

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 9, 1960

### **Mexican View Of Monterey**

In June of 1946 Monterey in California celebrated the raising of the United States Flag one hundred years before that date. The following September 20, 1846, the City of Monterrey in Mexico Observed its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Previous to the celebration of the anniversary of the founding of our southern sister city, Carlos Perez Maldonado published a book "La Ciudad Metropolitana de Nuestra Senora de Monterrey" in which we find a chapter devoted to Monterey in California.

With the help of a friend the chapter of interest to us here in Monterey has been translated for presentation in the column today.

"In the U.S.A. county, peninsula, port and Bay of Monterey in the State of California, we have a namesake. This name was given by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602, to whom Don Gaspar de Zuniga y Acevedo, 5<sup>th</sup> Viceroy (Alcalde), 5<sup>th</sup> Count of Monterrey, had given all necessary aid needed for conquering Upper California. Then the shores were discovered. Monterey was the State Capital of the above mentioned until the year 1849.

The bay is a great semicircle of 37 kilometers (about 25 miles) in length and the small peninsula is encircled by some 28 kilometers (about 17 miles) of magnificent highways which pass through dream areas amongst beautiful pines and within view of a blue and imposing sea.

"On the place where Sebastian Vizcaino and Fray Junipero first touched soil, a monument has been erected honoring in the way the memory of its illustrious founders. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1770, Fray Junipero founded the first mission and the presidio in Monterey, California, and each year on that date is organized in one of the many Spanish gardens a traditional merienda, serving traditional delicious dishes of yester-year and culminated by a Spanish-Mexican festival of music and dance.

The city is one of the oldest in the region, even today interesting examples of Colonial architecture remain, for example the Royal Presidio Chapel and the Old Monterey Custom House, over which three flags have flown, that of Spain from 1602 until 1821; that of

Mexico from 1821 until 1847; and U.S.A. from 1848 to the present. Now the Old Custom House is a museum."

The author continues: "The Monterey Peninsula is comprised of three cities, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel and other communities. It has a population of 35,000 inhabitants. (1946 figure.)

"It is truly gallant of the residents of Monterey to attempt to preserve its Spanish traditions. There is a society, "The Monterey History and Art Assn., whose members, more than 600 strong, who founded the association in 1930, attempt to preserve as they report, the old adobes of Monterey and the traditions and culture of colonial times. The same society has had attractive commemorative plaques placed in front of the historical and old buildings for the ease of the visitors in locating them.

"As in our Monterrey, that in California, has its own coat of arms whose description I owe to Mrs. Mary L. Greene (curator) who is in charge of the Old Custom House and Museum. This explanation of the Coat of Arms was adopted by the 'Common Council' in 1850 and is as follows:

"The coat is in Polish style (estillo Polaco) with a green meadow enlaced by a gold banner. In the upper quarter is an anchor, on the lower a bundle of wheat. As a crest, a rising sun radiated by the word 'Anda' – Go. (Anda is the singular command form of the verb, to walk, used in familiar, without due respect expression.)

"The device is flanked on the left by a horse with his front hoofs on high and a bull coming from behind the coat of arms. The green meadow represents the surrounding area which is always green, and on the left, a gold banner represents a gold vein (strike) somewhat irregular in origin no doubt, for the Monterey area does not represent the part of California of the gold strike. The quarters loaded with the anchor (Anda) and the bundles of wheat represent the vision of a future of great commerce and produce.

"The crest is a rising sun radiated, which is indicative of high optimistic hopes of the city. The horse and bull on the side remind one that (they) were in their day important and rich products of the area.

"The word 'Anda' caused many objections when it was approved in 1849. It was argued that it should be 'Andelante' (go forward) and not 'Anda.' This latter term was used on cattle ranges in roundup or in

commanding 'walk faster' to those 'lesser civilized' ones, 'aborigines.' The motto was left as it is for it was more commonly used!"

Carlos Perez Maldonado reports in his book that here are other Montereys in the United States, namely: Tennessee, 445 souls; Virginia, 313 souls, and Kentucky, 273 souls. There are some other cities in South America, no doubt, of lesser importance but it was impossible for the author to secure information on them all.