

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 30, 1954

'Sanctuary Lights'

"Sanctuary Lights on the Monterey Peninsula" by William M. Queen is the newest publication of the Academy Library Guild of Fresno.

It is a "Pilgrim's Guide to an Enchanted Region", according to a sub-title on the blue paper cover, which is illustrated with a charming picture of Our Lady of Belen, a statue which stands to the left of the high altar in the Carmel Mission.

The book of 55 pages is illustrated with a number of drawings and photographs as well as a steel engraving of Foundation Day of Monterey, Pentecost Sunday, 1779, showing Father Serra celebrating Mass under the Vizcaino Oak. Other pictures are of the Royal Presidio Chapel at Monterey, Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo and two views of its interior, an engraving of Father Serra and a photograph of the blessing of the plaque at the Tree of Rest in the Carmel Valley where the [carriers?] rested with their dead on the way to the Mission Burial Grounds. A view of the new Santa Catalina School is also included.

In a foreword Anne Fisher of the Academy staff at Fresno wrote: "Written in a reverent and informative manner, this pamphlet takes the reader through the history of the notable churches and chapels, including the Royal Presidio Chapel, the only Spanish Presidio chapel built in Colonial days still in active use; the church of Saint Angela de Merici. The pure liturgical gem which is a vibrant witness to the fact that "poverty is no excuse for tawdriness"; the Mission San Carlos, the mother of the long line of missions that are strung along the coast of California like some beautiful celestial diadem; and the other Houses of Worship in the vicinity of Monterey.

The author also tells of "the warm human facets of the [localities?] incidentally very complimentary to the Peninsula. He tells of the final chapter in the story of Concepcion de Arguello, the first native Californian to be a professed nun: the story of Nuestra Senora de Belen, told in full for the first time in this pamphlet and the vivid description of such exotic festivals as the Fiesta de Espirito Santo and that of Santa Rosalia.

Complimenting the Path of History in Monterey, put there at the request of the Monterey History and Art

Association, Mt. Queen writes: "Now as we talk with poignant memories through the streets of Monterey, the history markers, recalling gaieties and glories long vanished, seem to chant the old refrain: "Sic transit gloria mundi (thus passes the glory of the world.)" Save for these brief markers, how few of the names of the men who wielded power here under three successive flags would be remembered now." The Campo Santo (Catholic Cemetery) receives a brief and charming mention, in which Queen speaks of reading the names of Cooper, Munras, Hartnell and others, that spanned with honor the transition from the Mexican to American California.

In a brief chapter on St. Angela de Merici church in Pacific Grove, Mr. Queen reviews the history of first "the little bungalow" acquired in 1928 and its making over into "a modern jewel" by Miss Charleton Fortune who used "liturgical colors in their full strength."

The book closes with the history of Carmel Mission, its sympathetic restoration by Harry Downie who, with "quiet Scot's persistent devotion", combined the harmony of the old with the new, the heritage of the past in the museum and the story of the Serra sarcophagus, the work of the well known sculptor, the late Joe Mora.