

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 7, 1950

### **Documents Tell About The Vasquez Adobe**

Now that the Vasquez adobe on Dutra street has become the property of the City of Monterey and will be restored and open to the public in the not too distant future, a translation of the following documents owned in the original by Thomas W. Norris, will be of interest to historians and all who appreciate the past history of Monterey.

The letter to be quoted was written to Jose Maria de Echeandia, with marginal instructions in his own handwriting, with autograph, on a document written by Tiburcio Vasquez, grandfather of the famous bandit. Dated at Monterey, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1827.

Vasquez, former treasurer of the Pueblo de San Jose, on his death bed begs the governor permission to hand over his unfinished accounts to the present treasurer, so that the latter may settle them. He fears for his children about to be left orphans.

Echeandia, in his marginal note, instructs the "Ayuntamiento" of the pueblo to carry out the wishes of the dying man.

Echeandia was twice governor of California, and figured prominently in political upheavals between the native Californians and the Mexican governors.

Another letter in the original owned by Mr. Norris and concerning Antonio Vasquez (an uncle of the notorious bandit) reads:

Dated Monterey, May 31, 1822, to Pablo Vicente de Sola:

"The Invalido Antonio Vasquez need not be called upon to do guard duty, due to his advanced age."

Sola was the military and political governor of California at that time.

In September of 1924 there was published in the newspapers an article concerning the late Dr. Henry Mead Bland, professor at the San Jose Normal school and later poet laureate of California I believe, and the late Edwin Markham, author of the "Man with the Hoe" and also a former resident of San Jose. Edwin Markham wrote to Dr. Bland expressing his appreciation of the former's recently published "Stevenson's California", and his joy over the good news of the literary prosperity

of Dr. Bland, whose poems were at that time in demand for literary anthologists.

Mr. Markham tells of his plan to bring out an anthology of his own the next year, as none of the volumes on the library shelves exactly satisfy him. He asks permission to include in it two poems by Dr. Bland – lines to Robert Louis Stevenson and a poem on the flying geese of the far west.

We wonder if there is anyone who owns either of these books who would like to give it to the library at the Stevenson House? The History and Art Association has provided the bookcase and Mrs. Amelie Kneass, the curator would appreciate gifts of books on Stevenson or on early California history.

A very old and very rusty Spanish bayonet has been presented to the Monterey History and Art Association by Theo K. Romaine of Fresno. The bayonet was found by the donor as he worked on the property which formerly belonged to San Carlos church and now is occupied by the USO building. As the log was being leveled, Mr. Romaine discovered the bayonet and saved it. Recently when he visited the Custom House museum he decided that he would return it to Monterey, that visitors to the historic buildings here might enjoy seeing it.

A book just published is entitled "Dances of Early California Days" by Lucile K. Czarnowski, associate supervisor of physical education for women at the University of California. Previous to the publication of this book of dances, no published records have described the dances in sufficient detail to reproduce them.

By going directly to the old timers who still remembered the dances of their early California youth with a wire recorder, and extensive knowledge of early California dances garnished from scattered archives, the book has made an important contribution to the field of folk dancing and California folklore.

Complete with musical score are: La Varsduvianna with variants from Pacific Grove, San Juan Capistrano and Monterey. La Paloma, Versions 1 and 2 from Monterey; La Cachucha from Monterey; La Contradanza from Monterey and Santa Barbara.