

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

A Quarterly Bulletin of Historic Monterey Issued by
The Monterey History and Art Association

Vol. XVII Number 4

December, 1972



1875 photograph. Looking north on Alvarado from Polk. Balconied adobe on corner was originally owned by Gov. Juan Bautista Alvarado. Second balconied adobe was owned by Juan Malarin. The smaller adobes between were those of Jose Maria Maldonado and David Spence. Spence purchased from Maldonado in 1837.

A LETTER OF 1837

Why was a personal letter from David Spence of Monterey written in 1837 to Juan Malarin saved among the few remaining papers of the Bonifacio family until 1917? This question puzzled us some years ago when we reviewed the papers of Maria Ignacia Bonifacio which were saved by her executor and in time given to our Association. Maria Ignacia was, as most Montereyans know, the heroine of the Sherman Rose legend, and she lived out her life in the adobe home on Alvarado. She rented rooms to tourists, including Fanny Osbourne who was courted in the arbored garden by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Recently we read the old letter again, and decided, if possible, to ascertain why this letter was kept in the Bonifacio family when the writer was not a relation.

The letter, as translated from the Spanish, is as follows.

December 22, 1837

Don Juan Malarin

Dear Sir,

I am forwarding to you a letter for London. If you touch at any point of the Republic I will appreciate to put at top the address-**for Mexico** and Vera Cruz-paying the amount and if perchance you????any of those places you can take it to Callo where you can always find opportunity. I have purchased the house of Maldonado for 600 pesos, and I have endorsed in his favor a french liberante for 357 making certain that Senor Aguirre will take it with your passage on board the Leonidas. Please do what you can for these poor people.

There is nothing new in regard to our families, all well and fat. It has rained a great deal and it looks like we shall have a good year.

I hope you have a pleasant journey and a Happy New Year-and receive these expressions from all

I am your affectionate co-padre
Dav. Spence

P.S. Padre Real bought the house of Figueroa for 800 pesos and he paid him with a liberante against Mexico. There are many scoundrels in this world. Greetings to Don Jose Aguirre.

We know that the writer of the above letter was a prominent merchant of Monterey with a town house on Alvarado, west side, north of the Polk street intersection. And we know that Juan Malarin who received the letter was in 1837 master of the Mexican schooner Leonidas that had recently arrived back in Monterey from Mexico and was preparing to sail again for the south. Malarin and Spence had married sisters, daughters of the retired Spanish officer, Jose Mariano Estrada, who had commanded the Presidio troops.

As for Maldonado-who was he, and why did Spence speak of him as "these poor people"?

Search of the works of the historian Bancroft, of property records in the County Court House, and knowledge of various family relationships reveals the story of a family respected in Monterey, above the average in education and training, caught in one of the many plots and counter plots of the 1830s; and forced to leave California by the then strong man of the territory, Juan Bautista Alvarado.

Jose Maria Maldonado came to California as a young clerk from Tepic, Mexico and soon obtained employment in various positions. He was able to read and write at a time when many could not, and he kept accurate records, many of which have been preserved until today. He was appointed secretary of the town council (Il. Ayuntamiento) in 1834, 1835, and 1836 when such respected citizens as David Spence, John B. R. Cooper, Simeon Castro, etc. were on the council. For a few months during that time he resigned to go to Santa Barbara to be the secretary of the Customs officials. Back in Monterey he was reappointed secretary for the town council, and in 1836 was also employed as secretary of the Junta, a governmental body then serving much as our present State assembly. The question of possible conflict of interest was raised, and was settled in June of 1836 when the Governor of California ruled that Maldonado could be secretary to both the town and territorial bodies at the same time.

Maldonado was listed in the 1836 census taken by the Mexican government as a resident of Monterey, 38 years old, with a wife and a son, Vicente, who had been born in Tepic in 1826.

The same census lists another and more prominent figure of Monterey-Manuel Crespo, with a wife, Nicolasa Velarde, and four children. Crespo had come to California as a

bleeder for the troops at the Presidio, and also was a teacher. His ability to keep records probably lead to his appointments as commissionado for San Carlos Mission, and later for San Antonio Mission when the government was secularizing the missions and distributing lands and stock. Crespo also became a member of the Diputacion, the highest legislative body of the province.

