

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 7, 1962

Mrs. Issler Moves

Goodbyes have been said to Mrs. Anne Issler, curator of the Stevenson House in Monterey for the past five years, who left Tuesday to make her home in Napa. Her new surroundings will be familiar and friendships of many years will be happily renewed, but her friends and associates on the Monterey Peninsula, as well as the hundreds of visitors to the Stevenson House will miss her gracious manners and her intelligent answers to the numerous questions which were asked her throughout the days when she was on duty.

Mrs. Issler was truly dedicated to her work. She has been a student and an admirer of Robert Louis Stevenson for many years, so it is not surprising that she fitted so well into the life of the Stevenson House here. She lived in an apartment in a north end of the old and huge adobe building, now a State Historical Monument, and was on duty five days each week. She was an expert at washing, ironing, and mending doll clothes for the many dolls in the children's room on the second floor. She also qualified as a bed and cradle maker in the same room. Also cleaning, mending, and ironing curtains for the house museum of the second floor.

Downstairs, where the Stevensoniana is exhibited, Mrs. Issler was an interior decorator, changing cases from time to time and studying new ways of making Stevenson House more and more a shrine in honor of Robert Louis Stevenson, for whom the house was definitely named when, given by Mrs. Tobin Clark and the late Mrs. Edith van Anthwerp to the State of California as a memorial on Nov. 13, 1932.

We will miss Mrs. Issler, but we know that she will be happy in her home in Napa where she plans other work for the Stevenson state-owned park on the hillside of Mt. Helena, and to write. She is a member of the Napa branch of the League of American Pen Women, one of the founders of the Napa County Historical Society, and the University Women.

She is the author of three books, "Stevenson at Silverado," "Our Mountain Heritage" and "Happier for His Presence," all relating to the life of Stevenson in California.

San Juan Bautista is featured in the current issue of Motorland, published by the California State

Automobile Assn. for its members. The cover is a startling photograph of the San Juan Plaza stable. The pictures were taken by John Slacotos of South San Francisco, who with his wife and two children included a tour of the old mission community on a motor vacation trip.

Within the covers are several very good colored pictures of Plaza Hall, also called Zanetta House, built in 1868, by the grandfather of Elmer Zanetta of Monterey. It has been repainted in its original colors and restored inside to look as it did when the Zanettas lived there in the 1800's. Visitors are always welcome. Next door is shown the stables, where a collection of old-time stages, carts, and harnesses are shown. There is another charming picture of the mission-style bell tower on Highway 101 which leads to San Juan Bautista and Hollister. In the color photograph is the cactus garden and a tall pink hollyhock. The saloon in the Plaza Hotel also is shown.

A thief as yet unnamed, was mean enough to steal two of the beautiful red potted geraniums from the upper floor balcony of the Fremont Adobe on Hartnell street. The thief went to a heap of trouble to open the gate on the sidewalk level, climb the stairs and carry the two heavy Mexican pottery pots and plants down to a conveyance below. The plants had been put there to enhance the beauty of the building the Monterey History and Art Assn. bought and restored.