

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **The Famous Cable Cars**

The fall issue of *The American West* has come to my desk and it is full of fascinating historical articles, sponsored by Western History Association and the University of Utah. Listed as one of two graphics editors is Roger R. Olmsted, the son of Mrs. F.A.L. Vossler of Pacific Grove, who often visits the Peninsula.

Mr. Olmsted's contribution is "The First Gable Car," the history of San Francisco's famed cable cars, illustrated with a diagram of the first street cable car in the world. The original drawing was presented to the University of California by Hon. A.S. Hallidie, regent of the university and inventor of the system. In addition there is one of the cars as it would look on the Clay street hill and another of the addition of outdoors seats pulled by the main car. The drawings are from the collection of the Bancroft Library of the University of California. It all looks very complicated and we might say amusing. "Yet to our perpetual delight it works. Furthermore it worked the first day it was tried out, Saturday, August 2, 1873, and but for a trifling bug or two it worked as well then as it does now," writes Mr. Olmsted.

The P.G.& E. has just completed the publication of "California's Historical Monuments," compiled from the articles which appeared during the 1965 in the monthly "Progress" sent to consumers with the PG&E statements. Several of Monterey's adobe building appear in the publication including House of Gold, the Old Custom House, First Theatre, Gutierrez Adobe, the Larkin House, Pacific House, Stevenson House, San Juan Mission, Carmel Mission, and Los Coches Rancho and Casa Soberanes, with articles on the history of each.

"What we are today we owe to those gone before." is the motto published on the cover page of the January issue of "The National Association of Restoration Specialists," with headquarters in Sacramento, Calif. The issue is Volume 1, Number 1 and is published in Sacramento.

"Interest in the preservation and restoration of our heritage continues to grow at a rapid pace," to quote from the introduction to the magazine. "The big problem seemingly for most projects is funding. In spite of this, with so much interest by so many, were looking for greater progress in actual restorations in the future.

"The continued efforts of all is much needed to accomplish our future." Too many projects have been deferred for too long now.

"A number of projects are in the planning stage that do not come under the State program. Among these are the "Old Town" of Jacksonville, Ore.; the Old Bale Mill in Napa County, Sutter Street in the city of Folsom, Leonis Adobe near Calabasas and an extensive project in "Old Sacramento."

In a statement of purpose we learn that the National Association of Restoration Specialists is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of our heritage.

It is composed of a membership who have a keen interest and show action in saving a part of the past for those who come after us and to cause us to remember—"That what we are today, we owe to those gone before."

It will lend its support locally, statewide and nationally to the preservation and restoration of historic sites and buildings. An exchange of information relative to methods and procedures on preservation and restoration is made among its members to better perform assigned tasks. Information of value will be furnished upon request to others engaged in the preservation and restoration of things historic.

An energetic effort will be maintained to assure proper historical and architectural research, archaeology, planning and programing on preservation and restoration projects.

The association is not in conflict with organizations, groups or individuals in their efforts to save a part of our heritage but will support all who share in its interests in preservation and restoration.

It encourages the participation of historians, architects, engineers, supervisors, craftsmen and others to engage in this all important task to assure that those qualified will be adequate to accomplish restoration. It invites all who share these common interests to become members of the association. It is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of combining mutual interest in the preservation of a part of our heritage.