The wife of Manuel Crespo, Nicolasa Velarde, and the wife of Jose Maria Maldonado, Antonia Velarde, were sisters. Thus the family ties were close. Now we begin to see how Maldonado became involved in the plot of a group of Mexicans who had assisted Alvarado to revolt against the established government, and when he was successful they plotted against him because he did not fulfill the programs they had thought to develop. Manuel Crespo was one of the active participants, and when the forces of Alvarado overcame them (mostly by bluster and threats) Crespo and Maldonado were among those sent to Sonoma to be kept under guard until the political pot at Monterey simmered down again. They were finally released but their situation was such they were compelled to leave Monterey, and it appears that both families left on the Leonidas.

Tracing the actual town lot records we find on December 19, 1837 David Spence purchased from Jose Maria Maldonado an adobe house of two stories with four rooms and a hall, built on a lot 18 yards front by 65 in depth, between the houses of David Spence and Juan Alvarado, the floors were of wood. Other structures on the property included a room roofed with asphalt used as a kitchen, and three other rooms towards the center where were located the oven, the washing room and closets (store rooms)- the first and third covered with tiles, and the second with tule. There were two water wells on the property, one with a wooden pump and both wells having wooden curbing.

David Spence was thus adding to his own home property, and acquiring two good wells. At the same time he was helping a man who had served honorably with him on public bodies to leave California with a few dollars in cash and a valid liberante which would supply some money to start anew in Mexico.

Turning now to the bit of information in the postscript of the letter of 1837 we finally come to the probable reason why the Bonifacio family obtained the letter and kept it throughout two generations. In the month of November of 1837-another of the Mexican group-Francisco Figueroa-sold to Father Jose Maria Zuarez del Real, priest of the Mission of San Carlos, a house in Monterey, composed of two rooms below and two above. It had a shingle roof, and other structures on the property beside the little two story house included a pantry and a kitchen with a wooden roof, a privy and a water well. This adobe house stood on a lot on the east side of Alvarado just about where the present Bonifacio street cuts through from Alvarado to Tyler, and where the Bank on the corner now stands.

A few years after buying the house Father Real sold the property to Dona Carmen Pinto de Bonifacio, the widowed mother of Maria Ignacia Bonifacio, and the house became their home until the death of the mother and that of the daughter. Today the house is still in existence, on the mesa area south of San Carlos cathedral. When the property was purchased by T. W. Work for a bank he offered the house for sale, and it was moved in sections, the adobe walls reconstructed, modern additions made, and the adobe is now still termed the Sherman Rose adobe. The old Cloth of Gold rose still blooms by the doorway each year.

Thus we have finally traced the reason for the Spence letter to be in the papers of the Bonifacio family. With it were deeds from Father Real to Carmen Pinto de Bonifacio, and from Carmen to her daughter in 1860. There was also kept another deed granting to Carmen a small piece of land north of the property from her neighbor Antonio Osio. This small piece Father Real had obtained by gift from Osio and forgot (?) to include in his deed to Carmen.

The tracing of the story behind the old letter of 1837 has helped us understand a little more about the history of Monterey and its residents.

1850 JUSTICE FOR INDIANS

The old records kept by various Justices of the Peace of Monterey Township in the 1850s and 1860s reveal Justice was not dispensed equally to white man and Indian. When the average resident of Monterey was brought into court, and found guilty, he could be fined in order to recover the costs of the case, and his worldly possessions could be attached and sold if he had no cash available. But an Indian was without property and jail would only be costly to the city or county to feed him. Thus physical punishment was given, and the Indian was auctioned off for a certain period to the highest bidder-if the Indian was physically capable of labor.

Notes from a few cases reveal how Justice was dispensed to an Indian.

