

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 23, 1953

The Annual Meeting

The 22nd annual meeting of the Monterey History and Art Association took place on Monday evening in the large Sala of the Stevenson House on Houston Street. It was a delightful and interesting evening, enjoyed by more than 100 members. For the first time all the rooms on the second floor of the old adobe were lighted and open for inspection by all who cared to climb the stairs to view the old furniture, the pictures and the appropriate appointments in the several rooms.

We thought it might be interesting to those who were not present to read the report of the president, Mr. Carmel Martin, which told of the activities, financial status, and the gifts received by the association during the past year.

Mr. Martin stated that on Dec. 31, 1952, the Association had a paid-up membership of 377 with \$1,504.30 in the checking account and \$106.08 in the "Merienda Fund." The membership is made up of regular members who pay \$2.50 a year in dues; one life member, Col. Roger S. Fitch; one honorary member, Victor Mossop; two sustaining members, Mrs. Harry Lusignan and Miss Anita Doud; and seven junior members, Guy and Bruce Lusignan, Randy Spaulding, David Castro, Basil and Eleanor Allaire and Anne Peterson.

The Association acquired through purchase during the past year the following items: an antique secretary-desk for a collection of old books at the Custom House at a cost of \$135; a complete and perfect set of Bancroft's histories from the estate of Miss Ann Martin of Carmel for \$100, and an old map printed in 1722 for \$27.50, which is now framed and hanging in the Custom House.

The Association acquired through gifts the following: an antique Spanish table and a collection of other valuable material from Mrs. Thomas Norris in memory of her husband, Thomas W. Norris; one dozen folding chairs for the Custom House from Mrs. W.R. Holman, who also is giving a set of the Larkin Papers for the library of the same building; \$25 from Miss Maria Antonia Field for a plaque at California's First Theater in memory of Jack Swan, the builder; from Mrs. Winifred Wolf of Gonzales, a descendant of the Stokes and Gonzales families, a Spanish shawl and other family heirlooms; two Spanish leather trunks, one from Mrs. Thomas W. Norris and the

other from Mrs. Frank Jakobs, who also gave a doll's chair for the children's room; a set of Stevenson's works presented by Miss Mary Louise Allen, which is on exhibition in the Stevenson House and from Mrs. Hugh Dormody a doll's trunk for the children's room.

Mr. Martin reported that the board of directors of the Association wished to establish a memorial to the late president of the group, Thomas W. Norris. As such a memory, the directors have purchased a microfilm reader for the Monterey Public Library which will soon be installed.

The Association has filed an application with the Division of Beaches and Parks for the privilege of selling postcards and literature on historic Monterey in the State-owned buildings in Monterey. Consideration of this application is now pending. The board of directors of the association by a vote of 8 to 11 approved the State Beaches and Parks plan for the improvement of the Custom House Reservation.

The Association sponsored a very successful Merienda for Monterey's birthday on June 3 in Memory Garden, the use of which was donated by Miss Margaret Jacks, and also sponsored the play at the First Theater that evening. An historic tour of several of the old adobe homes was given by the association which added \$557.25 to the treasury. There were also several membership gatherings during the year, including one at Monterey's new library at which a film, "Williamsburg Restored," was shown.

Appreciation was extended to Forest Denhart, an expert on the repair of old clocks and a state employe at the First Theater, who has repaired and put in running order the many antique clocks in the three monuments, the Custom House, First Theater and the Stevenson House.

Mention was made by Mr. Martin that the association has suffered a great loss in the death of the president Thomas W. Norris on May 15, 1952, and the death of Dr. David Cleave, a member of the board of directors.