

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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In Volume 1, No. 2 of Del Monte Wave, published in Monterey, February, 1886, by the Del Monte Publishing Company, the following was written of Hotel Del Monte, which at that time was just six years old: "It required only the building of a first class hotel to make Monterey the perfection of a watering place, and this want was amply supplied in 1880, when a magnificent structure was reared about a mile from town. The site was selected in a stately grove of pines, oak, and cedar, the trees being sufficiently scattered to admit of the adornment of the grounds by driveways, footpaths, lawns and beds of flowers. A plot of 126 acres was set aside and enclosed as the hotel grounds, while 7000 acres more were purchased for other purposes."

On April 1, 1887, the hotel burned to the ground, and it was not until June 16, 1888, that the second grand opening was held. On that very special occasion the menu cards were most elaborate and ornate. A photograph of the hotel was pictured in green on the cover and blue and white cord was used to hold the cover and the two-page menu and wine list together. George Schonewald was the manager. In that year Mumm's extra dry was \$2 a pint and \$4 a quart. The price of the banquet is not given.

The musical programme was given by the "combined orchestras of Mr. Brandt and Mr. Ballenberg, under the direction of Mr. Brandt."

In that day Mr. Ned Greenway of San Francisco was the social dictator, and he came from San Francisco to direct the dancing from 8:30 till 11 p.m. in the dancing hall, followed by a "Promenade Concert" orchestra directed by Mr. Ballenberg. The banquet was served at 11 p.m. and a parlor concert was programmed for the later hours under the direction of Mr. Brandt.

On Sunday of that historical event there was a morning concert at the Bathing Pavilion at 11:30 a.m. and a sacred concert on the veranda by the combined orchestras at 2 p.m. On the back cover was a picture, also printed in green, of the coast line and pine trees.

For this very interesting collection of old-time menu cards from Hotel Del Monte we are indebted to Mr. Thomas W. Norris of Carmel. Mr. Norris is a collector of Californiana. He is a member of the board of directors

of the Monterey History and Art Association and of the Monterey Foundation.

The oldest menu card in Mr. Norris' collection is the one used Dec. 31, 1887. It is printed in red ink on a piece of white satin ribbon about 3 by 6 inches. It was headed "A Ball Supper" in fancy capital letters and listed hot service, cold entrée, cold ornamental pieces, dessert and refreshments.

The Christmas menu for 1888 has a picture of the hotel with the lights in the windows and a holiday greetings as the frontispiece. Inside is a branch of holly in color. The next Christmas day, 1889, the card was not so elaborate. The cover was a picture of Cypress Point, but the New Year menu for 1894 was really a collector's item. The cover and paper upon which the menu was printed was the best that could be purchased. The cupids are sitting on a branch of holly, each with a toasting glass in his hand. 1894 is grey-haired and tired looking and has an hour glass on his lap. The whole is tied with white satin ribbon. Mums had gone up 25 and 50 cents in price.

A Happy New Year 1891, is a drawing of the big hotel glimpsed through the trees on the grounds, with butterflies and cupids and the inevitable potted palms, which seem to appear on every cover. On the back cover is a drawing of the view of the garden from the veranda, with the Victorian wood ornaments supporting the roof. Champagne was back to \$2 and \$4.

On April 30, 1891, Benjamin Harrison visited Hotel Del Monte, and the menu cards had his picture as the feature of the cover, with Yosemite Falls as the background. Of course there was the American flag and eagle, and much decoration on the inside. Champagne had gone up again.

For New Year's Eve, 1892, the decoration was an angel surrounded by cupids, with another view of the garden. The back cover had a view of the hotel buildings from the grounds and wide green ribbon was used for the tie. To celebrate the coming of 1893, an angel and cupids were again used and another view of the hotel, with another shade of green ribbon. The Happy New Year greeting for 1894 looked a bit more modern and was really very pleasing, with Santa Claus and a group of happy children surrounding the card, all printed in green and gold, and tied with cord. Two years later an English drinking scene, the men in knee breeches, smoking long clay pipes and sitting before a huge punch

bowl, was even more modern, for on the back were reproduced photographs of Monterey cypress and Old Oaks, Del Monte.

On Sunday, April 26, 1896 George H. Arnold had replaced G. Schonewald as manager of the hotel.