

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 30, 1964

### **Historic Spots**

The First Theater was on the recommended list for much needed repairs to building and grounds by the Monterey History and Art Ass. In 1933. That year the old-fashioned brick sidewalk was laid, and proper drainage was provided to protect the adobe wall. The late Mrs. Jane Todd gave freely of her time and thought in making the garden the beautiful setting it is.

The association that first year began to make plans for the marking of about 20 historic spots in the Old Town. These markers with additions of many more, have become a familiar sight and guide to many residents and tourists who visit Monterey and drive along the Path of History marked with the red line on the streets.

During 1932 most of the historic spots were registered by the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the state chamber of commerce. Three directors, the late Mrs. R. Douglas Morrison, Mrs. Sidney Fish and Miss Maria Antonia Field, subscribed \$150 toward supplying suitable markers. Eleven were eventually obtained and placed; they were designed by the late W. O. Raiguel, Architect.

The year 1932 also marked the presentation of several valuable gifts. The fine painting, "Vespers," by Armin Hansen was given by an anonymous donor. It now hangs in the grand sala at Casa Serrano. Alfred Bender of San Francisco gave a collection of 144 items, including many first editions, rare prints and manuscripts of California writers who lived in Monterey, most of whom are no longer alive. He also gave many examples of fine printing and bookcraft as well as the painting, "Still Life," by Anne Beemer. All these items are in the Monterey Library as a loan from the association. The same anonymous donor gave a valuable Spanish ceramic vase, now displayed in Casa Serrano, the association headquarters. A. Sabater presented an old sidesaddle now in the exhibits in the Pacific Building.

That year the art community sponsored a showing of good art at the schools for a month or so at a time.

Upon the request of the California Historical Society for appropriate photographs of Carmel, Monterey and the missions, for exhibiting in the museum established at the birthplace of Father Junipero Serra at Petra on the

Island of Mallorca, the association joined the cities of Carmel and Monterey in obtaining and forwarding three artistic photographs.

Four new markers in addition to the original 11, were placed in 1932, and included the Old Custom House, First Theater, San Carlos Church and Colton Hall, according to the second annual report by Col. Roger S. Fitch, the president. During the year, the First Theater had been painted both inside and out by the State Park and the late Mrs. Jane Todd superintended the removal and restoration of the trellises and roses.

Due to the initiative of R. M. Dorton, city manager, and the insistence and cooperative action of the Monterey History and Art Assn., the French Consulate, which formerly was located on Fremont street near Abergo, was moved, adobe brick by brick, to the foot of Franklin street where it was restored on an appropriate site in El Estero Park. It is now the headquarters of the Girl Scouts.