

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 20, 1961

Peninsula Garden Club

Monterey Peninsula Garden Club members are swelling with pride these days. The reason - the club has been awarded first prize for its excellent program of conservation and beautification during the past year by the administration of the Richfield Oil Company. The prize will be a tree of the club's choice to be planted at a site also chosen by the club. The prize is \$50 and the oil company will complete the arrangements when the choice of tree has been decided upon and the date chosen for presentation and planting.

Mrs. Norman Walker of Monterey is the president of the club. Mrs. Harold Hodges of Boulder Creek is the district president with nine clubs in her jurisdiction. Mrs. Robert Blohm of Watsonville and Mrs. Joseph Menester of Seaside were the judges who sent the name of the club of their choice to the oil company. The Seaside Club won the prize in 1960.

The activities of the club which won the honors this year were: the support of the litterbug program in Monterey County, the continued support of the Monterey County Fair Association's floral exhibit at which Mrs. Walker's Bible Garden won second prize in 1960, support of Roadside Council against bill boards on the highways and beautification of roadsides, the decoration of one of the trees in the middle planting strip on Lighthouse avenue in Pacific Grove which won second prize for the presentation of St. Francis and the birds, and the growing of rhododendron seeds for future use in Monterey parks. The seeds were gathered by Vem Yadon at Carmel Highlands from bushes to be destroyed by bulldozers to lay out another subdivision.

We will look forward with interest to learn the choice of tree to be accepted and the location for the planting. Let's hope that it will grow in an historical spot and be admired by future generation. We understand the oil company will provide a suitable marker for it.

It is always a thrill to pick up a magazine just to glance through it and then find yourself enthralled with an article regarding and praising the beauty and importance of historic Monterey. Of course, we all agree that we live in the most beautiful spot in California, but we swell with pride when we find other folks appreciate Monterey also.

A recent issue of Westways, published by the Automobile Club of Southern California contains an excellent article on Monterey by Edwal Jones, a frequent contributor to that magazine.

Mr. Jones writes: "Monterey has a certain advantage over other port towns of California. It surpasses them in antiquity. Strange flags have waved in its air: those of Spain, Mexico, and the American, which then had fewer stars. It was the scene of many events of historical importance and where these took place, the buildings may yet be gazed upon.

"For decades Monterey, after Hull in England and - Stavanger in Norway, was one of the biggest fishing spots in the world. But Monterey is famed for more than fish and historic events. In 1879 a somber young Scottish genius, Robert Louis Stevenson, living penuriously at the old adobe on Houston Street, wrote "The Old Pacific Capital." It still remains the finest description we have of the Monterey of the past. For that matter it is also a valuable guidebook to the region, including Carmel Valley."

In the story there are three pictures showing the rear view of the Stevenson House, Stevenson's own desk and the bedroom in which he slept while a roomer in the Stevenson House. Copies of the Old Pacific Capital are on sale at the Stevenson House. The financial returns are used in the restoration and acquisition of historical buildings documents and furniture.

The Edwal Jones article goes on to tell much of interest about Pop Ernst. (Ernst Doelter and his famed abalone, the artists and writers who came here to reside and to work and much about the early fishing industry, illustrated with photographs of the wharf and the fishermen.