

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 24, 1952

The Road Around The Oak

Very soon the historic "Descanso" oak in the Lower Carmel Valley will be appropriately marked. This oak, at the edge of the highway, was saved by realigning the road, a year ago when work was begun, through the efforts of the interested residents in the alley, by historians and the Carmel Valley Property Owners Association, who pledged \$25 for a marker. Fortunately the outcry at the time was sufficient to cause the county road department to investigate and find that the tree could easily be saved.

The Property Owners Association, through Mrs. Walter K. Fisher, appealed to the Monterey History and Art Association for their interest and financial backing, which was readily given and the pledge of the Valley Association matched.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Association, approval was given to the following wording which will be carved into the huge boulder to be placed beneath the tree:

"El Encinal del Descanso, Indian carriers rested here with their dead on the way to burial."

Mrs. Edward J. Roxbury of the Carmel Property Owners Association and Mrs. Nelson Miles Leoni of the Carmel Valley Woman's Club, with David B. Hoisington, former president of the association and Mrs. Fisher of the History and Art Association are making the final plans for the placing of the marker.

"Messrs. Blanchard and Coombs removed the east wall of the enclosure of the Junipero Serra statue Thursday morning to permit Mrs. Leland Stanford, the donor to inspect it." The above quotation was the opening paragraph of a news story in The Monterey Cypress May 23, 1891. After viewing the statue, now located on the Presidio hill overlooking the bay of Monterey, Mrs. Stanford expressed her satisfaction of the finished work and set June 3, Monterey's official birthday, as the date for the dedication. The Monterey Parlor of the Native Sons in the State, the Society of California Pioneers, the Young Men's Institute and other groups.

Another item in the same issue of The Cypress informed the readers that the Rt. Rev. Father Casanova had announced that during the visit of Mrs. Stanford and Mrs. Hughes to Monterey, she and her party called at

the old Monterey Royal Presidio Chapel, and while there learned that the carpet in the sanctuary had been there since 1858. Mrs. Stanford at once commissioned Father Casanova to order a new one and have the bill sent to her. The father at the time was quoted as remarking: "As the sanctuary is 22x25 feet, requiring four widths ten feet long each, the carpet will cost about \$200."

A sewer and disposal problem is facing Monterey today as it was in 1891. After the grading of the streets up the hill in Monterey The Cypress recorded, in March of that year, the residents there were puzzling themselves how to get rid of the waste water. Before the grading the sewerage ran into the street, but when this was no longer allowed they did not know what to do with it. "The question of sewage and disposal is really of great importance and should be attended to immediately," wrote the editor of 61 years ago.