

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

December 3, 1949

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote a poem during his stay in Monterey which he titled "To My Name Child" and which appears in "A Child's Garden of Verses." That name-child was Louis Sanchez, now a resident of Berkley.

Mr. Sanchez was born in Monterey, the son of Mrs. Nellie Van De Grift Sanchez, sister of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson, and author of "Spanish and Indian Place Names of California" and "The Life of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson." His father was Adolpho Sanchez, a cousin of Miss Ignacia Maria Bonifacio of Sherman Rose House fame. The family home of the Sanchez family was on Jackson street directly back of the home of Lou Henry Hoover's parents.

Mr. Sanchez, with Mrs. Sanchez, spent Thanksgiving with their two daughters, Mrs. Gerald Matney and Mrs. J. R. Dolphin, and their families in their homes on Oak avenue in Seaside. During his stay he visited the Stevenson house to view the Stevenson collection recently presented to this historical monument by his cousin, Mrs. Isabel Field, and her son Austin Strong, of Santa Barbara.

Mrs. Helen Lightner Dean has returned to her home on Crest Road in the Del Monte Forest and to her Carmel Shop, after several exciting weeks in New York City.

The most thrilling experience of her visit in the big city she says, was her attendance at the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden. The presence, in the boxes, which are sold by subscription only, of the members of fine old families, the cream of New York society – the women in their gorgeous clothes and beautiful jewels, the men in tails and high hats – presented a picture that was unbelievably beautiful. The band music, the drill to music of the 100 beautiful horses ridden by the Canadian Mounted Police in their red coats, and the color and gaiety of it all will remain a cherished memory, reports Mrs. Dean.

Sadler Wells "Ballet" at the Metropolitan Opera House, was the outstanding theatrical performance in New York during Mrs. Dean's stay there.

She also reports that there will be no extreme changes in styles this winter and that women's skirt lengths will be as they are now, suitable for everyday active American life.

Monterey Peninsula clubwomen should be complimented upon their continual interest in the cultural educational and historical activities going on around then and their unfailing willingness to help where their help is needed and appreciated. The Monday Afternoon Club, organized as a study club in September of 1913, has branched out for the first time since the date of its beginning, and has announced that its membership will sponsor a silver tea on Monday December 12, the proceeds to go toward assisting the Monterey Foundation in acquiring suitable articles of furniture for the Gutierrez Adobe. This old adobe home is owned by the Foundation and is being restored by them as funds are available, in the hope that someday it may be open to the public as an example of an early home of the Mexican period in Monterey.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy S. Curtis at 120 Carmelita street, will be the setting for the tea from 3 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The public is invited to attend, have a cup of tea and assist the members of Monday Club to realize a goodly sum for their worthy project.

During a recent visit to El Paso, Texas, the writer attended an interesting meeting of "Pan America," an active woman's club made up of women of El Paso, women of Juarez, Mexico, and women of many nationalities. Previous to the program for the afternoon, the librarian of the El Paso Public Library gave a list of the books recommended for the traveler who intends to visit Mexico and South America. We repeat it here thinking that it might be of value to our readers.

"Let's Go to Columbia," written by Lyman and Elen Judson; "Plunders of the Sun" by Davis Dodge, also author of "How Green Was My Father"; Neill James "Dust on My Heart," because he did not go for material to the typical tourists' places and "Journeying Through Mexico" by McKinley Holm will whet your appetite and make you want to travel, the speaker declared.

"These Are the Mexicans" by Herbert Cerwin, formerly of the Peninsula, was enthusiastically spoken of by the speaker, as were "Lands of the Dawning Tomorrow" by Carlton Beals, whose sympathy for the people is apparent in his writing, and "A Treasury of Mexican Folkways" by Frances Toor. "Chico and Chango," a child's book written in co-operation with the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico, was highly recommended as a Christmas gift for children.