

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 30, 1952

Again to Memory Garden

The constitution of the History and Art Association lists the purposes as three-fold: To promote interest in the history of the county, to protect its historic sites, landmarks and buildings to assist in the identification of points of historic interest and when deemed advisable, to erect suitable markers or monuments,

Under the heading: "To promote interest in the history of Monterey," would come the sponsorship of the annual Merienda held on the city's official birthday, June 3rd. At the first meeting of about 40 interested individuals residing in Monterey, held in the Old Custom House on January 19, 1931, the plans were tentatively laid for the first Merienda which was held that year in Memory Garden as has each succeeding one. From 40 members the association grew during the first year to 128, according to the first annual report given by Col. Roger S. Fitch, the first president, who is still a member of the board of directors.

The present board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Association are again sponsoring the Merienda on June 3rd in Memory Garden. A barbecued luncheon will be served at Noon, followed by Jose Manero and his presentation of "La Verbena de Monterey" – a program of Spanish music, dancing and singing. Frank Lara and his strolling musicians will be heard throughout the luncheon and into the late afternoon. They will also play at the First Theater performance in the evening when the Association will sponsor the showing of "Black Bart" presented by the Gold Coast Troupers.

The History and Art Association was proud to announce a week ago that Miss Glyneth Myra Gregory had been chosen "La Favorita" for this year's celebration of the city's birthday. Miss Gregory is a resident of Monterey and a first grade teacher at the Fort Ord School. She is the daughter of Edward M. Gregory, a professor of languages, and Mrs. Vicki Gregory, assistant in the Veterans' Bureau in their home city of Auburn. Miss Gregory's great grandfather was William E.P. Hartnell, an early day resident of Monterey, the interpreter at the first Constitutional Convention in Monterey in 1849 and the founder of California's first college. Her great grandmother was Teresa de la Guerra de Hartnell, the daughter of Don Jose de la Guerra of Santa Barbara, one

of California's best known residents during both Spanish and Mexican rule.

Jackson Gregory, the novelist, and the late Susan Myra Gregory, a beloved Monterey High School teacher and a well known poet, are uncle and aunt of La Favorita.

The tables have been set up in the Memory Garden by the Monterey City employees under the direction of Manuel Perry. The barbecue pit has been constructed also by the city crew, and we understand Mr. Perry, the city superintendent of streets, is to be one of the cooks who will barbecue the steaks for the 400 members and guests who will gather in the garden for the event.

Memory Garden is unusually beautiful and colorful just now. The roses are in bloom and the annuals are blossoming. The growth of all the trees and shrubs is noticeable to those who have attended Meriendas for the last 20 years. At first the magnolias were mere infants while now when the day is warm the guests may sit in their shade.

More than half the reservations have already been taken by members and their guests although the event is not until next week – so great is the interest and enthusiasm for the Merienda.