

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 17, 1963

### **Early School Days Recalled**

One-hundred twenty-five pupils who attended school before 1897 in the venerable Constitution Hall of the State of California were invited to the fourth annual all-day reunion held yesterday. All are past 70 years and at 96 Mrs. Millie Birks is the oldest, writes Mrs. Pauline McCleary, curator, Colton Hall. Some of the guests at former reunions trace their ancestry to Spanish California.

At the first reunion in 1906, 64 former students came; in 1961, 46, and in 1962, 35. George Clemens, mayor of Monterey, gave an address of welcome and traditional music was played and sung by Manuel Campos and his musicians. As in other years, the museum board were hosts to the school luncheon at noon.

The fall rendezvous of the Jedediah Smith Society will occur on Oct. 5 at the Pony Express Retreat home of Wardell F. Smith, grandnephew of one of the three men, Russel, Majors and Wardell, who developed and carried on the Pony Express of a century ago. The address is: 75 Margarita Dr., San Rafael. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. A tour of the house and art gallery will be on the entertaining program planned by the society, sponsored by the University of Pacific at Stockton,

The Conference of Historical Society, California-Nevada Conference of the Methodist Church has developed a "Mother Lode Map" of early Methodist churches along the Mother Lode Highway (Highway 49 in California.) One side of the map gives names and histories of the churches, while the other shows their locations on a detailed map of the area, which includes a sketch of each of the 21 churches mentioned. The maps are being circulated to the Methodist churches in the conference, with suggestions that tours be organized to visit the several areas. Several museums also have asked for a supply of the maps.

The board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Assn. Ltd. is issuing an invitation to the membership at large to attend an evening party at Casa Serrano on Oct. 17 at 7:30 o'clock. Refreshments will be served at that hour to precede the showing of-colored slides of the recent annual Adobe House Tour. The pictures were taken by Mrs. Milton J. Haber and Prof. Orval H. Polk.

The California Historical Society has just published a little book "El Triunfo de la Cruz," the story of the first ship in the Californias, by Theodore H. Hittell. This is an inspiring story of a determined man who ignored insurmountable obstacles and got the job done. Father Juan Ugate was a man of action!

The author's reputation as a historian rests securely on his "History of California" (four volumes, 1885-97), the first comprehensive work on the subject, still held in high respect. Printed by the Tamalpais Press.