

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 24, 1960

### **The History And Art Assn.**

Because of our great interest in the work of the Monterey History and Art Assn. since 1930, we are planning today to review some of the objects and accomplishments the organization has enjoyed during the time since it was organized in 1930.

First of all we will record the purposes of the association as written in the constitution:

To promote interest in the history of Monterey County;

To protect its historical sites, landmarks and buildings; to assist in the identification of points of historic interest and when deemed advisable to erect suitable markers or monuments.

Second: To cultivate and promote a wide spread interest in the development of art in Monterey County; to encourage contacts between artists and the public for their mutual benefit, and to facilitate the artistic growth of the community in architecture, painting, and other forms of art.

To this end the board of directors, who represent the 654 members on this date, endeavor to carry out the objects as recorded above, which obviously includes the saving of the historic adobe buildings in Monterey and to perpetuate the historical atmosphere as much as possible and still not defer progress. A charming old adobe building can and should be incorporated into an interesting setting among modern buildings if the new is planned so as not to dwarf the old.

We visit Boston not because it is Boston entirely but because we wish to visit Beacon Hill, Old North Church or Paul Revere's home, or the numerous historical places which surround Boston on all sides. We go to Philadelphia to visit Independence Hall, to see the Liberty Bell, to view Betsy Ross's home where it is said she made the first United States flag, or perhaps to study the life of, Benjamin Franklin.

We visit Washington of course first because it is the national capital and the site of the White House, but we also go to see the Washington and Lincoln memorials and to visit Mt. Vernon and Thomas Jefferson's home or to sail down the Potomac, as we have done, to visit Williamsburg - all part of America's history.

Probably the first thing a tourist wishes to see in New Orleans is the Old French quarter, in Natchez it is the anti-bellum homes and the annual house tours in March; in Florida it is St. Augustine, the state's most historical city, to visit the old Fort, the oldest house in the United States built in 1599 and of course Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth, in Charleston it is the lovely old cypress and azalea gardens and other historic shrines.

We believe that our tourists come here to see our old and historic buildings in Monterey and in years to come they will be, even more revered and precious. What affects Monterey reflects all the communities on the Peninsula and all the citizens of all the communities should be able to voice their appreciation and the desire to preserve this historical heritage.

The Monterey History and Art Assn. founded in 1931 when it was incorporated under the laws of the State of California, has certainly been the leader in all preservation and restoration in Monterey since that date. When we first arrived in Monterey in 1925 not even the Custom House was in safe hands, but it became Historical Monument No. 1 soon after it was acquired by the State of California.

The Division of Beaches and Parks. preserves all the monuments in Monterey today but that group has no funds allotted to furnish the buildings, so the History and Art Assn. assisted in that task and now has on loan to the State of California the greater percentage of all the furnishings, decorations, documents, etc., in the Custom House, the Stevenson House and a great deal in the House Gold, the First Theater, the Pacific Building and Colton Hall, the latter owned by the City of Monterey.

The association sponsored the Path of History (the red line) on the city streets, which guides the visitor past all the historic sites and buildings, and placed all the historic markers telling the history of each.

Each year on June 3rd the Monterey History and Art Assn, sponsors the Merienda in Memory Garden in celebration of Monterey's birthday. On that date in 1770 Don Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra landed at Monterey and claimed California for Spain. The annual adobe house tour brings many visitors to Monterey and

guests are permitted to visit at least a dozen homes not usually open to the public.

Does this recitation of the aims and (objects of the association permit, the membership to suggest that all the old adobe buildings be saved from the advance of progress? We hope it does!