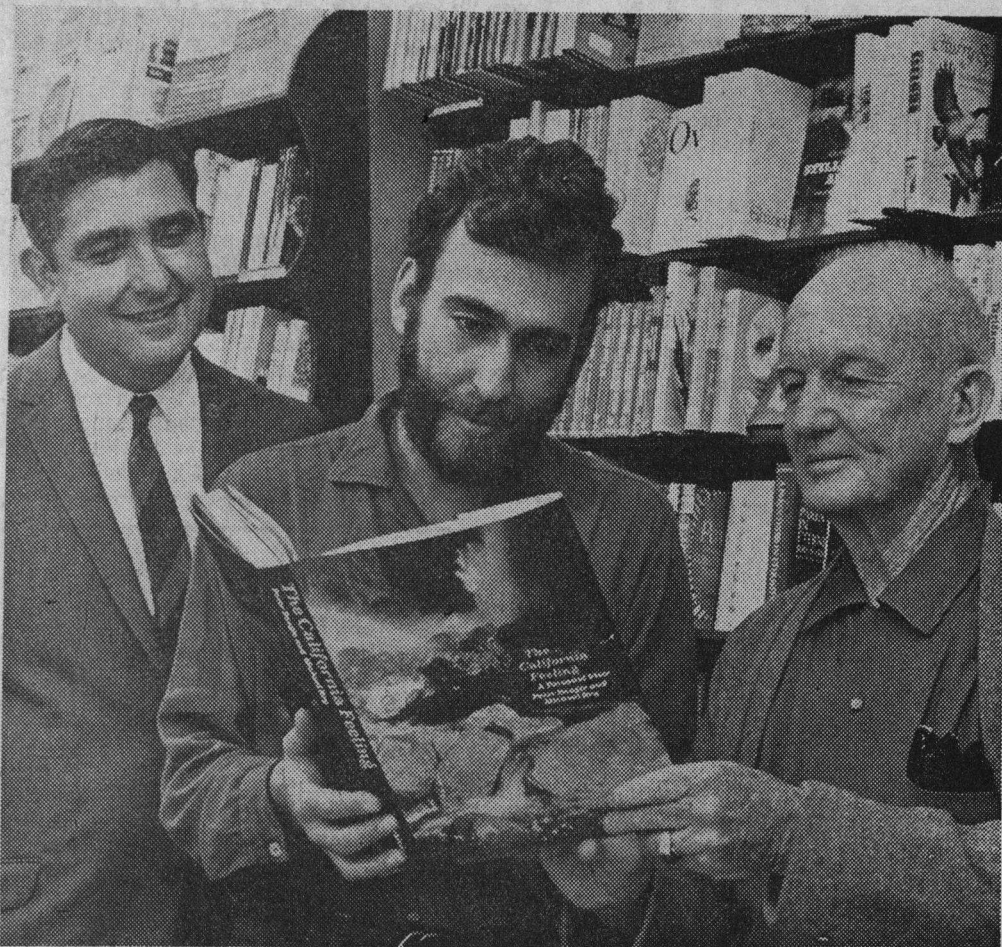


Authors

Author Here Tomorrow



Nationally-acclaimed author Peter Beagle (center) and his new book, *THE CALIFORNIA FEELING*, which he will be autographing tomorrow at Plaza Books and Stuff, from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited. Looking over Beagle's shoulder are (left) Hal Morris, owner of the Plaza, and Don Fairchild, former owner of the bookstore which recently moved from the corner of Mission and Pacific to Pacific and Walnut Avenue. An exhibit of photographs by Michael Bry will be on display tomorrow at the bookstore. Bry collaborated with Beagle on the new book.



6—Santa Cruz Sentinel

Friday, November 28, 1969

Peter Beagle, Writer

Peter Beagle calls himself a slow writer . . .
"I can spend 15 or 20 minutes on one word."

He writes every day, forced to it by what he terms his "puritanism." A compulsion to work. A compulsion to believe in the art of writing.

Right now he is working on two things: a new book, and a movie script for his book *THE LAST UNICORN*.

The first time I telephoned him for an interview he was home scrubbing the kitchen floor. The interview was canceled because of a previous TV commitment. It seems everyone is after Peter these days because he has written a highly successful book called *THE CALIFORNIA FEELING*.

When we finally met to talk briefly — briefly because it was Thanksgiving Day and his family has a right to see him once in a while too—I was impressed with his utter simplicity, his wholeness as a person, his direction as a writer.

His next book is a fantasy based on reality. He has one chapter written.

"It's like walking a tightrope."

He speaks quietly . . . one must almost lean forward to hear better at times. He's slender, wiry, with finely modeled hands and quiet eyes.

He doesn't smile often. You get the feeling that he chooses what he smiles at as carefully as he chooses the words for his books.

And that is done with great care.

Margaret Koch

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