

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 22, 1961

City Reaps Compliments

Even the residents of Vancouver, B.C., are interested in Monterey history and are complimentary to the Path of History and the preservation of our historical landmarks.

We have received the following letter from Mrs. O. H. Berrey of that city:

"Recently a party of six Canadians, in search of items that would indicate the historical past of California, along with its present-day attractions, passed through your lovely little city.

"In discussing the various places that we visited, we were all agreed that Monterey has the best-marked historical sites of any, and we were most impressed with the manner in which the gradual growth of the city has been encroached on its so evident historical past.

"Too many of our Canadian and American cities in their rush toward modernity have tried to bridge the gap too sharply, with a resultant hodge-podge of the ultra-modern, and a deterioration of the historical buildings of the past.

"In Monterey we found that there was a charming blend of old and new and we hope that the next time we find it possible to visit your city it will not be cluttered up with these glass and concrete structures which seem to be springing up all over the country,"

This letter was sent to the Monterey Historical Society, and delivered to the Monterey History and Art Assn.

Another letter which came to the History and Art Assn, recently was one from the Day Camp Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Council of Girl Scouts, Inc., telling of the "Heritage Hike" which will be taken shortly by Girl Scouts. Mrs. John Neighbors will be the director and Mrs. Philip Pedro, the field director.

"In pursuing a study of some of the heritage of the Monterey Peninsula, both historically and geographically, a group of 15 Girl Scouts, with two adult advisors, will spend the latter two weeks of August scrutinizing the community on a 'Heritage Hike.' " Aside from other historic buildings, the leaders state "that they would like to request permission to visit Casa Serrano on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at about 11 o'clock, and at that time, the girls would be interested to hear

someone discuss the History and Art Assn.'s organization and its role in this community of monuments and memories. Needless to say, the association will welcome the girls and be proud to tell them about it and the history of the building itself which is now the headquarters of the History and Art Assn. Each Girl Scout will receive a brochure, "Old Monterey," for future enjoyment and study.

On the day this column is being written, 127 years before (August 9, 1834) Governor Jose Figueroa issued his famous "Reglamento Provisional para la Secularizacion de las Misiones de la Alta California," the first major piece of printing undertaken by California's first printer, Augustin Zamorano, providing for the conversion of the missions into pueblos; friars to be relieved of temporal duties; each head of a family to be given a lot 100 to 400 varas square; ejidos to be assigned for pueblos; half of livestock, chattels, seeds, etc.; to be distributed pro rata; government to be in the hands of ayuntamientos; mission libraries and church goods to remain in charge of priests.

August 15 1846 - 117 years ago - The Californian, first newspaper to be published in California, owned by Robert Semple and Walter Colton, made its initial appearance as a weekly at Monterey. Augustin Zamorano also was the printer of this historic newspaper.