

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Tables Are Turned

William Roach went quietly to jail in Stockton much to the surprise of his friends. Terry had arrested him single-handedly and acted alone on the trip to Stockton. Roach upon arrival at the jail was put in irons, there to remain until he obeyed the order of the court by restoring to the Sanchez heirs their money, \$80,000 he had received as their guardian.

At times Terry would visit him at the jail and endeavor to reason him out of worse than folly; but Roach was stubborn and headstrong, declaring that they had his body and they might get the money out of it. Terry persevered, Roach being in jail some months, and at last thought he saw signs in Roach of giving up the position he had taken in withholding the money.

Terry used all argument entreaty and persuasion at his command, until at last, as Terry had promised him his freedom, Roach said no one but himself and his wife in Monterey knew where the money was. He would give Terry, he said, an order upon her. Immediately the materials were sent for and Roach signed the order. As Terry as about to depart with it, Roach did not want to deceive him, but the order would not be acknowledged by his wife, without having in addition to his signature, a private mark or symbol which she alone would understand.

Terry gladly assented to this and when Roach had attached the symbol, put the order carefully in his pocket, bade Roach goodbye, stepped toward the door of the cell and partly opened it. Then he turned back to Roach, according to the records, and told him he had gotten what he wanted and that now Roach might rot and die and that he never should be released if he, Terry, could prevent it. It was his turn now and that Roach should pay for all the trouble he had caused. Then Terry left him to his thoughts.

Paul Parker, former publisher in Salinas and a collector and student of Californiana, wrote in his California Historical article: "Because of the ramifications arising from the suits and counter-suits of the many guardians, administrators and claimants in the estate of Jose Maria Sanchez—Roach being one of them—the papers, filed under probate, that have accumulated as a result of

these suits, are voluminous. In addition, the contents, are of the different portfolios holding the documents, are not in chronological order—due, I have been told, by old-time attorneys, to the breaking of the strings that bound them, when the county seat was moved from Monterey to Salinas in 1873. In the confusion of moving, some of the papers were not replaced in the proper folder—so it is difficult to find the sequence of local happenings."

But to go back to Roach and the Stockton jail, we find that the jailor was an Irishman; between him and Roach there had grown quite a friendship.

When in the evening rounds, the jailor came into the cell, Roach told him what had taken place, between himself and Terry, and urged him to start that night for Monterey, to get there before Terry, and inform Mrs. Roach of what had taken place, so that she would not recognize the order when it was presented by Terry.

The distance from Stockton to Monterey was about 120 miles, according to Williams' article, and the only mode of traveling then was by horseback. The jailor was a good horseman, and a good judge of horses. He was told by Roach to procure the best horse he could find in Stockton. He did so and at daylight Stockton was far behind him.

E. L Williams, once co-owner with his cousin, Joseph Boston, of a merchandise store in the Casa de Ora, at Oliver and Scott streets in Monterey, and the grandfather of Paul Pioda of Salinas, relates that at about 5 o'clock one afternoon he was standing with his back to the town of Monterey, idly looking eastward toward where the Del Monte was later built. At such a point one would overlook a stretch of sand beach with nothing to obstruct the view. He saw about a mile in the distance a horse and rider coming at full gallop.

(More Tomorrow)