

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 25, 1960

Correspondence

The time has come for us to catch up on some of the correspondence and some of the answers to questions which have come to us from afar regarding Monterey history, etc. So today we will tell our readers about some of the letters we have received, some of the compliments and a book or two which have been mailed this way hoping that we will at least mention the title and author.

We were delighted with this letter from Bellevue, Washington: "Reading of the Monterey History and Art Assn. in the Herald, I am wondering if it would be possible for us to join even though we are a bit remote from your activities. You see, we are very interested in Monterey and the color of her background as well as California and would love to know more of it. In fact, we are considering moving to Monterey. But it might not materialize for some time. Are you connected with the Monterey County Historical Society and how do we contact them? We are thirsty for Californiana.

"Occasionally we read historical news on the editorial page of The Herald, sometimes mentioning books on early California. Where could we write to secure such books. Would it be the Book Club of California? We fell in love with your Peninsula in December."

Another note was received from Mrs. R. P. Parratt of Carmel Highlands in which she writes: 'The articles on California wild flowers were charming. But let us not spread the word that the green, lacy stuff that hangs from our trees and telephone wires is Spanish moss! That is a parasite; ours is a harmless plant living on air.'

Mrs. Parratt was the curator of the California Historical Society Museum in San Francisco for a number of years. Since her retirement she has resided in the Highlands and is a member of the Monterey History and Art Assn. and a faithful worker in the Carmel Red Cross and blood bank.

The California Historical Society has been honored with a gift beyond all hopes and imagination. A few weeks ago there came the announcement of the bequest of the late Miss Edith Alleyne of San Francisco of \$620,000 to the society. A sister of Miss Edith, Miss Lucy Alleyne, now 85 years of age who has been in a coma for many weeks, will leave an estate of 3.6 million, part of which

will also go to the California Historical Society upon her death, according to announcements already made in the press.

The sisters were the granddaughters of the late Hon. F. M. Birr, former mayor of San Francisco. They lived in the old family home at Green and Gough streets in San Francisco. Several years ago the sisters presented the Octagon House to the Society of Colonial Dames to be used as their headquarters.

Saturday evening, April 23rd, a group of registrars and admissions officers from the national organization visited Monterey and attended a production at California's First Theater. Miss Ellen Dearing, registrar at the College of the Pacific, was in charge of taking a group of 25 out-of-state officers up the coast route by bus, visiting historical "sights" along the way. Miss Dearing was hospitality chairman for the national meeting and writes that she was looking forward to the privilege of showing the guests the beautiful Peninsula area.