October 17, 1851. A complaint was made of Petit Larceny versus Jose Francisco, an Indian was made by Mrs. Adler, claiming he had stolen a coat worth five dollars. A Warrant was issued to James Gardner, Deputy Marshall. The Prisoner was found guilty by John M. O'Neill, J. P. and sentenced to 18 lashes on the bare back. "Which sentence was duly carried out".

October 28, 1851 a Complaint made by Charles Clapp of vagrancy versus Jose Francisco, and Indian. (we wonder if this was the same Jose Francisco?) The prisoner was brought into court by James Gardner. There was an examination of the testimony. The Indian was ordered to "be sold or hired out to the highest bidder at auction for the term of four months" The Marshall selling the said Indian at auction to David Jacks for the sum of thirty seven cents, which sum was paid into court.

February 28, 1854 Case of the People vs Vicente and Narciso, Indians on complaint of Breach of Peace. They plead guilty and were sentenced to twelve lashes on the bare back and to be hired out to highest bidder. The next month-on March 21st and entry was made on the case that Thomas Williamson, who was the Constable and Jailor, returned to Court the sum of \$72.00 proceeds of the hire of the defendants. These two Indians must have been better workers than Jose Francisco!

December 11, 1853 A complaint was made by one Romaldo Bonn against Joaquin and Seaco, Indians-the charge being Petit Larceny. An entry of December 12th reads "a search warrant issued and delivered to Thomas Williamson for the following described property in the house occupied by an individual known as the one eye Frenchman-one red Serape-returnable forthwith". The serape was found and brought to court, and then Justice David Leitch entered the following-"Now it is ordered and adjudged that said Joaquin and Seaco received 25 lashes each on the bare back, and it appearing to the Court that said Indians are vagrants it is also ordered and adjudged that said Indians Joaquin and Seaco be hired out to the highest bidder within 24 hours after this date which money if any will be returned to Court." David Leitch signed as J. P. of Monterey Township. Three months later, on March 21, 1854 and entry was made that the proceeds of the hire of the defendants Seaco and Joaquin were returned to court by Thomas Williamson, the constable-in the amount of \$30.00. To close the case David Leitch wrote across his entry the following "Recd my fees in the cause-\$16.00-David Leitch J. P. " and then there is an entry that the Constable fees in the cause were \$22.00, but since only \$14.00 was left of the \$30.00 obtained, Williamson the Constable had to accept what was left-and so he wrote "Recd the sum of \$14.00 in the above cause-T. Williamson-Constable-Jailor"

By the 1860s there were some changes being made in justice meted to Indians. Notes from a case heard before Josiah Merriitt indicate that some Indians were receiving representation.

May 13th, 1866. A warrant was issued, and A. Duarte, constable, returned with the prisoner Jose Lorenzo, Indian. The complaint had been signed by one Maria J. Heath. Luis Leese was sworn as an interpreter, and the lawyers were T. Beeman for the People and Charles Underwood for the defendant. Maria J. Heath and Job Heath were witnesses for the people, and Rosan Cervantes for the defense. "After consideration of testimony he was discharged."

Another case indicates that fines were now being levied rather than lashes. April 1st-1866 a case of drunkenness and disturbing the peace by an Indian named Jose. He was arrested by the constable on Sunday without a warrant and committed to jail for examination. He pleaded guilty on Monday and his fine of \$10 was paid by Francisco Pinto. We suspect Jose had had a little too much strong beverage, was kept overnight to calm down, and possibly Francisco Pinto was his employer or patron.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ADOBE TOUR FOR 1973 is scheduled for April 28, 1973

MERIENDA FOR 1973 is scheduled for June 2, 1973. Members only, who have paid their dues by February 1, 1973, will receive invitations.

SLOAT LANDING is scheduled for July 7, 1973.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: President Ross has appointed the following members to serve on our various committees for this year 1972-73.

