

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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Monterey before the tourists and the canneries. To right is Pacific Building with the First Theatre and the Doud House visible above its roof. The open sandy area in foreground is now the entrance to the traffic tunnel.

MONTEREY — the 1870s

Monterey of the 1870s was described by a local poet as a maiden resting in lonely beauty beside her crescent bay "heeding not the world of action that beyond her portals lay" and she did not wake from her trance "till the fairy Prince of Progress smiled upon her hidden charms."

The Prince of Progress proved to be the railroad that came to the town in 1874, and the Hotel Del Monte which opened at the end of the decade.

The 1870s opened with a surge of activity and statewide recognition when the California Pioneer Society sponsored a centennial celebration in June 1870 in memory of the founding of Mission San Carlos and the old Royal Presidio. State politicians, former residents, friends and relations arrived by steamer from San Francisco, by stage from San Juan Bautista and Los Angeles, and by wagon and carriage from neighboring town and farm. Streets were decorated with pine boughs, parades were colorful, speeches were long and flowery, and a grand ball was held "in our spacious Court House Hall" (present Colton Hall) on June 3rd.

This influx from the modern world lead the local press to prod the townfolk to awaken from years of sloth, to rise up and bring new life to Monterey. The community was then unincorporated, being governed by Town Trustees headed by S.B. Gordon whose milled lumber home still stands just north of Colton Hall. We also had two Justices of the Peace, two Constables, an overworked Roadmaster, and three school trustees for the one public school. The town library started with much pride in 1853 and fallen into disuse. The **Monterey Californian** complained in 1876 that the books were locked up in the old Quartel, and nobody seemed to have the key.

Nine saloons served the refreshments needs of the menfolk, and they were inspired by membership in two fraternal orders. The Maçons then met on Franklin, and the Odd Fellows on Pearl street. A number of local citizens were active in the California Pioneer Society. Francis Doud, local butcher served for a while as a statewide officer.

Transportation was by stage, horseback, steamers from San Francisco, and after 1874-the little railroad to Salinas. St. Clair, Roberts and Trasca served the travelers as carriage painters, and J. Cramer was a harness maker. Horses from the Washington Hotel were cared for at Bryan's livery stable on Washington street, and the other inns patronized a popular livery stable on Alvarado on Wolter property.

A grave problem for the town trustees was that of the streets. Winter rains and storms often made a quagmire of the lower streets in which the drayage teams bogged down. The local paper wrote "While some of the gulleys and ruts of our streets are being filled up, — we should think that those engaged in the work would use material other than manure for the purpose — and the manure used for enriching the soil of our gardens. A great deal of work needs to be done on our streets to put them in condition they should be in a town of our size. The present Franklin street was at times a deep gully — even the drainage from the outhouses of homes on Van Buren and above washed down the hill. The slough that then meandered inland from the bay along present Tyler Street became a menace when it overflowed during rain and high tide. Water flooded the Lambert Brothers lumber yard near the railroad depot, and since the railroad did not then pass by the Custom House, there was nothing to stop the wind driven waves from pouring across the beach into the area now occupied by the Custom House Plaza. A board walk extended along the front of the Pacific House to keep the passerby out of the muddy ruts.

Although the local Handbook of 1875, and the press, extolled the healthful climate of Monterey and the longevity and good health of her citizens they did have medical care. J. R. Hadsell advertised as Physician and Druggist, with his shop in the old adobe on Alvarado near Polk. In 1875 G. M. Wells, M.D. announced that he was from the Medical College of Virginia and that he gave "Special Attention to Surgery and Diseases of Women." In 1878 a new young doctor came to Monterey, European trained, a native of Luxembourg.

In January he opened an office in Leeses Boarding House on Calle Principal; In July he moved to Girardin's Lodging House on Houston; in September he married Clementine — the daughter of his landlord; and by November the twenty seven year old Jean Pierre Edmond Heintz and his bride were settled in the old two story Malarin adobe on the west side of Alvarado. It was there, the following year, he took a sick patient who had fallen ill in his mother-in-law's French Hotel. There were no hospitals in Monterey, so local doctors bedded down their patients either in their own homes or nearby. Madame Heintz was not too happy caring for the young sick man—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Most women still had their children born in their own homes, under the care of experienced midwives. The paper announced one February that "Three births took place in Monterey during the past week and Mrs. Jane Allen was in attendance at all of them."

Monterey was interested in the arts. Celestino Truxillo and P. H. Masters, jewelsmiths, did fine work in abalone, silver, and gold. Banales, the Mexican, made beautiful pieces from pearls from Loreto and California gold. Some of his work has been treasured throughout the years, and was sketched, photographed, and recorded in the Index of American Design in the 1940s.

Music was loved by all. Young maidens performed on the piano, and the paper announced "There are now in this town nineteen pianos which for a population of 1900 persons speaks well for the musical talents of our villagers." The leading young blades of town formed a brass band that was popular for almost a decade. Their performances were duly noted in the press, and their group portrait (dressed in brass uniforms) was taken by Charles Johnson who later became official photographer for Hotel Del Monte.

