

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 25, 1959

Official Compliment

Resolution No. 9161 of the City Council of Monterey passed on Nov. 3rd. 1959 paid this compliment to the Monterey History and Art Association:

"Whereas, the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd. since its formation in 1930, has had as its primary objective the preservation of things historical in Monterey, and

"Whereas, the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd., has sponsored the acquisition of the Custom House and the establishment of the historical route in Monterey; has assisted in obtaining furniture and exhibits for the Custom House, the Stevenson House, the Gutierrez Adobe, the Pacific Building, California's First Theater, all state historical monuments; and Colton Hall Museum, and

"Whereas, the Monterey History and Art Assn. and the Monterey Foundation purchased the Gutierrez Adobe, restored it, and in 1954 made a gift of the restored adobe to the State of California, and

"Whereas, in 1959 the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd., acquired from the heirs of Don Florencio Serrano, the second Alcalde of Monterey, the Serrano Adobe, which is located in the heart of the City of Monterey, and are presently engaged, in authentic restoration of the same;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Monterey that the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd., be commended for their achievement in preserving for future generations some of the historical grandeur and flavor of the Spanish Pueblo of Monterey for the enjoyment of the present and future residents as well as for present and future guests of the City of Monterey."

The resolution is signed by Mayor Shedo S. Russo, and councilmen Frank La Cauza, Harold Lewis, Carmel Martin. Jr, and George Clemens.

The officers, directors and membership of the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd., certainly appreciated this honor and thank the Monterey City Council for this expression of the appreciation of the work which has been carried on by the association for the past 29 years.

At long last it is with great satisfaction that the historical society is to have a permanent home and headquarters.

It also should be recorded that the History and Art Assn., recognizes the other organizations which have purchased and restored historic adobe buildings within the city. One day this week we called and enjoyed a conducted tour, through the Casa de la Torre, 599 Polk street, recently purchased and restored by Admiral and Mrs. L. J. Hudson of Pt. Lobos. The stationery of the firm which will occupy the restored adobe is headed: Hudson, Davis, Wyckoff and Parker, Old Federal Court Adobe, 599 Polk street, Monterey.

The change in name of Casa de la Torre is for this reason: Senor Jose Joaquin de la Torre probably used the house in 1851-52 as a courtroom for the first Federal Court held here under American rule, as well as using it for his home, and also held court there in 1839, under Mexican rule.

The adobe building was begun about 1838 and is said to have been three years and 18 days in construction. The original three rooms were ranged around a patio, partly roofed, which served as a kitchen and dining room.

The outside walls have been painted white and the entrance changed to the door on Hartnell street. Mrs. Hudson is planning an attractive garden which may be viewed and enjoyed by pedestrians as they journey to the post office. We congratulate all those who had any part in the purchase or restoration of this beautiful and historic building.