

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 12, 1952

The Path of History and Postcards

The Path of History and postcards were on the agenda at Monday afternoon's meeting of the Monterey History and Art Association Ltd., held in the Old Custom House. The discussion of the Path of History took the form of a word of praise to the City of Monterey on completion of the painting of the red line to be followed by visitors who wish to see all the historic sites and buildings. A letter of appreciation was ordered sent to the Monterey council.

Several members of the board of directors expressed regret that there were so few colored postcards showing views of Monterey, other of the historic buildings or of the scenery around the Peninsula, and that something should be done about it. The president, Thomas W. Norris, was authorized to appoint a committee to investigate the possibility of having the merchants become interested in such a project.

Present at the meeting, which was mainly interested in plans for the annual merienda on June 3, Monterey's 182nd birthday, were Mesdames Mary Greene, F.L. Knudsen, Maria Thompson, Charles Mason, William M. O'Donnell, C.D. Hyde, Hugh Dormody, Christine Rayisford [?], W.R. Holman, Messrs. Norris, Carmel Martin, William C. Hogen, J.F. van Loben Sels, Col. Roger S. Fitch, Col. Charles Sargent.

Recent gifts to the Monterey History and Art Association for use and display in the state-owned buildings in Monterey are from Robert Bonnet of North Hollywood. Several objects sent to him by his cousin, Senora H.L. Dowe of Rochita, Coah. Maexico include a set of knives and forks which had been in the family for over 60 years; a 14-inch long spoon aged over 100 years; and old style trivet, cast in iron by natives in Mexico; a large iron door key. All the gifts date back to the period in Monterey when the Girardin family established the Stevenson House as their home, 1860 to 1880.

Miss Grace Brune has given an old fireside set of iron which had belonged to her grandmother, Mrs. Carlos Espinosa; a barbecue fork and an iron stick used to pry abalone from the rocks in the early days; and a cheese stamp with the letter "B" with which the Brune family marked the cheese they sold.

Mrs. Dexter Rogers of Pacific Grove has given a very old iron cooking pot for the kitchen at the Stevenson House and the members of the Community Center Auxiliary presented a handmade scarf for use in the bedrooms of the second floor museum.

Sunday, Mar 9, 1848, was Walter Colton's birthday. That day he wrote in his diary: "This is my birthday. I am on the shaded side of that hill which swells midway between the extremities of life. The past seems but a dream and the future will soon be so, for what has been and to what may be, I seem to myself almost indifferent. I know that life itself is only a bubble that has caught the hues of some falling star. And yet this airy phantom is not all such as it would seem; there is something besides shadowing its evanescent form. Our visions of happiness may prove an illusion, but our sorrows are real. It is not fancied knell that shakes the bier, no imaginary pall that wraps the loved and the lost. The grave is invested with the awful majesty of the real."