

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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This Year's Merienda

When Monterey celebrates her 183rd birthday this year on June 3rd, the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd., will be hosts to the members and their friends at a Merienda in Memory Garden in the rear of the Old Pacific Building.

Because the garden is small and intimate, attendance is limited to 400 persons, so much to the regret of the association, the party cannot be opened to the public as it has a membership list close to 500—which is the total of the membership limit.

Through the courtesy of Miss Margaret Jacks, the owner of the historic building and the beautiful Spanish garden, together with the City of Monterey, the anniversary celebration is held each year in Memory garden. This year the grounds seem to be more beautiful than ever before with oranges on the trees and magnolias in bloom. We very distinctly remember when the ornamental trees and shrubs were so small that one could see over the top of them, almost. We also can go back to the time when Miss Veda Jacks would have a camera man journey down from San Francisco to take moving pictures of the Merienda in order that history might be preserved. Wouldn't it be fun to see those pictures today—the change in styles, the growth in the garden and the friends we miss today?

Over with reminiscences. We must tell our readers of what is to happen at this year's Merienda. This is 1953, the 183rd year since the City of Monterey and the Presidio were established on these shores. This June 3, Miss Sydney Hudson, whose ancestors date back to the days when Spain ruled California, is to be La Favorita at the historic celebration. Her "duena" (chaperon) is to be Mrs. Frank Jakobs who before her marriage to the Mr. Jakobs was Inez Rico, a native Californian, born in Monterey and a member of Junipero Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

Mrs. Jakobs' mother was Manuelia Serrano, the daughter of Florenza and Rita Serrano. Her maternal great-grandfather was Jose de la Torre. On her paternal side, Mrs. Jakobs' grandparents were Francisco Rico and Tomasa Sepulveca, and their son, her father, was

Guadalupe Luis Rico. The adobe homes of both the Serrano and de la Torre families are still preserved on the Historic Route in Monterey.

La Favorita always has two attendants with her at the Merienda and this year the selection committee have chosen Miss Eleanor Allaire and Miss Diana Davison to share this honor. Eleanor is the daughter of Mrs. Charles W. Allaire and the late Mr. Allaire of Monterey. Her maternal grandfather was Desiderio Angles of Majorca. He came to Monterey in 1915 with his wife and daughter who later became Marie Allaire, and here he passed away a number of years ago.

Miss Davison is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davison of Monterey. She is the great-granddaughter of Daniel O'Connell, author of the poem "In the Mantel of Old Tradition" which graces the monument in Colton Hall plaza. Her great grandmother was Anita Ashley O'Connell, the daughter of Delos R. Ashley, a lawyer who came to Monterey in 1850 and served at one time as Monterey County district attorney, as California state treasurer, and both as a state senator and state representative. His father before him had been a U.S. senator from Arkansas. Delos Ashley was also elected to the 39th and 40th Congresses during the period he made his home in Nevada.

Monterey's birthday will not end with the Merienda at noon but will continue on through the evening, when the Monterey History and Art Association will sponsor a production of "Trilby" by the Troupers of the Gold Coast at California's First Theater. The play will be followed by music and a party in the old barroom.