

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 12, 1958

'November Romeria'

The November issue of the California Historical Society Notes might lay claim to being a Monterey edition. The photograph featured on the cover page is an excellent photograph of Casa de Castro, the home of Miss Margaret Jacks in the Del Monte fairways area. Once the country home of General Castro and his family, the adobe will be opened by Miss Jacks to welcome members of the society and their guests on the afternoon of November 15.

Donald C. Biggs, director of the society's headquarters on Jackson street in San Francisco, has called the bus trip to Monterey and the Hearst San Simeon Historical Monument, a "November Romeria." He further states: "This major event of the society's 1958 program for members is in every sense a romeria - since for many it will be a pilgrimage and for all it promises an excursion, a tour (in fact two tours), and a picnic."

Christmas is almost here and Thanksgiving will be upon us before we realize that summer and fall have passed. There is inevitably a touch of nostalgia in the air during the holiday season and particularly rich in this atmosphere of past festivities is "Navidad and Pastoreia," the third in the California Historical Society's beautifully illustrated and printed series, Christmas in California.

The society's Notes reports: "Arturo Bandini's colorful account of Yuletide celebrations in Old California sets the stage effectively for the presentation of a Pastoreia, or Christmas play, as only the reminiscences of an eyewitness could.

"Preceding the text is an informative note by Susanna Bryant Dakin, the editor of the work. The volume consists of two parts: I, Navidad - A Christmas Day with the Early Californians, by Don Arturo Bandini, and II "Pastoreia - a Shepherd's Play, translated with a note by Gladys Louise Williams."

The uniquely contemporary flavor of the illustrations is the result of Clement Hurd's discriminating understanding and inspiration, the editor of Notes believes. The price of the book is \$3, less a member's 20 percent discount. The society is inviting anyone interested in the objects of the organization to become members. Mrs. Frances Andrews of the Carmel

association is membership chairman for Monterey and San Benito counties. Membership applications may be also sent to the California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco 9.

Maj. Edwin A. Sherman wrote the following letter from Oakland on Nov. 24, 1902 to Mrs. James B. Hume of Berkeley, active member of the Sloat Monument Assn., regarding the start of the monument on the Monterey Presidio Hill:

"In response to your request, I herewith send you a list of the stones received and already laid in the base of the Sloat Monument at Monterey, California. Also, those received and not yet laid for the lack of the necessary appropriations by the counties sending them, besides those which have been ordered and appropriated by the boards of supervisors of the several counties and are expected to be received and laid soon.

"Stones received and laid: 1st, the cornerstone with California on one side and Pioneers on the other, laid July 7, 1896; 2nd, Alameda and 3rd, Santa Clara, laid Nov. 2, 1901; 4th, Contra Costa; 5th, Santa Cruz; 6th, Monterey and 7th, San Luis Obispo counties, laid Jan. 2, 1902; 8th, Veterans of Mexican War; 9th, Grand Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West; 10th, San Francisco and 11th, San Joaquin counties, laid Feb, 22, 1902.

"Laid March 1902, as 12th stone, Grand Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West; and, 13th, Placer County, laid in March 1902, The 14th was Sacramento; 15th, Solano and 16th Napa counties, laid on May 17, 1902. The United States Navy was the 17th stone; 18th, Mare Island Navy Yard; 19th, California Miners' Assn.; 20th, Central Pacific Railway Company's stone.

"County stones on the ground but not yet laid for the want of appropriations: Ventura, Butte, Plumas and Sonoma, counties whose boards of supervisors, have provided stones and appropriations made, but neither have as yet been received are: Mono, San Bernardino, Lassen. These last three are expected soon."