

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 27, 1950

Don't Miss Exhibition at The Stevenson House

Visitors to the Stevenson House for the next few weeks are certain to be entertained by the articles of historical value, which Mrs. Amelie Kneass, the curator, has arranged in the large cases in the downstairs room.

The articles on display are, for the most part loaned by the Monterey History and Art Association for this showing, and are on exhibition for the first time. In the collection are: a draw knife, gift of Dr. David Cleave; a frow and maul, given by Arthur Stringer, uncle of Mrs. Hugh Dormody; small wooden planes, gift of Mr. J.C. Anthony; small wooden mallet used by Juan Bonifacio, father of Miss Bonifacio of the Sherman Rose legend, the gift of Miss Grace Brune.

Mrs. Lillian Moser of the Blanco district near Salinas, has given a Steelyard, a simple device for weighing consisting of a scale beam, counterpoise, and hooks, the article to be weighed being hung at the short end, and the counterpoise weight on the long arm, according to the definition in Webster's dictionary.

Manuel Brune has made a gift to the Association of his father's branding iron. Mr. Brune senior came from Portugal to Monterey and married Josefa Espinosa. He ran his cattle both in the Salinas Valley and near Monterey and used his own brand.

In the second case on an upper shelf, is a manteau of black lace and a pair of black lace mitts which have belonged in the family of Mrs. D.L. Mason of Salinas for years. Mrs. Mason was the daughter of Maria Lugarda Castro and J.H. Lisk, a pioneer in Monterey County in the '50's.

Miss Grace Brune presented an old water pitcher to the Association at the annual meeting and it is displayed with the manteau and mitts. The pitcher was given to Miss Brune, by Mrs. Tomasa Vasquez Crawford during her last illness in gratitude for her many kindnesses. It had been brought from France by Pedro Artellan. Miss Brune had been told by Mrs. Crawford that Mrs. Josefa Artellan Vasquez was the daughter of Pedro. She gave the pitcher to her adopted daughter Tomasa Vasquez Crawford before she died in 1928.

In the other large room in the Stevenson House a variety of cooking utensils are on display. Most of these articles came to the History and Art Association from

the Boronda and Escolastica Rodriguez de Dye families. There are two comals (griddles), the round one from Mrs. Ambrosio, who was a Boronda, and the long one from Mrs. Dye.

It is interesting to note that both the Dye and the Boronda comals were made by Sutherland of Liverpool. Mrs. Ambrosio told Mrs. Kneass that her grandmother, Petra Boronda de Allen, said that the old comal had originally belonged to Petra's mother, Gertrudis Higuera de Boronda. It was the one the family used to take with them each year (in about the 1820's) when they made their annual trips to San Jose where they had their garden land near Milpitas. After her mother's death Petra used the comal for many years and handed it down to her granddaughter, Emma. Thus the Boronda comal has actually been used by four generations of the same family.

There is a framed religious picture which is worth studying. It is probably the work of one of Monterey's very early inhabitants hand-made combining a picture of Christ, with feather and paper flowers, sequins and red velvet. The history of the picture or who took the pains to make it is unknown.