

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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More History Conscious

California is certainly becoming more and more historically minded. At least the Californians are. Maybe the recent trend of appreciation in the events of the past was stimulated by the 1946 Flag Raising Centennial in Monterey, or maybe as the result of the tour of the Freedom Train, the historical caravan of California during the Centennial years, the Portola Trek, or the hundredth anniversary of the Constitutional Convention in Monterey, the Discovery of Gold – or any of the other important anniversaries of the past few years – that have made everyone history conscious. We are happy about it and pray that the spirit may continue.

The Kern County Museum has restored the Glennville Adobe within the past two years. This old building is of tamped-earth construction and is situated on the south side of the Greenhorn Highway, just west of the Glennville Fire Station.

The adobe building has the original ceiling rafters and has been re-roofed with hand-split sugar pine shakes of the kind originally used by the builder. The fireplace and chimney have been restored, and the entire building has been given several coats of whitewash both inside and out.

The Glen family first settled in the early 1850s in Kern County and members of the family declare that the builder, Fitzgerald, and the adobe were there then. He was a real old "mountain man," a trader, a trapper, scout and guide, who crossed the plains several times with Walker, Fremont and others. His adobe was near where two Indian trails crossed. He put no windows in it, only a small wicket on the north through which to trade with the Indians. The one door was of heavy hand-hewn oak timber. It has been restored by Kern County and registered as a State Landmark.

The State Department of Natural Resources and the State Park Commission in cooperation with the California State Chamber of Commerce, have registered a number of new landmarks throughout the state, including one in Monterey County.

The Richardson Adobe on the Los Coches Rancho, near Soledad, in southern Monterey County, received recognition as an historical landmark on October 17, 1951.

On the Rancho Los Coches southeast of the Mission Nuestra Senora de la Soledad, stands an old adobe structure in good condition. It is on the corner of the North and South highway between Soledad and King City, at the junction of the road leading up to the Arroyo Seco. It was built in 1843 by William Brunner Richardson and his wife Maria Josefa Richardson as their home. William B. Richardson was born in Baltimore Maryland and came to California in 1836. (Mildred Brooks Hoover)

Bancroft's History says: "The Grant Los Coches was made in 1841 under the Mexican government by Governor Alvarado to Maria Josefa Richardson, daughter of Don Feliciano Soberanes, administrator of the Mission Soledad, who later became the owner of the Mission Rancho." He is also listed as the owner of the Coburn Rancho of 21,884 acres in 1841.

Los Coches Grant consisted of 8,794 acres in 1841. It was considered among the best land in Monterey County. It was an overland stage station and post office. General John Fremont and his troops camped there in the fall of 1846 and the spring of 1847. Recorded at the Monterey County Court House in Salinas is an unpaid bill against the U.S. Government for the supplies and horses that Fremont and his troops used while camping at Los Coches Rancho, to William B. Richardson.

The San Juan and Soledad stage ran from 1848 to 1854, then the Bixby Overland stage from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 1854-1868. All stopped at the Rancho for passengers, mail and express, and to change horses. William B. Richardson was appointed postmaster of the station. The row of locust trees still stands in front of the adobe. Richardson planted the seeds which had been sent from Boston by his family. The name Los Coches comes from the word "pig." It was named in Mexican times for herds of wild hogs that had escaped from the mission.

Now please excuse us. We will vacation for a couple of weeks.