

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 24, 1951

### Stevenson in Hawaii

In the January issue, 1889, of the Monterey Cypress we have found a story which interested us very much. Here in Monterey we have been steeped in the life story of Robert Louis Stevenson and his wife, Fanny Osborne Stevenson, both of whom Monterey claimed even before the Stevenson House became a State Monument. Mrs. Stevenson had lived for a time at the home of Senora Ignacia Maria Bonifacio, with her two children and her sister, Nellie, who later married Adolfo Sanchez, a saloon keeper of the town.

It was Mr. Sanchez who received a copy of the "Honolulu Bulletin" shortly before the January 23rd, 1889, publication of the Cypress and allowed Mr. Bradford, the publisher, to copy from it the article concerning the Stevenson party, from which we quote the following:

"The Bulletin states that the party arrived on the Island safe and were entertained by H.R.H. King Kalakua. A native dinner served on ferns a la Sandwich Island style being among the things enjoyed by the visitors. Among the eatables served were pu-pu, opihi, kulolo, taro, and sweet potato poi the whole ending with a presentation of rare golden pearl from the Archipelago, presented by Mrs. R.L Stevenson to the king.

"Among the many items of interest in the Bulletin, according to Mr. Bradford, which seem strange to us who live in American (1889) is one to the effect that a leper escaped from an officer while being conveyed to the leper quarters and was shot at three times before he allowed himself to be recaptured. Another item of interest, to the effect that Portuguese cheap labor, has been supplanted on the Island by Japanese still cheaper labor and the Portuguese have raised funds and appointed a committee to find suitable quarters for them in American. His Majesty the King figures in several receptions, at all of which he enjoyed sumptuous repast. A notable reception being given by himself to an amateur company in costume after the rendition of "Patience'."

Isabel Field, the step-daughter of Stevenson, describes the arrival of the Casco, all sails set, in Honolulu, in her book "This Life I've Loved." Mrs. Field and her husband, Joe Strong, had been living in the Islands for some time.

In the Stevenson party were Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, the latter's son, Lloyd Osborne, then 19 years of age, and R.L.S.'s mother.

In the advertisements, William Hannon, lists lots in Del Monte Grove for \$40 and \$80 each, at genuine bargains. W.W. James, the father of Judge William James and the late Edgar James, advertised stoves, tin ware, iron pipe, water closets and the largest and best stock of hanging lamps in town. S.J. Duckworth was in the real estate business and A.A. Oslo had a combination dry goods, fancy goods, and grocery store in the Brick Store on Alvarado Street. The Fashion Saloon of Daniel Moran solicited a share of patronage.

The St. Charles Hotel, now Mission Inn, claimed to be the leading hotel on the coast in their advertisement and promised to convey passengers free from the depot to the hotel. K. Schneider, "the boss tailor of this section" promised a perfect fit in gentlemen's suits from \$15 up.

The Pacific Grove Mammoth Stables had a large three column cut to accompany their ad. Beneath the cut the caption read: "The largest, handsomest, most costly and best equipped stables on the coast. Elegant turnouts, from the smallest to the largest six-in-hand furnished on short notice. Good stock, fine rigs and attentive and obliging employees is the motto under which these stables are conducted. H.E. Kent proprietor. Telegraph orders from abroad will receive prompt attention."

Dr. Roberts, father of Houghton Roberts, had his professional card in the Cypress. His residence and office were listed at the corner of Alvarado and Hartnell street, opposite H. Escolle's (now the Poor Scholar Book Shop).

There is a short legal notice announcing to contractors and builders that sealed proposals will be received by J.B. Snively for the furnishing of material and work on the First Presbyterian Church in Monterey, signed by David Jacks, president, and H.S. Snodgrass, secretary, February 9, 1889. It is also noted that the church is holding services on Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 until 1 p.m. and from 7 until 8 p.m.

There is a small, one column advertisement from George Bertold, Boot and Shoe Store, on Alvarado near Del Monte Drug Store. It was George Bertold who left the money upon his death, to the city to defray the cost of the monument in the plaza in front of Colton Hall.

The office of the Monterey Cypress was on Alvarado Street opposite the Pacific Ocean House, now the Kimball Hotel.