

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 22, 1963

An Honor For The Holmans

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holman have received a well-deserved honor from the American Assn. for State and Local History which was awarded to them at the annual meeting Aug. 24, 1962, in Buffalo, N.Y.

The certificate was forwarded to Mr. and Mrs. Holman recently by Donald C. Biggs, director of the California Historical Society, awards chairman for Region 12 of the association, with this statement: "Your contribution to the work the association is promoting received much praise."

The award was given principally because of the gift of the large and valuable Indian collection given by the Holmans to the State of California last year and now on exhibit in the Pacific Building. It is planned to change the cases from time to time, the collection being only partially shown because of lack of space at the present time.

To Biggs, Mrs. Holman wrote: "Mr. Holman and I were indeed surprised - and delightfully so - to receive your kind letter of Feb. 5 with enclosures from the American Assn. for State and Local History. We realize that you and the California Historical Society were the means of our receiving this certificate of commendation, which was 'voted at the annual meeting of the association in Buffalo, N.Y., Aug. 24, 1962.' For your thoughtfulness, our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation."

To the association they wrote: "We acknowledge the receipt of the certificate of commendation awarded to Mr. Holman and me by your association, with gratitude and humility, not to mention complete surprise!

"We were very happy that the State of California accepted these beautiful and rare artifacts of America's first citizens and has given them a permanent home in California's historic city, Monterey, where all may view the finest of Indian art.

"Too, we were delighted that they could be placed in an historical building - the old Pacific House - which was given to the state by Miss Margaret Jacks, not only a personal friend, of ours, but a faithful and devoted friend for many years to the state and to the City of Monterey.

"No historical event, from the flag raising on July 7 to the annual birthday of the City of Monterey held in Memory Garden, but what Miss Jacks came from her home in Palo Alto, to her beloved Castro Adobe home in Monterey to attend the celebrations.

"She had looked forward to seeing our Indian collection in the building which she had owned for years, but her passing last year deprived her of this joy to which she was entitled."

On Jan. 8, 1962, the State Parks Commission formally accepted the Holman Indian collection for the state - now on display at the Pacific Building in Monterey. Jess T. Chaffee, superintendent of District 4, State Division of Beaches and Parks, said the resolution was signed Dec. 29, and was presented to the Holmans Jan. 8, 1962.

The collection, accumulated over the past 45 years, has been appraised unofficially at \$50,000 and it contains objects some 4,000 years old, as well hundreds of more recent date. Most of it has been gathered from American Indian tribes, although, Mrs. Holman has said, there are some artifacts from Mexican Indians and an interesting display from Alaskan Eskimos.

Included are the examples of intricate beadwork, the age of which can be told by experts because of the blue color used in the beads. There are baskets, beautifully woven blankets, priceless and charming Kachina dolls; hundreds of arrow heads; moccasins, war clubs and pipes, Navajo marriage baskets and many other fascinating items of Indian hand work, examples of which I may be seen by all who visit the Pacific Building's museum.