

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 5, 1964

Random Notes

Yosemite National Park now has a Pioneer History Center, the dedication of which was held in September in the valley.

The center is a project of the National Park Service's "Mission 66." Two-fold in purpose, it will preserve perishable facets of Yosemite's human history; at the same time it will provide a center of visitor interest, thereby reducing pressure on Yosemite Valley.

The Conference of California Historical Societies and the California History Commission members were invited to join in a modern-day pilgrimage to Yosemite for the dedication of the Pioneer History Center at Wawona by Yosemite Supt. John C. Preston, who announced dedication ceremonies in conjunction with an Old-Timer's Day on Sept. 11 to commemorate the park's centennial year.

"A Journal of Explorations Northward Along the Coast from Monterey in the Year 1775" is edited by John Galvin and published by John Howell Books, San Francisco. Water colors by Louis Choris depict native Indians and animals of sea and shore, including the grizzly bear and sea lions.

Also in the book are sketch maps of harbors and discoveries and route maps of the two vessels of the expedition, the frigate "Santiago" and the schooner "Sonora," from San Blas to the Gulf of Alaska and back, a journey of more than 5,000 miles, and eight months away from the home port at San Blas.

The book is a valuable addition to the history of early California and discoveries in the North Pacific. It has been designed and printed with appropriate use of color and ornamentation, by Lawton Kennedy, and is handsomely bound in decorated cloth. The edition is 1,000 copies, at \$7.50 each.

The Francis and Theodore Lilienthal collection of the works of Robinson Jeffers, including first editions and manuscripts, will be exhibited in the rotunda (second floor) of the San Francisco Public Library from Sept. 26 to Oct. 30. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

In honor of the seventh joint meeting of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles, the Book Club of California announces an exhibit of keepsakes produced by various presses for previous joint meetings, Sept. 14 through Oct. 16. The Book Club is at 545 Sutter St., San Francisco. Hours are 1-7 p.m. Monday, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Hubert Howe Bancroft's "History of California" is to be republished in seven handsome volumes by Wallace Hebbard, Santa Barbara.

The publication of this great work is an event in which all students of Western history should rejoice.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown has written the introduction. Allen Nevins of San Mario has written this concerning the histories: "Bancroft tells us that for a time in the early 1820's many thought San Diego the capital of California. Monterey was the true capital, but Gov. Echeandia preferred the climate of San Diego. "and, as it is more than hinted, its ladies," to such a degree that he could not be enticed northward. The history of no territory or state in the Union is more interesting and instructive than that of California in these years, 1846-1859."

Just recently another worthwhile book has been published, namely "California Pioneer Register and Index, 1542-1848," including inhabitants of California in 1769-1800 and a list of pioneers by Hubert Howe Bancroft. The book was printed by the Regional Publishing Co. of Baltimore. The price is \$10.

The volume is a compilation extracted and reassembled from the monumental seven volume "History of California" by Bancroft.

It contains all genealogical information and lists of early inhabitants and pioneers contained in these volumes. It should be of great interest to descendants of California pioneers interested in their ancestry.