

# NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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

Vol. 18, Number 1

March 1974

## **TWO THOUSAND STRONG!**

William Ballard, our membership chairman, reported at this month's Board Meeting that we had as of the first of the month one thousand nine hundred and ninety seven members. At the same meeting the Directors voted to send letters of invitation to membership to sixteen additional persons. Thus we are now over two thousand.

Many of our new members do not know the past projects of the Association — so this issue is devoted to a short resumé of some of the accomplishments of the Association.

The Monterey History and Art Association was organized in 1930, and incorporated in 1931. In all these years, since the first meeting of a group of prominent citizens of the Monterey Peninsula at the Custom House, the Association's primary object has been the preservation of the old adobe homes and significant buildings of the Spanish, Mexican and American periods. The Association has also obtained by gift, purchase and loan, many articles for exhibition in our local public museums. It has taken an active part in impressing on the people of Monterey the inestimable value of their heritage, and the importance of retaining for succeeding generations of Californians, those irreplaceable relics of a bygone age which embody the State's romantic history.

The Historic Route through old Monterey, a painted line on the street winding from house to house, and the markers placed before the buildings were first developed by the Association.

Throughout the years the Association has been active in encouraging the passage of local ordinances to protect the adobes: architectural control of new structures in the historic areas; the plans for the Island of Adobes; the Custom House Plaza, etc.

When the Urban Renewal agency was first started in Monterey the Association immediately became concerned about fourteen historically significant structures within the renewal area. Only five buildings were protected in 1962 by State ownership, and the Association itself owned Casa Serrano. Since the first group of Board members called on the renewal agency in 1962 to express their concern the Doud House and the Old St. James church building have been obtained by the Association and restored at considerable expense. The Old Whaling Station, and the First Brick House have been saved, and several others such as the Merritt House, and Capitular Hall have been retained and developed by private ownership. The first brick store built in Monterey went down before the wrecking ball. The Rodriguez-Osio adobe still remains to be restored and re-constructed in part-to stand with its charming small balcony along Alvarado and again become part of the vital life of the community.



*CASA SERRANO, former home of Florencio Serrano, an Alcalde of Monterey in the 1840s. It is noteworthy for the closed adobe wall ends on the verandah and the unsupported roof overhang.*

## CASA SERRANO

Casa Serrano was the first of the adobe structures of Monterey which the Association literally saved from demolition. In September of 1958 Carmel Martin, Claude Faw and Clinton Slusher appeared before the Council of the City of Monterey to plead for the deliverance of this witness to the past from the ravenous jaws of the bulldozer. The City had purchased a large piece of property including the adobe and had plans to make the entire area into a parking lot.

"Who would have thought 62 years ago", Carmel Martin said "that I would be here tonight urging the preservation of the old home of Florencio Serrano. In 1896 it was considered a mark of progress to tear down the old adobes. Now we know they are our most precious possessions and heirlooms."

The committee appeared armed with a resolution from the Association offering to purchase and protect the Casa Serrano. The City Council listened sympathetically, but the legal knots took time to undo. On February 2, 1959 the Directors received the City's offer, a parcel of land 98 feet wide and 68 feet deep, including the Serrano building, for \$21,524.00. The Directors voted unanimously to purchase — in spite of a low treasury — but with faith in the community. By September of that year the Directors were informed that the restoration costs had emptied the treasury — but Mrs. O'Donnell had recently received \$500 from the sale of Adobe Tour tickets — so work could continue. And the wooden addition on the southern end was prepared as a rental unit to pay the taxes and upkeep.





*FREMONT HEADQUARTERS, a typical simple line two story adobe of the Mexican period. Preserved by the Association and leased for business.*

## **FREMONT HEADQUARTERS**

The next year the Association was faced with the threat to another old adobe. The federal government had purchased a large lot next to the Monterey Post Office and the plans for the additional space needed included the destruction of the small two story adobe which was then covered with clapboard. The Noticias of 1960 reported that the building had been the subject of much correspondence between our President Allen Knight and the United States General Services Administration. The Association will always be grateful to Congressman Charles Teague, and also the Senators Kuchel and Engle for their assistance in the matter. The City of Monterey Council acted as the agent in purchasing the Fremont adobe from the government. The United States placed a value of \$9,180.00 on the 43 x 26 foot plot of ground. Although the Association still owed \$15,000.00 on the Casa Serrano the Directors, with faith and determination to save this adobe, voted to purchase. They taxed themselves individually, and several members responded with \$100 donations. The Directors knew that once the adobe was restored they had a firm offer from a reputable group to rent it on a long term lease.

The Monterey Foundation stepped forward and offered to donate slightly over \$3,000. It also cancelled a loan of \$2,000 it had made towards the Casa Serrano, making that loan an outright gift.

