

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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Hartweg – Naturalist – 1846



A dwarf Gowen Cypress — found in only two groves in the world as far as is known — both groves being on the Monterey Peninsula

(Photo courtesy Fred Sorri)

Hartweg in Monterey Area

(KARL THEODORE HARTWEG was a German gardener who as a youth was employed at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. At the age of 24 he went to England where the London Horticultural Society hired him as a collector, and sent him to Mexico. There he spent seven years, shipping back to the Society valuable collections of botanical specimens. He also sent to the Society periodical reports of his travels and collecting experiences. His employers ordered him to California and he was faced with the problem of arranging transportation during a period of political stress in 1846-48. We pick up excerpts from his reports with his journey by ship to Monterey in 1846.)

On the 14th of March, I finally left Tepic for San Blas, whither my luggage had preceded me, and embarked the following day on board of a small schooner for Mazatlan, where I arrived after a passage of five days. Mazatlan is now the most important port on the west coast of Mexico, as the customhouse officers are more accommodating than at San Blas or Acapulco.

Upon making inquiries about merchant-vessels proceeding soon to Northern California, I found to my consternation that no opportunity had offered for the last six months, nor was it likely there would be any for some time; but that the United States ship 'Portsmouth' would sail in a few days for Monterey. The day previous to her sailing I applied to Commodore Sloat for a passage, backed by a letter of introduction from an influential house in Mazatlan, but I was told by him in very few words that he could not serve me; that under the present circumstances, when a rupture between the United States and Mexico was hourly expected, he could not let his movements be known: thus wishing to keep the 'Portsmouth's' destination secret — her purpose being well known three weeks before she sailed.

More successful was an application I made about the beginning of May to Rear-Admiral Sir George Seymour of H.M.S. 'Collingwood,' who kindly allowed me a passage in H.M.S. 'Juno,' then proceeding to Monterey. Towards evening of the 11th of May, I went on board, and, sailing the following morning, we arrived at Monterey on Sunday the 7th of June, after a passage of twenty-six days.

On the 8th I delivered my letters of introduction, and the following morning I settled down in the quiet little town of Monterey.

The verdant fields and pine-covered range of mountains at the back of the town form a pleasing contrast to the dried up vegetation about Mazatlan. The predominating trees are an evergreen oak (*Quercus californica*), forming a tree 30 feet high,

with a globular crown, and having the branches much distorted. It occurs principally in low but dry situations. The higher parts are occupied by *Pinus insignis*, a tree 60 to 100 feet high, with a stem of 2 to 4 feet in diameter. This species is liable to vary much in the size of the leaves (which stand in threes) and in the cones, according to local circumstances. In close woods, a mile or two from the sea-shore, at an elevation of 200 to 300 feet, the leaves usually measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and cones 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad; towards the beach, where the trees are mostly one-sided—a defect caused by north-west winds, which blow for the greater part of the year—both leaves and cones diminish in size. These differences, which are too insignificant to establish even varieties of *Pinus insignis*, have given rise to the names *Pinus tuberculata* and *radiata*, which were, according to Loudon, collected by the late Dr. Coulter near the seashore at Monterey; that locality, no doubt, is Point Pinos, as it is the only habitat near Monterey where pines grow close to the beach; it is at the same time the place where I made the foregoing observations. In all situations the cones grow three or four together in a cluster, remaining on the trees several years after shedding the seeds; are pendulous, with the apex somewhat recurved; deformed, that is, the scales on one side are more developed than on the other, and enclose two winged seeds under each scale. The cones are about eighteen to twenty-four months in ripening.

On the dry banks of ravines, to the north-east of the town, the Californian horse-chesnut (*Pavia californica*) is common. This extremely ornamental shrub or low tree rises to the height of 25 feet, is of a globular shape, and produces its fragrance while flowers of a delicate pink hue in great abundance on spikes 12 inches long; one of these spikes, which I had the curiosity to count, had more than 400 open flowers and buds upon it. Of shrubs I observed *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* very common in the pine-woods, and forming an evergreen shrub 10 to 15 feet high; *Sambucus*, No. 28; *Lonicera racemosa*; *Spiraea ariaefolia*; *Rhus* 3 sp.; *Caprifolium Douglasii*, No. 4; *Diplacus*, No. 65; *Garrya elliptica*; *Rosa*, No. 12; *Lupinus arboreus* and *ornatus*; *Ribes speciosum* and *malvaceum*; *Adenostoma fasciculata*, a neat little evergreen shrub allied to *Spiraea*; *Arctostaphylos* 3 sp.; a *Vaccinium*; *Gaultheria Shallon*; and an evergreen *Prunus*, No. 102, resembling the Portugal Laurel. Of annuals and perennials, No. 13; *Hugelia*, No. 5; *Delphinium*, 3 sp., No. 24, 26, 61; *Leptosiphon androsaceus* and *densiflorus*; *Collinsia bicolor*; *Convolvulus*, No. 23; *Malva*, No. 25; *Lupinus succulentus*, and *densiflorus*; *Castilleja*, No. 39; *Cenothera*, No. 3, 44; *Chironia*, No. 64. Of bulbs, *Calochortus luteus*, *Cyclobothra alba*, *Brodiaea congesta*, *Calliprora flava*, *Hesperoscordum lacteum*, and a *Zygadenus* called *Amole*, of which the bruised roots serve as a substitute for soap.

