

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 15, 1958

### Historic Gifts

The board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Assn. is pleased to announce to the membership at large and to the public interested in the historical values in Monterey a number of recent gifts to the association which will soon be on view in the various monuments.

From Mrs. Mary Greene, whose home, Casa Joaquin de Soto, has recently been sold, comes a black walnut Victorian combination secretary and bookcase. This very nice piece of furniture came from the estate of the late Ben Soberanes of Salinas who said that it had belonged to his mother. It will be in placed in the Pacific Building.

A pair of brass andirons also came from Mrs. Greene. She had acquired them from the estate of Martha Bolton of Pacific Grove, who told Mrs. Greene that they had been a gift to her mother, Dona Escolastica Rodriguez de Dye, from the French consul. There is no record, within our knowledge, which of the two consuls, Gasquet or Morenhaut presented this gift. The andirons are very fine examples and were used here in Monterey in the French Consulate, now the Girl Scout house on the border to El Estero.

Among several pieces of china, also from Mrs. Greene, has come two feather edge platters, one large and one small, one blue and one green. They are English pieces, very old and of the type much used in Monterey in the Mexican period, brought here aboard English ships. Mrs. Greene attached several bits of broken pieces of the same china to the platters " with a notation they were found on the grounds of the de Soto Adobe.

From Mrs. Greene's collection she also selected for permanent preservation in Monterey, a China tea set, consisting of one chocolate pot, one teapot and two matching cups without saucers, one marked Ramon, one marked Matilde. These have been identified by the late Dr. Elizabeth Moses of the De Young Museum as 18th Century and are very old porcelain. Mrs. Greene acquired them in Mexico, and they would be the type in use among the better families of California in the early days. They have been on exhibit in the Custom House for a number of years.

Miss Jane Adams of Carmel surprised Mrs. Anne Elaslser recently when she walked into the Stevenson House to

present to the Monterey History and Art Assn. two charming, unusual, and very old dolls. Miss Adams had inherited them from her good friends, the late Mrs. Stevens Meek and the latter's daughter, Mrs. Philomina Hoffman. Mrs. Meek formerly resided in Hayward and probably played with the dolls there many years ago.

The bisque doll is very lovely and stands 25 inches tall. Her bisque head and jointed body of similar ceramic material is not at all modern. She is dressed in a pink shirt and pink corset-waist, white cotton panties and slip, dress of fine white nainsook with embroidery yoke and belt, a jacket of, figured pink and white wool, and a straw bonnet with a pink rose for an ornament.

The second doll is a boy about 15 inches tall. He is dressed in silk plaid Scottish tartan dress. His ecru silk collar is badly worn, plainly showing he had been used and loved. He wears a tam of black velvet with a feather trim, cotton socks and black shoes. All these gifts may be seen in the children's room at the Stevenson House on Houston street.

Another valuable and generous gift has come to the association from Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holman. The presentation took place at the July meeting of the board of directors held in the Pacific Building. The gift consisted of three personal scrapbooks of Senator Philip A. Roach, first mayor of Monterey, 1850-1889, and a great pioneer of California.

These scrapbooks comprise the unique record of the career of one of California's most colorful and important pioneers. Roach was the U. S. Consul at Lisbon. He returned to the U. S. in. 1849 and headed for California and the mines. Once in San Francisco, however, he chose Monterey instead of the gold country.

In Monterey Roach's knowledge of Spanish quickly gave him an eminent position as mediator between the Americans and the old Spanish families, especially during the constitutional convention. He was elected alcalde of Monterey Nov. 14, 1849 - its last alcalde and first mayor under the new state government set up in 1850.

The earliest clipping is a full four columns from the Daily Pacific News of July 30, 1850 describing the welfare dinner to Military Governor Riley, who turned over the government to the newly formed state. Roach was the principal speaker and kept the entire report for his scrapbook. Roach returned to Monterey in 1870 for the

first centennial celebration. June 3 was the date in 1770 when Portola landed here and claimed the territory for Spain, and Father Junipero Serra said the first Mass near the Presidio entrance on Pacific, now marked with a granite cross and a huge boulder.