

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 4, 1950

### Mr. Larkin's Cane

When the Historical Art Exhibition was opened in the Fine Arts Gallery in Balboa Park, Dan Diego, on August 1, Monterey was represented by an oil painting, "Old Chinatown Town, Monterey," [Cinee Fishing Village, Monterey, 1880] dated 1880 and painted by Henry Chenewerck [Cleenewerck]. The picture has been loaned by the Monterey History and Art Association to which it was presented a number of years ago by Mrs. Charles N. Felton the widow of the late Senator Felton. It has been hanging in the Old Custom House and will be returned there when the exhibition is over after September 9.

A letter from Ivan Messenger, assistant director of Art Exhibition at San Diego says: "On a recent scouting trip for available (and good) material to be used in our historic exhibit which forms part of our Centennial celebration, I was quite pleased to see so many examples in the Monterey area. We have nothing at all to represent the Oriental that was of importance in the early days of California, and even though the fishing village burned, the painting of it is a good exhibition item and would be of interest to visitors and nice to have for a representation from Monterey in the Centennial show here."

We were sorry that we could not supply the gallery with any information as to the artist or his work. If there is anyone who knows anything about Mr. Chenewerck, [Cleenewerck] we would appreciate having that information left with Mrs. Mary Greene, the curator at the Custom House.

In the California Historical Society Quarterly of June, 1950 there is printed the following documentary letter, the original of which is in the private collection of A.T. Leonard Jr., M.D.:

New York 22 May 1850

Dear (F.D.) Atherton

I leave here Saturday morning, perhaps Monday morning. Remain over one night in Springfield. Shall I think leave Boston the 8 or 9 of June for the South, to give my two eldest boys a travel of 20 days. Passage are engaged for (J.B.R.) Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. (Alfred) Robinson Snyder (Snyder, Jacob R.?) & (?) Smith for the 13 of June. I shall endeavor to meet them here. I wish to

write to Mr. Snyder, but hear he had left Phil. If you see him in Washington, show him this letter. I lost my black cane, gold head, marked Thomas O. Larkin, Monterey, Enero de 1 de 1845. Mr. Dexter, I think his name was promised to look it up – also Mr. E.L. Childs, P.O. Dept. – write me, when you will be in Boston & New York. It's cold here yet In much haste – Larkin.

Recently we wrote in this diary of a photostat negative in the possession of the Monterey History and Art Association, of an original order from Thomas O. Larkin, first and only American Consul to Monterey, for furniture for the Larkin House and clothing for himself. The order, dated April 30, 1844, listed:

"Two large walking sticks with handsome black tassels, and a rim of gold around each for the names. If the heads can be covered with gold at an extra expense of \$6 or \$8 each, I want them so covered.

"One cane marked 'General M. Micheltoreno de Tomas O. Larkin'. One cane marked: 'Thomas O. Larkin, Monterey, California, Jan. 1, 1845.' The canes to be of wood that will last and of a good quality and of a kind not before seen here if possible.

"Signed, Thomas O. Larkin."

This is probably the very cane that Mr. Larkin lost on his trip to Boston.

The Nacimiento River in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties was so named for the reason that in Spanish it means "source of a river," and Crespi of the Portola expedition used it in this sense on September 21, 1769. Anza camped by the stream on April 16, 1774, and called it Nacimiento, assuming that it had been named for the Nativity (another meaning of the word.) This name is found in the records of 1795 and in later years. The station was named for the river in 1905.

Fort Ord was named by the War Department in 1933 for General Edward O.C. Ord, veteran of the Civil War, later commanded of the Department of the Pacific.