

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The White House

"The White House" published by White House Historical Association of Washington, D.C. and distributed by Grosset & Dunlap, New York, has been a present to me from some old friends.

It is beautifully illustrated in color, showing the interior of many of the rooms, antique furniture going back to President Washington's time, paintings, silver, and table settings, as well as many pictures of the White House from its very beginnings. There is a chapter on "Life in the White House," "Great Paintings in the White House," "Furniture in the White House," "A Guide to the Rooms."

This book was inspired by Mrs. John F. Kennedy. In its 144 pages and 219 illustrations, it traces the history of the executive mansion from the beginning of the Republic. The book was published by the White House Historical Association, a non-profit organization established in 1961 to increase understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Executive Mansion. The price of the volume is \$3.95.

"From Scotland to Silverado" by Robert Louis Stevenson and edited by James D. Hart, is a product of The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass, in 1966. It comprises "The Amateur Emigrant," "From the Clyde to Sandy Nook," "Across the Plain," and "The Silverado Squatters," and four essays on California.

In a number of ways this book is the first edition of Stevenson. One essay, "Simoneau's at Monterey," has never been published before in any form; each of the other works contains new material discovered by the editor. "The Amateur Emigrant" as printed here is about a third longer than in previous editions, for the publisher has reinstated from manuscript all those passages that had been deleted by squeamish family and friends for fear of offending the public with their frank realism and marring the popular image of the author as a genteel romancer, so the dust cover of the book relates.

The introduction also includes the anonymous broadside "Padre Dos Reales," written by Stevenson in Monterey and here reprinted for the first time.

The Quarterly News Letter, published for its members by The Book Club of California, contains as the leading

article "The Silverado Episode" by Norman H. Strouse. The article is based on a talk he gave to friends of the Grosse Point Library, Grosse Point, Michigan.

Strouse writes: "Against the backdrop of the beautiful Napa Valley, there strides through the upper valley the slender, eager ghost of Robert Louis Stevenson, poet, essayist, humanist —almost forgotten in the dramatic setting of what was the climax of the most romantic episode in his life eighty-six years ago. Few residents have ever read Stevenson's "The Silverado Squatters," one of his most beautiful prose works that describes the several months in 1880 he spent with his new bride and twelve-year-old stepson in an abandoned bunkhouse of the old Silverado Mine high on the shoulder of Mt. St. Helena."