

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

May 5, 1965

Projects, Gifts

In 1931, after months of research and work, the historical committee of the Monterey History and Art Assn. reported that the work had born fruit in the form of appropriate markers for nearly a score of the community's landmarks. The meeting of the association was held in the Custom House.

Besides designating 13 historical sites for markers with suggested legends, the report covered several other privately owned buildings to be marked by their occupants in cooperation with the association, according to Colonel Fitch's report of 34 years ago.

Col. Fitch, association president of that year, also reported progress in the work of restoring the First Theater. Drainage had been installed, the interior improved, the ground cleaned up and a brick sidewalk laid.

A stone retaining wall replaced the dilapidated board fence on the upper side, and funds had been made available by the state for painting the theater part of the old building.

Col. Fitch's idea that the theater's old stage and wooden curtain be put in condition for use in amateur theatricals was enthusiastically received by the directors.

Cost of erecting the historical markers was estimated at \$150. Three of the 1931 directors subscribed \$50 each for the purpose: Mrs. Mary C.W. Black, Mrs. Olga Fish, and Excelentissima Mara Antoni Field.

Others present at the 1931 meeting were Miss Margaret Jacks, Mrs. Jane C. Todd, Mrs. Vera Peck Millis, W.W. Wheeler, Mary Black (Morrison), all now deceased; Miss E. Charlton Fortune or Carmel Valley Manor; Myron Oliver of Monterey, C.J. Ryland of Carmel and George Seideneck of Carmel. Mrs. Mary Black and Miss Fortune were hostesses at tea following the meeting.

Terms of new directors for 1931, were fixed by lot as follows; Miss Jacks, W.W. Wheeler, Arthur Hill Gilbert, H.W. Toulmin had W. O. Raiguel, one year; Miss Sidney Fish, Carmel Martin and Paul Parker, two years, Mrs. J.P. Sandholdt, Mrs. Todd, Miss Maria Antonia Field, C.J. Ryland and A.C. Jochmus, three years.

Now we shall return to the year 1965 and to Casa Serrano, headquarters of the association, and report on several gifts received within recent weeks.

Miss Edythe Foster of San Rafael has made a gift of an oil painting of Carmel Mission, painted in 1860 by Mrs. L. Tichnor, who later married Henry Schnarble and lived in Germany.

"They both had their studios and did a good deal of work. The picture had been in their home for many years and I thought you might like to have it for Casa Serrano. Mr. Torrence of the San Rafael Gallery spoke well of the picture," the donor said.

Mrs. Myrtle Allen Jung of San Jose has sent Volume I and II of "Monterey and Sana Cruz Counties History." Edited by Maj. Rolin C. Watkins in 1925.

Maj. Watkins was formerly a resident of Monterey. Mrs. Jung was the daughter of the late Edward Allen, born in Monterey, Feb. 21, 1856, the son of Thomas and Jane Allen - the former and Irishman by birth and the latter of English parentage.

Thomas Allen came to California about 1850 and located in Monterey. His home, in which his son Edward was born, was the first frame house in California, a plain structure put together in Australia and shipped around the Horn, and long an object of particular interest in Monterey until it was torn down to make way for an oil station. Mr. Allen was once a city trustee of Monterey, serving two terms in that capacity.

A large oil painting of Mrs. Allen and a picture of the first frame house enclosed in a frame of the wood from the home, now hangs in the little parlor of history and art association headquarters, at 412 Pacific.

They may be seen on the afternoons of Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 1 until 4 o'clock, when a hostess will be there to show guest through this old adobe.