

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 25, 1958

### **Scholze Dedication**

Ernest Scholze, the donor of Scholze Park to the City of Monterey, was the first patron of Monterey Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when it was organized in 1906 and the meetings were held in the La Porte building on upper Alvarado street, also known as the Alvarado adobe. He was master of the Monterey Masonic Lodge in 1906, having become a member of the order when the late Will Jacks was master.

When the dedication of Scholze Park was held in the park in 1939, the Monterey Peninsula Garden Club was in charge. B. J. Pardee, the city manager at that time, accepted the gift in the name of the City of Monterey. Others introduced included Dr. James B. Finley, chairman of the Monterey Planning Commission and Mayor Emmet McMenemy, who added their words of appreciation for the gift from Scholze. Gloria Gonsalves, then only 10 years old, thanked the donor on behalf of the children of the Peninsula.

Mayor McMenemy surprised Scholze with a large, framed parchment scroll memorializing the event. Bearing the official seal of the city and signed by the mayor, the scroll said: "To Mr. Ernest Scholze: The Council of the City of Monterey on behalf of its people hereby expresses its gratitude for your generous gift of ten lots, hereafter to be known as Scholze Park. By this gift you bring joy to Monterey for generations to come."

The scroll was awarded by the mayor and created by Carmen Rubio, then a pupil of Armin Hansen. The late William Fiddes, former mayor of Pacific Grove and past president of the garden club, was the speaker. Roddie Maddock, now a resident of Carmel, but in 1939 a neighbor of Scholze in New Monterey, cemented the bronze plaque to the age-old outcropping rock in the garden and there it can be seen today. The plaque was cast by Robert Peterson, Peninsula metal artist.

Over 100 persons were present, including members of nearly every civic group of the region including Mrs. John P. Sandholdt, president of the Monterey Civic Club, and members of the executive board of that organization.

When Scholze died in 1955 he left a gift of at least \$135,000 to the City of Monterey. According to the will, one-half of this amount was earmarked for the building

and development' of children's playgrounds, the other half for the building and maintenance of parks. About \$28,000 of the total was left to Masonic interests.

Tomorrow, June 26, the Napa County Historical Society and the Junior Napa County Historical Society will hold the dedication of the site of Yount's Block House, at Yountville. This latest historical marker will be known as Landmark No. 564. Following the dedication luncheon will be served at the Veterans' Home.,