

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Saving Landmarks

Tremendous impetus is being given these days to efforts to save notable historic landmarks all over the United States, not only by historical societies, but by cities, civic organizations, individuals and by states and the federal government itself. Future generations will thank us for what we do today to remind them of their heritage, and they, in turn, will continue to do likewise; we hope and pray.

Down Los Angeles way that impetus is being centered at the present time on "La Puente," the famous Francisco Gnazide home built about 85 years ago for Grazide's bride, Isabel Rowland, granddaughter of John Rowland who came to California in 1841 with William Workman. The home is one of three adobes in the area, both of the others now belonging to public agencies and being preserved.

It had been feared that the Grazide adobe was to be demolished for a mobile home establishment. The effort at preservation was started after word of the commercial project was passed around this region.

Fortunately for the over-all objective, Rod Whaley, the owner of the ten-acre site where the adobe is located, has proved extremely cooperative and sympathetic with the idea of turning the site into a public recreation and cultural center. He is reported to be willing to deal with the county or other substantial groups, or individuals seeking to save the adobe for park purposes. (Wouldn't it be ideal if that could happen in Monterey?) The La Puente (the bridge) and the associated historical societies of Los Angeles County have written similar requests to county officials urging that the adobe be saved.

The annual banquet of the Monterey County Historical Society is announced for Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Gonzales Elementary School Cafeteria. Chicken and enchiladas will be served.

"I Remember Gonzales When" is the title of the program to be presented with Mrs. Winifred Wolfe, a descendant of the original Gonzalez, for whom the town was named (the spelling was changed and the "z" was changed to "s"), and Mrs. Duren, plus others who will entertain in fun and speech. Mrs. Paul Bianchi Jr. is to be the hostess for the occasion.

The county society also announces with a great deal of pride that it will hold the opening of the Cottage Museum on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Just think what we in Monterey would have missed if the First Theatre had been destroyed once upon a time to widen Pacific or Scott street? It is now a State Historical Monument, open five days a week, and each weekend during the year, old time melodramas are presented there by the Troupers of the Gold Coast, for the pleasures of the tourists and the townspeople alike.