

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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A Catholic Carmel To Rival Methodist Pacific Grove

The success of the summer camp established by the Methodists in Pacific Grove led directly to the founding of Carmel. Not that Carmel was to be the bohemian artists' and writers' rebuttal to the high moral tone set by "the Christian seaside retreat" by the bay; Carmel was planned to be its Catholic counterpart.

Although the Pacific Grove Retreat Association had been incorporated on June 15, 1875, the great demand for lots there did not begin until 1885 and 1886. Then, as Lucy Neely McLane says in her *A Piney Paradise*, "The calm of the retreat was broken. From month to month new homes were built, . . . new stores went up, and avenues and streets were improved . . ." The *Del Monte Wave* reported in 1885, "The demand for lots from all quarters is wonderful. During the last sixty days, the sale of company lots amounted to \$20,000, while transactions among individual owners amount to nearly half as much."

Meanwhile, over the hill at the Carmel Mission, exciting developments were taking place. Father Angelo Casanova, who ministered not only to the Presidio Chapel of San Carlos in Monterey but to the ex-mission church as well, had cleared the ruins of debris and located the graves of Fathers Serra, Lasuen, Crespi and Lopez. On July 3, 1882, in view of a crowd of 400, the graves were opened and the presence of the hallowed remains verified.

This dramatic incident focused attention on Father Casanova's efforts to preserve the mission, and largely through the keen interest of Mrs. Leland Stanford, funds were gathered and the church covered, unfittingly but effectively,

with a steep shingled roof. The church was re-dedicated on August 28, 1884. The mission began to attract a steady stream of wealthy tourists from the huge, lavish Hotel Del Monte, a super-extravagant Swiss chalet just four years old.

Leading Catholics in northern California, aroused by the re-discovery of the tombs of the pioneer missionaries, the restoration of the mission, the beauty of its setting and the success of the flourishing Methodist camp ground at Pacific Grove, now began to bestir themselves. The Young Men's Institute, new, ambitious and growing, led the movement to build a summer colony of their own near the old mission.

In 1887, Santiago J. Duckworth and his brother Belisario entered the real estate business in Monterey; object: a Catholic retreat in Carmel. The valley land was already pre-empted for farming and too costly; the beautiful forested slopes above the mission, of little grazing or agricultural use, were owned by Honore Escolle of Monterey. He was happy to do business with the Duckworths.

On February 18, 1888, 324 acres were bonded by the Duckworth brothers from Escolle and W. C. Little of Monterey and his apprentice, Davenport Bromfield, were commissioned to survey a new tract, Carmel City, in April. The map, neatly marked in squares and with all the streets (with two exceptions) named and numbered as they are today in the area from Monteverde on the west to 12th on the south, was filed on May 1st. (*1) 700 lots in the first 94 acres surveyed were put on the market about May 15, 1888.

Oddly enough, the lots selected for the Catholic retreat were not opened on the land closest to the mission but up in the Carpenter Street, Santa Rita, 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue site. The first houses were built there, while on the corner of the main boulevards, 100 foot wide Ocean Avenue and Broadway (changed soon to Junipero), an 18-room hotel was built by the end of the year. By the middle of 1889, arrangements were made to transport prospective colonists to the new tract by stagecoach.

The *Monterey Cypress* was enthusiastic about Carmel City. By 1891 it had a regular Carmel column, but even before that its editorials were so lyrical one is tempted to think that the publisher had a vested interest in the property. "I wonder not that the fathers sanctified this lovely spot with their presence. And, as the sun cast its soft rays over the hill slope, throwing a mellow light through the pines, which in turn swayed to and fro in apparent ecstasy over its friendly visitation, Carmel City, like a maiden dressed in her best garb and waiting for her beau, greeted us as we entered."

That was not all. At the base of a high knoll richly covered with young pines, along what is now Valley Way, Duckworth planned a college site. By 1890, he promised the *Cypress* reporter, a Seminary would be erected there at a cost of \$10,000 by prominent Catholics and would be deeded, together with ground for expansion, to the proper authorities of the Catholic Church for educational purposes.

(*1) Broadway was changed to Junipero; Mountain View, a diagonal street, resulted from the laying of water pipe from the Carmel River to Pacific Grove.

