

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 17, 1966

On The Pacific Slope

"Twenty Years on the Pacific Slope," edited and with an introduction by W. Turrentine Jackson, is composed of letters of Henry Eno from California and Nevada, 1848-1871.

Mr. Jackson presents one of the richest collections of letters to appear in many years. Not only do Henry Eno's letters give a rare, first-hand report of the changing scene in California and Nevada during the post-gold rush period, but his career reduces to a summary of the valiant struggle of the Western pioneer.

Eno's detailed observations of Alpine County, California, are unique: no history of the area has ever been written, and the only other sources are the scattered and broken files of county newspapers. Eno's narrative of events in the county illustrates as never before the problem of frontier government prematurely organized and saddled with a bureaucracy that the citizenry was unable to support, according to the information on the dust cover.

Perhaps more important, the letters are a chronical of one man's life on the Pacific Coast, a self-portrait of an interesting individual knowledgeable about life, courageous, and persevering. A lawyer by training, pioneer and gold-seeker by inclination, Eno reveals himself as a man well and widely read, a keen observer of the western scene, and eternal optimist.

The introduction, summarizing Eno's life and times, sets the letters in historical perspective.

W. Turrentine Jackson is professor of history at the University of California at Davis.

San Francisco will celebrate its 190th birthday with a Park Concert featuring Spanish songs and dances, an anniversary mass in the adobe church of Mission Dolores, birthplace of the city, and a Civic luncheon in the historic Officers' Club of the Presidio.

"The announcement of the celebration read: "By proclamation of Mayor John F. Shelley, June 26 - 29 has been set aside to commemorate the arrival of the city's first permanent settler in June of 1776. The group of Spanish soldiers and colonists under the leadership of Lt. Jose Joaquin Moraga and Padre Francisco Palou.

They camped at "Laguna de los Dolores," the site selected earlier by Col. Juan Bautista de Anza for Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores).

In July most of the party went to the site selected by Anza for the Presidio. A citizen committee appointed by the mayor planned the traditional birthday-celebration. Hon. Joseph E. Tinney is honorary chairman with Mrs. George A. Applegarth and Albert Shumate, M.D., co-chairmen.

Susan de Haro Abbott, descendant of San Francisco's first Alcalde, has been chosen as the year's "La Favorita" to reign over the festivities. Miss de Haro is the great, great granddaughter of Natividad de Haro Tissot. Natividad was the daughter of Josefa Sanchez de Haro and Francisco de Haro. She was born in 1829 at the Presidio of San Francisco while her grandfather, Jose Antonio Sanchez was commandant. One of the original walls of the house where she was born can be seen today in what is now the Officers' Club. Francisco de Haro was the first Alcalde of Yerba Buena in 1834-35 and served again in the same capacity from 1838-40. His home was the Rancho Laguna de la Merced.

A friend of the Monterey History and Art Association recently gave to the association a very beautiful black silk gown in perfect condition and very old, and a tiny black parasol, which we appreciate very much. Will that lady please get in touch with Mrs. O'Donnell—phone 372-7992. More information is needed to complete the record.