

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 6, 1950

### **Distinguished Visitors**

Monterey has had two distinguished visitors this past week – both of them women of great personality and charm and both intensely interested in the historical background of the city.

One was Senora Dona Paula Cabrera Jimeno of Mexico City and Queretaro, Mexico, the granddaughter of Don Manuel Jimeno and Angustias de la Guerra Jimeno of Monterey.

The other is Senora Josefina Silva de Cintron of New York and Puerto Rico, now in Monterey with her son, Roberto Cintron, while he is a student of the Presidio Language School, studying Russian.

Senora Cintron is a newspaper woman who writes for Spanish language papers both in this country and South America, and Senora Cabrera came from her home in Mexico to visit her daughter, Beatrice Cabrera Jimeno, and an old school friend, Mrs. Frances Kimball of Menlo Park. It is the custom of Spanish and Mexican women to use both the names of their husbands and that of their parents, and therefore Senora Cabrera and her daughter are known by both names.

Senora Cabrera came to Monterey with her daughter and friend to see the location of the old Jimeno home and to hear more of life which her grandparents led during their lifetime here. Her father, Don Santiago Jimeno, had been born here in the old home, a rambling adobe on the present site of the San Carlos Hotel, which her grandfather, Don Manuel Jimeno, at one time Secretary of State, had built for his bride, Dona Angustias de la Guerra, daughter of Don Jose de la Guerra, commandante at Santa Barbara. Next to this hospitable home Don Manuel had erected a two-story adobe building for a hotel.

In 1850 the Bishop, Right Reverend Sadoc Alemany, landed at Monterey, bringing with him the first nuns in the country – of the order of Dominicans. They established St. Catherine's Convent in the adobe which Don Manuel had built for a hotel.

It was Senora Cabrera's uncle, Father Jimeno, who was host to the wedding party following the marriage of W.E.P. Hartnell to Dona Teresa de la Guerra at Santa Barbara Mission, so beautifully described by Susan

Bryant Dakin in her recently published book "The Lives of William Hartnell."

The Jimeno home on Calle Principal was a large two-story adobe structure with overhanging roof, without a second story balcony, and having an interesting railing along the outside of the front porch. A very good picture of the building is in the files at the Old Custom House, the gift of Mrs. Alma J. Fleisher, who had found it among the possessions of her mother, the late Mrs. J.W. Finch.

Senora Cabrera of Mexico now lives in Hacienda la Capilla, the home in which her grandfather, Don Manuel Jimeno, died of cholera in 1854, and on the ranch on which the Emperor Maximilian was killed. Her grandmother, Dona Angustias Jimeno, following the death of her husband, married Dr. James L. Ord, who came to California in 1847 under contract with Co. F 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Artillery, and became one of the signers of the petition to make Monterey an incorporated city in 1851.

In a Monterey paper of January 5, 1871, there was printed:

"Through a letter to Mariano Gonzalez we learn that Col. Porfirio Jimeno died in the City of Mexico on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September last. Deceased was a native of Monterey and a stepson of Dr. Ord. He was much respected by all who knew him while here and was placed in command of the U.S. Cavalry company that went from this country to Arizona. At the time of his death Jimeno was 25 years old and a colonel in the Mexican army of President Juarez." Col. Jimeno was an uncle of Senora Cabrera.

Senora Josefina Silva de Cintron is a native Puerto Rican although she has lived in the City of New York for many years where she writes of the news of the people of that country now living abroad and of the items of interest happening in the United States, for the International News Service, "Norte" and "The Voice of Puerto Rico," both monthly magazines. She says that there are 4,000 natives of Puerto Rico living in New York City alone. She also writes in the Spanish language for several newspapers published in various South American countries, and for the *New York Daily* – where her stories are also printed in Spanish. During her stay here she has written several articles concerning Monterey and will do others while her son is stationed at the Language School.

Senora Cintron and her late husband were the founders of a newspaper known as *Artes y Letras*. She is secretary of the Pan-American Association in New York City. In 1917 this cultured Puerto Rican woman was active in the Feminist movement and was named the "Woman of the Twentieth Century." She is still interested in any movement that will assist women in the business world and in the home.

When the United States flag was raised over Puerto Rico in 1908, her parents raised the first Stars and Stripes to be flown over a private home there. The Senora declares that Puerto Rico has had culture and education for the past 400 years and she resents it deeply when she hears it said in America that culture and education came with the taking of that country from Spain. But she admits that her country now has much more liberty than the citizens there had under the Spanish rule.

Her son, Roberto Cintron was a first lieutenant in Chemical Warfare during World War II. During his service overseas he married an Irish girl Mary Fitzpatrick and their home now includes a little daughter, Geraldine. He is a graduate of the University of New York with an A.B. degree. When the family does to Roberto's new station, where ever it may be, Senora Josefina Silva de Cintron will accompany them.