

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 28, 1950

The Old Gutierrez Adobe

On Tuesday afternoon the members of the Monterey Foundation had their first official inspection tour of the Gutierrez Adobe on Calle Principal, the old Monterey home which the Foundation bought and saved from destruction in the early days of 1946. For many of the members and guests who called, the visit was the first they had made to the building; for others it was the first since the wooden partitions and walls had been torn out and replaced. For a few it was their first visit since their childhood, when the home had meant a visit to grandmother. For others it was just a charming bit of Old Monterey being saved for posterity.

Receiving the hundred or so guests who called during the afternoon were several of the directors acting as hostesses: Miss Margaret Jacks and Mrs. Harry Lusignan, vice-presidents; Mrs. Wesley Heard, Mrs. W. R. Holman, Mrs. William M. O'Donnell and Mrs. John Morse, assisted by Mrs. Eleanor Frasier. On hand also to welcome the members were Andy Jacobsen, vice president of the Foundation; Myron Oliver, chairman of the restoration committee, and Colonel Charles Mason, member of Oliver's committee and host at the refreshment table, ably assisted by Mrs. Mason.

It was in November of 1945 that a group of interested persons, members of the Monterey Foundation, heard that the little old adobe dwelling known as Casa Gutierrez, was to be sold from the steps of the Court House in Salinas. It meant that another of the old landmarks might be torn down and forever lost to a history-loving community. A committee was immediately appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing the property and saving it. The committee was successful in its endeavor and now the restoration of the adobe has been completed and its preservation is assured.

Cooperating with the restoration committee have been a number of individuals. Mrs. Hadassah Beecher Cheroske of Pacific Grove has presented the Foundation with a number of pieces of furniture which formerly were owned by an old-time Monterey family; Mrs. John Milton Thompson has given some and loaned some of the original furniture from the building which had been the home of her grandmother. Others loaning

appointments for the Tuesday affair were: W. R. LaPorte, Virginia Norris and J. Emery Owens.

The garden was given and planted by Sam De Mello of the Mel-O-Dee Nursery with careful selection made as to the possible plans that would have been in an early Monterey garden. Eddie Mestres was invaluable to the committee because of his knowledge of old time building and masonry.

A review of the history of the ownerships of the Gutierrez adobe might be of interest at this time. Joaquin Gutierrez came to Monterey in 1831. The census of 1936 lists him as a soldier at Monterey, aged 20 years. In 1842 he was Juez Augilar (a judge). He married Maria Josefa Escobar, a daughter of Marcelino and Tomasa Escobar. Josefa's father was at one time alcalde of Monterey. Her mother was born in Monterey. There were 15 children born to the union.

In 1852 Joaquin owned the Rancho El Porero de San Carlos. It is thought that he was a younger brother of Padre Gutierrez, who served the church at Monterey and at San Antonio, as they arrived here at the same time.

The Monterey County records show the following changes in title to the building: Grant from Manuel Castro, secretary, Justice of the Peace of this capital, to citizen Joaquin Gutierrez, dated August 17, 1841, and recorded in A. of Solares at page 37 ½.

Deed from Joaquin Gutierrez and Joseph Escobar de Gutierrez to Roque Cuellar, dated February 6, 1864. Deed from Teodoro Cuellar to Teodoro Gonzales, dated November 15, 1866 and recorded the next day. Deed from Gonzales back to Josepha Escobar de Gutierrez, Amelia Gutierrez, Victoria Gutierrez, Eloise Gutierrez and Victor Gutierrez, on the 29th of November and recorded the same day. Then on August 24, 1886 Amelia Gutierrez Warburton deeded her share to Victoria Gutierrez Van Valer. In January of the following year Mrs. Gutierrez deeded her share to her daughter, Mrs. Biscenta Renie.

A partition deed from Victoria Van Valer to Eloisa Schulte was dated November 14, 1898, in whose possession it remained until 1904 when she deeded the house to Becente Ranie who also received a deed in July of 1910 from Paul Renie. In 1933 Mrs. Renie deeded the property to her sister Eloise Marra who in December of that year deeded it back to Mrs. Renie, but she did not

keep it long for she again deeded it back to her sister, according to the county records. Mrs. Marra then deeded it to her husband, Ferdinand Marra on February 7, 1940 but he deeded it back to her on June 7, 1941.

An order confirming the sale in the matter of the estate of Ferdinand Marra, to the Monterey Foundation, a corporation, dated October 2, 1945, and recorded November 15, 1945, is now in Volume 899 of the Official Records of Monterey County at page 27. The deed from Ferdinand Marra, administrator, to the Monterey Foundation is also on file, with the decree quieting title and all other items pertaining to the ownership of the property.

Two granddaughters of Mrs. Gutierrez were among the guests at the opening of Casa Gutierrez on Tuesday, Mrs. Josephine Boronda and Mrs. W. Ordway, and Mrs. August Pray, whose husband was a grandson.