

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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History

Today we will recall a bit of Monterey history.

On June 2, 1951, the city celebrated her 181st birthday in Memory Garden with a Merienda under the sponsorship of the Monterey History and Art Assn. The event was held on Saturday for the reason that June 3, the real birthday anniversary, fell on Sunday. For La Favorita, Miss Virginia Pioda of Salinas was chosen, not only because she is a very charming person, but because her ancestors were early Monterey County settlers who played an important part in the social and business life here.

Now Miss Pioda's friends are congratulating her on her election to membership in The Spinsters, one of the coveted honors every girl appreciates. Miss Pioda is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pioda of Salinas. She graduated from the University of California in the class of 1955 after which she traveled in Europe with Caroline Moore of Pebble Beach, now Mrs. Blair McDonald for whom Virginia was bridesmaid at her recent wedding. After a period of training at secretarial school in San Francisco, Miss Pioda began a business career with one of San Francisco's well-known shops. She now shares an apartment there with three college friends.

Recently we received this letter from William C. Mann of Atlanta, Ga., asking for information concerning Monterey's plans for the future; "In a seminar on City Planning in the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech., we are studying the social, economic, and political organizations of certain communities that we think particularly pertinent to our interests.

"Since I am already familiar with the Monterey Peninsula community—I was at the Presidio for some time several years ago—I am gathering material on your community: and I am writing you to request any printed material, planning maps, or other material of kind that you could supply us that would give facts to support our studies.

"We would be particularly interested in material that would demonstrate the early plans for the community made by various governmental regimes, together with material relating to the social, economic, and political developments in the community during its history." A large order!

We, the Chamber of Commerce and the city have made an effort to supply the school with as much of this material as possible. Monterey will receive plenty of publicity in Georgia from these students.

An old custom prevailed in San Jose in 1850, according to an item appearing in the Dec. 25 issue of the newspaper there. The early day California custom of egg-breaking prevailed at the numerous dinner parties in observance of the Christmas holidays.

"Each gentleman," according to the news item, "had an eggshell filled with cologne broken upon his head by the ladies present. This is a custom that seems peculiar to this country—only sometimes the contents of the eggshell are less agreeable than they are on a happy occasion like this, such as small bits of gold or tin foil, flour and even ashes or dirt."

One hundred and seven years ago, today the first California constitutional legislature convened in San Jose. It consisted of 16 senators and 36 assemblymen. E. Kirby Chamberlain was elected president pro-tempore of the senate and Thomas J. White, speaker of the assembly. On Dec. 20, the legislature elected John C. Fremont and William M. Gwin, United States senators. Before adjournment on April 22, 1850, it adopted a code of laws providing, among other things, for the creation of 27 counties, the election of judges, the imposition of taxes, and the prohibition of slavery.