On June the 22nd, I left Monterey for the mission of Santa Cruz, in company with an American gentleman, who obligingly furnished me with a horse for the occasion. Santa Cruz is across the bay, due north, of Monterey, and at a distance of sixty miles by land, whilst by water it does not exceed twenty-five miles. Passing along the sea-shore over the plains, which present the same vegetation as about Monterey, we arrived in the afternoon at the mission, after a gallop of seven hours. This speed is the usual mode of Californian travelling; on longer journeys some horses are driven before to serve on the following days.

The mountains of Santa Cruz are well wooded with *Taxodium sempervirens*, called by the American settlers redwood or bastard cedar. In close forests it grows to an enormous size, averaging 200 feet in height, with a stem of 6 to 8 feet in diameter, which is as straight as an arrow, and clear of branches up to 60 or 70 feet. One tree, that is termed by the Americans "the giant of the forest," is 270 feet high, with a stem measuring 55 feet in circumference at 6 feet from the ground. The bark of the redwood is from 6 to 12 inches thick, reddish and smooth; the timber is of a beautiful red colour, like pencil-wood, fine, close-grained, light but brittle; it is well adapted for in and out door work, as the boards when seasoned do not warp, nor is it attacked by insects. Large quantities of lumber are annually exported to the Sandwich Islands; 1000 feet of 1-inch boards, delivered on the beach at Santa Cruz, are worth 8*l*.

Some fine trees of *Abies Douglasii* are found in the mountains of Santa Cruz; they do not form masses of themselves, but are thinly scattered among the redwood trees, with which they vie in size. The mountain oak (No. 84, *Castanea chrysophylla*?) also occurs here, forming a tree 50 feet high, of a pyramidal shape, with persistent lanceolate leaves four inches long, serrulate on the margin; below they are covered with a rusty, yellowish down, which in the young leaves also covers the upper surface. The fructiferous catkins are produced on the points of last year's wood, and do not exceed 2 inches in length, whilst the catkins on the young wood are from 4 to 5 inches long, and sterile. The nuts, or rather acorns, are covered, in an unripe state, with down, and enclosed in an open cup, which on the outside is clothed with coarse scaly hairs. The mountain oak grows invariably in close shaded woods, and seems to be widely dispersed over the country west of the rocky mountains. Some Indian tribes eat the acorns either raw, or make a sort of bread of them.

On the outskirts of the woods I observed *Arbutus procera* 50 feet high; a Lauraceous tree with linear light green leaves of nearly the same dimensions; two species of *Ceanothus*; *Corylus*, No. 85; a *Spiraea*; *Solanum* No. 90; *Zauschneria*, No. 97, with scarlet flowers like a *Fuchsia*; and No. 87.

(To Be Continued)

Reminiscence

Where there is a will there is a way. Take a determined woman.
It can be done . . .

There is validity in these cliches as demonstrated by the growth of the Monterey History and Art Association. A whole new generation has grown to maturity since a small determined group of local residents sparked by Laura Bride Powers started the Association. This generation was being born when Mary L. Greene and Mayo Hayes O'Donnell wrote, talked, prodded, and at times stood up and argued before public bodies to bring together an aroused citizenry to save the historical values of old Monterey.

We remember the swelling support that came from all directions; the power of the press with the personal interest of Allen Griffin and William O'Donnell—as today we have Ted Durein and his co-workers; the many visits and talks of statewide historians, architects, and librarians; the co-operation (sometimes dragging their feet) of public officials and public bodies; the long and impressive list of local residents who served as Directors of the Association and gave freely of their time, talents and abilities—even as today we have bankers, lawyers, engineers, architects and the ever hardworking determined women serving on the Board.

Today the Association has over one thousand members. It owns four historical buildings. The annual adobe house tour draws visitors from all over the State.

