

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 20, 1963

### **St. Mary's-By-The-Sea**

Miss Ann Hadden, who died at the Forest Hill Manor on Aug. 31, has left to the Monterey History and Art Assn. a large collection of manuscripts, clippings etc., all part of early Monterey County history, Miss Hadden organized the first county library in Salinas in 1913 and three years later she traveled on horseback and on foot to establish branches in Gorda and Lucia. She was county librarian for 21 years.

Among the clippings was a story telling the history of Bruce Porter, the artist who designed the stained glass window which appears over the altar in St. Mary's-by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove, and the monument to Robert Louis Stevenson in Portsmouth Square in San Francisco. He was also, with Gelett Burgess the originator of "The Lark" a famous San Francisco bibliot of the 1890's.

Mr. Porter was born in San Francisco on Feb. 23, 1857 and died in that pity several years ago. He received his education in San Francisco, England, and France, according to my article in Peninsula Diary 10 years ago which Miss Hadden had saved. He had engaged in stained glass work and mural painting and numerous church windows in Northern California are the result of his genius.

The window above the altar to St. Mary's-by-the-Sea depicts "the annunciation" and is a memorial to Deaconess Helen Reed, known as "Sister Reed," the first deaconess in the Diocese of California's Episcopal Church. She died in April 1894. It was she who suggested the annunciation as most appropriate for the alter window, little dreaming that it eventually would be placed there as a memorial to herself. It was Helen Reed who named the church "St. Mary's-by-Sea."

Mr. Porter also designed the beautiful lily window in the church in 1921, under the direction of Cyrus McCormick, whose wedding ceremony was performed there. The window is a memorial to Mr. McCormick's wife, the former Harriett Hammond of Chicago, who had been so charmed with the beauty and environment of the church during a visit to Hotel Del Monte that she decided to give up the fashionable wedding planned for the spring in Chicago and be married in St. Mary's. Forty relatives and friends came by private car from Chicago to Del Monte for the ceremony on March 4, 1890.

Seven years later Mr. and Mrs. McCormick returned to St. Mary's and there laid upon the altar the money for seven different gifts in token of seven happy years together. These gifts were to be: La Farge opalescent glass for all the windows except the altar window; a basement excavated under the church; the grading of 12th street where it bordered on the church property; the repainting of the church; a furnace in the basement; new prayer books and hymnals for the pews; electric lights for the church, parish house and rectory.

In September 1915, Mr. and Mrs. McCormick made a third visit. They left a donation of over \$1,600 which was to be used to lay cement walks on and in front of the church property on. 12th street, for a new roof and other improvements on the rectory and parish hall.

In the spring of 1921 Mr. McCormick came alone to St. Mary's. Mrs. McCormick had passed away. This time he furnished funds for the repainting of the church property and later he sent the Harriett McCormick memorial window from Tiffany's in New York and a reproduction of the white altar hangings which had been used at the wedding in 1890. 1