

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 8, 1965

Redwood School

Today Mrs. Ernest Delvey of Pacific Grove adds a few comments to my story of a few days ago about the Lucia country, the first school house and the first school teacher in that remote part of Monterey County. They should add a bit of factual history not only to that part of the coast but to the county school system.

The teacher was Miss Maude Flint who, in her diary written while she was in Lucia in 1922, told of her friends there and of the three children who were her only pupils.

She also mentioned a Mr. Harlan, one of the settlers in the Santa Lucia Mountains where Miss Flint taught, who had been a pupil – back in Ohio – of Miss Irene Hardy, whose fine poetry had achieved considerable recognition before her death in 1922.

“Being one of the Harlan daughters, I was born in Lucia,” writes Mrs. Delvey, the former Ada Harlan, “and lived there until I was married. I attended the Lucia, or Redwood, school through the elementary grades, which was the school that Miss Flint mentions.

“The building she taught in I feel sure was of split redwood from the nearby groves of redwoods. The Point Sur schoolhouse may have been built from the wreckage of ships on Point Sur, but I feel sure that it was not so at the Redwood school as Miss Flint wrote.

“The school building that I attended was not the first one built there, but was made from sawed lumber donated by my father from his sawmill. The sides were painted white and the roof was red, but not from red clay. I wondered where the red clay came from, mentioned by Miss Flint. I do not think it was a local product.

“My mother came with her family, the Dani's, when she was nine years old and attended the Redwood school where she received all the schooling she had. This was before Miss Flint went there to teach, so she may have been first to teach in the building that was there at that time.

“In those days, the part of the country she taught in was not called Big Sur but Lucia. The first postmistress was my aunt, Lucia Dani, and the post office was named for

her. She was the one, most likely, serving at the time Miss Flint wrote about.

“This was a little before my time, so I cannot be sure, but later on the mail came in by mule pack train and was sent out again, once each week. The Lopez family mentioned were our nearest neighbors.”

The San Benito County Historical Society invites the members of the Monterey History and Art Assn. to attend ceremonies dedicating a plaque at the site of the San Justo ranch home of Col. W.W. Hollister, for whom the city of Hollister was named at its founding in 1868.

The dedication will take place at Fremont Grammar school, 4th and Monterey streets, March 27 at 2:30 p.m., assisted by Copa de Oro Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West.

A South San Francisco school is going to learn more than the students already know if the indication which I have on hand is any proof.

I am getting letters addressed to the Monterey History and Art Assn. asking for information on many of our historical monuments. Already two have arrived and been answered. One was from a young boy who wanted to know all about the history of the Gutierrez adobe on Calle Principal. A little girl, Sharon Powers, wrote, “I am doing a report on California's First Theater in Monterey, and I would appreciate very much any information which you can send me. Thank you.”