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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US ARCHIVIST TO SPEAK AT HISTORICAL CONVENTION

SAN DIEGO, Calif. --The man in charge of the Declaration of Independence and the evidence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy will be a featured speaker at the Fifth Annual San Diego Historical Convention.

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States National Archives in Washington, D. C., will speak at the final dinner of the three day convention. The convention will be held at the University of San Diego March 6 to 8. Rhoads' topic will be "California in the National Archives."

Dr. Rhoads has been prominent in the news recently as keeper of the assassination evidence, which has been a key element in the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial in New Orleans.

Historians and history buffs will hear papers and speeches by forty of the nation's top scholars and historians, said Dr. Raymond S. Brandes, co-chairman of the arrangements committee. The theme of the convention is the 200th anniversary of the birth of San Diego and of the state of California.

The Concelebrated Mass honoring Father Junipero Serra will be a high point of the convention, Sister Catherine McShane, Ph.D., said. Sister McShane, chairman of the USD College for Women department of history is the other co-chairman of the arrangements committee. Dr. Brandes is chairman of the same department at the USD College for Men.

Father Serra founded in 1769 Mission San Diego de Alcala at the site of the Presidio in San Diego's Old Town.

(MORE)

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Procedure for the canonization of Father Serra are underway and the process will be described for the convention by the Rev. Noel Moholy of Lakeport. Father Moholy is the liaison for the canonization cause between the Franciscan Order in California and the authorities in Rome.

The convention is sponsored by the 50 groups comprising the San Diego Congress of History. Members include the Junior League and the Julian Historical Society, and other groups and agencies in the county interested in preserving local history.

Ben Dixon of San Diego is the congress' president. Dixon is the former curator of the Junipero Serra Historical Museum in San Diego.

Hosts of the convention's sessions include Old North County Historical Society, the Railway Historical Society, the University of San Diego, Cabrillo Historical Society, San Diego Corral of the Westerners, Native Daughters of the Golden West, the United States National Archives and Records Service and the Society of American Archivists.

Southern California Speech Contest finals, sponsored by the Native Sons of the Golden West will be held at 8:30 p.m. Mar. 6 in USD's More Hall. Short papers on the founding and early history of San Diego will be presented by six finalists.

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