

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 29, 1950

### **La Favorita's Attendants Announced**

Two young women whose ancestors played a conspicuous part in the making of history in Monterey County, are to be La Favorita's attendants at Monterey's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday Merienda on Saturday, June 3, in Memory Garden.

Miss Gertrude Ann Beall, the daughter of Boyd Beall, Monterey's postmaster, and Mrs. Beall; and Miss Virginia Pioda, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pioda of Salinas, are the two attractive young women who will assume the honored position at the gala party commemorating the anniversary of the coming to the shores of Monterey of Don Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra and the birth of the Pueblo of Monterey.

Miss Beall's mother was Miss Louise McCucheon before her marriage. Her grandmother was Caroline Malarin McCutcheon and her grandfather was Edward McCucheon. Mrs. Paula Diaz Malarin and Urbano Malarin were her great-grandparents and her great-great-grandparents were Josefa Estrada Malarin and Juan Malarin. She is the great-great-great grandniece of Concepcion Arguello whose romance is one of the charming tales of early California. After she heard of the fate of her Russian lover, Nicolas Resanov, she became a nun in the Dominican sisterhood when they were established in the old convent which was located where the garage of the San Carlos Hotel is at present.

Five generations back Miss Beall's grandfather was Governor Luis Arguello. Her god-mother is Mrs. Maria Antonia Bach Thompson, a native of Monterey and one of the city's most respected citizens.

Miss Pioda is a descendant of the James Watson family. The era of Mexican occupancy of California witnessed the first identification of the Watson family with the Pacific coast and ever since that time successive generations of the name have lived and labored in the vicinity of Monterey. The founder of the family in the West was James or "Santiago" as he was called by his Spanish acquaintances. The genealogy shows that he was born in England in 1800 of Scotch parentage. About 1830 he married Mariana Escamilla, who descended from a Spanish family long identified with California. He died in 1863 and his body is interred at Mission San

Antonio. A daughter of James Watson, Narcisa Watson, became Mrs. E.L. Williams and her daughter married Charles Pioda and became the mother of Paul Pioda of Salinas. It is the daughter of Paul Pioda who will attend La Favorita, with Miss Gertrude Beall, on June 3.

Each year since the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd., was organized in Monterey in 1931, the membership has sponsored a Merienda on June 3 in Memory Garden and it has been traditional that a Favorita be chosen who will be representative of the early day Californians. This year Miss Robin Robison has been chosen, not because of Spanish ancestry but because her pioneer great grandfather, Joel Walker, came to Monterey as a delegate from Sonoma to the Constitutional Convention and signed that constitution when it was completed. Her maternal grandparents were prominent and respected citizens of this community for many years and her grandfather, Benjamin F. Wright, was a former mayor.

There will be a solemn high mass at San Carlos Church at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, June 3, in honor of Father Junipero Serra, the founder of the missions in California. It was Father Serra who wrote: "On the holy day of Pentecost, June 3, after having gathered all the officers of the sea and land, and all the rest of the people by the side of the little ravine and oak where the fathers of that other expedition (Viscaino) had held their celebration, an altar was erected, the bells hung up and rung, the hymn "Veni Creator" was sung and the water blessed, and finally a cross erected and the royal standards set up. I then sang the first Mass which we supposed had not been celebrated here since that long ago; and we sang the "Hail to Our Lady" before the image of our Most Illustrious Queen, which occupied the altar. After that I preached a sermon to the assembled people.

"After the service had been concluded with "Te Deum," the officers performed the ceremony of taking formal possession of the land in the name of the King, our lord (whom may God keep). We afterwards ate our dinner together under the shade on the beach. The whole services had been accompanied with much thunder and powder, both on land and from the ship. To God alone be given all the honor and glory."

Thirteen years ago on June 3, the Monterey History and Art Association sponsored the first production in the reopened First Theater under the Denny-Watrous management. Each successive year since that time the

association has been hosts at a theater party during the city's birthday celebration.

This year the gala performance will be held on the evening of June 2 when the Troupers of the Gold Coast will appear in the 1,100<sup>th</sup> performance and present "The Unkissed Bride," directed by Rhea Diveley. Following the special performance the association will serve refreshments in the old bar room and Manuel Campos and his Mariachis will entertain with musical numbers.