

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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History and a Desk

The Santa Cruz Historical Society is about to adopt markers for the historic spots in that city similar to those used by the Monterey History and Art Assn. to draw attention to the many historic monuments here, according to an announcement published in "News and Notes" of the Santa Cruz society.

Santa Cruz has just won a long-planned project to have the State Division of Beaches and Parks acquire the old adobe building on School street as a state historic shrine. That project has now been accomplished and the historic society is to have the opportunity of cooperating with the representatives of the State Beaches and Parks Commission in planning the restoration of this interesting old adobe, as soon as possible, to its former condition.

Margaret Hanna Lang, a former resident of Monterey, has an article appearing in the recent issue of the Pacific Historian, published by the California History Foundation and the Jedediah Smith Society at the College of the Pacific in Stockton. Her contribution to this quarterly magazine is entitled "Early Justice in Sonora."

Mrs. Lang at one time taught the fundamentals of pottery in the Monterey Adult School until war came when she began a 2 1/2-year interval with the hospital staff of the American Red Cross at Fort Ord. A native of Tennessee, she grew up in Kansas City. She is a graduate of Smith College, and also attended UCLA where she studied in various crafts.

"Early Justice in Sonora" is a story of Sonora, the county seat of Tuolumne County. In the Mother Lode, when life was rugged, and men had to be strong to stand the hardships of the times. The article is to be continued in a future issue of the Pacific Historian.

The Visalia Times-Delta will celebrate its centennial in June. Of special interest to former residents of Tulare County, as we are, is the fact that Joseph E. Doctor has been working for several months on a special edition of this pioneer newspaper. Doctor is unique in that he is not satisfied to let a little history go a long ways in a newspaper story. He was news editor of the Exeter Sun until last fall. He has been president of the Tulare

County Historical Society and is deeply interested in Indian lore and archeology.

The March issue of Westways, the publication of the Southern California Automobile Assn., contains an article giving the history of the Larkin House in Monterey written by John A. Hawgood. The story is accompanied by photographs of the interior and exterior of this historic adobe built about 1834 by Thomas Oliver Larkin, first and only American consul to California from the United States during the Mexican period.

Hawgood noted "I am writing these words at Larkin's own desk in his little 15-by-8-foot study at the back of the long dining room in the Larkin adobe house in Monterey. It is said that at this desk sat Commodore Jones to write his apology to Governor Micheltorena; at this desk Larkin penned the report to Washington that made President Polk take drastic steps to ensure that California should become American rather than British or French. Here too Larkin wrote a sharp letter to Fremont that sent the Pathfinder north toward Oregon in the spring of 1846 rather than risk an armed clash with Castro's Californians, who understandably resented a self-styled band of "topographical engineers" fortifying a strong point at Gavilan Peak and running up the U.S. Flag on Mexican territory."

A photograph of the desk is one of the illustrations accompanying the article.