

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 27, 1965

"Old Sacramento" Landmark

Secretary of the Interior Udall recently proclaimed "Old Sacramento" a national historic landmark. On August 21 of this year appropriate ceremonies recognize this important occasion. Gov. Brown will accept the plaque marking Old Sacramento as a national historic area from Secretary Udall. United States Senators Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy will be present. Congressman John E. Moss from the Sacramento area as well as many other state and national dignitaries will be in attendance for this special occasion.

A luncheon will precede the early afternoon dedication. That evening the third annual Captain John A. Sutter commemorative birthday dinner will be held at the Fort. In addition, the Highway 50 Wagon Train from El Dorado County will join the guests at the dedication and then will go to the State Fairgrounds for festivities and a barbecue. The officers and members of the Monterey History and Art Association are invited to celebrate the commemoration of Old Sacramento as an area of national historic importance.

The invitation is signed by E.A. Combatalade, general chairman.

The 1965 Keepsake for the members of the Friends of the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley, is particularly significant at this time for it is the informal record of Dr. George P. Hammond and his era in the Bancroft Library. The title for the book is unusual for it is merely Dr. Hammond's initials, "GPH: An Informal Record." Dr. Hammond has retired from the directorship of this famous library after nineteen years of service. His friends and associates have contributed to this keepsake – eleven in all.

Just a month after he returned to his alma mater as director of an institution in which he had once labored as a student assistant, he brought into being the Friends of the Bancroft Library. Thus the organization has a life-span almost exactly equal to the Hammond tenure in Berkeley.

O. Cort Majors, chairman of the council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, wrote the foreword for "GHP". He explained that at the organizing meeting held at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco how these present: "The undersigned" agreed to form a non-profit

organization entitled The Friends of the Bancroft Library. The headquarters and permanent address to be the Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley. The object of the Friends was to raise funds for the purpose of supplementing the ordinary funds in order that more books, manuscripts and other suitable material might be acquired.

Present and signing the first organizing papers were Henry R. Wagner, Carl I. Wheat, George R. Stewart, George L. Harding, Francis P. Farquhar, Warren Howell, Charles L. Camp and Dr. Hammond.

The first book to be published was, "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo," edited by GPH and printed by Grabhorn Press. In 1961 the Friends were to accomplish the acquisition of these papers and library of Don Silvestre Terrazas, a great collection centering upon the Mexican Revolution in 1910 and its aftermath. The purchase was a joint undertaking by the Friends and the university.

The book was printed and designed by Lawton Kennedy in San Francisco. Dr. Hammond is an honorary member of the Monterey History and Art Association.

In 1946 the celebration of the landing of Commodore John Drake Sloat was the greatest of all such events because of the 100th anniversary. It was in 1886 that a group of California citizens first banded together to so honor Commodore Sloat with the added and perhaps more selfish motive of calling attention to a more personal project.

That year the Associated Veterans of the Spanish War of California were attempting to pass through Congress a general service pension bill and they used a celebration at Monterey, so the newspaper reporter of that date told us, to recall to the country one of the most important outcomes of the war in which they fought.

The bill was passed, giving veterans of 62 years of age or more a pension of \$8 a month.