

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 11, 1957

The Flag-Raising

Allen Knight, chairman of the festivities held in Monterey over last weekend in observance of the anniversary of the first raising of the United States Flag at the Old Custom House 111 years ago on July 7, reported at the monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Assn. that 6,865 persons had visited the ships stationed here at that time.

The re-enactment of the raising of the Flag was sponsored by the History and Art Assn. and the Navy League, with the cooperation of the City of Monterey. The greatest attendance was on Saturday when 2,548 persons visited the ships, according to Knight. The Navy officials were most enthusiastic and pledged even greater cooperation in 1958.

Present at the meeting of the History and Art Assn. directors held Monday in the Old Pacific Building were Mmes. Wesley Heard, M. R. Gragg, Christine Raynsford, W. R. Holman, F. L. Knudsen, Robert Giet, Mary Greene, W. M. O'Donnell, Maria Antonia Thompson, Marie Eliassen, Misses Margaret Jacks and Ethel Solliday; Messrs. J. F. van Loben Sels, president, Allen Knight, R. H. Partridge, C. C. Slusher, Fritz Wurzman, Claude Faw.

Claude Faw and Mrs. William Kneass reported on new plans for the Path of History in Monterey maps, published by the Chamber of Commerce and widely circulated by both the chamber and the Mission Trails Assn. Several of the historic markers erected by the History and Art Assn. as "Site of" some former historic building now no longer existing, will be removed from both the site and the map, and some of the "path" will be changed because of the new system of one-way streets.

President van Loben Sels announced that a site for a boulder and bronze tablet had been selected in Don Davi Park, naming the park; the Misses Jacks, the donors; and the date of the presentation of the land bordering Munras avenue to the City of Monterey.

The association will sponsor a tour of historic adobe homes and buildings in Monterey on Aug. 3. Further plans for this annual event will be announced later.

Two paintings of early Monterey adobe buildings, including one of the Casa Abrego, were presented to

the association by Dan Freeman of Corral de Tierra, formerly a well-known photographer in Monterey. The paintings had been the work of the late A. E. Coffers. The association will always be most happy to receive old pictures of Monterey and its historic spots for preservation and urges residents to be sure to look well at all old letters, papers, pictures, etc. before condemning them to the fire. They may be valuable to researchers and historians of the future.

Volume 1, No. 2 of Noticias del Puerto de Monterey, the quarterly bulletin of Historic Monterey issued by the Monterey History and Art Assn., Inc. has been mailed to all members of the association. The feature story concerns the Mexican flag recently presented to the Custom House Museum by Mrs. T. J. Barkle. The history of the flag and of the first raising of the United States Flag over the Old Custom House was written for the Historical Quarterly by Mrs. Mary L. Greene, the curator of the Custom House.

The second article, contributed by Mrs. William Kneass, curator of the Pacific Building, is a continuation of the records of the Custom House, first appearing in Vol. 1, No. 1. Donald Craig's initials appear at the end of an article on the "Raising of the Flag, July 7, 1846-1947," followed by items of interest to the members of the History and Art Association and announcements of future activities.