

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 9, 1964

### **Old Home Ruffled By Diaz**

Within the city environs, the Monterey-Salinas Highway resolves itself into Fremont street. To the south of this junction and southeast from the roadside shrine built in the mission enclosing wall, is a fair-sized tableland, designated as the Mesa Tract. It is approached by a wide macadamized road leading south from Fremont street that follows a rather circuitous route approximating an old cattle trail, known as Mesa Road.

At the western extremity of the mesa, sitting proudly upon its height, is a rambling white stucco and adobe house within ample grounds and enclosed by a stone wall.

As late as 1915, cattie roamed the mesa and the lowlands. It was excellent grazing land and throughout the year water was plentiful in the slough below, due to numerous, natural springs. This tract of land had served as a cattle range from the time of the early Spanish settlement. It was part of a large land grant bestowed upon General Jose Castro by the King of Spain. Standing aloof and unprotected by either garden wall or trees of any sort, was a four-room adobe building, oblong in shape, and with a lean-to shed of unpainted boards extending the full length of the east wall

The Gen. Castro estate was in litigation in the California courts over a period of many decades, and when it was finally settled in the early years of this century, this section of the mesa fell to a portion of the Diaz family. The following announcement by Manuel Diaz, a son-in-law of General Castro, should prove of interest:

#### **Grand Raffle**

**Monterey, Nov. 11, 1847.**

**The undersigned, being desirous of disposing of his house in Monterey and as it is difficult to find a purchaser to pay its value immediately, he has adopted the method of raffling it, as less burdensome to its purchaser.**

**It is useless to recommend this establishment, all those who have visited Monterey, must be aware of its excellent location, it being, without exception, the best situation for business in this town. The raffle will be held in the presence of the alcalde of Monterey, and sufficient notice will be given in the papers of the**

**day, which will be as soon as the tickets are sold. The number of tickets will be 270 at \$30 each. The tickets will be on sale in Monterey at the house of the subscriber; in San Francisco at Millus and Howard; in the Pueblo of San Jose at the house of Don A. Sunol; in Santa Barbara at the house of Don Antonio Aguirre, and in Los Angeles at the house of Don Manuel Rynna.**

**It is a condition of the raffle that the owner of the house shall allow the occupant six months to move, he paying from the day of the raffle until he shall leave the house, \$50 per month rent.**

**Manuel Diaz**

In 1919 Gouverneur Morris purchased the property and immediately began extensive and costly operations. It is estimated that he expended more than \$50,000 in remodeling, landscaping the grounds, and building the stone wall enclosing them.

T A. Work later acquired the property, and it is now the home of his son, Frank Work, and Mrs. Work. Mr. and Mrs. Work will open the house for the Adobe House Tour of the History and Art Association, May 9.