

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 4, 1950

"California" is a booklet, the tenth in a series of catalogs of exhibitions commemorating significant anniversaries in the histories of the states which compose our union. Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Iowa, Utah, Georgia, Wisconsin, Oregon and Minnesota, in the order named, have been previously honored by the Library of Congress of the United States.

In presenting these exhibitions, the Library of Congress, according to Luther H. Evans, the librarian, has endeavored to express for the American people a sense of deep and genuine pride in the history of the States and in their individual contributions to the development of American life and culture.

The booklet was sent to Monterey by Ernest K. Bramblett, Congressman from the 11th California district and a resident of Pacific Grove.

The rare books, maps, manuscripts, and pictures for these exhibitions in Washington have been assembled from the Library's own collections, and from collections of other federal agencies, as well as from institutions in the States. The exhibit opened November 12, 1949, and will close February 12, 1950. It commemorates the Centennial of the Gold Rush and the First State Constitution.

The first illustration is a reproduction of Father Kino's map of 1698-1701, showing that California is not an island.

From the very first page on to the last, mention is made again and again of Monterey, of Monterey harbor, of the Constitutional convention, etc. No. 26 in the showing is first report of the founding of Monterey in 1770 written in Spanish after the return of Portola and Costanso to Mexico City. No. 27 is entitled "The Old Spanish Capital: 1846" and shows a view of "Monterey from the heights of the city." No. 35 and 37 are a "Reliquary of Father Junipera Serra" and "A Mission Founded by Father Serra," both relics and views of Carmel Mission

There are several pieces of furniture exhibited, including a California arm chair, a Spanish wooden cart, a Spanish style trunk, a miner's chair and other articles of household equipment, as well as specimens of the first gold.

A Spanish grammar published in Monterey in 1843 is opened at page 46-47, which reads "Conjugation of los Verbos Regulares" (Conjugation of regular verbs.) A California arithmetic – 1843 – also published in Monterey, shows the page in Spanish, of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division. A book entitled "Teaching Californians to Figure, Monterey, 1843" is opened at the title page, which bears the signature of Jose Castro, who also wrote his name twice on the back of page 13 as Jose Francisco Castro, Monterey.

No. 96 in the exhibition is an old book with the title "An American Trapper in Monterey: 1833-34," written by Zenas Leonard. It is a narration of the adventures of Zenas Leonard, written by himself in 1839. Contained on the two pages open is an account of the arrival of Captain Joseph R. Walker and Zenas Leonard at Monterey, the capital of Upper California, in the last week of December, 1833.

"Governor Micheltorena Organizes California's Defense – 1844," is No. 116 on exhibit. This is an important proclamation regarding military law and regulations, significantly stressing defense against an evidently anticipated attack. It is a very scarce issue of the press of Monterey, run by Jose de la Rosa, the last Spanish printer in California, appointed government printer by General Santa Ana. This is believed to be the first issue bearing Rosa's name. A well-known man in California, Rosa lived to the age of 102, dying in 1892.

Open to title page and frontispiece, "Monterey – Capital of California, 1849," showing a lithograph by William Endicott and Co., New York, from a sketch by J.W. Revere. In midsummer of 1845, Revere sailed from Chesapeake Bay in the sloop of war "Cyane," commanded by Captain William Mervine, (for whom Fort Mervine at the Presidio of Monterey was named), to join the Pacific Squadron. He was a grandson of Paul Revere and a graduate of Annapolis. He liked California so well that he bought a farm near Sonoma, where he had been commander of the military district. His "Tour of Duty" is one of the best books on early California. It includes valuable chapters on land titles, as well as Colonel Robert M. Macon's celebrated report on the gold region.

Under a section in the exhibition entitled The Rancho, there is a water color painting of a child's side saddle dated about 1820. The original is owned by the De Young Museum of San Francisco and was painted by Rose Campbell Gerke. This saddle was made in

Monterey and was owned by David Spence. Its skirt and back are of leather, elaborately carved and embroidered in colored silks; the seat is upholstered in green padded velvet and the straps are of leather, according to the information furnished by the National Art Galley when they loaned the painting to the exhibit.