

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Vallejo 'Documentos'

It was while Hubert Howe Bancroft was collecting a great historical library in preparation for his own writings that the Vallejo collection first came to his attention.

The Vallejo "Documentos" are generally regarded as one of the most important collections of primary source materials for the Mexican period of California history. They consist of more than 10,000 manuscripts, bound into 36 large volumes and include letters and documents from most of the men who were prominent in this region during the 18th and early 19th centuries, and they deal with many subjects.

Bancroft's efforts to obtain the original manuscripts or carefully made transcripts were finally successful when he convinced General Vallejo that his papers would be used to write an unbiased history of California.

As Bancroft's library grew to thousands of books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, manuscripts and the like, it became more and more difficult for him to keep order in the collection. When the library came to the University of California in 1905, it contained about 40,000 volumes and a great many manuscripts. How to deal with the manuscripts presented a complex problem, according to Dr. George P. Hammond, the director of the present Bancroft Library.

To serve the demands of scholars, detailed information about the collection was necessary. The Bancroft Library, therefore, has undertaken to provide various guides to its extensive manuscript collections. So "A Guide to the Mariano Guadalupe Valljejo Documentos Para la Historia De California," is the first. It is edited by Doris Marian Wright with a foreword written by Dr. George P. Hammond.

The dates included in the Documentos are 1780-1875. The Guide was printed by the University of California Press and is priced at \$4.00.

We see by the press and a notice in the Grizzly Bear, the official publication of the Native Sons of the Golden West, that signatures are being gathered asking the proper authorities to again designate 101 Highway as "El Camino Real." We had not realized that 101 was no longer known as "El Camino Real." Of course to many of us highway numbers mean little. The highway is known

either by its old name, or by the towns which it connects, but – we like the historical title.

The Monterey History and Art Association and the Custom House Museum now have three rather interesting and historical napkin rings as the result of recent gifts from two donors who have appreciated the value of their keepsakes. Mrs. Juanita Gibson of Los Angeles has sent a tortoise shell ring, etched in gold, which had once been used in Monterey by Miss Maria Ygnacia Bonifacio, her cousin and with whom she lived when she was a girl. The ring will be placed with the collection of other possessions of Miss Bonifacio in a case in the Old Custom House Museum.

Edward Abrego of San Diego, has made a gift to the museum of his grandmother's napkin rings, two in number. Both rings are of silver, rather crudely etched and with the initials J.A. on both. As Mr. Abrego's grandparents were Josefa and Jose Abrego, the rings were probably for their personal use. Upon careful inspection it is quite possible that the rings were made in Monterey by one of the early day silversmiths.