

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 15, 1963

### **Bancroft Meeting**

A most interesting copy of Bancroftiana, the publication of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, University of California, has arrived on my desk. It announces the annual meeting of the group on Sunday, May 5 at 3:30 p.m. Dr. John W. Caughey, former professor at UCLA and one of California's eminent writers of Western history, will be the guest speaker.

Dr. Caughey's theme will be "The Years of Neglect," the time span following publication of Bancroft's monumental histories. He is the author of such books as A History of California (1840 - 1853); Gold Is The Cornerstone (1948); and very recently "California Heritage," and many others. There will also be an exhibit featuring "Women in the History of the West."

Susan B. Dakin, the author of "The Lives of Hartnell" and "A Scotch Paisano," has now completed a new book "Women Emergents In California - Rose or Rose Thorn", which soon will be distributed to members of the Friends of the Bancroft Library. Elegantly designed by Lawton Kennedy, and deep-rated by Lois C. Stone, and bound in cloth, the book will appear in a limited edition available only to the Friends of the Bancroft Library. It considers the lives of three representative but very individual women of early California.

The Bancroft Library has been exceptionally fortunate in recent years in being given collections relating to the men who traveled overland in California in 1841 members of the Bartleson Party, the first to attempt to reach California by wagon.

Through the good offices of Clyde Arbuckle of San Jose, Josiah Belden's correspondence and papers, 1832 - 1892, have now come to swell this distinguished archive, according to a note In Bancroftiana.

Beldon became a wealthy and influential citizen of San Jose, having extensive commercial associations with Thomas Oliver Larkin, Henry Melius, William D. Howard, and other prominent Californians of the 1840's and 1850's. Other familiar names in the group of some 500 include J.B.R. Cooper, James Frazier Reed, Job E. Dye, David Spence, A.G. Toomes, Nicholas Den, C.V. Gillespie, and Talbot H. Green. Most of these men at one time resided in Monterey and were associated with its early history.

To determine what Californians in the various areas of the state believe should be done to solve the problem of providing recreation and coordinating the various recreational programs, Gov. Edmund G. Brown has called a regional conference on recreation in Monterey on April 25 and 26, to which interested members of the Monterey History and Art Assn. have been invited. The conference will be held at Asilomar and those participating will be from Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties. Nicolas Roosevelt of Big Sur is co-chairman of the event with Sen. Fred Farr.