

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 15, 1963

Cascarone Ball

The Cascarone Ball given each year by the women of the Monterey Civic Club will be held this year on Feb. 23 in the Soldiers' Club at Fort Ord.

The following Item was found in an old scrapbook of 154 years ago: Eggs were saved and cascarones were being made as will be perceived from The Governor's Request. The Commander, the Governor of California, at that time in Monterey, appears to have had an eye to procuring plenty of eggs that he might use the shells, and generally have a good time and sequent relaxation from the cares of State:

"The Military Commander of Alta California, writing to the Commissioner of Branciforte (Santa Cruz), Dec. 2, 1809, says: I wish you to procure for me by the 8th all the eggs you can find, to be used in the celebration here on the 12th Day of Our Lord. With them send a memorandum, showing who had delivered them to you and the price they ask, and inquire if they wish pay in money or merchandise. I have spoke to the militiaman, Besankido, that he may bring them to me, but if by reason of some accident he should be prevented from coming than you will see that another bring them and I will recompense him for the trouble and pay the freight. I hope that you will be particular and prompt in attending to the above.

"May God protect you for many years.

"Jose J. De Arillaga."

A news Item "Interesting Bit of History," is copied from the scrapbook compiled by E. L. Williams, the uncle of Paul Pioda of Salinas and Carmel. It is dated May 11, 1899.

At the trial of the suit of Monterey City vs. a townsman in superior court on Tuesday, E. L. Williams testified that the ayuntamiento (common council) of Monterey adopted a seal on April 10, 1850 when he was clerk of the council, as he read from the minutes of that date the description of the seal adopted. Williams further testified that the seal was a piece of round brass, without the present lever attachment as it now appears that such attachments were not in use, nor known 49 years (1899) ago! And that the impression on the paper issued by the trustees, Phillips, Osio, and Calaghan to David Jacks, were the genuine impressions from the seal

adopted in 1850, though now used with the lever attachment for convenience, it having been designed to be used in the old times on sealing wax.

The testimony of Williams was an interesting bit of history and remarkable as showing the clearest recollection of the events which transpired in 1899. But very few of those on the stage of action at that time are now living, and it will be but a comparatively short time until all shall be sleeping beneath the sod.

Notice of a sheriff's sale appeared in the Monterey Sentinel on July 28, 1855. The property to be sold to the highest bidder was described in the Sentinel of that date as "southwest corner of Main and Scott streets, containing 2,784 square yards with improvements thereon consisting of an adobe house known as the Pacific House."

Main street is now Calle Principal, which had been the street's original name. The Pacific House is now known by the same name and was owned by the late Miss Margaret Jacks until she presented it to the State of California a number of years ago. It is now a state historical monument and is a museum open to visitors six days a week.