

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 22, 1954

Postcard Success

The board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Assn. held a regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 4, in the old Custom House. Following the routine business of reading the minutes, treasurer's report and the acceptance of these, the members heard a short review of the aims and objects of the Conference of California Historical Societies, according to the by-laws accepted at Columbia, California, July 24, 1954. The directors voted to join the organization and to begin plans for the entertainment of the group when they meet next June in Monterey.

So successful have been the sale of the postcards at the Custom House, First Theatre and the Stevenson House, the directors are now considering having interior views of several of the rooms in the State Historical Monuments added to the exterior views now available, for which there appears to be a demand from the tourists who visit them.

Present at the meeting were: Mesdames Charles Mason, F.L. Knudsen, Christine Raynsford, Mary Greene, W.M. O'Donnell, J.O. Tostevin, Maria Antonia Thompson, M.R. Gragg, W.R. Holman, Miss Ethel Soliday; Messrs. Charles McHarry, J.F. van Loben Sels, Carmel Martin, John Martin, Howard Severance, Myron Oliver, Guy Curtis, R.H. Partridge.

We have received a message from Joseph B. Colling, now in Southern California, reporting on the 16th annual luncheon of the "First Century Families," gathered at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles on Thursday, Sept. 30. Notable descendants of some of the families of early days were represented with an attendance of over 800 persons.

Mr. Colling, who was formerly in charge of all printing for the Del Monte Properties Co. at Del Monte, now a resident of Los Angeles, was an honored guest of Miss Mary E. Foy, the first city librarian of Los Angeles. At a special table were seated the "Amelia Street Pals" an organization formed several years ago by some of the pupils of the old Amelia street school sixty years ago. Among those attending were descendants of the Sepulveda, Dockweiler, Temple, Wolkskill, and others who were early settlers in the south. The featured subject for discussion were reminiscences of the

Sepulveda family and the ownership of the Palos Verdes estate at San Pedro, once owned by that family and in which some of their descendants still have an interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reid of Watsonville have presented the Custom House Museum with a copy of "Libro Primario," printed in New York in 1859, and formerly the property of Perfumio Rodriguez, son of a member of the Constitutional Convention. Mr. Reid writes that Perfumio's name was written on the cover at the top but with the passing years it has become obliterated.

The seal of Adrien Ge Soul, Montgomery street bookseller, and one of the first book dealers in San Francisco, is imprinted on the flyleaf of the old primer. Quaint illustrations are used in the numbered lessons, ending with several short stories.

Jacinto Rodriguez was the only native Californian who was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Monterey. He was then 36 years old. In common with most of the delegates he took little active part in the proceedings of the convention because his command of the English language was poor. Bayard Taylor speaks of Rodriguez as "a polished gentleman."

As did many men of property under the former regime, Rodriguez had held several official positions. He had been a lieutenant in the militia, in the employ of Governor Alvarado and he had served as Alcalde of Monterey. He died in 1878.