

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 14, 1959

### **Watchdog For Historic Legacy**

The California Heritage Council is a new organization interested in preservation of the state's historical values. The California Historical Society reports in the September issue of "Notes" that in recent years it has come to the attention of an increasing number of people that many buildings of historic significance have been lost through neglect: others have been destroyed to make way for such evidences of progress as parking lots, gas stations, freeways, etc.

"Indignation and alarm at such wanton and insensitive destruction have finally been channeled into a new organization, the California Heritage Council, whose objective is the responsible development and protection of California's architectural and historic legacy. Director Donald Biggs of the Society in San Francisco has been invited to serve on the board of directors. Other board members are to be persons well known for their interest in California's heritage."

Members of the Monterey History and Art Association and interested citizens of the Peninsula are invited to attend the dedication of the California Historical Landmark No. 494, Los Coches Rancho and Richardson Adobe, near Soledad on Sunday, Oct 11, at 1130 a.m. A plaque will be placed on the old two-story adobe building by the California State Park Commission. Miss Margaret Jacks recently gave the adobe to the State of California as an historic landmark. Included in the gift are several acres of land including a group of beautiful trees where tables and benches will be placed and used as a roadside rest station.

Mrs. Adeline Richardson O'Brien is named as sponsor and the Grand Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West are to be hostesses.

We cannot refrain from mentioning the fact that our home, Casa Soberanes, was featured recently in a Sunday edition of the Los Angeles Times. There were five beautiful pictures in color of the interior and exterior, including the garden, and four in black and white. A story accompanied the pictures telling the history of the old Monterey adobe on Pacific street, sometimes called "The House With the Blue Gate." We are truly quite proud of the excellence of the pictures and the story.

A note from Mrs. G. R. Comens in Chicago relates her visit to the Chicago Art Museum where she viewed the miniature rooms in the Thorne collection which Mrs. James Ward Thorne presented to the museum a number of years ago. This exhibit includes the sala in the Soberanes Adobe in Monterey. Mrs. Comens had visited this home last summer, so the miniature room brought back happy recollections of her Monterey vacation.

In a Chicago newspaper interview Mrs. Thorne said: "Every man and woman over 40 should have cultivated an absorbing interest, a hobby or a talent to insure a sense of self-reliance and happiness for future years."

Mrs. Thorne, who is 70 years of age, has practiced what she preaches. She is perhaps best known for the exquisite and historically exact series of miniature rooms which she has created. One set of these rooms, as we remember they were European reproductions, were exhibited at the exposition on Treasure Island and so enjoyed by the thousands of visitors.