

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Wilson's House

We will take you away from California today and tell you what has happened in Washington, D.C., recently along preservation and historical lines.

On Dec. 28, the Woodrow Wilson House became the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at the death of President Wilson's widow, Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson. In 1954, Mrs. Wilson deeded the house at 2340 "S" St., N.W., Washington, D.C., to the National Trust, reserving the right to remain in it during her lifetime. Wilson died there on Feb. 3, 1924.

With the deed went a trust fund of \$250,000 to permit the trust to preserve and maintain the premises in perpetuity, as a memorial in honor of Woodrow Wilson. The trust is the same one that owns Casa Amesti, the Old Capital Club, in Monterey.

Included in the gift are the furnishings of the house, including portraits, books, autographed photographs of historic personages identified with modern events in Wilson's administration, laces, the famous tapestry "The Marriage of Psyche," made especially for the President and Mrs. Wilson in France, commemorative china and some of the early furniture owned by the Bolling family in Virginia.

In the library of the "S" street house is an extensive collection of books of the Wilsonian era, biographies of Wilson and his contemporaries, and a leatherbound set of Wilson's writings presented to the Wilsons as a wedding gift by the Guatemalan ambassador. Wilson's own library is in a special room given by Mrs. Wilson to the Library of Congress, where the books he used as a student, author, college professor and president, are available for study.

The house was designed by the late Waddy B. Wood, A.I.A. It is a large Georgian brick structure in the embassy section of the city, with a terraced secluded garden in the rear.

In 1921, after leaving the White House after his second term in office, as 28th president, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson made it their permanent residence.

Not only does the National Trust for Historic Preservation receive gifts, but the Monterey History and Art Association is most fortunate to have many friends

who present to the association their heirlooms, jewelry, pieces of furniture, paintings and the like, from time to time, knowing that they will be appreciated and carefully preserved.

A very beautiful fan has been received from Mrs. Winifred M. Wolf of Gonzales, a town on the highway south of Salinas which was named for her ancestors. She resides in the old family home there. Mrs. Wolf writes: "I am exceedingly pleased that the Monterey History and Art Assn. has accepted my mother's fan. The fan was a Christmas gift from my father, Alfred Gonzales to his wife, Louisa Stokes Gonzales, approximately 85 years ago. Its perfect condition is due to the fact that, when not in use, it was kept in a safe deposit box in San Francisco. The real lace is rose point, and if you notice, the fan is signed by the French artist who designed it.

"It is a French fan, a gift to the association from one of the old, proud families of Monterey, Louisa Gonzales. Thanks so much for accepting it."

The fan is artistically framed and now is hanging on the adobe wall in the little parlor at Casa Serrano.

Mrs. A. C. Houghton of Balboa, Calif., gave a framed crayon drawing of Casa Serrano recently, signed by the late Percy Gray in one corner. Gray was one of the best-known artists in Monterey and it was he who restored the Casa Bonifacio on Mesa road and occupied the old adobe for several years. It now is the home of Mrs. Guy Catlin. Mrs. Houghton writes the association: "Thank you for the gift receipt for the drawing of Casa Serrano by Percy Gray. I thought it should go back to Monterey to the house which he chose to draw." Sincerely, L. Louise Houghton:

Miss Grace Brune, a member of the association and an old time resident of Monterey who proudly claims the age of "87 years young," has just presented to the association a small brooch fashioned of abalone shell with a silver setting which had once belonged to her aunt, the late Narclsa Espanosa Dutra. The brooch was designed and made by Valentine Glottsback, a pupil of Celestino Trujillo, a silversmith and abalone jeweler in Monterey as early as 1870.