

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Father Casanova's Account Book

The July Issue of the Academy Scrapbook seems to the writer to be the very best yet to be published. The issue starts Volume II. Academy Scrapbook is published once each month at Fresno, California, with Rev. James Culleton as the editor.

Announcement is made in the recent issue that the cover design has been made possible through the courtesy of Laurence Viole, who has produced an etching of a different mission church each Christmas since 1935. Contributors who have made the issue possible are: James H. Culleton, Francis J. Rock of Mountain View, Lawrence E. Bulmore of Berkeley, Harry Downie of Carmel, Noel F. Moholy of Santa Barbara and Mother M. Callista of Burlingame.

Articles presented in the July number include: Father Casanova's Account Book, telling of the expenditures for the benefit of Monterey, Carmel, and San Antonio Missions; J. Ross Brown in China (Reporter of the Constitutional Convention at Monterey, 1849); Blessing of the Henriquita Mine (New Almaden); Easter at San Jose (1850); Our Lady of Refuge Church, Castroville; Monterey in 1849; San Antonio Mission Church Burials; Songs of the California Missions; and Sisters of Mercy. There are several photolithographic reprints to illustrate the several articles on early California history.

Father Casanova's Account Book was originally written in Spanish for the most part but the Spanish is not without an Italian flavor, and now and then, the author says, an English word or phrase creeps in. In the editor's notes Father Casanova is credited with being the savior of the most famous of all the missions, San Carlos at Carmel, Father Serra's own mission and his last resting place.

An interesting bit in the income column of the report: "July 1873, I sold the old church organ—Serafina—and bought a new one which cost \$300 and I put a carpet in the choir. For old Serafina I received \$80, the balance I got from contributions from the faithful." They are several entries from the year 1868 to Nov. 1880, noting that Don Gulielmo Dutra, Don William Dutra, Christiano Machado, paid rent for the orchard at the mission. At first the year's rental was \$100, but in 1877 it was raised to \$125. In 1883 the Reverend Father made this

notation: "One must have patience. Again, this summer they broke 23 sections (cajones) of the cemetery fence and stole the boards - \$22.50." The cemetery has been in use since 1839.

At this point the article is cut off. It then continues exactly like this:

In marriage "the foreigner Eduardo Asuncion Bale single, a native of the United States of North America, the legitimate son of Juan Bale and Ana Turner; and Maria Ignacia Soberanes, single, the legitimate daughter of Don Mariano Soberanes and Dona Isidora Vallejo . . ."

Le Noir Miller is the author of an article entitled "Monterey in 1849", most of which is copied from Bayard Taylor's "Eldorado" (1882 edition), and speaks of the Constitutional Convention at Monterey in 1849, saying: "An invitation was extended to the Clergy of Monterey to open the meeting with prayer, and that office was thenceforth performed on alternate days by Padre Ramirez and Reverend S. H. Willey . . ."

An official record of the Inspection of the Graves in the San Antonio Mission Church at Jolon, is most interesting and informative. It was signed on the nineteenth of September 1949 by the Rt. Reverend Monsignor Michael Sullivan and H. Henry J. Downie, superintendent of the restoration of Mission San Antonio, who recorded the fact that there had been found the bodies of Father Sitjar and Father Pujol, buried there in 1813; Father Sancho, Father Doroleo Ambris (1883) and Father Sarria of Mission Soledad.