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Adobe Tour-Mrs. E. B. Coyle

Architecture-Mr. William Concolino

Art-Mr. Donald Teague

Auditing-Mr. Roudi Partridge

Business Affairs-Mr. George Clemens

Calligrapher-Mrs. Peter Farmer

Chaplain-Father Lawrence Farrell

Cooper-Molera-Mr. Edwin Bliss

Costumes-Mrs. John M. Frier

Doud House-Mrs. W. W. Downer

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(Doud House) Mrs. John R. Woolfdenden

History-Miss Augusta Fink

Hostesses-Mrs. H. E. Helliesen

House-Mrs. C. Tod Singleton

Legal Advisor-Mr. Kenneth Ehrman

Library-Mrs. Charles Bentley

Maritime Museum-R. Adm. Earl E. Stone

May Day-Mr. Stanley Greeb

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Memorial Funds-Mr. Eben Whittlesey

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Nominating-Mr. Peter J. Coniglio

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Post Cards & Brochures-Miss Eleanor Ziel

Protocol-Mrs. Leo Marihart

Public Affairs/Publicity-Mrs. Pauline Hastie

Publications-Mrs. A. W. Elkinton

Sloat Landing-Mr. Elwood Wilson

Special Programs-Mrs. George Fletcher

Urban Renewal-Mr. Robert O. McMahan

GIFTS RECEIVED: A number of items from the Porter estate of Watsonville for future display in a child's room; linens from Mr. & Mrs. Norman Chasoff; a handsome hooked rug from Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Smith; a magnificent Steuben bowl "California State Bowl" from Pauline Holman Wright; various items from the estates of George and Catherine Seideneck including three of their paintings; linens, silver, etc. from Esma Jackson; linens from Mrs. Burt L. Richards; an old Camino Real bell from Mr. & Mrs. Gus Arriola; a fine painting from Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Doolittle; a rocking chair from Mrs. Seth Steiner; and four reels of tape of the 1968 Merienda from Ted Durein.

For the **LIBRARY:** Miss Dorothy Peacock gave the thesis of Sister Mary Jane Mast on Concepcion Arguello; and books were gratefully received from the following friends and members-Urban Renewal Agency, Ted Taylor, Augusta Fink, Mrs. E. J. Donahue, Frances Langford, Amelie Elkinton, Dorothy Ronald, Marjorie Stower, Carol Rice and Dr. Bolcar. Kenneth Pemberton presented the complete set of American Heritage from No. 1 through 1971. Letters and pictures were received from Jess Chaffee, Kay Knudsen, and the Seideneck estate (courtesy Mrs. W. W. Wheeler).

