

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 21, 1955

An Old Wedding Dress

Mrs. Frank Kennedy of Burlingame has presented a beautiful old wedding dress to the Monterey History and Art Assn. for display at Stevenson House in Monterey. It is fashioned of heavy white satin, lace trimmed and a slight train—altogether a perfect example of the old-time dressmaker's art and needlework. The dress is now on a form in the upstairs sewing room in the Stevenson House and is worth a visit there to see it and the other interesting items on display.

Mrs. Kennedy and her sister, Mrs. Ursula Moore, of Carmel, have also given a fine pineapple handkerchief made in the Philippines about 1840, a purse dating back to 1795 and a blouse.

Myron Oliver has added to the displays in the old kitchen at the Stevenson House with gifts of three old candle molds, and an interesting old string holder which will fit in nicely in the restoration of the House of Gold when it is restored as the Boston Store, its original use. Mrs. Tony Castro has given a number of pieces of old glass and several utensils for the kitchen.

Mrs. Helen Currie of Salinas recently gave the History and Art Assn. an old zither, a stringed musical instrument, which will also be placed on display in the Stevenson House.

Since the publication of "Our Samoan Adventure" by Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson, edited by Charles Neider, there has been an increased attendance at the Stevenson House to see the special display which has been arranged there in honor of the book and its authors. The original diary of Mrs. Stevenson in her own handwriting is on display as well as the discoveries made through the use of ultraviolet light at the Huntington Library in Southern California. These photostats show how someone in the Stevenson household had blotted out in numerous places the original writings, but how modern science and specialists could still make these writings legible. Two cases show these items, a copy of the new publication and several pictures of the Stevenson family and the people of Samoa who are mentioned in the diary and in Stevenson's own letters.

The Old Custom House passed a great day in its long history last Friday when Mrs. Mary Greene, the curator, checked in the 100,000th visitor for the year 1955. Since that eventful moment more than 1,500 more visitors have been added.

School teachers of California will sponsor a fund drive to raise money to finance the restoration of the century-old Columbia Grammar School on Cemetery Hill in Columbia State Park. The park, administered by the State Division of Beaches and Parks, is a restored ghost town and now a State Historic Monument. Plans for the restored school will include the construction of an adjoining museum building which will display textbooks and other teaching aids, past and present.

The Western Museums Conference has announced that its annual 1955 meeting will be held in San Diego, Oct. 14 and 15, 1955, with headquarters at the Museum of Man. Visits of all the museums in the area will be planned. The Monterey History and Art Association is a member of this group and all members of the association are eligible to attend. Mrs. Mary Greene, curator of the Custom House; Mrs. Isabel Hartigan, curator of the First Theater, Mrs. Vera Stewart, assistant curator; and Mrs. William M. O'Donnell, secretary-treasurer of the History and Art Association will motor south for the meetings.

It is interesting to note here a query from John L. Klem, 221 Second St., Newark 7, N. J., seeking California descendants of the former owners of a Bible in his possession which is inscribed "John and Lucy (Fletcher) Stone, their Bible, Jan. 27, 1773." One grandson, Charles Pomeroy Stone, an 1845 West Point graduate, aided in the construction of the Statue of Liberty, and other descendants are known to have removed to California.