

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **History Society Leader**

Henry Miller Bowles of San Francisco, a descendant of two prominent pioneering California families, has been elected president of the California Historical Society.

Now president of Miller & Lux, Inc., and a partner in Bowles Farming Co., he is a great grandson of Henry Miller who with Charles Lux founded the large-scale cattle and farming enterprise, and also a great grandson of George W. McNear, an East Bay man who was one of the pioneers in the state's grain industry.

A long-time member of the historical society, he has served as a member of the finance committee, a trustee and first vice president.

Other officers of the society are Gardner Johnson, first vice president; Mrs. David Potter, second vice president; Gordan G. Robinson, third vice president; Charles A. McLeown, treasurer, and Donald G. Biggs, secretary.

"It seems unreasonable to think of myself as an old person," said Dr. Rockwell Dennis Hunt, noted writer and considered the dean of historians specializing in California history at the University of the Pacific, and he never did. He tiffed Sunday night, Jan. 23, in a convalescent hospital at the age of 97. He also said, "I shall continue to rejoice in the spirit of youth, inviting perennial springtime to find its dwelling place in my soul", and he did just that until the time of his death.

Dr. Hunt was a native Californian, born in Sacramento. "He was never far out of its shadow as he steeped himself in California history, even as history was being made around him. He was the author of 18 books on California history as well as many magazine and newspaper articles," a friend wrote of him.

He spent 37 years at the University of Southern California, first as professor of economics and later as dean of the graduate school. In 1947 he came out of a two-year retirement to become a visiting professor of California history at the University of the Pacific. In 1963, Dr. Hunt held, his 95th birthday party on the UOP campus, shaking hands with hundreds of old friends.

Dr. Richard Coke Wood, associate professor of history at UOP and executive secretary of the Conference of California Historical Societies commented: "Today,

there are 130 historical societies working to preserve our California heritage. Dr. Hunt is the man responsible for much of this. We've lost one of the great Californians."

Dr. Hunt had been a president of the Conference of California Historical Societies and a director of the California History Foundation. In 1951 he wrote a 100-year history of the University of the Pacific.

He published his last book a few months ago, a limited-edition work about his Sacramento boyhood in a day when children would "always say mister when speaking to a male adult and comb their hair before meals."