

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 20, 1958

Scholze and His Park

On Tuesday, June 24, the Monterey, Peninsula Rotary Club will be hosts at a House and Garden Tour in the Pebble Beach and Country Club area, the proceeds to go toward the Rotary fund to install recreational facilities in the Senior Citizens' new clubrooms in Scholze Park.

The clubhouse, once the New Monterey Library, was moved recently from its former location to the park and was formally opened a week ago by the Community Center Auxiliary.

Carmel Martin Jr. is the chairman for the Rotary's recreational program for the Senior Citizens, and George Decker, the president of the Monterey Rotary Club, has planned the tour as his administration's contribution to the fund.

In addition to the several houses which will be opened for this social event, there will be a showing of flower arrangements, table settings, a showing of fashions and an exhibit of antique automobiles by Alton Walker in the grounds of Bing Crosby's home on the 17 Mile Drive. Refreshments will also be served there.

A short history of Scholze Park will not be amiss at this time when this unusual afternoon event has been planned to add to its usefulness.

Ernest Scholze whose death occurred in October 1955, bought the land (10 lots) from Milton Little's family in 1899. He had a nursery there for many years. One day in December 1950. we found Mr. Scholze watering his plants in one of his glass houses and there we talked about his life and his flowers for an hour or so. He told us that he bought the block of land because of the curious rock formations there and because he admired the several old cypress trees that grew on the property. There was also a small house facing on Foam street which he later raised and built another story beneath it. That two-story house remained his home until his death. His answer to our question as to why he had given the land to the city for a park was: "There wasn't a green spot between Colton Hall and Pacific Grove for the people to enjoy, and so I thought I would provide such a place."

For the benefit of newcomers to the Peninsula, it might be well to introduce Mr. Scholze as the very generous person who presented to the City of Monterey this

valuable piece of property several years before his death, reserving the right to continue to live there and have a small part for his beloved nursery. The dedication ceremonies were held July 22, 1939, when a bronze plaque was placed on one of the huge boulders which the donor had so admired.

Ernest Scholze was born in Rosenthal (meaning rose valley) in Saxony in 1864. He was 91 years of age when he died. In the year of his birth, Saxony was a country in Europe, now it is a part of Germany.

Mr. Scholze served an apprenticeship for three years in Dresden and attended garden school for two terms in evening classes. He then went to work for larger nurseries in three different places in his native land. He joined a brother in New York April 3, 1884, going directly to Castle Garden which was a German immigrant house then. He laughed when he told us: "I was so small and so short when I applied for one of my first jobs, the head gardener thought I was only 12 years old, and that I could not be worth any salary."

Mr. Scholze came to San Francisco in 1891 and a year later to old Hotel Del Monte where he served under at least two gardeners, until he became head gardener serving in that capacity for almost 32 years.