

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 15, 1960

Pioneers In The Coast Area

We are in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Ney Otis of Pacific Grove in which she writes: "As usual I have enjoyed your articles in Peninsula Diary. They are always especially interesting when they cover incidents in and around Old Monterey. Dr. Roberts was an old and valued friend and his articles bring back scenes and people who were all here in the early days when we first came to the Peninsula.

"Hoge was postmaster down at the Little Sur, and we had to use of one of the Hoge cabins, where we spent part of our summer vacations and just for fun and exercise we used to climb up the mountain to the Lime Kiln where the buildings and cable were still in good condition, and where they kept their caretaker, Mr. Jenkins in one of the Lime Kiln cottages to look after the place.

Dr. Roberts mentions the name Ingham. It should be Ingram, so Mrs. Otis tells us. Theirs was a large and well-known family. One of the most beautiful of the girls was the late Edna Ingram Wright (Mrs. Benjamin Wright) of Monterey, the mother of Mrs. Shelburn Robison of Carmel and Mrs. Harold Sands of Carmel Valley. When Monterey celebrated the 50th anniversary of the raising of the United States flag at the Custom House Edna Ingram was selected to play the role of the Goddess of Liberty in the "gigantic" parade. Her grandmother was Mrs. Isabel Walker, born in 1836, and the daughter of Joel P. Walker, who was a Sonoma delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1849. At 52 he was one of the oldest members and was one of the two or three real frontiersmen in attendance.

Another name mentioned by Dr. Roberts as old time residents down the coast was Swetnam, Mrs. Otis writes:

"The late Mary Swetnam married Howard Severance. Their old home down the coast was a fine, large log house and after the family moved to Monterey they occupied the house that sits back on the lot next to the one designated as the Fremont House, near the Monterey Post Office that is under discussion at the present time."

On Monday, April 4, 1960, Montana Congressman Lee Metcalf introduced in Congress House Bill 11,528 which

seeks, by amending existing legislation, to allow a maximum of thirty per cent individual income tax deduction for gifts to historical societies and agencies. This bill is comparable to Senate Bill 3,178 introduced by Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota. Passage of the necessary amendment to the code allow donors to historical societies the additional ten per cent tax benefit, which will in turn encourage increased contribution, should have the support of all historical societies including the Monterey History and Art Assn. and the Monterey Foundation. Those interested might wish to write to Ways and Means Committee of the House; Cecil R. King and James B. Utt, House Office Building, Washington, 25, D.C.

Ethel Solliday, librarian of the Monterey City Library, would appreciate some volunteer help at the library. She has been working long and busy hours cataloging and filing the treasures which are in the California Room. There are clippings, old pictures and manuscripts which need attention and which would be of more interest to the historians and students who search for material in the room, if properly cataloged. Miss Solliday would welcome a call either by telephone or a personal interview.