

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Honoring Mrs. Boggs

Our recent article on Jesse James and the house in Paso Robles where he visited with his uncle brought a complimentary letter to us from Bartlett Boder, president of the St. Joseph Museum's incorporated board. It was from the story in the magazine of that museum that our interest was aroused in the old house in Paso Robles, but when we motored to the southern city to see it, we found that it had been torn down a few weeks previous to our visit and a modern motel was taking its place. Jesse James and his brother had lived there during their exile from Missouri and had been cowhands on nearby ranches.

Mr. Boder's letter states: "From different sources in California I have received copies of the Monterey Peninsula Herald of March 9 giving your nicely written review of my article on Jesse James at Paso Robles in the Museum Graphic. I owe you thanks for all this interest."

A postcard was included in the letter of which Mr. Boder writes: "Here is a likeness of Jesse James. He was living six blocks south of our building when 'that dirty little cowhand shot Mr. Howard and laid poor Jesse in his grave.' He also wrote that his banker father once faced Jesse James and lived to tell about it.

To honor the anniversary date of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, the California Historical Society will have its luncheon tomorrow in the Sheraton-Palace Hotel's Comstock Room. The speaker will be a member of the original board of directors of this exposition, William Wallace Chapin. His talk, "Forty Years After the 1915 Exposition," will serve as a reminder both of the opening of the Panama Canal and one of the world's most beautiful and financially successful expositions. Mr. Chapin is the editor and publisher of the Pacific Coasts news weekly, The Argonaut. An exhibit of photographs illustrating the exposition will also be an attraction.

Following the luncheon Mrs. Mae Helene Bacon Boggs will be honored at a special ceremony. For 84 years Mrs. Boggs has been of service to her hometown—Shasta. In honor of her philanthropic efforts in connection with the museum in the restored

courthouse at Shasta, a friend of Mrs. Boggs has commissioned a portrait in oils by a San Francisco artist, Julian A. Links, for placement in that museum in June. The portrait will be unveiled at tomorrow's luncheon by the Hon. Joseph R. Knowland, president of the society.

Friday evening in the community room of the Monterey Library, the Monterey History and Art Assn. will be hosts to its membership, presenting Mrs. Sylva Jordan, in a talk on her life and work in Bolivia and Peru during her stay in those countries the past two years. An exhibit of the beautiful and colorful handcraft of the countries to the south will also be on display.

Under the heading "Destruction" published in the Quarterly of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the following interesting item: "Nevadans are neglectful and indifferent to their historic monuments" according to State Park Commission Chairman Thomas W. Milter. He cites the loss of the last of the old pony express stations in Ruby Valley, which antedated Nevada's admission to the Union in 1864. It had been recommended by the commission for preservation, but last fall a leaser from California used the lumber to "build a modern cabin." In Northern Washoe County the large petrified forest area is being looted and vandalized according to the story. In Nye County, the famous Ichthyosaur deposit has only been saved by effects of a caretaker supported by private subscription. Why is it so hard to preserve the things that attract and interest the visitor and that are educational objects for the generations to follow?

The Quarterly appeal is this: "While our voice may not carry across the mountains, we raise it anyway, in a plea to people everywhere to help save part of an older America that belongs to us all."

The National Trust is now the owner of the Amesti Adobe on Polk Street in Monterey. Casa Amesti was the home for many years of the late Mrs. Frances Elkins, who willed the historic house to the National Trust for Historic Preservation which is now occupied with plans for its future use.