

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 15, 1959

### **Gift Of A Painting**

The Monterey History and Art Assn. board of directors, at a monthly meeting last Tuesday afternoon, was surprised and delighted to receive a note from Miss E. Charlton Fortune announcing the gift to the association of one of her best paintings.

The note contained this information regarding the picture: "It is my intention to give a painting, which is being remounted by Myron Oliver at this time. This painting was made at the foot of Tyler street, near the waterfront in 1920. It has been exhibited under the title of 'Town Gossip' at the National Academy, New York; The Royal Academy, London; Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D. C.; The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, and the Societe des Artistes Francaises (Paris), etc."

Miss Fortune was one of the original members of the History and Art Assn., having helped to organize it in 1930. In the report of the first annual meeting on Jan. 18, 1932, Miss Fortune is listed as the chairman of the committee on art. Her home was in Monterey on High street near Roosevelt, where artists and friends gathered at frequent intervals. For the past several years she has been residing on the east coast and in Europe. At present she is visiting in San Francisco, making frequent visits to Monterey to see her brother, Lt. Col. James Fortune, and his family.

Mrs. Tobin Clark of San Mateo was an interested visitor at the Stevenson House recently. She was escorted through the building and garden by Mrs. Anne Issler, curator of the State Historical Monument on Houston street. Mrs. Clark expressed her pleasure at the manner in which the house had been cared for, at all the educational exhibits which are displayed there, including the great amount of Stevensoniana which has been given to the building in memory of the great writer who once resided in the adobe house.

Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Edith Van Antwerp were once co-owners of the Stevenson House having purchased it in order to save it from destruction. It was in 1941 that Col. Roger S. Fitch, president of the Monterey History and Art Assn., was appealed to by Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Van Antwerp to act as the intermediary between themselves and the State of California in their desire to

present the historic adobe to the State, that it might be forever preserved and open to the interested public. It was accepted and has been restored and is now one of the most visited places in Monterey.

One of the many distinguished visitors in Monterey for the celebration of the 113th anniversary of the raising of the United States flag at the Custom House on July 6th, was Mrs. Madie D. Brown, curator of the Vallejo Home State Historical Monument at Sonoma. Mrs. Brown was the house guest of Mrs. William Kneass, curator of the Custom House, Monterey.

Mrs. Brown was rejoicing over the oil portrait of Senora Francisco Benicia Carrillo de Vallejo which now hangs in the parlor of the Vallejo home. I. W. Hellman, president of the Wells Fargo Bank, paid \$100 to Senor Juan Marron y Frisbie (grand grandson of Senora Vallejo) of Mexico for the portrait which was painted by Stephen Shaw in 1856; and to L. Palmer Griffith, who gave two full days of his vacation clearing the shipment of the painting with Mexican officials.