

Guild honors Jubilee

getting together

news of organizations

LIVERMORE — Dr. Peter T. Conmy, noted California historian and native of San Francisco, spoke at the Heritage Guild dinner Thursday which honored St. Michael's Parish Centennial year. The year was dubbed "Jubilee" by Conmy during the occasion.

Conmy reminded listeners that "centennial" is a civic event term, and "jubilee" connotes a religious observance.

He spoke on the subject "An Appreciation of the History of Livermore and St. Michael's Parish," stressing how the church has followed its people throughout history.

"History is change, and people who make history are those who are flexible and move with changes."

Looking back at the beginnings of both the Livermore Valley and the parish, he pointed out that the people who came to the valley were people of peace.

They came in search of new lives, in search of gold; they followed a dream without fear, he recounted.

"They were strong, virile, courageous, ready to take risks."

He emphasized that the church followed in the same manner, also willing to follow a dream. Picking up on the background of St. Michael's and its Irish pastors, Conmy described how oldtime Irishmen insisted that every church have a tall steeple.

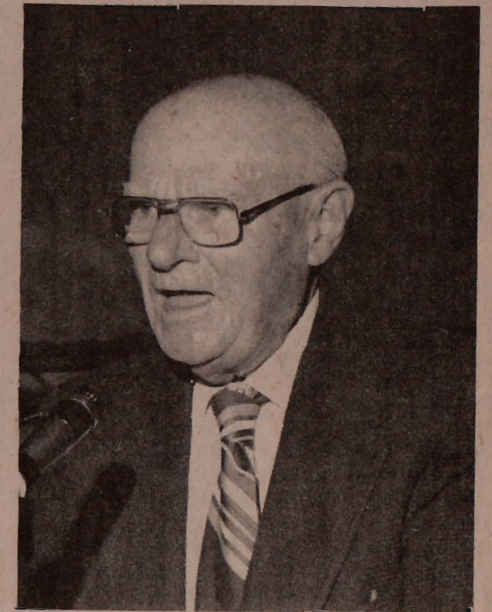
"They wanted everyone to know the church was there, even if it was just big enough to support a steeple," he said. "It had to be a visible sign for all — a sign of faith."

At one point in the lecture, Conmy read from a book on the history of Livermore.

"...the agricultural and pastoral life of the community began to change when the government set up the University of California Radiation Laboratory outside of the TOMB..." meaning TOWN, and the crowd roared with laughter, many connecting "tomb" with bombs.

Conmy reiterated the theme Bishop John S. Cummins had stated during his ordination in 1977 that the church is family, a community committed to Christian action and prayer.

He then summarized Monsignor Robert G. Adams' Centennial Day pastoral letter describing the visible achievements that have been completed because of the invisible support of faith and dreams. He accented the importance of the community and church both working in the spirit of the presence of God.



DR. PETER T. CONMY, HISTORIAN
Speaker for Heritage Guild dinner



'JUBILEE' CAKE MARKS CENTENNIAL

Ed Lafranchi, centennial chairman, Janet Newton, Livermore Heritage Guild chairwoman and Monsignor Robert Adams, pastor of St. Michael's, admire cake