

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **California Pioneer Sketches**

Dr. Robert E. Burns wrote the introduction for Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt's latest book "Personal Sketches of Pioneers I Have Known". Dr. Hunt, the author, is director emeritus of the California History Foundation and president emeritus, Conference of California Historical Societies. Dr. Burns is the president of the University of the Pacific at Stockton, a graduate of that institution and former member of the board of the State Division of Beaches and Parks.

Dr. Burns writes: "This is an important document. It is one of those treasures that only one man can produce. It is a valuable addition to history. It will become a volume to be treasured by those who turn to the pages of history in the future and who try to write a continuing history of our state. It is a valuable document of record."

The pioneers named by Dr. Hunt in his latest publication are: John Bidwell, prince of California pioneers; Moses Schallenberger, snowbound hermit; Martin C. Briggs, Methodist trumpeter of California; Daniel McLaughlin, "Old Ironsides"; Virginia Reed Murphy, midnight heroine; William Lewis Manly, hero of Death Valley; Cornelius Cole, distinguished centenarian; Edwin L. Sherman, grand veteran of the Mexican War; John Hyde Braly, California pioneer of pioneers; Charles Prudhomme, link with the days of the done; Emanuel A. Speegle, our last Forty Niner; and ending with Pioneer Neighbors in Early Days. Sounds like a fascinating review of pioneer days in California.

Dr. Hunt was born in Sacramento in February 1868, of pioneer parents, being a life-long Californian and now 95 year of age.

Of California he has written: "Lives cannot but be enriched by a sympathetic understanding of the building of the Far west, and how the Golden State came into being. To know something of the spirit of the trail, laboriously followed by the pioneer fathers is as consequential as to know the mileage of Highway 1!"

"Pioneers I have Known" was designed and printed by J. Wilson McKenney at Wilmas Press, a hobby shop in San Mateo. Pen sketches of each of the pioneers are by Norman Lubeck. The 500 copies printed were bound by Perry Davis, Belmont. The publishing was sponsored by

the California History Foundation and the Conference of California Historical Societies.

Because of the small number of books published and because of the author and his public, many of whom are personal friends, many taught with him during his teaching days, and of all the former students who studied under him or attended college with him, this book is bound to be appreciated and eventually to become a collector's item.

From July 21 through Aug. 12, 1962, the Oakland Art Gallery will feature a special exhibit of California landscape paintings of the 1920's. A bookseller and publisher in San Francisco, Robinson acquired these paintings to reproduce. They are lent by his daughter, Mrs. Frank Vossler of Pacific Grove, through Mrs. Marion Beaufait. Artists in the collection include Percy Gray, Chris Jorgenson, Will Sparks, Henry Breuer, Eugene Neuhaus, Charles Rollo Peters, John Gamble, Rowena Meeks Abdy and others, all well known in Monterey in earlier days.

The noted "Robinson Prints" of these paintings have been revived and are now available in the museum's Gallery Shop, located at 1000 Fallon St., Oakland 7.