"Jules Tavernier is finishing another fine picture" was announced in the personal column. Tavernier, nationally known artist, spent much of his time in Monterey and encouraged his friends among the bohemian group of San Francisco artists and writers to linger here. Some of them paid for their refreshments at the Sanchez brothers' saloon by sketches and murals decorating the walls.

Hunting and fishing were popular sports. In 1871 Peter Carlos caught a twenty six inch trout in the Pajaro river, about where J. P. Sargent had placed some three pounds of trout eggs brought from Lake Tahoe.

The paper reported in one issue that "A few nights since a man by the name of Pfeiffer, living at Sur Rancho, set a spring gun for bears which had been troublesome. Next a.m. on going to the trap his admiration was greatly excited by finding two of these animals lying dead near the place. One shot through the vitals and the other through the head. Sur Rancho must be getting unhealthy for bears". In 1877 the California Grizzly Bear magazine noted that a Grizzly Bear had been killed in Monterey County that weighed 2,200 pounds.

Local hunters and fishermen brought into town their catch, to be shipped by steamer to San Francisco. Within a few months of the opening of the narrow gauge railroad 90,000 pounds of fish, 8,500 pounds of quail, 3,500 pounds of deer and 3,000 pounds of rabbits had been shipped through the local express office.

Whaling, an important industry of the 1850s, was declining, but local men still went out in small boats. The Grizzly Bear Magazine informed the state that "A portuguese company of whalers at Monterey on March 14 (1877) started in two boats after a school of greyback, one was harpooned and killed, and a boat made fast to it. One of the other whales turned, and infuriated, charged at the boat, injuring several of the men. The crew hung onto the side of the wrecked boat until they were finally rescued by the other boat's crew."



Erosion starting in the 1850s formed this gulch now covered by Safeway Parking lot. Long adobe wall is that of Cooper-Molera adobe. Note the old outhouses perched along the edge of gulch.

The local press duly noted births, deaths, and other personal events. Wm. Zimmerman, the old time sausage maker of Monterey came back for a visit in 1878. He had prospered, made the grand tour of Europe, and returned to visit old friends. The San Jose Mercury at times sent a traveling correspondent, who stayed at the Washington Hotel, as we find from the register of the Hotel now carefully preserved.

Pioneer residents died and were carried to the old cemetery surrounded by El Estero. Jose Abrego, prominent merchant and official of the Mexican period, died in 1878; and a year later Monterey mourned the passing of Milton Little, early American storekeeper. His family home and ranch now lies beneath the paved streets of the New Monterey area.

Young couples married and new families were started. In November of 1877, David Castro married Amanda Vasquez, granddaughter of Jose Manuel Boronda of Los Laureles Rancho of Carmel Valley. The young couple went down the coast to homestead along a beautiful headland below the Sur.

Charley's Restaurant on Tyler street specialized in Oysters and Ice Cream, with private rooms for families. Charley (R.C. Wornes) also took over an old adobe next door and developed it into the fine St. Charles Hotel. Today we term it the Estrada adobe.

Several general merchandise stores served the local housewives, but only Wm. Bardin's store on lower Alvarado had two sewing machines for sale. The Gigling brothers had their first brewery on California street, near the present Safeway store, and nearby Go Tai, the Chinese laundryman, had his business.

Early in 1874 a group of Monterey County residents organized the Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad, a narrow gauge built to allow the products of the Salinas Valley to reach San Francisco Market at a lower cost than then charged by the monopoly of the Southern Pacific. Lumber brought in ships from Santa Cruz and from Puget Sound could be delivered cheaper than that hauled 120 miles from the city. But, of course, the S. P. reduced its rates, and the little narrow gauge finally became the property of the S.P. by sheriff's sale in December of 1879.

That same year of 1879 the "Big Four" — Crocker, Stanford, Hopkins, and Huntington purchased from David Jacks 7,000 acres of land for the Pacific Improvement Company at \$5.00 an acre. They announced the opening of a new branch line of the S.P. from Castroville to Monterey, and the construction of a luxurious hotel. Charles Crocker boasted "we shall make Monterey almost a suburb of San Francisco". Perhaps they did. The Hotel del Monte opened in June 1880. Another decade had come to Monterey.

Tourism was on its way to Monterey, and as the author of the poem on Monterey had written some years before — The Prince of Progress had smiled upon the hidden charms of Monterey.

"for, behold, the chain is burst! Aided by the arm of Progress soon the last shall be the first. Soon a queen among the cities that adorn our golden coast Shall she stand, and in her glory, of her noble lover boast."

SLOAT LANDING CEREMONY

July 7, 1846 Captain William Mervine, commander of the U.S.S. Cyane and U.S.S. Savannah, acting under orders from Commodore John D. Sloat, raised The American flag over the custom house at Monterey, thus formally taking possession of California. Not a shot was fired.

