt former president of the Conference of California Historical Societies, educator, and historian, has just appealed to this writer to furnish him with data on the history and building of the Sloat Monument on Presidio Hill in Monterey. We have followed through and sent him all the historical data we could find, including the book "History of the Celebrations of the Semi - Centennial of the Raising of the American Flag" which, he already has returned intact.

Dr. Hunt writes: "Have now sent MS off to the printer, with the active hope that my new book will be published this year my 95th, beginning Feb. 3. It will be specially printed and bound, in limited edition, by the University of the Pacific, sponsored by the California History Foundation and the Conference of California Historical Societies. It's title: "Personal Sketches of California Pioneers I Have Known." Included are John Bidwell, Cornelius Cole, Lewis Manly, Virginia Reed Murphy, Moses Schallenberger, and others. I know of no other person now living that could write such a

book: I have been specially favored, to make the acquaintance of such an illustrious group of pioneers. I am hoping that in due time you will receive a copy of the book for review. I never forget I'm now a citizen of the universe-world affairs interest me deeply, even at the age of 95 years."

The California Book Club has just published a dramatic work by Mark Twain and Bret Harte "Ah Sin", printed and designed by Mallette and Vivian Dean. The collaboration of Mark Twain and Bret Harte in 1877 on this play "Ah Sin" led to moderate success on the stage but an end to the friendship of these two famous back-trailers to the East.

Mr. C. Walker Barrett's recent purchase of the only surviving copy of "Ah Sin" first made this work accessible to scholars. In fact, only then did the existence of the text of the play become generally known. Reviews of the performances during the play's tour of the East in the summer and fall of 1877 have long been the only source for information about the work.

The edition is limited to 450 copies. The price is \$17.50, plus sales tax.

A special edition of "California Imprints", 1833-1862, has been prepared and offered for sale at \$37.50 each. The copies are numbered and signed by the editor, Robert Greenwood. The Talisman Press of Los Gatos announces the publication of this major new contribution to the bibliography of the story of California.