

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 30, 1953

An Old-time Newspaper

Probably the first gift to come to the Monterey History and Art Association in 1953 is a file of the Pacific Grove Review, beginning with Vol. 1, No. 1, dated May 5, 1888. It is a gift from Mrs. Harold McLean, in memory of her aunt, the late Miss Edith Anthony of New Monterey, who had probably inherited the copies of the old paper from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Anthony, pioneer residents of California.

The publisher of the Review is listed as B.A. Eardley, who explains that the paper will be devoted to real estate interests of Monterey County. The leading story on the front page is copied from the Salinas Index, and gives a history of the county, its soil, climate and products. It is a four-column, eight-page paper, about 9x12 inches, well printed and composed.

Mr. Eardley stated in the No. 1 issue that the aim of the publisher would be to make the Review the medium through which the wants of the people might be made known, and an important factor in the encouragement and advancement of everything pertaining to the interest of the community at large.

"For the time being, we will issue the Review every Saturday, for free distribution – not alone in the Grove and Monterey – but through the mails, sending it where we feel some good may be done in directing attention to the innumerable advantages of the Grove as a summer resort and sanitarium," wrote the publisher.

As a feature of the last page of this first edition of the Review, Mr. Eardley wrote about the public schools, saying that in proportion to her population California paid more for the support of public schools than any other state in the Union.

"The report of the County Superintendent for the year ending June 30, 1887, show that there are 79 school districts in the county employing 96 teachers and according to the census roll there are 4,236 children between the ages of five and 17, and 1,806 under five years of age," wrote the publisher. "About five-sixths of the teachers are ladies who receive an average salary of \$60.12 per month, while the gentlemen receive an average of \$79.43."

On June 23, 1888, among the news brevities in the Review, there appeared a longer story concerning the

opening of Del Monte, Saturday night, declaring that it was a brilliant affair indeed. Dancing began at 8:30 o'clock to music by Ballenburg's Band, while Brandt's musicians discoursed choice selections in the commodious parlor. At 11 o'clock the doors to the banquet hall were thrown open, and the guests entered two by two, led by doughty Maj. Truman.

The description of the souvenir menu cards, with which the guests were provided, is worth repeating here for probably nowhere does one find such elaborate and expensive cards upon any dining table in the country today.

"Marvels of the engraver's art," writes the reporter. "They were book shaped, 7x9 inches in size, containing eight pages fastened together with varied colored silk thread. On the face of the cover was a view of Hotel Del Monte, by moonlight, containing four shades of green harmoniously blended. In one of the avenues seen in this design stood a lamp-post, from which a small diamond darted its iridescent rays. On the other side was a delicately engraved landscape view of a rocky sea-coast by night. On the inside pages were recorded the sumptuous menu, the programme for the banquet, programme for the opening and order of exercises."