Additions to Membership Roster: Mr. & Mrs. Lewis P. Alabaster, Mr. James Ark & Jamie Ark, Dr. & Mrs. Milton H. Bank, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Barnes, Miss April A. Barney, Miss Violet S. Benny, Michael Bentley, Mr. F. L. Berry, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bolling, Mrs. Elmer Breckenfeld, Mr. & Mrs. O. E. Burchett, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. L. S. Connick, Mrs. W. A. Cook, Mr. Robert Coxe, Mrs. Francis W. Dakin, Kelly Day, Mr. Robert De Long, Scotty Dewar, Col. & Mrs. Hartley Dewey, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dick, Randy, Betsy, Lindy, and Jenny Douglas, Mrs. Ellis Egan, Mr. & Mrs. William Evans, Miss Alison Faul, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gray, Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Green, Miss Beatrice O. Guilfoil, J. D. & H. C. Hague, Arthur & Roslyn M. Hall, Lee C. Harbick, Capt. & Mrs. E. J. Harding, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Harpst, Mrs. William Harrington, Mrs. Joan Hartley, Mrs. June Foster Hass, John Michael Hazlet, Vicki Ann Heisinger, Mr. Cortlandt T. Hill, Miss Elizabeth H. Holden, Dr. & Mrs. L. D. Howard, Mr. Robert E. Hyler, Zelma B. Hynes, Miss Sally Hudson, Don Hudson, Miss Bernice Imwalle, John D. & Mary B. Jernegan, Miss Margaret Johnson, Mrs. Leon Katzetne, Mrs. Edwin Newell Kent, Mrs. Vivian Kernahan, Miss Maria Elena Klahn, Mrs. Margaret Klapke, Mr. & Mrs. Zander H. Klawans, Col. & Mrs. James D. Land, Dr. & Mrs. Richard Levine, Pierre La Mothe, Mrs. G. W. Lindberg, Mr. & Mrs. Coby Lorensen, Mr. & Mrs. J. Stuart Macpherson, Miss Madeline Maybauer, Mr. & Mrs. John Miller McDonald, Miss Patricia McHarry, Mr. & Mrs. Tom McNamee, Miss Barbara McQuiston, Miss Connie McQuiston, Miss Nancy Meadows, Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Mennekin, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Merrill, Mrs. John Monning, Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Montgomery, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Morgan, Mrs. Alice Clare Morrow, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Moss, Mrs. Augustus P. Muentner, Dr. & Mrs. John Nelson, Nelson and Elizabeth Nowell, Dr. & Mrs. John Olow, Mr. & Mrs. John Patullo, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pershing, Mrs. Orval H. Polk, Juanita N. Ponder, Mrs. Thomas Bishop Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Post, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Reese, Mr. & Mrs. John Roland, Mrs. Barney Royce, Mrs. Ruth Hill Sammis, Col. & Mrs. C. Craig Sargent, Mr. & Mrs. DePre Sassard, Mr. Wilfred H. Schofield, Mrs. Edward Scott, Maj. & Mrs. Frederick Seaman III, Mr. & Mrs. George Setterle, Mr. & Mrs. Will Shaw, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Silverman, Brian Smith, Molly Smith, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Snyder, Mrs. Cleon H. Soule, Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Specker, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stanley, Christopher Stanley, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Stitt, Miss Kristan Sudholz, Mrs. Jennie B. Sutliff, Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Taintor, Mr. & Mrs. Burney Threadwell, Elizabeth Ann Todd, David Todd, Mr. & Mrs. William F. Fimins, Tina A. Tomlinson, Miss Katherine Towle, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Von Pagenhart, Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Weislander, Mrs. James H. Wells, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilson, Rev. Alan Wolter, Miss Aletha Worrall, Maj. Gen. Edwin K. Wright, Debra Wyllie, Paul B. Zantman.

ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM

1972 - FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM - 1973

The Board of Directors of the Monterey History and Art Association in July 1971 authorized the formation of FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM — composed of men and women interested in helping to support the Maritime Museum financially. The first campaign was conducted in the Fall of 1971 and was successful in raising practically one-half of the money needed for current Museum operations. The remainder of required money is provided by the Association. It is desirable to operate the Museum on as financially an independent basis as possible in order to free the limited Association funds for other worthwhile purposes. There are currently about seventy-five active Museum Volunteers. Their contribution of necessary work and watchstanding reduces Museum operating costs to the minimum. Museum costs include a very nominal rental to the City of Monterey for about 5,000 square feet of floor space, which permits three large display rooms, plus necessary work, storage and office space. Other costs are for heat, light, telephone, janitorial services, refuse collection, office supplies, and essential repair services.

Currently, all who contribute money or *services* are listed as FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM. Several individuals have contributed both money and their services as Volunteer Workers or Watchstanders. There are more than 350 persons posted in the Museum list as FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM-1972.

It is desired to continue the present Museum operating arrangements. Accordingly, a second fund-raising campaign is now underway to raise as large a part of Museum costs for 1973 as possible. All individuals or couples who contribute \$5.00 or more will be given a FRIENDS membership (receipt) card-dated and signed by the Museum Director, and will be listed as FRIENDS, as will all who contribute their services, on a tablet displayed in the Museum - with out any indication of amount or nature of contribution.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for Watchstanding or to do other work for the Museum, please call the Museum office, 375-2553, and leave your name and telephone number.

Contributions by check should be made payable to the "Monterey History and Art Association (for Museum)", P.O. Box 805, Monterey, California 93940. Your generous response is needed to insure the continuing operation and improvement of the Maritime Museum in 1973.

EARL E. STONE,
R. Adm., U.S.N.-Retired,
Museum Director.

MAIL TO: Monterey History and Art Association (for museum)

P.O. Box 805
Monterey, California 93940

Enclosed Find contribution in the amount of

For the 1973 support of the Allen Knight Maritime Museum

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