

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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New History In Monterey

A bit of Monterey history was made Monday evening, Oct. 12th, when the membership of the Monterey History and Art Assn. Ltd., met for the first time in Casa Serrano, the old adobe house on Pacific street which the association recently purchased as its future home. The house was built about 1845, and soon after it was finished Don Florencio Serrano moved in with his bride, Rita de la Torre, the daughter of one of the most distinguished early Monterey families. There he taught school and there he raised a family.

Allen Knight, the president, presided at the informal meeting which was attended by a goodly number of the 607 members of the association.

During the evening Mrs. Juan Garcia, a member of the group almost from its beginning in 1930, was introduced and in turn presented the Monterey History and Art Association with a collection of items for display purposes. The items represented the Spanish period in Monterey history. Included in the gifts was a handsome Spanish cape which had belonged to her late father and had been worn by him in Spain and a Spanish shawl brought by Mrs. Garcia from Spain, it was embroidered by a group of orphan girls in Valencia. Two beautiful mantillas, one white and one black; a few rare pieces of Spanish coin, and several other items were also presented. Mrs. Garcia received applause from the members present and a vote of appreciation.

The projects chosen by the recently organized California Heritage Council for immediate attention are: the San Francisco Mint, the John Muir house in Contra Costa County, an educational film, Portsmouth Square in San Francisco, the Simon Rodia Towers in Watts (L.A.), and historic downtown Sacramento area. The preservation of these places is considered most important at this time.

Council commendation has been sent to Assemblyman John Busterud for his bill expanding state participation in historic preservation, and the American Trust Company for its generosity in donating the portals to their old headquarters to the Maritime and Oakland museums.

The Jedediah Smith Fall Rendezvous will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, at the College of the Pacific, Stockton.

Mrs. California B. Quint, local Shasta County historian and 10-year employee of the California Division of Highways, will report on her fascinating and tremendously significant explorations along the Jedediah Smith trails in Northern California. For years this serious historian has been at a loss to account for the deplorable condition of Smith's men when they reached the coast in, 1828.

American Heritage, the magazine of history, is announcing a major new television series which starts this month, and which is aimed to stimulate increased awareness of the value of the sense of history.

The programs will be called "Our American Heritage." There will be six shows through the winter and early spring on NBC-TV network, Sunday nights at 8 p.m. (EST). Each of the programs will be built around significant incidents in the life of a major figure in U.S. history.