

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 9, 1956

### **More Treasure**

"More Treasure" was the headline over a story which appeared in the Californian on Dec. 23, 1879, one week after the first article appeared in this early Monterey newspaper.

The news story began: "The Buried Treasure article that appeared in the Californian last week has been the topic since of no little conversation among many of our citizens. Very few doubt the fact of the money being buried near here in the manner described, but believe if it has not already been moved, the 'land marks' have, and that only through accident will it ever again see the light of day."

"The discussion of the subject brought up other reminiscences among which is one to the effect that some three years before, (1876) four were engaged in chopping wood on a point that extends down toward the 'Willows' and at a distance of about half a mile from the place. After working about one week, they suddenly and mysteriously disappeared, and up to the time the story was written for the paper, not one of them had been heard from again. On investigation it was found that in taking their departure they had failed to take away their tools and the same were found where they had been busily at work as if abandoned hurriedly.

"A few days subsequent a man in passing over the place found an excavation in the ground near where they had been employed at the bottom of which was a crude box hewn from slabs with the cover removed, and if it had ever contained articles of value they were then 'non est'."

Another story which was heard was that of Percy Dolley, the owner of a number of head of cattle, who was looking, on horseback, for a calf of a cow they had found. Being unable to discover the hiding place of the calf, the owner returned to his home and brought his dog back with him. Upon seeing the dog, the mother cow hurried to protect her calf where it was hidden, which appeared to be the hiding place of the treasure also. The strong wooden box lay beside the hole from which it had been taken but its contents were missing.

It has ever since been surmised that these men, so the 1879 article relates, either by accident or previous information had been fortunate in unearthing the

treasure, a treasure buried years previously, and their sudden disappearance, coupled with the fact of a desire on their part that their whereabouts should not become known has led to a belief that the "find" was a large one, and the parties fearful that the rightful owner might soon be deprived of the contemplated pleasure of spending it they did not remain in this section, but took all possible steps to cover up their tracks.

On Monday evening, January 16th, the Monterey History and Art Association membership will observe the 25th anniversary of the founding of the group in Monterey. On the 12th day of December in 1930 the articles of incorporation were drawn up and signed before a notary public in and for the County of Monterey, State of California.

The forming of the Association was completed on January 19th, 1931, at a gathering of about forty interested individuals residing on the Peninsula. In one year according to the first annual report of the president, Col. Roger S. Fitch, the Association grew to a membership of 128 men and women who were interested in the preservation and restoration of Monterey's historic past.

The names of those who were appointed to serve until the first election and who signed the incorporation papers were: Carmel Martin, Col. Roger S. Fitch, Allen Griffin, Myron Oliver, Bernard Rowntree, Lewis C. Merrill, Gouveneur Morris, Harold Mack, Stanley Wood, Mrs. W. W. Wheeler, W. O. Raiguel, Easton R. Gibson, E. Charlton Fortune, J. R. Synd-Kinnersley and Jerome G. Pillow.