

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 19, 1965

### Rewarding Tour

Echoes of the success of the annual Adobe House Tour, sponsored by the Monterey History and Art Assn., are still heard from far and near, all expressing appreciation to the association and to the owners of the homes and buildings which were opened to the tourists on May 1.

A sample letter received from Mrs. A. Dolenz, Ranchita Canada, 100 Raymundo Dr., Woodside, follows:

"Last weekend my five guests from Stanford University were the guests of the Monterey History and Art Assn. through the interest and kindness of a gentleman we met at the Robert Louise Stevenson House.

Although they enjoyed all the beauty spots, I think they were most impressed by the hospitality, the color and charm of the tour and its unexpectedly gracious finale – the luncheon at old Pacific Building. There they saw so many customs and met Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanton and others.

"Please convey my warm thanks to the officers of your organization for their generous hospitality to this group so far from home. Please know that Monterey will always live in their memories, and in mine, as a charming as well as an historic place.

"I lived on the Peninsula long ago before these beautiful old homes were opened to tours, so this was my first visit to them and their captivating gardens. I was particularly happy to find so many of Armin Hansen's etchings in Casa Serrano. He was one of my friends and I am happy to have a few of his etchings also.

It was really difficult to get my guests to start home, even though the men were not eager to view the homes when I first mentioned the tour. My warmest thanks to all of you on behalf of my guests and myself."

A list of Mrs. A. Dolenz's guests on the tour were: Miss Padonini Adieseshiah, principal of a woman's college in Madras, India; Prof. Donald, I.C.A.M.E. participant, India (both of these are Christians, fairly unusual); Prof. Kurt Weil, (I.C.A.M.E. participant,) San Paolo, Brazil; Mr. G.N.S. Raghavan, chief editor, Indian and Foreign Reviews, Publication Division, Ministry of Information, New Delhi, India, and S.C. Bhatt, chief news editor, All-India Radio, New Delhi. The latter are two employes of the government of India.

These are the people we reach through "VISTA." They are all affiliated with Visiting International Scholars and Teachers Assn., Stanford University.

A short time ago I had a call from a friend asking about the history of Paraiso Springs. I could not tell her much about the place, which was once a very popular resort near Soledad in Southern Monterey County. Now I wish to report that I have found a short item in "Monterey-Santa Cruz County History" telling its history from 1791 until the present day.

"The history of Paraiso is an interesting one: in 1791 King Carlos of Spain granted to Mission Soledad 20 acres of land containing the springs, where the priests located a health resort and vineyard tract. At the same time the priests established the Mission Soledad, the ruins of which may still be seen."

Since this was written in 1925, the old mission has been partially and beautifully restored through the efforts of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The chapel and several rooms to the south are open to the public and enjoyed by many visitors every day.

"The priests used the hot soda and sulphur baths for healing the sick and afflicted and, finding the spot of great beauty and the waters full of lifegiving and healing qualities, called the place Eternidad Paraiso, which means eternal paradise. Consequently for over two centuries Paraiso Springs has been known as the gift of nature for the cure of various diseases.

"Cosily tucked away by nature from the fogs of the Pacific in a snug little valley on the eastern slope of the Santa Lucia Mountains at an elevation of 1,400 feet lie the Paraiso Hot Springs, aptly in the early days known as 'The Carlsbad of America.'"