

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 25, 1954

### **Mariposa Hall**

The most prominent news story in the Monterey Cypress on Saturday, Dec. 12, 1891, was headed, in large type, "The Bazaar," then "Grand Opening of the Mariposa, the New Amusement Hall." That building is now Rudolph's Furniture store in New Monterey and the name "Mariposa Hall" still occupies space over the top of the second story.

The story begins with the announcement, "A new amusement hall, (it had not yet been named) erected by Messrs. Holman, Jubb and Oyer of Pacific Grove in New Monterey, was thrown open to the public yesterday noon, with a grand bazaar given under the auspices of the ladies of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea and St. James Episcopal church guilds."

The description of the booths and the articles they contain will take our readers back the 63 years since that important event in the lives of the residents of the Monterey Peninsula. Of course, there was colored crepe paper galore, pink lemonade, tea and cakes, and a variety of costumes from all nations. But let us quote from the news reporter's story as he saw it.

"Booth No. 1, to the left of the entrance, represents 'The White House,' and is presided over by Miss Grace Townsend. In this neat little niche may be found nice handkerchiefs, hose, hairpins and an abundance of nicknacks sold for the benefit of the churches.

"Booth No. 2 represents Rebecca's well and is presided over by several handsome Rebeccas. Here one may get lemonade, Russian tea, with all the embellishments, button-hole bouquets, etc. The ladies are dressed in Greek costumes.

"Booth No. 3, displays a congregation of dolls. Attracting attention here is a Mongolian made entirely of peanuts. A Japanese mart is represented in Booth 4 where fans, parasols and Japanese tea are sold by ladies in the costume of that nation.

"In Booth 5 you are warmly received but served cold ice cream by Miss Ada Norton and Miss Jubb. No. 6 is handwork all accomplished by female hands. No. 7 has fancy work that makes the housewives' mouth water and the husband's purse collapse.

"The reporter could not make out the hieroglyphics as to what is being sold in No. 8, but whatever it is it will no doubt be useful. No. 9 is draped in the national colors and within contains a display of Native Daughters and other sweets. This booth is presided over by Miss Lola Lawry, Misses May and Fanny Bostrom, Miss Estabrook, Mamie Wolter, Edna Ingram and Lillian Wornes. To be 'candied' about it no sweeter group could be found. A fish pond ends the circle of booths."

The luncheon which was served at this social event cost a mere 25 cents and consisted of chicken, cakes, and other delicacies. Clam chowder was on the supper menu but the price for this meal was not stated.

In a column entitled "Cypress Twigs" we found these items:

"The Cypress suggests that the new amusement hall in New Monterey be called 'Buena Vista,' in keeping with the excellent view to be had from its balcony." In another squib, "The new hall at New Monterey was christened 'The Mariposa' last night."

From Mrs. Louis Rudolph of Pacific Grove we have learned that Mariposa Hall was acquired by her late husband about 1918. Previous to that date the furniture store had been operated by O.W. Palmer since August of 1904. In August of 1906 Mr. Palmer sold out to Mr. Rudolph who had been one of his employes.