

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 30, 1964

Tour of Missions Enjoyed

For 17 years the University of the Pacific has sponsored and directed tours of the 21 Spanish and Mexican missions of Alta California. It has been found that the most acceptable time for this delightful excursion is during the eight days immediately preceding Easter. This year, as usual, a group of 39 men and women started out from the Stockton university o Sunday morning, going to Sonoma and then proceeding on down the coast to San Diego, visiting all the missions, some of the asistencias, and many other geographical and cultural points of interest. Prof. and Mrs. Glen Price were in charge of the tour.

The group arrived in Monterey Sunday evening, March 22, visited Carmel Mission and the Custom House and had dinner at Neptune's Table on the wharf, returning to the San Carlos Hotel to spend the night.

In the Pacific Historian, quarterly bulletin of the California Historic Foundation, there appeared this item of interest to the Peninsula friends of Mrs. Margaret Lang, a former resident of Monterey and now living in Columbia, Calif.:

"A considerable part of the average run of popular history consists in the re-telling of well-known stories and accounts. It is not quite plagiarism, but it partakes of its characteristics. This is particularly unfortunate when an untapped source of new and interesting material is usually so close at hand. I refer to the public archives - the records of the city and county offices.

"Generally speaking, these terse, matter-of-fact records are accurate. At least, they are not slanted to present day concepts of what is proper to say or think. They reflect truly the sounds and sights of yesterday. They are as genuine as their red bandana of the pioneer or the red petticoat of his wife."

All this leads up to an interesting book about a section of the Sierra. "Early Justice In Sonora," written by Margaret Hanna Lang; and printed by the Mother Lode Press, Sonora, sounds as genuine as two entries quoted from the Tuolumne County archives:

"August 18, 1855. Warrant No. 316 - Sonora Greys - Music for the Execution - \$60.00."

"Bills passed - E. Messick. Coffin for two prisoners."

"If you do not have this little book and would like to have it, write to the author at Route 3, Box 673, Sonora, California."

Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, The California Historical Society will host A "River Romeria." Those attending will travel by river boat to Sacramento on the 11th. Dr. Frank Fenton will discuss early Sacramento theater. On Sunday, the group will visit the Crocker Art Gallery and visit Sutter's Fort. Return to San Francisco will be by bus.