

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 12, 1951

### **"A Saint May Rise"**

"A Saint May Rise" is the title of an article, illustrated with many pictures, in the January 16 issue of Look Magazine. It will be read with interest by residents of the Monterey Peninsula.

The article was written by Leonard A. Paris, a member of the staff of the magazine. The photographs are by Cole Weston of Carmel Highlands. Carmel Mission has provided the setting for most of the pictures. There is also one from Malibu, California – life-sized ceramic sculpture of Father Serra, by P.G. Napolitano; and two from Monterey – an excellent likeness of Father Eric O'Brien standing before the Junipero Oak at the rear of the Royal Presidio Chapel, and a smaller one, picture of the stone Celtic cross at the entrance to the Monterey Presidio, marking the spot where Father Serra said the first Mass in Monterey. This cross was erected by the late James Murray more than a quarter of a century ago. The remains of the oak tree, under which the mass was celebrated, on June 3, 1770, was moved to its present location in 1905 by the late Father Ramon Mestres and the late Harry A. Greene.

Small pictures of Father Serra's personal cross are used throughout the story which tells of the plans formulated for the canonization of the priest who founded the chain of missions in California.

The Mission at Carmel where Father Serra died and is buried, receives recognition with six beautiful pictures; the barren cell where he died in 1784 (restored from early documents and maps); the sarcophagus of the Franciscan priest in his brown robes, as designed and executed by the late Joe Mora, sculptor and artist; Father Eric O'Brien before the bell tower at the Mission; a view of the Mission church from the front gate; one of Harrie Downie, who has been in charge of the restoration, and a full page colored photograph of the interior of the church.

In the full page colored photograph, seated before the high altar are Father Bolger of Livermore, the vice-provincial of the Redemptionists in California; Monsignor Sullivan of Paso Robles, who represented the Bishop of the Monterey-Fresno Diocese at the trial; Father O'Brien, Provincial of the Jesuit order; who were the judges; Father Lucien Arvin of San Francisco, the

Defensor Fidel (defender of the faith); and Father Ryan of the Royal Presidio Chapel at Monterey. Giving testimony, and almost seated upon the marble slab which covers the tomb of Father Serra, is Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton, retired professor of American history, honorary director of the Bancroft library at the University of California and the author of several historical books.

Here are six reproductions of photographs of persons who gave testimony of the diocesan trial in Carmel and also in San Francisco, including Juan Onesimo, Angela Serrano Cook, Miss Josephine de Carli, Nathaniel Soberanes, Abel Nicholas Espinosa, and Mrs. Emma Butler Ambrosia, all residents of Monterey County.

Juan Onesimo, a direct descendant of the Indians converted by Father Serra, who still lives in the Carmel Valley is pictured first; the second picture is a likeness of Mrs. Angela Serrano Cook, who also lives in the Valley and is the descendant of Don Florencio Serrano, whose ancestral adobe stands on Pacific street, near Franklin. Her great grandfather was a military man stationed at the mission.

Miss De Carli is a school principal. Her grandfather was Christino Machado a caretaker at the mission from the 1870's on to 1920. He built the old wooden house now on the property next to the mission, owned by the Lloyd Tevises. It was Machado who opened the graves within the Mission building in 1882 when the Catholic church wished to determine the number and identity of the several priests buried there. In the old photographs taken at that time Mr. Machado is pictured sitting upon the side of the opening of the tomb.

Mr. Espinosa, now well past his 90<sup>th</sup> year, is a resident of Oak Grove. He was born in Monterey and was once the sacristan for the Mission.

Mrs. Emma Butler Ambrosia is a descendant of the Boronda family and because she had learned the stories of the life of Father Junipero from her mother, her grandmother, Petra Boronda and her great grandmother, Gertrudia Higuera, who was born in 1776 within the walls of the old Presidio, her testimony was asked for at the trial.

Nathaniel Soberanes also recalled family tales of the mission, where his grandfather was born.

There were many others who testified in addition to those who pictures Look chose to us in the article which we have discussed.