

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 8, 1955

### **Our Younger Sister**

San Francisco is just six years younger than Monterey. On June 29 that city will observe the 179<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding with a luncheon at 12 o'clock noon at the Presidio Officers' Club.

The president of the California Historical Society, Hon. Joseph R. Knowland, will preside, accompanied by the celebration's general chairman, A.T. Leonard Jr., M.D., a director of the society; Doctor Treutlein, the speaker of the day, and Lt. Gen. Willard G. Wyman. Mrs. Roger B. Dakin will be La Favorita for the day. Mrs. Dakin is the author of "The Lives of William Hartnell" and other historical books on California.

Assisting Dr. Leonard in the plans for San Francisco's birthday is Mrs. George A. Applegarth who will be remembered on the peninsula as the daughter of Mrs. Laura Bride Powers, who was first curator of the Old Custom House after it was taken over by the California State Division of Beaches and Parks. It was Mrs. Powers who helped to organize the Monterey History and Art Assn. and to plan the first Merienda in 1931.

The first event in San Francisco's celebration will be the placing by the grand president of the Native Daughters of the Golden West of a wreath at the Junipero Serra monument in Golden Gate Park Sunday afternoon, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 o'clock. Junipero Parlor of Monterey might plan such an observance next year on June 3 at the Serra Cross near the Presidio entrance. It would add greatly to the importance of the day. Mr. Robert Emmett Halsing, grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, will speak following the placing of the wreath, then there will be music and dancing. The day's events will be closed with an open house held in the Pioneer Log Cabin clubhouse of the Association of Pioneer Women in the Park.

San Francisco will carry on the celebration for four days. Maybe another year Monterey will plan other events for the general public to enjoy on the city's 186<sup>th</sup> birthday, for it is with regret that the History and Art Assn. cannot entertain more than 400 in Memory Garden owing to lack of space and equipment.

Activities on the day of the San Francisco Presidio luncheon will begin at 10 o'clock at Mission Dolores where a Mass will be celebrated by the Most Rev. M.J.

Guilfoyle, D.D., to be followed by an address by Rev. David Temple. Guests will be greeted in the mission garden by the "Favorita" in traditional Spanish costume. Mrs. Roger Dakin, who will perform this function, is a descendant of Jose Bandini, of Jose Francisco Ortega, companion of Serra and Portola, and of Jose D. Arguello, California governor, whose son, Luis Antonio, also a governor, lies buried in the garden. Lt. Gen. Willard G. Wyman will place a wreath on the tomb of Capt. Jose Moraga, following which the San Francisco Municipal Railway will provide free transportation to those attending the ceremonies, from the mission to the Presidio.

The Notes from the California Historical Society prints this interesting item in the June edition, "News from Petra, birthplace of Fray Junipero Serra, is stirring indeed these days. The society's member and on-the-spot representative, Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden writes frequently telling of the progress in resecuring the birthplace's legal title for the city and county of San Francisco. Adjacent to the Serra birthplace will be the Serra museum and Center of Studies building, the cornerstone of which has just been dedicated."

Mrs. Bowden states, "These two edifices will stand side by side in Petra, the one enhancing the interest of the other, and both representing the fraternal relationship existing between the peoples to whom they respectively belong." In order to support maintenance of the Serra birthplace and other historical monuments in Petra, Mrs. Bowden assisted in the formation of the "Amigos de Fray Junipero Serra," of which the current president is Dr. Antonio Bauza, the town physician.

"The Amigos" may be addressed simply, Petra, Mallorca. The dues are \$2.50 per year, payable in cash or in materials of use to the association. It is hoped according to Mrs. Bowden that very soon there will be a California House where pilgrims may stay overnight or for some days. An option on the purchase of a magnificent house with patio, palm trees, and a great cellar is under consideration. All this is a "hands across the sea" symbol.