The little two story adobe has been cared for since then, leased for appropriate business purposes, and pays its taxes as part of the city.





*DOUD HOUSE, one of the early American period wooden homes. Lived in for several generations of the Francis Doud family. Now restored by the Association and leased for business.*

## **DOUD HOUSE, AND ST. JAMES CHURCH BUILDING**

The next two structures of concern to the Association were the Francis Doud house on Van Buren, and the small former first protestant church building — old St. James. Both were in the Urban Renewal area and the church building — since its last congregation had moved to new quarters — stood forlornly waiting possible demolition.

It was the Directors belief that the Doud House was probably one of the best examples of a local early wooden house of the American period; and the church building had for years been intimately part of the spiritual growth of Monterey.

Negotiations started in September of 1967 and continued through 1968. The Noticias announced that the estimated cost of restoration and landscaping could be about \$33,320.00 and declared "It is a big sum, but restoration and maintenance of the traditions and atmosphere of historic Monterey is our principal reason for existence as an Association."

The December 1969 issue of the Noticias showed a photograph of the former church building resting on temporary supports after its move from Pacific Street to the lot just north of the Doud House on Van Buren. The June 1970 issue reported that the garden area of the two new acquisitions was being developed from the Carmel Martin Memorial fund, and a full page of that same issue listed the local firms, the local workers, and the individuals that had contributed labor, materials and funds.

Today the Doud House is occupied by several fine businesses, and the old church building is a library named in honor of our own Mayo Hayes O'Donnell. It is open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to visitor and friend.





*MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY, formerly St. James Church, first protestant church in Monterey. The Association has its library collection here for visitors and friends to read.*

## **ADOBE TOUR April 27-28, 1974**

Each year the adobe house tour of the Monterey History and Art Association draws visitors from near and far. Several months ago we had letters asking for the dates, and the Chamber of Commerce informed us they had questions as early as September last. From the bay area various tour facilities arrange for bus groups, and we have members living north and south who return each year for a delightful weekend in Monterey.

Mrs. Ted Minnis is our chairman for 1974, and her co-workers — several hundred strong — are busy with arrangements. Notices are being mailed to our membership, costumes are being sewn and pressed for the charming hostesses, food is being ordered for the coffee and tea hours at Casa Serrano, the excellent transportation group are making maps of their routes, etc.

There will be fifteen historical buildings open for the tour this year, some of them old favorites such as Casa Soberanes. A special "treat" this April will be the Frank Work mansion on the hill south of San Carlos cathedral. This home has been so built as to include the old Castro adobe as a small part of the main house. This is another example of how one of the adobes of the past can be lovingly saved and adapted for modern living.

(Continued)

As you take the tour this year think of how different Monterey would be if these buildings had been razed. Note how they have been adapted for many uses — homes, offices, commercial offices, etc.

The Association has published this past year a small booklet entitled "Old Monterey" which will be for sale at the nominal sum of \$1.00. It will be a memento of your tour, and a fine gift to a far friend. It has photographs of the historic buildings of Monterey, and short history of each.

## **COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS**

**MAGNIFICENT GIFT:** Admiral Earl E. Stone, Director of the Allen Knight Maritime Museum, has advised us that during the month of February he received a contribution for the museum of over one hundred waterline models of various types of ships. The donor is Mr. R.F. McGraw, of the Carmel Highlands. The models are beautifully made and many are in considerable detail.

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** Welcome to two new members of our Board of Directors. Mrs. Lee Marihart has served as chairman of costumes and protocol, and helped many a favorita prepare for a Merienda. Our second new Board Director is R. Adm. Edward J. O'Donnell, U.S.N. Ret. He will be a very helpful addition, particularly in connection with the Sloat Landing.

**MONTEREY COUNCIL, NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION:** Two of the prominent adobe homes of Monterey were willed by the last private owners to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Casa Amesti was the gift of Frances Elkins, prominent interior decorator; and the Cooper-Molera property was willed by Miss Frances Molera, granddaughter of Captain J.B.R. Cooper, the first owner. The National Trust has leased Casa Amesti to the Old Capital Club of Monterey, and has leased the Cooper-Molera property to the State Parks and Recreation of California. To assist the Trust in an advisory way a local Council has been appointed, and has held to date two meetings under the chairmanship of Edwin Bliss. Other members include, Mrs. Elizabeth Hay Bechtel, Mrs. Webster Downer, Kenneth Ehrman, Mrs. A.E. Elkinton, Gordon Hall, Col. Allen Griffen, Will Shaw, Robert Stanton, and James van Lobensels. Ex-officio members are Lewis Fenton, President of the Old Capital Club; Hal Hallett, President of the Monterey History and Art Association; and Peter J. Coniglio, Mayor of Monterey. During the month of March two Curators from Washington, D.C. Office of the National Trust were in Monterey to inventory the contents of the Cooper-Molera adobe prior to development.

