

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 19, 1957

### **Santa Clara Revisited**

Years ago when we lived near Santa Clara the community did not have the atmosphere of a university town that it has today. Yesterday we made a tour of the University of Santa Clara, concentrating specially upon the de Saisset Art Gallery and Museum.

Many Monterey residents will remember the late Dr. and Mrs. Philippelo and Miss Isabel de Saisset whose home still stands on Munras Ave. near Cass street. The property was formerly known as the Maude home. Miss de Saisset's death marked the last in the family which had settled in San Jose many years ago.

Her will left a fortune to the University of Santa Clara for a building to house a museum and art gallery in which to show the collection of pictures painted by her late brother, Ernest de Saisset, and many family heirlooms from the home in San Jose which was also willed to the University and since sold to the City of San Jose to be added to the Civic Auditorium property.

We were delighted with the results of the finished building. The various rooms are of ample size, expertly lighted and immaculately clean. The several pieces of antique furniture, object of valuable art, oriental rugs, paintings and special exhibits, are well worth a visit to the University grounds.

The Rev. J. Pociask, S.J. is the general director of the Museum; Dr. Josef Hilpert is director of the Gallery and the Rev. J.P. O'Connell, S.J. is director of Galtes and Mission Collection. The gallery is open free to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 2 until 4:30 p.m. and at other times when events are scheduled. Father Pociask informed us that on schedule are two one-man showings, the works of Abel Warshawsky, Monterey; and Gen. Frank Dorn, Carmel.

Rather than serve as a mere repository for art objects, the gallery hopes to become a dynamic center for activities in the visual arts on the Santa Clara campus, and in the surrounding region. With these objects in mind, the gallery folder reminds us, the directors hope to provide, in addition to scheduled exhibitions, a varied program of activities, ranging from lectures on history, philosophy, and art, to the presentation of films and other art forms.

During an informal talk with the law school dean Warren McKenney we learned the story of tiny Liane Stewart, 22 year old, law student at the University of Santa Clara. She is the only girl in the college's 106-year history to be admitted to a course studies leading to a degree.

Liane, who begins her second year at Santa Clara this year, had no idea when she forwarded the entrance questionnaire that it was an all-male institution. University officials found that there were no restrictions on the books which would forbid a woman's acceptance, so she arrived from her home near Honolulu where her father is a Hawaiian sugar plantation supervisor.

We also have learned that next year there will be other women, the student nurses from O'Conner's hospital, who will receive some of their medical instructions at the University of Santa Clara.