

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 18, 1952

### **Not So Long Ago**

1924 is really not so long ago! But many of the older residents of Monterey have forgotten that in 1924 there was a Monterey Museum Association, which chiefly concerned itself with the museum then featured in California's First Theater. The group had a constitution and by-laws in which was stated that the "objects of the Association shall be to establish and maintain a museum of historical and natural objects."

Another of the objects stated in the Constitution of this Museum project was: "To arrange for periodical lectures and encourage our public school children to take an interest in our landmarks and local history." Qualification for membership was: "Any self respecting person may become a member upon payment of \$1 dues annually."

A few days ago a letter came to the Monterey History and Art Association from Mrs. Maria Antonia Field, who had been treasurer of the Museum Association at the time it was dissolved in 1924. At that time there was the sum of \$18 in the treasury which Miss Field has carefully preserved since that date. There were two checks which had not been cashed or deposited, and \$2 in cash. When Miss Field came across these accounts a few days ago, she decided to send the amount to the History and Art Association treasurer to be used at the First Theater. The sum, she said, with interest of \$7 (her gift), had now grown to \$25, the check for which she enclosed. In reality all but \$2, for the checks could not now be cashed.

At the Theater we were able to procure from Mrs. Isabel Hartigan, the curator, an old copy of the Museum Associations' first constitution, without a date or any membership list. Miss Field recalls that Mrs. Jane Todd, Miss Lucy Pierce, Harry Greene, Marcy Woods, Carmel Martin, George Hudson, Percy Gray, Allen Griffin and Maj. N.J. Davis were members.

On view, in the library of the California Historical Society in San Francisco, is a beautifully bound Book of Remembrance in which are inscribed the names in whose memory memorial gifts have been made to the society. Recent names added to the list through gifts have been two which are familiar to Peninsula residents – Thomas Watson Norris, Flodden W. Heron.

Thomas Norris was among the first members of the reorganized Society, the group of 42 men who were elected at the reorganizing meeting of March 16, 1922. He will be greatly missed, for he took a paternal interest in the welfare of the California Historical Society and in many ways helped to build from that small group to the Society of 1,600 members it now is. Mr. Norris was also president of the Monterey History and Art Association at the time of his death, serving his second term in that office. His hobby was Californiana and he was a constant and appreciative collector of books, pictures and documents which pertained to the state's history.

Flodden Heron was the donor of a great deal of Stevensoniana to the Stevenson House in Monterey.

For a week during the latter part of August and the first two days of September 1911, San Carlos Parish held their seventh Triennial Fair. Each day a souvenir program of 28 printed pages, including many advertisements from the merchants of the city, were sold to those attending.

Among the photographs which added interest to the publication was one which drew particular attention – a likeness of the Hon. Mayor Carmel Martin. We quote from the caption: "No better man could have been selected to make the opening speech at the San Carlos Fair. Born near the walls of Carmelo Mission, he has at heart the preservation of that historical monument. As mayor of Monterey he is heart and soul in favor of any enterprise that promises good to the town, whose first Municipio was organized in 1826. He is the proud successor of 11 Alcaldes, five Jueces de Paz, again eight Alcaldes, four mayors and 20 presidents of the boards of trustees. He is now the first of a new line of mayors, which we hope will be long and glorious.

"His name will go down to posterity with those of Munras, Spence, Colton and Roach."