

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 2, 1951

'By Divine Graciousness'

Mr. E.E. Winters has sent an interesting letter to the editor of Peninsula Diary in which he refers to the article recently appearing in the Diary concerning Mr. George Nediver and his association with Henry Miller, early California landowner.

Mr. Winters writes: "As a youngster I knew Henry Miller quite well, having been raised in the Dos Palos district where he often visited on his many inspection tours of his vast holdings which extended over California, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. He often gave the school children a present at Christmas time.

Mr. Miller, who in his younger days rode horseback over these vast holdings almost always rode alone and he even refused to carry arms at a time when most Californians wore their six guns as part of their daily dress. In fact, so well known was Miller's habit of riding alone that tradition has it that Henry Miller, while riding alone from Los Banos to Gilroy over Pacheco Pass and carrying considerable money with which to purchase cattle, was held up by an armed bandit. Mr. Miller gave the man all the money, and then told him that he had a considerable distance to go and would need some money for lodging, etc. He promised that if the bandit would loan him \$20, he would pay it back to him the next time they met.

Henry Miller never forgot a face, wrote Mr. Winters, nor a voice. A few days after the above incident, while sitting in a barroom at Gilroy Miller heard a voice he recognized as the bandit's who had held him up. Imagine the bandit's surprise when Miller accosted him and handed him the \$20 he had borrowed (!)?

The Family Circle, published by the California Safeway Stores, in the January 25th issue, contains an article which is of interest. 'A Place Apart' is the title of Paul Outerbridge's article which will bring a bit of the peninsula to many readers. There are eight colored photographs – a Monterey cypress on the Seventeen Mile Drive, Carmel Mission and a view of it's chapel, and a group of flowers against a chalk rock wall. On another page, also in color, is a garden scene, a likeness of poet, Robinson Jeffers; the interior of the Blair studio on the Monterey Wharf and the exterior of the Carmel Library. In black and white cuts are pictures of the Monterey

fishing fleet, Ocean avenue in Carmel, the Ghost tree on the Drive and a likeness of Edward Weston, the photographer. A map of Monterey bay is also reproduced.

The author describes the setting for his article as "Monterey Peninsula-by-Divine-Graciousness." "For perhaps," he continues, "nowhere else in the United States can you find such an unusual combination of natural beauty and man-made charm as within this 12-mile-in-diameter Circle of Enchantment. Here land meets water in an unforgettable way."

Mr. Outerbridge praises the foresight of Frank Powers, the founder of Carmel; Perry Newberry who wrote: "In believing that what 9,999 towns out of 10,000 want is just what Carmel shouldn't have, I am a candidate on the platform, Don't Boast. When he ran for the City Council it was on this pledge: Don't vote for Newberry if you want a city – if you desire commercial success, street lamps, sidewalks, a glass factory, etc."

The article ends: "the kindness of the people who will make you welcome in this spectacular corner of California preserved through man's appreciation of the graciousness of God."