

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 16, 1955

A Museum Opening

Of interest to friends of the de Saisset and Filippelo families of San Jose, former part time residents in Monterey, is the announcement of the opening of the de Saisset Art Gallery and Museum at the University of Santa Clara this Friday. This cultural shrine was bequeathed to the University by the last direct survivor of a pioneer family, Miss Isabel de Saisset. The late Dr. and Mrs. Filippelo and the latter's sister, Miss de Saisset, spent a portion of each year in their Monterey home on Munras street, near Cass.

Rev. Joseph J. Pociask, S.J., general director of the museum, announces that the nucleus of the gallery's exhibits will be 40 paintings by Ernest de Saisset. These have been restored by Josef Hilpert, the university's director of galleries.

Also to be shown are Chinese art objects donated by Mary Holbrook Knight and a collection of Mexican paintings, beer steins, French vases and clocks given to the museum by E.V. D'Berger of Fresno.

The university has received a wealth of other material, some of which will be ready for showing within the next two months, according to Father Pociask.

In this category are watercolors of wild flowers by Mrs. F. McClatchy Richardson, nine symbolist portraits of California-born Henry Edmiston and Dr. Hilpert's 219 miniature "famous men" portraits on black steel.

Basement of the galley will also house, in the near future, the university's early mission pottery, vestments and Indian relics and the Father Galtes' collection of California mineral deposits. It is the aim of Father Pociask to make the de Saisset gallery an exhibition place for works of Santa Clara Valley artists as well as loan exhibits, too. He also hopes to schedule lectures on art, science, literature and music in the auditorium.

The gallery was made possible by a provision in the will of Miss de Saisset, who died in 1950. She and Ernest de Saisset were the children of Pedro de Saisset, French vice consul and '49er who brought electric power to Santa Clara Valley in 1882. Except for showings of two or three paintings many years ago, this will be the first public exhibition of the works of de Saisset.

Next Sunday, Nov. 20th, will mark the second anniversary of the Monterey Peninsula Herald's occupation of the new building at the corner of Pacific and Jefferson streets. The moving was complete on that date except for the great press which was moved over the Thanksgiving holidays.

The Monterey Museum Board under the chairmanship of Rollo Peters is planning an unveiling of a Walter Colton memorial plaque at Colton Hall Museum on the 180th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Chaplains Corps. The ceremony will be conducted jointly by the City of Monterey and the U.S. Navy at 11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 28, 1955.