

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 24, 1964

History and Art Aims

It might be interesting to those now on the Peninsula to have a review of the purpose in forming the Monterey History and Art Association. That purpose, as stated in the articles of incorporation, is to collect, preserve and own paintings, sketches, drawing, records, books, manuscripts, charts and other material pertaining to the history and art of Monterey and California, and to assist and further all such projects and activities; to have and to hold, to buy and sell such property, both real and personal, as may be necessary to carry out the objects of the creation of this organization; to do and to perform every act and thing necessary to carry out the above purposes.

The first year, 1931, the association sponsored an Old Monterey loan exhibit at the Custom House. The first Monterey birthday party or merienda was held June 3 of that year. Memory Garden was the setting through the courtesy of the late Misses Lee, Margaret and Vida Jacks. On July, at the suggestion of the Monterey History and Art Association, the Monterey City Council asked the U.S.S. Nevada to participate in celebrating the eighty-fifth anniversary of the raising of the American Flag over the Old Custom House by Commodore John Drake Sloat on July 7, 1846.

That first year the Old Custom House, under the direction of the State Division of Beaches and Parks, was sympathetically restored, needed repairs were made and the proper facilities provided for the safe keeping of the historic relics there on exhibition, most of which are provided and owned by the History and Art Association.

The names of those who were appointed to serve until the first election in 1931 and who signed the incorporation papers December 12, 1930, were: Carmel Martin, Col. Roger S. Fitch, Allen Griffin, Myron Oliver, Bernard Roundtree. Lewis C. Merrell, Gouverneur Morris, Harold Mack, Stanley Wood, Mrs. Laura G. Wheeler, W. O. Raiguel, Easton R. Gibson, E. Charlton Fortune, J. R. Snyder-Kinnersley and Jerome G. Pillow.