



DEDICATION CEREMONY



A Memorial to
GEORGE WHITE MARSTON

THE DONOR OF
Presidio Park and Junipero Serra Museum



On the Museum Terrace

South Entrance

OCTOBER 22, 1950

At 3:00 P. M.

Marston Memorial

DEDICATION CEREMONY

At Junipero Serra Museum

Three P. M. :- Sunday, October 22, 1950

Centennial of the Birth of George Marston

San Diego's Great Civic Leader

GEORGE WHITE MARSTON

1850-1946

FRIEND OF HIS FELLOW MEN
LOVER OF ALL GROWING THINGS

PIECE BY PIECE THROUGH MANY YEARS HE ACQUIRED THESE ACRES, THE SITE OF THE FIRST SPANISH SETTLEMENT IN CALIFORNIA. HE ERECTED THIS BUILDING, HE PLANTED THE TREES AND SHRUBS AND NURTURED THEIR GROWTH WITH TIRELESS DEVOTION, AND WHEN THE BARREN HILLSIDE HAD BLOSSOMED INTO BEAUTY HE PRESENTED PRESIDIO PARK TO THE CITY HE LOVED AS A MEMORIAL TO FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA.

A bronze tablet bearing the above text, made possible through the generosity of friends of Mr. Marston, Founder of the San Diego Historical Society, will be dedicated by the Society at the south entrance of the Museum.

Remarks in tribute to Mr. Marston will be given by Mr. Wm. Templeton Johnson, the Architect of the Museum.

The Tablet will be unveiled by Master George Marston, 8-year-old great-grandson of the Pioneer.

A PIONEER CIVIC LEADER

George White Marston was born October 22, 1850, at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, son of George P. and Harriet Marston. At the age of 20 he came to San Diego, entering at once into the commercial and cultural life of the new community. May 3, 1878, he married Anna Lee, daughter of Dr. L. C. Gunn, to which union five children were born: Arthur, Mary, Harriet, Elizabeth, and Helen. Mrs. Marston passed away on October 7, 1940, in her 87th year; Mr. Marston on May 31, 1946.

George Marston took a prominent part in the economic development of the city, being the founder of the Marston Company and its active head for six decades. An early member of the Chamber of Commerce, he served as secretary, vice-president, and president, and was chairman of an important railroad committee.

A leader in civic and cultural enterprises, his activities were manifold: organizer of our first baseball club; sponsor for a town band; city councilman; fire commissioner; champion of an adequate public library; prominent layman of the Congregational Church; founder and first president of the local Y. M. C. A.; member of its State, National and International Boards. A founder of Pomona College in 1887, he was its trustee for half a century, and president of its board for 25 years.

He formed a civic group to develop the city's parks and beaches; he forwarded the improvement of Balboa Park and of Anza Desert Park in Borrego; he was the creator and donor of this lovely Presidio Park. Author of our Civic Center idea early in the century, he headed its development committee for three decades and turned the first earth in its groundbreaking, October 5, 1935.

In 1928 he founded the San Diego Historical Society. In 1929 he erected this building as a Civic Memorial to Father Serra, founder of the California Missions. In 1937 he generously gave both Presidio Park and Junipero Serra Museum to the City of San Diego.

