

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 3, 1954

### **Memories of Mariposa**

The name "Mariposa Hall", now Rudolph's Furniture Store in New Monterey, brought back pleasant memories to a number of Monterey old timers, if we may judge from the response received from the two diaries we wrote last week telling some of the history of the large high, white, wooden building on Lighthouse avenue.

Mrs. Eleanor Frasier of Van Buren street, Monterey, spent her girlhood in Pacific Grove with her mother and sister, Gertrude Ropes. She was there at the time when Mariposa Hall was built and at the time when the new hall was christened with a bazaar given by the women's organizations of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, and St. James' Mission, Monterey, in December, 1891.

Mrs. Frasier and her sister, who later became Mrs. Pottinger, and other little girls from St. Mary's junior guild and church Sunday school, were given a pleasant ride from St. Mary's in Pacific Grove to Mariposa Hall in one of Mr. H.E. Kent's horse-drawn buses, which was a great treat for them in those days.

Dressed in their Sunday best, the group of very young ladies, using their best company manners, walked, with all the dignity nine year olds can muster, among the guests carrying small elaborately decorated baskets, selling such necessary items as hand-made pen wipers, blotters, doll quilts, velvet bows with hooks on which to hang "my lady's" watch when the object was not in use, and small crocheted objects of all sorts.

Among the little girls who traveled that day and became sales ladies for the bazaar which was the social event of the holiday season, were Eleanor Ropes Frasier, Ina Nagel, Ina Kent Holling, still a resident of Pacific Grove; Myrtle Hersey, who became Mrs. Ben Ebersole, now of San Francisco; Ruth Morgan and her sister, Edna Morgan Hinds; Gertrude Ropes Pottinger and Carrie O'Conner, who was the envy of all because at the end of the day she had sold the most of the objects from her tiny basket.

In 1891 the parish hall at St. Mary's church had not been built, so this class who assisted at the bazaar, were taught in the church by a Mrs. Wilbur, whose husband, according to Mrs. Frasier, was postmaster of Pacific

Grove at one time. The Rev. C.S. Fackenthal was the rector of St. Mary's from 1890-1899.

Other pioneer residents of the Peninsula remember when Mariposa Hall was the gathering place for dancing classes. "Mother" Carrington and her son, Percy, were the teachers and all the sub-debs of that day were her pupils. Mrs. Frasier recalls when the young people met there to rehearse for children's plays, one of which was "Beauty and the Beast", in which there were elves, fairies and sprites in addition to the leading characters. The play was later given in the hall of the Methodist church.

Another practice time in Mariposa Hall for a big and important event Mrs. Frasier remembers, was in 1896 when Monterey celebrated the anniversary of the raising of the American Flag over the Custom House by Commodore Sloat. There were 50 little girls from Monterey and 50 from Pacific Grove, who were to play a prominent part in the much-advertised parade, so they were taught in the hall just what the event was to be and the part they were to play in the history-making anniversary.