

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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R. L. Stevenson Reprint Issued

As time goes on the popularity of Robert Louis Stevenson and his writings seems to increase with the reading public and we hope with children through the interest of their parents. I was born into the generation in which we were taught to read this famous author's "A Child's Garden of Verses," also the works of James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field and others of that period. Once read they are never forgotten, is my experience.

Recently another book, "Stevenson's San Francisco," printed by Adrian Wilson and published by The Book Club of California, was distributed to the membership. The preface was written by James D. Hart, with drawings by Irene Pattinson and photographs from the collection of Wyland Stanley.

The story is a description of San Francisco as Stevenson discovered it in 1879, after his sojourn in Monterey. In all his travels Stevenson did not forget either place. Just as in "The Old Pacific Capital," his essay on the Monterey he had come to know and love, he later wrote of the new Pacific city beside the Golden Gate. The original article appeared in the "Magazine of Art" in May 1883, this being a London Journal.

Friends of the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley were invited to visit a remarkable exhibition of early Californian and Western American pictorial materials in the Robert B. Honeyman Jr. collection. It was on view through December 31. I am writing of this exhibit for the reason that it is interesting and amazing to know the prices that are paid for collections of this sort - rare and historical pieces from more than 2,000 brought together by Mr. Honeyman. Approximately two-thirds of the purchase price of \$550,000 has been raised to date by the Friends group.

A selection of paintings of California artists is on exhibit at the California Historical Society's mansion, 2090 Jackson street, San Francisco. Among the artists are the following known to Monterey: Percy Gray, water colorist with a portrait of Indian Chief Gall; Rollo Peters, with a rare daylight scene; Podchernikoff, with a painting of the Monterey Custom House, lent by Col. Fred B. Rogers. The exhibit will be hung through March 14.

Brooks Gist of Tulare has mailed to me a book written by himself on the history of the San Joaquin Valley of more than a hundred years ago, with the title, "The Wild Young Land." The dates and events mentioned are historically correct. The Indian tribal names, customs, habits and beliefs are authentic, as also are the Indian words which appear from time to time. "The story is of sugar-coated fictional characters, for those who do not like to take their history straight," Mr. Brooks writes in an enclosed note.