

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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'House of Gold' Tells Own Story

The Monterey History and Art Association placed a bronze plaque in the "Green Room" of California's First Theater last Tuesday evening, honoring Col. J.D. Stevenson's Regiment, the volunteers of which put on the first theatrical performances; and Jack Swan, the builder of the historic old adobe building.

Joseph Knowland, chief of the State Parks' Commission and of the California Historical Society; and Dr. Aubrey Neasham, historian for the State Divisions of Beaches and Parks, both spoke on the historical significance of Monterey in the program of the division. Carmel Martin presided during the evening's entertainment and presented the plaque to the State through Mr. Knowland.

In another part of California another plaque was placed recently at Diamond Springs. Dr. Rockwell Hunt, director of the California History Foundation at the College of the Pacific, was the principal speaker at the dedication of No. 487 in the series of state historical monuments.

The program dedicated a plaque on a monument of native stone collected by members of the Mother Lode Lions Club.

Diamond Springs was settled in 1848 and the nearby area yielded one 25-pound gold nugget. The Lions Club was assisted in the project by the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce and James W. Marshall Chapter No. 49 of E. Clampus Vitus.

A short time ago we wrote in this diary about the location of "The End of the Trail," that huge piece of sculpture which was so popular at the 1915 Exposition in San Francisco, and its maker, James Earle Fraser. We now learn that this famous artist died at his home in Westport, Conn., early this month. He was also the designer of the "buffalo nickel," and a statue of Gen. George S. Patton, which stands in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, as well as two 18-foot bronze winged horses at the Plaza of the Arlington Memorial Bridge in Washington.

Victor Mossop has presented a cane with a story to the museum at San Juan Bautista, now an historical monument. Mr. Mossop tells the following history of the gift, which he has had in his possession for many

years: "This cane was brought to the Mission of San Juan by one of the early Padres who was in charge of the mission at that time, and I believe it was Father Jose Antonio Anzar who was there from 1833 to 1854. He handed it down to the padre who followed him and so it passed on down to each succeeding priest, until it was finally given to Padre Valentin Clasa, who took charge on Jan. 31, 1916."

Casa Del Oro or the "House of Gold" at Scott and Olivier Street in Monterey, also has a story to tell. Jess Chaffee, the district superintendent for the Division of Beaches and Parks, has told the history of the building on a teletape or "telatale" and that story will repeat itself every time a visitor to the building pushes a small white button just inside the doorway.