

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 5, 1963

Lacy Fans

Two of the most attractive displays on the walls of Casa Serrano, the headquarters of the Monterey History and Art Assn., are two very beautiful fans presented to the association by the owners, Mrs. Horace Lyon of Carmel and Mrs. Winifred Wolf of Gonzales. Mrs. Wolf is the daughter of the late Alfred Gonzalez and Louisa Stokes Gonzalez, both early residents of Monterey.

The town of Gonzales, in southern Monterey County, although spelled with an "s" instead of a "z," was named for the Gonzalez family. Both fans are appropriately framed and hang in the small parlor of the old adobe at 412 Pacific St., which is open to the public each Wednesday afternoon from 1 until 4 o'clock, with hostess members of the association on duty.

In addition, there are additional beautiful and historic fans in two cases, gifts of friends and members of the association. They are well worth a visit to Casa Serrano to study the intricate handwork and real lace trimmings.

Upon the arrival of Mrs. Wolf's fan there also came a note from her: "I am exceedingly pleased that the Monterey History and Art Assn. has accepted my mother's fan. It was a Christmas present from my father, Alfred Gonzalez, 67 years ago. Its perfect condition is due to the fact, when not in use, it was kept in the safe deposit box in San Francisco. The real lace is rose point, and if you will notice, the fan is signed by the artist, who painted it. It is a French fan, a gift from one of the proud families of Old Monterey, Louise Gonzalez. Thanks so much for accepting it."

Mrs. Lyon's fan is an exquisite example of an old wedding fan. It is created of mother of pearl sticks, with sheer cream net panels generously decorated with gold sequins. It was a gift to Mrs. Lyon on her wedding day from Mrs. Willis Polk of San Francisco, the wife of one of the West's most famous architects. The fan is mounted on a piece of old blue velvet and enclosed in a gold-leaf frame.

A relative of Mrs. Polk, Frederick Barreda Sherman, writes that the fan must have come originally from Seville 100 or more years ago.

The late Mrs. Polk's grandfather was Dori Manuel de Barreda y Perujo, who was born in Limpias (Montanas

de Burgos), Spain, in 1776 and came from a family which had lived in that area for many generations.

Mrs. Helen A. Baxter of Forest Hill Manor in Pacific Grove presented a fan a number of years ago, that had belonged to a niece of Don Manuel Dominguez, one of the signers of the state Constitution drafted and signed in Colton Hall in 1859. She was Francesca Alexander Fleming and Mrs. Baxter's aunt. The fan is black with hand-painted white roses.

Mrs. Jessica O'Connell of Monterey has also added to the fan collection at Casa Serrano. Mrs. O'Connell bought the fan as a very young girl in Paris. She is now in her 80's and lives in the Monte Regio area in Monterey.