We remember in amazement the changes that have come in the appearance of the adobes since we first came here to live in 1929. Private clubs have remodeled and beautified the Casa Amesti, the Casa Abrego, and the Pacheco adobe. The Fremont adobe was threatened with destruction when the Post Office was expanded. A little prodding and the building with a tiny bit of land was declared surplus property by the Federal Government and sold to the City of Monterey—paid for by money raised by the Association. Today it is owned by the Association and is rented for suitable uses—the income helping to save another building. Casa Serrano was purchased and is now the headquarters of the Association. In the past few months the Association has acquired the Doud house from Urban Renewal and has just purchased (for the legal sum of \$1.00 in hand paid) the old St. James Church. It has safely been moved up to Van Buren to stand beside the Doud house.

Several adobes, already in safe ownership, were remodeled and developed—e.g. the House of the Four Wings and the First Theatre.

As we think of the adobes we associate with them many individuals who had the foresight to see the possibilities in restoration and preservation—owners who worked with the Association and members who donated their time to help find the right framing, the proper floor boards, the color tone. Some of the buildings have passed through several ownerships during these forty years. There was Myron Oliver who loved the de la Torre home on Pierce street, and who gave so much of his time to supervise restoration of the Gutierrez adobe. There is the Stokes adobe and the Gragg family; the Cooper house and Miss Molera; the Casa Alvarado and Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Heard; the Larkin house and Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin who gave it to the State; the Stevenson house saved by the quick action of Mrs. Tobin Clark and Mrs. Edith van Antwerp; the Buelna adobe and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ross; the de la Torre adobe on Polk street and the Hudson family; the Casa Estrada and the Monterey Savings and Loan Association; the gifts to public ownership of the Pacific Building and the Casa de Oro by the Misses Jacks.

We also remember that whenever the Association acquired a building there was found a member who was willing and able to spend hours and hours supervising the restoration—pinching pennies—obtaining donations of material and labor. We saw Claude Faw down in the dirt under the floor of Casa Serrano examining the joists. Today you will find Maggie Downer on Van Buren street lovingly helping the Doud House and St. James Church regain their dignity as mementos of the past and living parts of the present.

The association has been adamant that legal safeguards be established to permanently protect the buildings. Today Monterey has architectural control of the historical areas, and the Urban Renewal program has accepted the standards urged by the Association.

The influence of the Association has been felt in many areas outside of Monterey. How often we remember traveling with Mary Greene and Mayo Hayes O'Donnell to statewide museum meetings to learn how to and why. Then the trips to Sonoma, to small towns in the Mother Lode, where the local groups asked—how did you do it? how do we start? will you talk before our society?

We remember the time a group of cars from Monterey went down to a little closed church in Jolon and a service of blessing of the cemetery and dedication of the church was held. The program and services were arranged by Mayo Hayes O'Donnell herself a parishioner of St. James, and the minister of St. James. As a result that small sister church of St. James was reopened and a small congregation formed.

Most of all we remember the typical old Monterey hospitality ever present at Casa Soberanes, and how there a charming hostess has written and written of the history of Monterey and the values to be found for the present by the preservation of the past. Take a determined woman!

A new and younger group of women now handle the annual adobe tour, act as hostesses at Merienda and Casa Serrano, and serve on committees.

We bless the men and love them because they know "how to" and often know "the right angles", but may the association ever have its determined women to suggest and urge.

Date to Remember!!

The adobe tour is scheduled for April 25th from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. A luncheon will be served in the Memory Garden behind the Pacific Building with barbecue chicken, wine and music. Afternoon tea (included to tour ticket) will be at the Estrada Adobe from 2 to 5. Price of tickets: Adults \$3.50, students and military \$1.50. Luncheon tickets \$2.00.

GIFTS: from Mr. and Mrs. W. Stanley Pearce a pair of cut crystal candlesticks with silver sockets, a 3-mold pressed glass biscuit jar with cover, a Hawks cut crystal decanter with sterling silver stopper, an antique blown molded glass decanter with original stopper, a Sheffield silver basket with glass liner, a Belleek pitcher, and thirty books on California. From Thomson J. Hudson several fine scrapbooks covering the activities of Monterey County Board of Supervisors during the years Mr. Hudson served on the Board as member and Chairman. From Mrs. Frank M. Moore eight historical paintings by Frank M. Moore, title having been transferred from California Historical Society to our Association.

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs. June Usher, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Hunt, Mrs. E. S. Haring, Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Worth, Mrs. Harry S. Daveaga, Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, Mrs. Pam Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Delahaie, Mr. Frank Thacker, Mr. Robert Quincy, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Flaherty, Mr. Kenneth F. Temerton, Mrs. Fred Cottle, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. David Hudson, Mr. Clair Senior, Mr. Sam Matar, Mr. and Mrs. James Lindsey, Miss Jane Lindsey, Mr. and Mrs. Judson Sherill, Miss E. M. Dutch, Mrs. W. D. Lord.

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