The bright vision faded, however. In 1891 the Duckworths, as agents for the Escolle lands, could no longer carry the burden. Lots had sold slowly and a new developer took over. This time the religious basis for Carmel City was dropped and the Seminary dream drifted away. Abbie Jane Hunter and her Society of Chosen Friends formed the Women's Real Estate And Investment Company in San Francisco and in January, 1892, assumed the promotion of the budding community. Between 1892 and 1902 several hundred lots had been sold, but the going was hard. The tract was too isolated and transportation was too erratic. By 1903, Mrs. Hunter had to sell out to Frank Powers, a San Francisco attorney.

To Frank Powers and Frank Devendorf fell the responsibility of developing Carmel as we know it today, a town somewhat less religious than the Duckworth brothers had imagined, but with the Mission still shedding its benign influence over the beautiful scene.

* * *

Medical Topography and Diseases of Monterey

by Assistant Surgeon William S. King: 1852

(Concluded)

By all rights, this short concluding article should have been the main point of interest in our March issue. There we described the three-sided life of Dr. King: army surgeon, natural scientist and local doctor for Monterey. In fact, after an elaborate wind-up, in which we reviewed the astounding birth records for Hispanic California and Dr. King's opportunity to see for himself the appalling conditions under which they were achieved, we had no space left to make the pitch: an almost unique account of childbirth in one of Monterey's old adobes in 1850.

It is not recommended reading for those who wish to preserve the illusion that life in old California was nothing more than a gay round of fiestas, fandangoes, siestas and soft voices whispering beneath a starry sky. For those who wish to know the bitter as well as the sweet of history and to understand the heroism of the frontier mother, — read on.

— Donald M. Craig.

Diseases of women — The diseases peculiar to women, are far more common in Monterey than any other class of disorders. Of these, the most common are leucorrhoea, prolapsus uteri, and deranged menstruation. These affections are more numerous in proportion to the population in Monterey than in any community I have ever known. The two first-named are, I believe, owing to the mode of treating parturient women, practised by the natives of the place.

It is the custom in Monterey, when labor begins, to place the woman on a chair in the middle of the room, and a rope is fastened to the rafters above her head, which she is directed to pull. Round her abdomen, a broad towel, or *rebozo*, is passed, the ends crossed behind, and entrusted to assistants, who are

instructed to tighten it when the abdominal tumor descends during the pain, and *belay there* (as it were) until the arrival of the next pain, when it is hauled *taut* again, so as to hold on each time to the progress made, and not to permit the usual ascent of the tumor after the subsidence of the pain. With the same view, a strong man is frequently seated behind the woman, who, with his hands placed on her abdomen, makes strong pressure downwards, at each pain, with the idea of assisting, by mechanical force, the contractions of the uterus. All this time the midwife (generally some old woman) is seated in front with one or two hands on the baby, making all the traction in her power.

When the woman and her assistants are fatigued, she is placed upon her knees, on the floor, without relaxing any of the means and appliances which would cause them to lose the advantage already gained. These violent measures often proved fatal to both mother and child. Usually, on the termination of labor, the woman is completely exhausted. From the injury done to the soft parts by the long and rough handling, inflammation and ulceration often ensue, and thus laying the foundation of uterine and vaginal disease and displacement of the uterus.

Immediately after delivery, and when the poor woman is nearly worn out, and in a more or less excited state, and the nervous system in an exceedingly susceptible condition, and disposed to receive strong impressions from slight causes, it is the universal custom for all acquaintances, however slight, to visit, with one accord, the new mother, so that her room will resemble an evening party, being filled with numerous guests, who do not hesitate to sit for hours, in loud conversation, and regale themselves meanwhile in smoking paper cigarettes. When we consider how much lying-in women often suffer from not being kept in a tranquil and quiet state after confinement, and how important to her well-doing is rest and seclusion, we may readily conceive the unfortunate results of an opposite course, and understand why more untoward circumstances occur to such women here than ordinarily.

Within the last few years, the influence of the intelligent physicians, and a few American families, have made some improvement in these matters; but, as this branch of the profession is still in the hands of the California midwife, much ignorance and superstition still exists throughout the country to an extent that could scarcely be credited in other portions of the United States. Not deeming a more extended narration of the diseases of this vicinity as proper in a paper of this character, I have endeavored to be as brief as the nature of the subject would admit, and have, therefore, been obliged to avoid details which, after all, perhaps would not have been read either with interest or profit.

* * *

ANOTHER BIRTHDAY PARTY, THE 197th!

The Merienda celebrating Monterey's 197th birthday was a miracle of planning and prayer. The planning, of course, had gone on for months, but the prayers went up in a steady stream only two or three days before June 3rd when, for the first time in Merienda history, rain threatened to spoil the celebration.

