

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 8, 1952

### **The Photograph Craze**

If one was footloose and fancy free, there was no column to write and one was not laid up with a broken rib suffered in a freak accident, it would be nice to be in Santa Barbara next week when the California Historical Society will hold meetings there. Miss Pearl Chase and E.S. Conner, are joint chairmen of the committee in charge of the arrangements and program.

The dates for the meeting of this historical society will be April 18 and 19, which will fall on Friday and Saturday, respectively. On Friday members and guests will make an all-day pilgrimage to Santa Ines and La Purisima missions leaving Santa Barbara by bus at 9:30 in the morning and returning approximately at 5:30 p.m. A box luncheon will be provided at La Purisima.

On Saturday a luncheon meeting will be held at the Restaurante del Paseo in Santa Barbara, with civic leaders and the Santa Barbara Historical Society members present. Carle I. Wheat will speak on "Santa Barbara's Place in California's Background."

A civic celebration in honor of the city's 170<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held concurrently with and following the society's meetings. Many events for the entertainment of visitors have been planned, and, as always, there will be much of beauty to see in Santa Barbara.

During 1952 the City of Oakland is to celebrate 100 years of formal existence, and as a centennial gift to the city, President Joseph R. Knowland of the California Historical Society, is presenting the Oakland Public Library with 200 large photographs of early Oakland, many of them hitherto almost unknown. The photographs, uniformly mounted, have been copied from the originals owned by Wyland Stanley. Presentation date has been set for May 3, when the photographs will be on display in the new and handsome Oakland Public Library.

Recently the California State Library at Sacramento loaned to the California State Parks Commission for use in Monterey a collection of 245 old glass negatives picturing many old buildings, individuals and scenery on the Monterey Peninsula and in Monterey in particular. These photographs had been taken in the early 1880's by Johnson, a popular photographer here at that time. The negatives had been collected by F.M. and Mrs. Julia

A. Hilby of Monterey and later acquired by the State of California. While these old-time plates are available they are being copied by The Monterey Peninsula Herald for future reference and use.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilby were early Monterey residents. Mr. Hilby was the founder of the Hilby Drug Store and Mrs. Hilby was also a professional photographer in Monterey. They were the parents of Edwin E. Hilby.

Johnson's photograph studio was in Hotel Del Monte according to the news story in The Monterey Cypress on Feb. 14, 1891. The story related in part: "The latest attraction at the hotel this season seems to be Johnson's photograph gallery. Johnson has taken the works by storm and everybody had gotten the photograph craze. Go where you will and you will see Prof. Johnson's camera shooting at a group here; taking a lass in a donkey cart there; catching this little fellow in a swing, etc. Johnson in the meantime, is in his element, and is as happy as a cricket."

News from the Stevenson House and its curator, Mrs. William Kneass, relates, that E. Beinecke of New York, was a visitor there during the past week. It was Mr. Beinecke who gave what is probably the most famous autographed collection of Stevensoniana to Yale University. He has also been the donor of several photographs of R.L.S. to the Stevenson House in Monterey.

Another gift to the Stevenson House recently came from Miss Muriel Ransom of Carmel and included a set of 23 leather bound volumes of Stevenson's works published by Scribners.

Mrs. Greene Chapman, also of Carmel, has presented an interesting rawhide trunk and a doll's swing for the children's room.

During the recent frosty period two heliotrope bushes in the herb garden were killed. Mrs. David Hartman of Alameda, the president of the Herb Society of Northern California, who presented the herb plants in the name of the society a few months ago has replaced the plants with two nice specimens of "Black Beauty" heliotrope.