

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

December 7, 1964

Random Notes

Once in a while it's a good idea to clean off the desk and find treasures which have been lurking there for some time. So today we devote this diary to short notes on timely subjects.

I have been enjoying the learning at the same time by reading "Search and Research" by Noel C. Stevenson, a new resident of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Stevenson, a lawyer and former district attorney of Sutter County, has an interest in genealogy that began at an early age when he was introduced to early records of his native state of California. His penetrating articles on the relationship of law and genealogy have appeared in leading genealogical journals.

"Search and Research" was published by the Desert Book Co. Salt Lake City. Its second edition price is \$2.95.

"A Journey to California, 1841", the story of the first emigrant party to California by wagon train, kept in a journal by John Bidwell, is the Christmas book issued by the Friends of the Bancroft Library of the University of California as one of the Keepsake series for its members. It is designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy, with an introduction by Francis P. Farquhar.

Chapters of observations on the country, climate, summer, falling of leaves, resources, the route to California, the facsimile of Bidwell's Journal and the route of the Bartleson-Bidwell party are all fascinating reading.

Bidwell ends his journal with these words "To all of my acquaintances and friends who may be in bad health I would recommend a trip to California. All of whom I have heard speak of the climate as regarded their health, say its effects have been salutary."

John Howell Books announces publication of "The Letters of a Young Miner. Jasper S. Hill, a brilliant youth of 17 from Mount Pleasant, Iowa, journeyed overland to California by ox-team early in 1849. The letters begin with his trip across the plains from St. Joseph, Mo., in April 1849, and ends with his letter of March 11, 1852, in which he tells of his plans to leave the gold fields for Mount Pleasant.

Undoubtedly this book will prove one of our most revealing and remarkable records of life in the mines of

1849-1852. A limited edition of 475 has been designed and printed by Barbara Holman and is being sold for \$15 a copy.

Another beautiful as well as valuable book within whose covers lies so much information about early California is "Disenos of California Ranchos," maps of 37 land grants (1822-1846) from the records of the United States District Court, San Francisco, by Robert H. Becker. It is published by the Book Club of California, printed by Grabhorn Press in an issue of 400 copies. The price is \$55, plus \$2.20 sales tax to California residents. And by the way, "disenos" means sketch map. Mr. Becker is assistant director of the Bancroft Library at the University of California.

Another valuable and informative publication of the Book Club of California is "Yo Semite", a recorded account of the journal written by Carrie, 14-year-old daughter of Joseph LeConte, the distinguished geologist who was one of the first professors at the University of California.

She had accompanied her father on a camping expedition to the little-travelled Yosemite region. Susanna B. Dakin, author of "The Scotch Paisano" and other Californiana, has edited the journal and provided an introduction that illuminates Carrie's family background and her complex and somewhat mysterious history as an adult.

The book was designed and printed by Mallette Dean, whose first club publication was the popular "Ah Sin", Integrated with the text are eight of Carrie's charming sketches. The frontispiece is a strikingly beautiful photograph of Carrie as a young woman.