

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 15, 1963

International Visitors

We were privileged to entertain at Casa Soberanes on Thursday, 12 foreign museum professionals- each representing a different country, and coming west to participate in the fourth annual tour of American museums for foreign museum professionals, offered by the American Assn. of Museums in cooperation with the Department of State as part of the cultural exchange program. Frank H. Hammond, assistant to the American Assn. Museums, was conductor of the tour which will end in Seattle where a 10-day seminar on museum education, methods and techniques used in art, history and science, will be held. Before coming to Monterey, the group had visited Hearst Castle at San Simeon.

Signing the guest book at Casa Soberanes were: Violette Verhoogen, Belgium; Bjorn Hallerdt, Sweden; Dr. Zdzislaw Zygmanski, Poland; Hugh Wakefield, Great Britain; Hugo Warner, Switzerland; Moti Chandra, India; Frank Hammond, U.S.; G. P. Kozlov, USSR; Jorge Muelke Rojas, Peru; George Oldudotun Shogbola, Nigeria; Raey Henry Nobel Smithers, Southern Rhodesia; Taswir Husain Hamidi, Pakistan; Ross Lavrasov, interpreter for USSR; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hering, Monterey; and Mrs. Margaret C. Stebbins, Carmel. The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Peninsula was the host.

The group also visited Colton Hall, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History; Carmel Art Gallery, 17-Mile Drive and was later entertained at dinner in various private homes on the Peninsula.

We are sure that a great many friends of Mrs. Mary L. Greene will be interested in reading some excerpts from a letter received from her. Mrs. Greene was a former curator of the Old Custom House in Monterey. She now resides in San Miguel Allende, Mexico.

"I am keeping up with Monterey news," Mrs. Greene writes, "The Herald is usually five days in getting here, but I keep up with what has happened. Things are about the same with me. This morning I made spiced -pickled pineapple - this is the best season for fresh pineapple though we do get them throughout the year. We get good strawberries the year 'round and I make my own brand of jam from time to time. We have been having very good melons since February. I had a very fine thick T-bone steak for lunch, so you see we live very well.

Yesterday I had the first corn from my garden. Have been enjoying my roses which have been covered with bloom. We have organized a garden club and we meet once a month at noon, meeting in the homes where someone talks about planting seeds, and what to do in San Miguel gardens.

"Now is orchid time - the Indians bring in boxes of plants which they gather wild in the country. I have two lovely plants with large orchid-colored flowers in my living room. They have been there a week and they are still fresh looking. I paid 50 centavos each (4c) and my friends said I paid twice too much. When they are through blooming, my gardener will fasten them to my chirimopa tree, with last year's plants, and soon I will have my own orchid collection, The Indians now are selling lovely bunches of wild bouvardia. I still have my own garden flowers, so don't buy everything."