

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### Old-Time Invitations

Job Dye was the owner of sailing vessels which brought merchandise into Monterey for the store which he and Thomas Oliver Larkin jointly owned. He also made considerable money by shipping gold dust from the mines by hiding it in the horses' collars.

He married a beautiful and vivacious 16-year-old seniorita, Escolastica Rodriguez, whose father owned vast acreage near Watsonville. The wedding took place in 1848 and in 1852 a daughter, Martha, was born to them. Martha married Milton Bolton in 1886 but the marriage only lasted a couple of years when both he and his father disappeared from their ranch near Jolon and were never heard from again.

Mrs. Bolton lived for several years in Pacific Grove. She died in King City a number of years ago and is buried beside her mother and her son, Harry. In their private cemetery on a quiet hillside on the Bolton ranch now part of the Hunter Liggett reservation near Jolon. She was 95 years of age at the time of her death.

Mrs. Bolton was never happier than when telling about the days in Monterey when she was the daughter of a well-to-do Monterey Spanish-Californian and when she had the opportunity to show to admiring friends her mother's beautiful dresses and jewelry which she wore to the grand ball in Monterey before and after the exciting days of 1849. Many of these items are now on display in the Old Custom House, including a lovely white lace dress, a large leather covered camphor chest and almost one hundred books which once was part of one of the best private libraries in the state - all printed in Spanish and handsomely bound - bought for Escolastica Dye in New York by Cmdr. John Drake Sloat, as a gift for the many kindnesses she had shown to him and his men while they were in port in Monterey. The library once contained over a thousand volumes. All these articles and several more, not on display because of lack of space, are owned by the Monterey History and Art Assn.

Also in the files at the Custom House are a number of invitations to parties given in Monterey in 1849 to which Dona Escolastica de Dye wore the lovely silk gowns and the handsome jewelry made from the first

California gold. These were gifts of Mrs. Bolton before her death.

All but one of the invitations were written in Spanish in the beautiful penmanship of that day. The exception was printed and requested: "The honor of W. F. Dye and Lady's company at a ball to be given by the citizens of San Francisco on the evening of the 13th instant, at the hall of the First California Guards, San Francisco. March 5, 1850. Managers, Henry W. Naglee, W. D. M. Howard, J. P. Howard, Hall McAllister, T J. Roach," and others for whom streets in San Francisco were named.

To Dana Escolastica on Feb. 17, 1849, there came this invitation: "The officers of the Army request the pleasure of your company at a ball on the anniversary of the birth of Washington at 8 o'clock in the evening " Although the setting for the ball is not stated we believe that it was held in Colton Hall as were all of the parties of the time, for the building contained the largest room in the old capital.

"Monterey, Sept. 12 de 1849, The undersigned committee in effect beg you to please join in a ball which will be given in the Salon de Colton on Friday next at 8 of the night for the senior delegates (Delegados) to the Convention." Thus, read the invitation to the party at which the delegates to the first California Constitutional Convention were honored. Written in beautiful Spanish was this greeting dated Monterey, July 2, 1849, "The committee named in effect begs Dona Escolastica Dye and family to join in a dance which will be given in the Salon de Colton the night of the day of the Fourth of July, at 8 o'clock in commemoration of the Independence of the United States. Signed, I. Halleck, G. W. Gleason, Moses Schallenberger, and D. T. Spence, the committee.

Other invitations saved through the years by Dona Escolastica and her daughter, Martha Bolton, and now in the files of the Monterey History and Art Association, are of interest to historians of today - over 100 years after their issuance.

"A union of friends invite you to a ball in the home of Senor Alvarado next Sunday evening. It will be always remembered the honor of your presence."

"Don Thos. O Larkin and his wife salute Dona Dye and ask the pleasure of her presence at a ball in their home on the night of Friday, the 29th of the current month at half after 8."

"It is begged that you will please be present at a diversion of a ball which will be given at the home of Alberto Trescony on the evening of the first of December of the present year."

Still another, written in Spanish reads: "Thomas O. Larkin, D. Spence, Milton Little, and A. G. Toomes, having been named beg you to please take part in a dance which will be given in Salon de Colton on the first of January, which will start at 7, Don Francisco Dye and family."

In May this invitation was received: "The officers of the Army in Monterey beg you to honor them with your presence at a dance which will be given next Monday in Salon de Colton. Major Ed R. S. Canby, Capt. H. S. Burton, Lt J. Hamilton.