

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **New Attraction at Stevenson House**

In a letter to the Los Angeles Times there appeared this reference to Monterey on Monday of last week: "Los Angeles could take a lesson from the foresight of Monterey and preserve its historic buildings, instead of destroying them in the name of 'progress.'

"On a recent visit to Monterey we spent many interesting hours visiting buildings, open to the public, that played a part in California's development.

"In Monterey the area is plainly marked and from the number of visitors not only from all parts of California, but from all over the United States and some foreign countries, it seems that many persons are interested in such places.

"We know that thousands of Americans flock to Europe to visit places made famous in song and story, history and religion, and it would seem that we, too, should retain historical buildings for future generations to view.

"The terrible destruction of our world-famous redwood trees, for commercial purposes, is also to be criticized since these trees are the oldest in the world, and are found only in California."

The letter is signed by Mrs. H.W.R. of Bakersfield.

On Sunday last Mr. Richard Stevens, liaison officer of the California Centennials Commission, with his family, was a visitor at Colton Hall. He came to say "thank you" for the pictures of the interior of the Constitution hall on the upper floor which had been sent to the Commission at Los Angeles that the setting might be authentically reproduced in the pageant held last month in the Hollywood Bowl. In one scene of the pageant the spectators saw Colton Hall from the outside, without the stairway, and in another the interior, showing the fireplace and the old table upon which the constitution was signed. The pictures were supplied to the Los Angeles committee by the Monterey City Museum Board. Since the showing of the pageant many visitors have come to Colton Hall, after seeing the production, and have remarked how very well it had been reproduced.

On Sunday more than 50 members of the Monterey County Historical Society motored to Monterey to join

in a tour of the historic buildings, At 1 o'clock an informal luncheon was shared in the rear garden at the Stevenson House, with the History and Art Association providing the hot coffee for the visitors.

Following the luncheon the guests visited Colton Hall, the First Theatre and the Custom House, where they were entertained with short informal talks by the curators on the history of their respective buildings. At the close of the afternoon the group gathered at the home of Mrs. William M. O'Donnell, to inspect Casa Soberanes and to say their farewells.

Mrs. Donald F. Davies Jr. is the president of the county group.

Another charming bedroom, as it might have appeared in the time of Stevenson's visit here, has been arranged at the Stevenson House by the curator, Mrs. William Kneass. The sleigh-bed and the old-fashioned mahogany chest and mirror are on loan from Mrs. Hadassah Cheroske. They were originally part of the furnishings of the Gonzalves home. Mrs. Gonzalves was the daughter of William Garner, whose adobe, now destroyed, was on Pacific street at the end of Decatur. Hooked rugs, old pictures, a captain's writing desk, a charming old oil lamp and a crucifix, which was dug up on the garden of one of the old adobes in Monterey, add a bit of reality to the room.

Chinese matting, which had to come all the way from China for the purpose, has been laid in the large sitting room upstairs. Evidence of the floor having been covered with this old-style covering was found during the restoration of the building.