**NEW MEMBERS:**Mr. & Mrs. Morton P. Balch, Mrs. Robert Bottorff, Mrs. Virginia Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Cook, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald L. De Ruyter, Mrs. Patt L. Elliott, Elizabeth Webb Harrington, Miss Mildred Koch, Constance E. McQuiston, Barbara K. McQuiston, Mrs. Florence G. Miller, Mrs. Alan G. Pattee, Alicia Palmer, Andrew Palmer, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Palms, Mrs. Karen Sikes, Mr. & Mrs. Byron C. Singletary, Mrs. Barbara L. Snyder, Col. and Mrs. Marlin E. Trasher, Mr. & Mrs. Verreson, Mr. & Mrs. James W. Costello, John De Vine, Ellen De Vine, Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Fell II, Kevin Ford, Prof. & Mrs. Walter Jennings, Mrs. Michael McCall, Donnie Nail, Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Ragsdale, Mrs. Barbara D. Ray, Miss Teresa Ray, John H. Ray, William H. Ray III, Mr. Samuel Stark, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Steel Jr., Capt. Mary J. Aplin, Miss Alison Chavoya, Miss Kimberly Chavoya, Miss Marlene Chavoya, Mrs. Robert Carlson, Mrs. Dearborn Clark, Mrs. Nancy Claypool, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Krolfifer, Mr. Paul Krolfifer, Mr. & Mrs. B.V. McMenamin, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miskimon, Capt. & Mrs. William B. Provost, Mrs. Perry D. Miller, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Slaughter, Dr. & Mrs. Frank P. Smith, Miss Gladys Snyder, Mrs. & Mrs. Mark I. Starr, Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Stevens, Mrs. Nancy R. Weech, Miss Wendy L. Weech.





*ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM, has an outstanding maritime collection, and also houses the office of the Association.*

## **ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM**

As early as March 1965 it was announced that the outstanding Allen Knight Ship Collection of our former President had been offered to the Association by Adele Knight in memory of her husband, provided an appropriate exhibit area would be maintained by the Association. It was felt that this collection should have a home near the water and for several years efforts were made towards this end. But those efforts did not come to fruition and so the Association turned towards the goal of preparing a museum within the community until the waterfront project could be developed. As of June 1969 the association was negotiating with the City of Monterey for a long term lease of the lower floor of the old County building between Pacific and Calle Principal. Much of the actual labor was done by some of the Directors themselves, and our wonderful Admiral Earl E. Stone and his faithful group prepared the cases, moved the collection from Carmel, etc.

January 9, 1971 marked the formal opening of the Allen Knight Maritime Museum. Today its collection is growing with gifts from other collectors, and again the Association is looking forward to quarters near the water.

Visitors are welcome in the afternoons, except Monday.

This issue has been a quick listing of some of the major past projects of the Monterey History and Art Association. An enumeration of the many smaller activities would entail a volume.

There have been times when our treasury was so low we trembled, but somehow we have survived. We have found that when a project of importance connected with the preservation of past values of Monterey is presented to our membership the response is always generous and exciting.

Bless you, one and all!

THE EDITORS  
MONTEREY HISTORY  
AND ART ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 805  
Monterey, California 93940

Return Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 88  
Monterey, California

85300 S-1

ADM. C. TOD SINGLETON  
ROUTE 3, BOX 562  
CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

93921

**OFFICERS 1973-74**

President: Harold C. Hallett  
First Vice President: Mrs. C. Tod Singleton  
Second Vice President: Raymond Smith  
Treasurer: Frank G. Adams  
Secretary: Mrs. A. W. Elkinton

**EDITORS**

Mrs. A. W. Elkinton  
Mrs. Wm. O'Donnell

**DIRECTORS:** Frank G. Adams, Mrs. Margaret Bates, Mrs. Charles Bentley, Edwin Bliss, Mrs. James Campbell, George Clemens, H.J. Craft, Melvin Dick, Mrs. George Dietterle, Mrs. J.W. Douglas, Mrs. A.W. Elkinton, Mrs. George Fletcher, Harold C. Hallett, Mrs. Howard Helliesen, Mrs. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Frank LaCauza, George Leutzinger, Robert Littlefield, Gen. H.M. Lyon, Mrs. Leo Marihart, Robert O. McMahan, Mrs. Ted W. Minnis, Adm. Edward J. O'Donnell, Robert W. Reese, Mrs. C. Tod Singleton, Mrs. Hans Skaalegaard, Raymond Smith, Hugh Steven, Eben Whittlesey, Elwood Wilson.