Commodore Sloat's action brought into union with the United States 600,000 square miles of territory. The present states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, the western halves of Colorado and New Mexico, and the southwestern tip of Wyoming were carved out of the area.

Some twenty seven years ago in June of 1946 a team of archaeologists and anthropologists dug a trench along the north end of the Custom House to ascertain where the original flagpole had stood. A sketch made by the young army pay clerk William Rich Hutton in 1847 was their clue. As the trench approached the present railroad right of way the diggers found a rock cairn of rough granite stones about two and a half feet below ground level. Still supported by those rocks was the old wooden stump of the original pole.

A new pole was obtained, of pine, from the local Del Monte Forest, and was trimmed and treated to last many years. It is six feet deep into the old rock cairn, and also supported by a new rock cairn above ground level. It rises forty five feet above the ground as did its predecessor.

On July 7th of this year of 1973, the ceremony of raising the flag will again be held. Join us then, and remember that by this act — in 1846 — our nation became one — stretching from sea to sea.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

DEDICATION: — Members and friends are invited to the dedication of the **Carmel Martin Garden** at the Doud House, on Scott and Van Buren, at 2:30 P.M. on June 10, 1973. The garden has recovered from the devastation of the winter frost, and will be a place of serenity. Visit it when you need a lift of spirit — and remember Carmel Martin — one of our beloved citizens.

GIFTS: Historical photographs from Mrs. John H. Hinrichs; a footstool, four oriental rugs, and a marble top table from Dr. & Mrs. Austin Frey; a beautiful old doll from Madeleine J. Williams; a ladder back rocking chair from Mrs. Victor Storli; two silver lemon forks and a pair of sugar tongs from Mrs. Alfred Fry; a folding parasol, a black watch chain, and a fur muff with matching neck piece from Mrs. Florence Moore; and three volumes of "History of Spanish Painting" by Chandler Post from Mrs. Benjamin Kinney.

CASA SERRANO GARDEN: Our ever faithful member Mollie Sumida and her son donated plants, and worked to bring the little garden to its peak for the Adobe Tour. Many thanks!

NEW BROCHURE: A new booklet on "Old Monterey", prepared by a committee under Eleanor Ziel is finished. It has fourty four pages of text and photographs of Monterey's historic structures, and will make a nice memento of Monterey for visitors, or a little gift to friends. It will be for sale at our office at the Maritime Museum, Calle Principal, for \$1.00

RODRIGUEZ — OSIO ADOBE: Although there have not been large headlines our association has been working quietly to save the Rodriguez-Osio Adobe from destruction in the Urban Renewal area. Both the City Council and the Urban Renewal agency have stated that it shall be saved. A tentative promise of large funds has been received and present meetings are being held under the Mayor of Monterey to obtain further funding. Ownership can be public, or private, as long as guide lines are established for its development and control. A bit of open space will set it off and let it breath. The reconstructed small balcony cantilevered out from the building will join that of the Sanchez adobe as another reminder in a modern city of the "dias de antes" of Monterey.

SPECIAL EVENTS: This past February another fine program was given at Casa Serrano for members. Mrs. Cyril Church, of the old Boronda family, sang the songs she learned from her mother and grandmother, and charmed us all with her tales of other years.

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership is constantly growing as you can see from the lists of names in each issue of this Quarterly. We are particularly happy to have Junior members — and hope soon to have special programs for them. President Ross has appointed a committee to develop interest among the Juniors. Mrs. Van Court Warren will be assisted by Mrs. George Fletcher and Mrs. Robert Johnson of the Special Events Committee.

ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Miss Lila B. Adams, Mrs. Cecil S. Ashdown, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Auerbach, Mr. Arnold Vincent Bickel, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Bissantz, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Bolgard, Mrs. & Mrs. Frank Bray, Mrs. Janet Cavanagh, Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Cerrito, Mr. & Mrs. Dowd A. Cole, Chris Concolino, Mr. & Mrs. James W. Costello, Dorothy H. Crispo, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis E. Davis, Col. & Mrs. David K. Donelson, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne G. Downey, Mr. & Mrs. Milton G. Fossum, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest G. Franco, Mrs. John M. Frier, Miss Anne Garbarini, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Gawthrop, Mr. & Mrs. Orval Glass, Mrs. Gladys P. Hamilton, Mrs. P. L. Hathaway, Mrs. Wallace Holm, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan E. House, Mr. & Mrs. Stoddard P. Johnson, Mary Dean Kier, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kruse, Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Lunt, Mrs. Dorothy A. Matheson, Mrs. Bonnie McClung, Pricilla A. Motson, Mrs. Marie Morris, Mrs. J. Herschel Porter, Mr. & Mrs. Ray W. Prowell, Mrs. Katherine Ragsdale, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Rombold, Dorothy C. Ronald, Mr. & Mrs. Andy F. Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Skaalegaard, Mr. & Mrs. M. Dean Stallings, Miss Christine Skaalegaard, Mrs. Maurine M. Temple, Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Titus, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney L. Williams.

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