

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 24, 1958

### **Point Lobos Anniversary**

Aubrey Drury, administrative secretary of the Save-the-Redwoods League, has sent a note to the Monterey History and Art Assn. inviting the membership to participate in the meeting which is to be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at Point Lobos reserve.

Members of the Save-the-Redwoods League and friends will meet at Point Lobos State Park to observe the 25th anniversary year of the preservation of Point Lobos in the California State Park system. The League was largely responsible or instrumental in saving Point Lobos and its native grove of Monterey cypresses, in cooperation with the California State Park Commission, in 1933. Brief addresses will mark the program tomorrow, followed by a naturalist-guided tour of the Cypress headland.

In setting the date for this observance, the Save-the-Redwoods League has in mind that it is the nearest Saturday to Forest Conservation Day, Oct. 27th, to be celebrated nationally this year on the 100th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's birthday.

The objects of the Save-the-Redwoods League are worth repeating: "To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests; to cooperate with the California State Park Commission, and other agencies, in establishing Redwood parks and other parks and reservations; to purchase Redwood groves by private subscription, to cooperate with the State Highway Commission and other agencies in assuring the preservation of the trees and roadside beauty along highways in California, to support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas."

The 13th- annual convention of the California Council, American Institute of Architects, was held on the Monterey Peninsula last week. A number of the historic adobe homes, privately owned, and also two of the adobes that are now Club buildings, were opened to the architects and their wives who were interested in early California adobe building. Some of which have been considered as notable examples of early California-New England architecture. The California Division of Beaches and Parks also cooperated and opened the State-owned buildings, even though it was the day at least one is normally closed. The attendance was small in

comparison to the number of delegates who were in attendance at the convention.

We feel that a word of thanks is due in this column to the owners of the private homes, members of the history and art association, and the hostesses for the generous donation of their time, their homes and their hospitality from 3 until 6 in the afternoon. Among the hostesses were Mrs. Wesley Heard of Casa Alvarado, Mrs. George Leutinger of the Whaling Station Inn, Mrs. William M. O'Donnell, Casa Soberanes. State Historical Monuments waiting to receive the special guests were the Custom House, where the United States flag was first raised under the direction of Commodore John Drake Sloat in 1846: California's First Theatre, built by Jack Swan in the late 1840's; Colton Hall, scene of the Constitutional Convention in 1849, and the Stevenson House, built in late 1830s, later home of the Girardin family with whom Robert Louis Stevenson roomed in 1879.

Casa Amesti and Casa Abrego were also on the list of open houses. Casa Amesti was built about 1825 and is now considered one of the best examples of Monterey Colonial style. It is now occupied by the Old Capitol Club and owned by the National Trust of Washington, D. C. through the will of the late Frances Elkin, well-known interior decorator.

Casa Abrego was built by Don Jose Abrego in the late 1830s partly of timbers from the wreck of "Natile", on which it is said Napoleon escaped from Elba. The old adobe is now the home of the Casa Abrego Club, a luncheon club for women, who purchased the building a couple of years ago when it was threatened with destruction.

The Larkin House, recently presented to the State of California by the granddaughter of Thomas Oliver Larkin, first and only American Council to Monterey was especially opened for the occasion. It is now a State Historical Monument

Photographs of these well-known buildings on the Path of History in Monterey were included in the program prepared for the guests. Other photographs feature architectural design of the D. L. James home at Carmel Highlands, the T. Jack Foster home on the 17-Mile Drive, King Hall at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey Peninsula Airport, B. A. Behrend home near Carmel Highlands, E. N. Moore vacation home near Yankee

Point, and the Harris W. Baker home on Sunridge Road in Pebble Beach.

A map within the program directed the delegates in the route they were to take to visit the homes and buildings they wished to study as to either old or modern or ultra-modern architecture.