

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 20, 1953

Historical Bits

In Monterey, in 1835, there was produced the first actual book printed in California. Despite the fact that better than a dozen copies are known to have survived, in varying stages of perfection (or imperfection), this little Figueroa "Manifesto" has brought increasingly large prices whenever a copy infrequently appeared on the market, until today it is recognized as being one of the most highly prized, if not the most highly prized, pieces of Californiana extant.

The California Historical Society has announced in the last issue of "Notes", the official monthly publication of the society, that Mr. Pere S. Brown has presented to the society, in honor of his wife, Tamara, what has been termed by experts to be "the finest known copy" of the "Manifesto."

George L. Hardin, who wrote the biography of Agustin Zamorano who printed "Manifesto" 118 years ago; is preparing an article on recorded copies of this book, and this will be published in a future issue of the Historical Society's Quarterly.

From the Spanish language it was later translated into English by Alexander H. Taylor, and reprinted in the San Francisco Herald office, in 1855. The late Thomas W. Norris of Carmel, a collector of Californiana and president of the Monterey History and Art Association at the time of his death last May, had in his collection an original copy of the translation made by Taylor in Monterey.

Tracy I. Storer, professor of zoology at the University of California, at Davis, and Lloyd P. Tevis, of Carmel, are piecing together an account of the grizzly bear in California. This will include both its natural history and its relation to human affairs. According to the California Historical Society's "Notes," one portion of the narrative will have to do with the use of the grizzly bear as an emblem.

The two interested men have found two cast replicas of grizzlies, each about 10 ½ inches long. One, of cast iron, in the museum at Shasta used by the Mt. Shasta Parlor of Native Sons of the Golden West. The other, of bronze, was purchased several years ago in a McAllister Street store in San Francisco by Francis P. Farquhar and is still in his possession.

The investigators think the bronze is the original, and that the Shasta bear may have been copied from it. They have been unable as yet to find any reference to the origin of these castings. Photographs of the two grizzlies are on display, on the "Unidentified Pictures" bulletin board in the California Historical Society Library.

On June 3, 1891, a large stone monument of Fray Junipero Serra, O.F.M., was unveiled and dedicated along the shore of the bay of Monterey, near the spot where Serra landed in 1770. This was the first Serra monument erected anywhere in the world. It was the gift of Mrs. Leland Stanford, a non-Catholic. Father Clementine Deymann, O.F.M., of Pajaro Valley, delivered the oration. (Monterey Cypress, June 6, 1891).