

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **121-Year-Old Los Coches**

The September issue of *New and Views* published by the Division of Beach and Parks has a very good history of Los Coches Rancho written by Robert W. Reese, historian of the Monterey State Historical Monuments, illustrated with a line drawings by Henry B. Collins, at one time curator of the Stevenson House in Monterey and now at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento.

Los Coches or Oak Grove was given to the State of California by Miss Margaret Jacks several years ago. It is located off State highway 101 on the road to Arroyo Seco, and a short distance from the town of Soledad. It is also known as the Soberanes-Richardson Adobe and is 121 years old. It is constructed partly of wood. It was once a road house and state station.

Another story in the same issue of *News and Views* concerns the Flag-raising at the Old Customs Service. The Flag flew over the Custom House again for the first time in 97 years, with the national and state colors. The banner last flew here in 1867, when it federal government discontinued used of the historical building.

Curator Barbara Burdick of the Custom House is shown pointing her finger to a circa 1867 photo showing the U.S. customs flag floating over the landmark. She hold a replica of the banner that was raised over the building. The original flag is displayed inside, too fragile to be flown.

Newton B. Drury, former chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, has sent me a picture—"Echo of the Past"—taken in Monterey during the centennial of the raising of the Stars and Stripes over Custom House on July 7, 1946. Six redwood trees were planted during the celebration on the east side of El Estero. In the picture are John B. Morse, then president of Del Monte Properties Co., M.W. McMenam, treasurer of the City of Monterey; Mayor J.R. Perry, holding the spade with the redwood in place, and Mrs. Perry; Emmet G. McMenam, Monterey County clerk, and Mrs. McMenam; Mrs. Margaret Allison of Los Angeles; A.B. Jacobson, chairman of the board of supervisors, Monterey County, and Carmel Martin, chairman of the planning commission of Monterey.

The picture will be placed among the History and Art Assn's collection at Casa Serrano.

Marjorie Fontana of Carmel has written to the association regarding a definite history of Monterey County. The most recent such history being a two volume work published in 1925, known as the issue of Rolin C. Watkins, which is now out of print. The recent publication of the history of San Mateo County is fine, so Mrs. Fontana writes, and she would like very much to have a definite history of Monterey County. If anyone of our reader knows of such a publication write to Monterey History and Art Assn., or to Marjorie Fontana, P.O. Box 5081, Carmel.

Dr. Milton H. Shutes of Carmel, is featured in an article by Edgar M. Crigier in the *Pacific Historian* of August 1964, published quarterly by the Pacific at Stockton. The article is really the biography of Dr. Shutes. Through the years he has written "Lincoln and the Doctors," 1933; "Lincoln and California," 1934; "Lincoln's Emotional Life," 1957; "A History of Alameda County Medical Assn.," and many other published articles.