

Sept. 25, 1966

Mrs. Medora Johnson, Chairman
 Ways and Means Committee, Conf. of Cal. Hist. Soocs.
 Rt 4, Box 141, Lodi, California 95240

Dear Medora:

At long last, an answer to your questionnaire re: the Manual for Historical Societies. It looks great to me, and here are a few thoughts, some resulting from much blood, sweat and tears --

A. By-laws should have a section providing for distribution to some other similar group(s) of the ~~society's~~ assets, should it ever disband; this to satisfy U.S. Internal Revenue. Any by-laws which I would draw up would present safeguards against one-man (or one-woman) control through a rigged board -- and this means limiting the number of terms an officer may serve consecutively, as well requiring at least a year's membership before anyone can become an officer or director.

B. Have nothing to do with historical markers unless they are thoroughly documented.

C. Keep -- and circulate -- a list of all office-holders who vote against worth-while preservation laws.

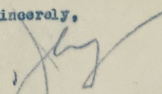
D. Take a firm hand with happy, amateur restorers; over-restoration is all too common. I don't know why it is that people think that if they can achieve the gussied-up atmosphere of 1885, it's good for anyone's period from Henry VIII to Al Capone.

E. If a society calls itself merely the Panamint County Historical Society, its museum should reflect all periods of its history; if it is going on one kick and only one, it should be honest and call itself (for the Father Serra, for Moustache Cup, or Indian Blanket) Historical Society of Panamint County.

For the rest, I have no comment, except to suggest that the section listing other historical societies should have some blank space at the end, for additions or correction.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


 Jerry Mac Mallen