With each passing moment on the great day, however, the clouds fled and by noon the sun was beaming on the largest crowd ever assembled in Memory Garden. Ed Bliss, the general chairman, had found room for over 700 guests, and there was still space for walking, visiting friends and admiring the gay table decorations. A stage was there too, from which Father Farrell gave the beautiful invocation and blessing, and where the Duena, Mrs. Lee Merihart, presented Miss Fidela Zanetta, this year's Favorita, and her attendants, Miss Marianne Ansel and Miss Elizabeth McMenamin.

A long table of notables included Ambassador to Mexico Fulton Freeman (whose speech in Spanish was, amid laughter, translated by Don Adolfo Dominguez, Consul General of Mexico), Don Antonio Vidal Gabas, Consul General of Spain, Admiral E. J. O'Donnell, Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School, Deputy Commanding General of Fort Ord General W. E. Shedd, III, Colonel R. J. Long, Commandant of the Defense Language Institute, West, Captain Mark T. Whittier of the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Assemblyman Alan Pattee,, Mayor Minnie Coyle, Earl Hanson, Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks and Jess Chaffee, Superintendent District IV, Parks and Recreation.

The food was excellent. All but the tender steaks, barbecued by Eldon Covell and his crew of distinguished citizens, came from our generous friends: the Spanish beans from the Zanetta Farms, the heaping salad from the California Coastal Farms and Aldon's, garlic bread, plenty of good red wine from the Cork n' Bottle Stores and the famous Almaden Winery, and strong coffee from the Del Monte Lodge. The huge birthday cake, again presented by Miss Anita Doud, was brought in by two bearers under the leadership of Emmet McMenamin and cut into almost a thousand pieces.

What would a Merienda be without the twin masters of ceremonies, Don Gustavo de Arriola and Herr Don Theodore Durein? Or Manuel Campos and his mariachis with their gay Latin tunes? The vivacious Amparo again delighted the crowd as she and her partner Moreno made the stage echo with their fiery Spanish dances. As added attractions, there were the new sensations: flamenco guitarist Newton Bowman and the very simpatico Mexican tenor Charles Castaneda.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

One of the four gleaming flag-poles and the flag flying bravely from it in Monterey's redeemed Plaza are the gifts of our Association. We have worked and waited years to see this central point of historic Monterey returned to public use and made a fitting adjunct to the distinguished Cooper-Molera Adobe. Congratulations, Mayor Minnie, City Council and Planning Committee!

* * *

The Adobe Tour, the principal source of income of our Association besides dues, was the most successful ever held. According to Martha Bentley, chairman, after all expenses for food, publicity and incidentals had been paid, we realized \$5,505.95. The picnic was more popular than last year and counting hostesses, organizing committees, cooks and servers, transportation units, cleanup and decor-

ators, some 463 people worked on the project.

It is very heartening to see such devoted interest in the cause of the Association, for the money goes to preserve the historic significance of Monterey. It is particularly good to see the whole-hearted support of friends like Bernie McMenamin of the San Carlos Hotel. He had the Paisano Picnic salad made for us from the 9 crates of lettuce that Emmet McMenamin got as donations from the two Salinas producers, Green Valley Produce Co-Op, and the Merrill Farms. The Spreckels Sugar Company gave us 700 packets of sugar for the coffee, Mary Zanetta gave 500 pounds of pink beans (enough to fill plates at both the picnic and the Merienda!), the Mark Thomas Inn gave us 24 pounds of delicious Maxwell House coffee, and the Mirassou Vineyards of San Jose gave us all the delightful wine.

We should give a special round of applause to the Army. Through permission of the commanding general at Fort Ord, Don English of the Information Center there made all the arrangements, and Warrant Officer Kyle and Sergeant Major Radu got 150 pounds of beans cooked for us. That's a lot of frioles, and we are most appreciative. Col. Robert McCaulay of the Presidio obliged us with ten sheet cakes, and we thank him for every bite.

Someday the Association should put up a plaque to the workers of the City of Monterey. They haul the tables and chairs, fix the fire wood, clean up afterwards and are pleasant and cheerful through it all.

* * *

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts. Mary Frances Singleton and Mayo O'Donnell have given, in memory of Myron Oliver, a three piece set of Dresden china made about 1905 especially for J. K. Oliver's Curio Shop and ornamented with scenes of Monterey.

