

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 21, 1959

Old Home Week

The first week of July was somewhat of an old-home week in Monterey. School is out all over the state and vacations are in order, so we are swarming with tourists and visiting friends as well as former residents back home to renew friendships and marvel at the changes on the Peninsula.

Casa Soberanes has welcomed members of the Estrada family whose ancestors built the old adobe residence at 338 Pacific St., later acquired by the Soberanes family. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Estrada, a young couple, of Reno, Nevada, who formerly lived in San Luis Obispo, called to see the ancestral home. They were most interested in its history and were also interesting in themselves, being very aware and proud of the fact that Theodore was a descendant of Don Jose Estrada, prefect in Monterey during the Mexican period, and on the maternal side, of Don Jose Sepulveda of Rancho San Joaquin in Southern California. His mother was Maria Sepulveda.

We have a tiny clipping from a Monterey newspaper which relates the death of Estrada - in San Antonio, Monday, Dec. 21, 1891, Don Rafael Estrada, a native of Monterey, aged 75 years. Above that notice is this notice: "Sanchez - in Monterey, Sunday, December 20, 1891, Adulfo Sanchez, aged 30 years and two months.

The State of California and the Monterey History and Art Assn. have been recipients of a number of valuable gifts and loans relative to the history of Monterey. One of the most important is the seal of Thomas Oliver Larkin, first and only U. S. Consul from the United States to Monterey. It has been placed on loan in the Larkin House by Mrs. Emilie Beardsley of Monterey. The seal had been presented over 50 years ago to Dr. William . Barbat, a prominent physician in San Francisco, by the older son of Larkin, one of his patients who also resided in San Francisco. The doctor was Mrs. Beardsley's first husband.

The consul seal is brass and bears this inscription: "U. S. Consulate, Monterey, California," with an eagle in the center. It has now returned to the old adobe in which it was originally used, and Miss Myfanwy Lloyd, the curator of the Larkin House, plans to place it in Larkin's

desk, where it probably was used more than 113 years ago.

Mrs. Grace Leese Ten Eyck, Mrs. Anna Leese Axford and Mrs. Bertha Leese Rafferty, the three daughters of David Leese and granddaughters of Don Jacob Primmer Leese, one of Monterey's very early settlers, have presented 17 historic items to the Old Custom House State Historical Monument, very soon one complete gown of grey silk with black stripes will be on display In one of the cases, in the Custom House, it was worn here by Mrs. Leese. It was made by a fashionable dressmaker of the day out of material given to Mrs. Leese by her parents-in-law, Mr., and Mrs. Jacob Leese. It will be shown with a long black silk Chinese shawl, a parasol, mitts and fan, in fact the complete costume except for slippers.

Members of the Soberanes family were also recent visitors to Monterey, bearing gifts to be placed in the Custom House in honor of the Soberanes family. Mrs. Adeline Richardson O'Brien of Oakland is completing plans to place a marker on the old Soberanes adobe, a 116-year-old example of early California architecture, which stands a few feet off the highway on the road south from Salinas to King City. It was the residence for the Los Coches (the pigs) rancho, built in 1843 by William Richardson, whose wife was Josefa Soberanes, to whose family the 8,794 acres of Rancho Los Coches had been granted in 1841 by Gov. Juan B. Alvarado.

Mrs. Richardson is planning to have the ceremony of placing the marker held on Sept. 27 with the Native Daughter chapter in Soledad in charge of the day's program.

Miss Margaret Jacks recently gave the adobe to the Division of Beaches and Parks to be a State Historical Monument. Her father, David Jacks, acquired the property in 1865. Between 1872 and 1886 the establishment saw its heyday. Construction of the railroad had ended at Soledad and there the transfer of passengers from stage to rail brought business. In 1898, during the development of the Fort Romie settlement nearby, many of the new families found temporary housing in the old adobe, at one time the place was known as Thomas Station; at another as Oak Grove stage stop.