

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 4, 1952

Awareness of Intangibles

On the fifth day of November, A.D. 1852, William Hamel bought property on Larkin street in the City of Monterey from Jonas Leffs, for the consideration of the sum of \$320 in United States gold or silver coin. The property line commenced at the southeast corner of the lot of Francisco Garcia on Larkin street. D.R. Ashley signed the deed as notary public on the 25th day of November, 1852. This deed in its original has been presented to the Old Custom House by Hamel's granddaughter, Mrs. Carrie Bostrom Unmack, now a resident of San Francisco.

Another important and interesting document in the historic collection of old papers presented by Mrs. Unmack is an indenture made on the 8th day of February, 1879, between Rosamel Abrego and John Bostrum by which the latter purchased property beginning at "the redwood post on the easterly boundary of the Noche Buena Rancho and bordering the lands of Thos. R. Witcher and E.S. Josselyn." The purchased land contained 522 acres for which he paid the sum of \$300 in gold coin, according to the record. Mr. Bostrum was the father of Mrs. Unmack.

Looking through the Spanish grants in Monterey County records, we find that Noche Buena was a portion of land originally granted to its citizens by the Mexican government and later confirmed by the United States. The grant originally consisted of 4,411 acres and was granted to Juan Antonio Munoz in 1835 and confirmed by the United States in 1853 to Jose and Jaime de Monomany, who received five-sixths of the property with one-sixth going to Jose Munoz.

With this document came an official letter from the superintendent of the Southern Pacific Railroad, A.G. Bassett, dated San Francisco, January 18, 1886, in which he writes Mr. Bostrom: "We will put in a farm crossing for you at the point named in yours of the 17th inst., provided you will agree to keep the gates closed and will not allow your stock to obtain access to the company's grounds, except when driven across."

In yesterday's story we told about the deed of land in Monterey owned by John Smith, surveyed by George H. Derby, and later sold to William D. Robinson. That land, which is on Pierce street, directly behind the present

telephone building, was conveyed by Robinson to John Bostrum on February 18, 1883, for the sum of \$350 in gold coin. The lot is still owned by his descendants.

Now a bit of modern philosophy concerning the Monterey Peninsula, (Carmel in particular) and why folks come here to retire. Recently Dr. Milton Shutes wrote a requested article for a California Medical Association bulletin entitled "When You Retire," in which he told his reason for choosing Carmel-by-the-Sea for his retirement home. Doctor and Mrs. Shutes are at home in the Mission tract.

"In retirement ... there is a release from conscious and unconscious weights scarcely realized until out from under," the article began. Then continued: "It is seen here in the faces of retired professional and businessmen and of Army and Navy brass. And, as I look past the patina covered Mission to the beautiful Santa Lucia Range and the Carmel Valley beyond, or, by a stretch of the neck, to the waves breaking on Point Lobos, there is an awareness of intangibles that one feels but has no wish or word to express.

"If any of you are meditating on retirement or semi-retirement away from accustomed professional and social environment, may we humbly suggest Carmel-by-the-Sea and the mountains, where the air and occasional fog is clean, where the people are friendly and unhurried and drivers well-mannered, where fishing and hunting are not far off, where enjoyment and instruction in every cultural and manual skill is available, and where there is a well-guarded charm of village streets and of homes unnumbered, marked only by proper name as, W.L. Channell, or a symbolic word as "Aftermath," for a retired professor of mathematics. You could do worse elsewhere but no better. There is only transient room here for nostalgia." So ends the doctor's recommendation of Carmel and a nice one it is.