

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **The Sanchez Adobe**

The Sanchez Adobe, during its century long existence, has served chiefly as a home, and has been the scene of many brilliant social gathering. We visited this San Mateo County owned historical monument a few weeks ago and found it most interesting. The location which Sanchez chose for his home is as beautiful as one could possible find for not only does the site give a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean but it is surrounding by hills, a small valley and many trees, just off the coast road from San Francisco to Santa Cruz.

It has also served during its existence as a hunting lodge, a bootleg saloon, a shed for packing artichokes and has entertained within its adobe walls such personages as Gov. Juan B. Alvarado, John C. Fremont, W.C. Ralston, Henry Meiggs, William Sharon, Timothy Guy Phelps, Hall McAllister, and W. A. Leidesdorff, so we were told by Dr. F.M. Stranger, history professor of San Mateo Junior College.

The valley in which Don Francisco Sanchez build his house now more than a century ago, was then already an historic spot; it was the site of a former "rancho" of Mission Dolores. Just when this outpost was established we do not know but the mission records say that in 1787 an Indian child named Maria was baptized "in the church" at San Pedro. This "church" may have been a very crude chapel, but at least it was a regular establishment of civilized people and the first such outpost in San Mateo County. The above has been quoted from "La Peninsula," the journal of the San Mateo County Historical Society.

Sanchez began living on his grant, in a temporary house shortly before he received the title in 1839. Later he built the present substantial structure of adobe bricks. Some of the brass nails confirm a local legend that materials from a wrecked ship may have been used in the construction.

The San Mateo County Historical Society, On Oct. 12, 1946, celebrated the 100-year age of the house by holding a "merienda" on the site, which revived music, drama and folk dancing of the life during the Spanish days.

Of interest to Monterey is a generous gift which has been made to the University of Santa Clara--the de Saisset Art Gallery and Museum through a bequest made by the late Miss Isabel de Saisset, a part-time resident of Monterey. Miss de Saisset with her sister and brother-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Filippelo of San Jose, had a vacation home on Munras avenue near Cass street where they spent a great deal of time. Their home was in San Jose.

The de Saisset Art Gallery and Museum is being constructed at a cost of \$260,000 and is expected to be opened in the early summer.

The two-story structure will give a large exhibition hall with lecture stage, other exhibition galleries, an auditorium, a library, founder's room, workshops, and offices. The display will include painting by Ernest de Saisset, the de Saisset collection of Spanish shawls, jewelry, and silver, the Mission collection of historical objects, and the Galtes science collections. This bit of news was published in the Museum News by the American Assns. of Museums with headquarters office in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D C.

The annual meeting of the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd. will be held in the Stevenson House this evening at 8 o'clock, at which time the officers will make annual reports, a program will be presented, and refreshments will be served. The entire membership is invited to attend. Dr. J. Randolph Hutchins, director of California History Foundation at the College of the Pacific, Stockton, and Arthur Farey, public relations director at the college, will present the program. Dr. Hutchins will speak of "Preservation of Local History."