

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 12, 1963

Mission Tour

Sunday afternoon Casa Soberanes opened the doors to a group from the University of the Pacific who were participating in the annual Pacific Missions Tour during the Easter Week vacation. The group was traveling by bus, leaving Stockton the morning of April 6 to return there the evening of April 13. Prof. Glen W. Price, professor of history of the university, conducted the tour and Mrs. Price was the hostess. The group spent the night at the San Carlos Hotel.

All the tourists received two units of university credit for attendance. A general survey of the Spanish and Mexican periods was to be given enroute by Price, but registration for credit was optional. The final examination is to take place on the final evening of the tour at Mission Inn in Riverside and is to be restricted to the information and ideas acquired during the week of the tour.

The Pacific Missions Tour is "symbolic of the freshness of spring and the beginning of civilization in California," as testified in the folder presented to each of the students. Also there is this praise of the event: "With a friendly event, interested in California lore, travel El Camino Real, a beautiful scenic experience in itself, and stops at the sites of all the famed Franciscan missions, from Sonora to San Diego." The stories of the missions, which reflect the atmosphere and spirit of their age and perpetuate the stamp of Spanish culture in California's heritage, will be told by the venerable padres and by Prof. Price as the tour progresses."

The missions visited have included Sonoma, San Rafael, Mission Dolores in San Francisco and Mission San Jose. From there the tour proceeded to San Jose for the night. Santa Clara Mission on the Santa Clara University grounds was visited, then over the Santa Cruz mountains to Mission Santa Cruz, thence to the fascinating town of San Juan to visit the mission there and to have a box luncheon in the mission garden.

In Monterey the group visited the Royal Presidio Chapel as well as Casa Soberanes, then Mission Carmel, then down the Salinas Valley to see the crumbling ruins and the bit of restoration at Mission Soledad, into the coast range hills to visit the charming Mission San Antonio de

Padua, on to San Miguel and San Luis Obispo missions and to spend the night at Santa Maria Inn.

Continuing south, stops were to be made at La Purisima Mission and later at Santa Inez Mission. After luncheon at Buellton, a visit to famed Santa Barbara Mission and tour of the county historical museum, Museum of Natural History and botanical gardens was scheduled.

Wednesday the group spent some time at Ventura, San Fernando and San Gabriel Missions, a visit was paid to the Huntington Library at San Marino, followed by a drive to Padua Hills where an early California play by the internationally famed Mexican Players was to be staged during the dinner hour.

San Juan Capistrano Mission and stately San Luis Rey were to be visited and in San Diego the Junipero Serra Museum in the old Presidio, as well as Mission San Diego del Alcala and then on to Pala, the best known of all the missions asistencias.

The return trip was to be made through the San Joaquin Valley.