

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 21, 1960

A Summer Program

The Monterey History and Art Assn. has completed an active schedule of events during June and July. First there was the very successful Merienda in Memory Garden celebrating the 190th birthday of Monterey.

More than 500 members of the association attended the Merienda and participated in the festivities. On the present date the association has 630 members who are sincerely interested in the objects of the association as stated in the constitution: "To promote Interest in the history of Monterey County; to protect its historic sites, landmarks and buildings; to assist in the identification of points of interest and when deemed advisable to erect suitable markers and monuments. To collect, preserve and own paintings, sketches, drawings, records, books, manuscripts, charts and other material pertaining to the history and art of Monterey and California, and to have and to hold, such property as may be necessary to carry out the objects of this association."

Beginning on the evening of June 29 the association sponsored a special preview of the "Art of the Malaspina Expedition of 1791-92," in Casa Serrano, its new headquarters. Through July 4th, the exhibition was open to the public and several hundred persons viewed the pictures, paintings, maps and manuscripts on display and a four-foot model of the corvette Atrevida, the flagship of the expedition, and the original handwritten contracts of the artists.

We find in "California Through Four Centuries" by Phil Townsend Hanna, these notes: "Sept. 13, 1791 - a Spanish Expedition under command of Alejandro Malaspina, in corvettes Descubierta and Atrevida, engaged in an exploring voyage around the world, arrived in Monterey. The same day John Groeham (Graham), first American in California, attached to the exploring expedition of Malaspina, arrived in Monterey. Groeham seems to have died and been buried on the same day of his arrival."

The members of the local chapter of the American Federation of Arts who hung the show of the "Arts of the Malaspina Expedition" were George Seideneck, Maxine Albro, Parker Hall, Leonard Heller and Nelly Montague, the chairman of the federation. Mrs. William

Kneass was in charge of the exhibition for the association.

Hostesses on duty for the five days of the exhibition were: Mmes. Charles Allaire, Irene Mezger; Thurman Bane, E. L. Martin, Joseph Wythe, A. Rosales Allywin Probert, Henry Jones, Ralph Castagna, Olga Grayson, Lucius Chappell, Christine Raynsford, Jessie Caffee, F. L. Knudsen, Addie La Valee, Pearl Wood, Elizabeth Hill, Agnes Porter, Wesley Heard, Mrs. William O'Donnell, Misses Esther Solliday and Edna Browning.

The third event on the calendar was the 124th anniversary of the raising of the American flag at the Custom House by order of Commodore John Drake Sloat on July 7. The ceremonies were sincere as well as accurate as they could be made in this modern time and were witnessed by several hundred persons. Sponsoring this historic event were the City of Monterey, the History and Art Assn, and the Navy League.

The annual Adobe House Tour was held Saturday, July 9, with 11 adobes open to the public from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mrs. Tod Singleton was the overall chairman, assisted by Mrs. Frank La Cauza, who was also hostess at Colton Hall; Casa Amesti guests were received by Mrs. John Shephard and her hostesses, Mrs. Lucius Chappell received at Casa Serrano where punch was served during the evening hours, Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin, the granddaughter of Thomas Oliver Larkin, presided at the Larkin House and served tea during the afternoon hours. Mrs. Clarence H. Atwood was the gracious hostess at the House of Four Winds, the clubhouse of the Monterey Civic Club. Mrs. William O'Donnell and a group of Monterey History and Art Assn, members received guests at Casa Soberanes and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ross entertained the tour guests most graciously at Casa Buelna. Dr. and Mrs. Mast Wolfson presided at their home, Casa Boronda, on the Mesa, and Mrs. Wesley Dodge, assisted by Mrs. George Leutzinger, opened the Whaling Station for the occasion. The members of the Casa Abrego Club received the guests at the old adobe of that name on Abrego street.

Miss Margaret Jacks came from her home in Palo Alto to open Casa de Castro, her Monterey home on the Del Monte Fairways, for the History and Art Assn.'s annual tour. Miss Jacks is one of the founding members of the association and an honorary director. Mrs. Weldon McBee was the assisting hostess with Miss Jacks.