

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 18, 1964

Garden Is T. S. King Memorial

On Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. the California Historical Society in San Francisco will dedicate a memorial to the memory of Thomas Starr King, a great humanitarian. The memorial will be a garden donated to the society by Mrs. Davis Warner, one of his great-granddaughters. It will be located off the loggia of Schubert Hall.

Thomas Starr King served as a Unitarian minister in California for only four years, 1860-1864, but in that time he achieved nation-wide fame for efforts in preserving the loyalty of the State to the Union and for his eloquent solicitation for the sanitary commission, Civil War precursor of the Red Cross. A memorial to him also is in the Congressional Hall of Statuary in Washington, D.C., along with that of another man of the cloth, Father Junipero Serra. King was among the first white men to explore the Yosemite Valley.

Our newest national historical landmark is the site of the first Pacific Coast salmon cannery, constructed in the Sacramento area 100 years ago. The site, determined by historians of the National Park Service, is on the Yolo County side of the Sacramento River opposite the foot of Sacramento's K street.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the location on April 8. The principal speaker at the ceremony was U. S. Sen. E. L. Bartlett of Alaska, a member of the Senate Merchant Marine and Fisheries subcommittee.

The forerunner of today's multi-million-dollar Pacific salmon canning industry was begun in the spring of 1864 by three transplanted Maine fisherman, William and George Hume and Andrew Hapgood.

The new company had a difficult time getting started. The equipment was crude, and every operation had to be done by hand. At least half the cans manufactured the first year burst at the seams. Despite handicaps, the company sold 2,000 cases at \$5 per dozen cans the first year, and the business was launched. By 1882, there were 20 canneries along the Sacramento River, producing about 200,000 cases of salmon a year.

After this peak year, the industry declined because of sharp reduction in the number of salmon entering the Sacramento River. The shortage of fish was attributed to silting of the river by hydraulic mining. Salmon

canning was discontinued on the Sacramento after 1919.

The Lane Book Company of Menlo Park is announcing the sale of a fascinating book, "The First Ship, Built in the Californias." Theodore H. Hittell is the author. This delightful, slim little volume tells the incredible but true story of how Father Juan Ugarte, facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles, constructed from the wilderness the ship El Triunfo de la Cruz in the early 18th Century and put to sea. The book was printed for the California Historical Society. The price is \$2.95.