

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### 'Pastores'

On January 3, 1915 there appeared in the Monterey Cypress a special Christmas story telling of the production of an ancient Spanish biblical drama which had been played in Monterey many years ago and which was revived under the direction of Father Ramon Mestres for the pleasure of the people of the community. It was portrayed in English by local talent at Mission hall on Sunday afternoon previous to the review which we read with great interest while searching for other material for old time stories.

This ancient Spanish drama "Pastores" played here every Christmas tide in the mission days, had been translated from Spanish by the kindly priest of San Carlos church, and members of Junipero Serra Club took the various parts. "The play was greatly enhanced by exquisite symphonic music by an orchestra under the direction of Prof. D. E. Nofan. The music alone was a rare treat," the reviewer stated.

It will be interesting to all old timers to read the list of the members of Junipero Serra Club who took part in "Pastores." The infant Jesus was portrayed by a Mission statue, the Blessed Virgin Mary by Miss Maria Antonia Field; St. Joseph by Clarence Rudolph; Angel Gabriel by Marie Rudolph; the Angels were Julia and Clarice Sparolini, Kathleen Doud and Grace Rudolph. The Magi kings were: Malchor, P. J. Dougherty; Balthesar, Louis Rudolph; Gaspar, Charles Kiernan; King Herod, Felipe Gonzales; Lucifer, Daniel McAnaney; shepherd girl of Judea, Ruth Chaine; Bartolo, John Harkins; Borrego, John Lindsay.

The three kings acted in a dignified and creditable manner as did also their attendants. These latter parts were taken by Raymond Rudolph. Ben Watson, Moses Diaz and Manuel Enos, according to the report in the Cypress.

The role of the mischief maker from the lower regions. "Lucifer" was faithfully portrayed and cleverly interpreted by Daniel McAnaney. His ally Herod was well acted by Felipe Gonzales, both characters amusing the children in the large audience.

The shepherd's caravan in the production of "Pastores" forty years' ago, was made up of Gila, Benjamin, Aristos, Isaeh, Sanan, and Nelot, acted by Ruth Chaine, Frank

Enos, William Perry, Fernando Enos, Harold Camp, and Donald McAnaney.

Walter Colton, first American Alcalde of Monterey, wrote in his journal of this religious comedy which was performed in the church with the angels, the devil, a hermit, and the clown, Bartolo, all taking part. Colton's first knowledge of this drama was when he attended the performance in San Carlos Church Christmas Eve in 1846.

He wrote in his diary "Three Years in California": "As soon as the sun had gone down, and twilight had spread its sable shadows over the hills and inhabitations of Monterey, the festivities of Christmas Eve commenced. The bells rang out a merry chime; the windows were filled with streaming light and skyrockets burst high over all."

San Carlos church was then known as Presidio Church of Our Lady of Refugio. Colton noted: "The ample nave was soon filled.; Before the high altar bent the Virgin Mother, in wonder and love, over her new born babe; a company of shepherds entered in flowing robes, with high wands garnished with silken streamers, in which floated all the colors of the rainbow, and surmounted with flowers. In their wake followed a hermit, with his long white beard, tattered missal, and his sin-chastising lash."

Most of the characters in this Christmas drama were played by the children of early Monterey families. The Pastores, composed 'by Padre Florencia of Soledad Mission for California production, a copy of which is among the Vallejo documents in the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, was a favorite dramatic production.

Small Mexican pottery figures of all the characters in this early play have been on display as a Christmas offering from the Monterey History and Art Association, at the Old Custom Museum during the past two weeks.