Six old Haviland china dinner plates were donated by Mrs. G. T. McCready, and a lovely elaborately embroidered Spanish shawl, 118 by 114 inches, weighing six pounds, by Mrs. W. McC. Chapman. Laura Maxwell, the well-known Carmel artist, has presented an old Mexican leather-bound, brass-studded trunk in memory of Luis Turango. He was an old-timer here, a humble man, who nevertheless adopted and reared twenty Mexican children.

Mrs. Lee, author of **La Concha**, a story of the famous Concepcion Arguello, has given a number of copies of the book to the Association to be sold for our benefit. They are available at the Casa Serrano during the afternoons of each Saturday and Sunday.

* * *

A plaque honoring a famous literary light has been placed in Carmel by Sigma Delta Chi, the journalists' fraternity. It may be seen just south of Ocean Avenue on San Antonio at the cottage once called The Getaway when it was the home (1927-1936) of Lincoln Steffens, perhaps the greatest of the crusading journalists and reformers of the Muckraking period of the early 1900's. When will a similar plaque be put on Tor House, the tower overlooking the sea where Robinson Jeffers wrote his powerful poetry dramatizing the grim South Coast.

* * *

It is over two years since Mrs. Adele Knight offered the valuable and unique ship collection of her late husband Allen to the Association and the city of Monterey. Admiral Stone has worked diligently and long to establish a maritime museum at the western end of the harbor near the entrance to the Coast Guard pier. He has received complete support from the press and our Association. Donors are ready with sizeable money contributions for the project if there is a firm commitment by the city to dedicate the land for such a structure with an attendant old

sailing ship. So far, the city of Monterey has not made any move to put itself on record in the matter.

San Francisco asked for the Allen Knight Collection two years ago. Now Los Angeles has offered to house it in its new museum. Mrs. Knight wants Monterey to have it, but how long will it be before the city council makes up its mind?

Is the idea of a maritime museum, an unrivalled point of interest for scholar and tourist alike, to go glimmering through procrastination? Time is running out for us and for Monterey.

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Mrs. Warren reports that three more taped interviews had been added to our library of oral history. The latest to give their reminiscences were Mayo O'Donnell, Angela Ferrante and Emmet McMenamin.

* * *

In June, our Association made a strong representation to the Monterey City Council that the decision on the proposed changes in the zoning ordinance asked by the Urban Renewal authorities be delayed until the Monterey History and Art Association might have its committees review the plans for their possible effect upon nearby historic buildings.

President Mewborn, speaking to the directors on June 5th, had stated, "We should go strongly on record that we be notified in adequate time and given opportunity to express opinion on such applications for zoning changes. We are vitally interested, for we have a responsibility to see that these proposals do not have a disadvantageous effect upon Monterey's greatest asset, her historical atmosphere."

* * *

Donald Teague has been asked by the directors to design a colophon or symbol for our association's letterhead and a new title page for the **Noticias**. He has submitted some sketches and they look very appropriate. The problem is to convey all our association's aspirations and history in a simple, evocative design. The **Noticias** for September should give you your first glimpse of the new masthead.

* * *

It is heartening to see that our directors and those of the Monterey Foundation have taken a strong interest in the establishment of the Jacks Peak area park. This is completely in accord with our association's program, for the belt of Monterey pines that crowns the hills surrounding the old port is an historical feature itself and its presence is absolutely necessary. Kenneth Ehrman, Gordon Hall, Talcott Bates and Jim McDaniel have our whole-hearted support.

* * *

New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Garth Lacey, Mrs. Ruth Cookingham, Mrs. Frank A. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Loren J. Vulte, Mrs. Marjorie Ortman, Miss Alice M. Gieschen, Mr. Richard Bast, Mrs. Mary Lou Prindle, Mrs. and Mrs. Herbert Blanks, Mrs. Evelyn LeRoi, Mr. Fred Klepich, Mrs. K. D. Ross, Mrs. Donald Meharry, Mrs. Ervin A. De Leve, Col. and Mrs. H. K. Howell, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan E. Stock, Maj. General and Mrs. Jens Doe, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Hines, Mr. and Mrs. James Weill Costello, Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Hal E. Bishop, Mr. Francis A. Doud, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Borell Kirschen, Mr. J. Page Woodard, Baron and Baroness Lars Cedercreutz, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bidwell, Mr. and Mrs. L. Ojea, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Hallett, Mrs. Clarence Atwood, Mr. and

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