Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Hilby Store

In a book published in 1899 by the Monterey Cypress and entitled "Historic Monterey and Surroundings" appear many articles dealing with prominent personages of the city and their businesses.

Today I have chosen to use the article about the Monterey Pharmacy and its owner at that time, Francis M. Hilby, because he was the great-grandfather of Nancy Hilby, who is to be an attendant of "La Favorita" at this year's Merienda, and the grandfather of her father, Edward Hilby of Pacific Grove.

"Among the many important lines of commercial enterprises to be found in Monterey is the well-known drug establishment of Francis M. Hilby, popularly designated as the Monterey Pharmacy and located on the corner of Alvarado and Franklin streets.

"This complete and handsomely fitted emporium contains every article usually found in a first-class store of its kind. Not alone can be purchased here the purest drugs and chemicals, liquors for medicinal purposes and cigars, but stationery, toilet articles, light fishing tackle of the best quality and photographic supplies of various kinds, this store being the agency for Eastman Kodak, films, etc. Mr. Hilby is also the agent for all San Francisco dailies and periodicals.

"The Monterey Pharmacy was established in 1869 by Dr. J.R. Hadsell and was purchased by F.M. Hilby 16 years ago. Mr. Hilby is a graduate of the California College of Pharmacy and takes great care and pride in compounding prescriptions and catering to the wants of his customers. He has two able assistants in the persons of Mr. F.B. Roberts and Joseph Pinto.

"An important adjunct to the Monterey Pharmacy is the convenient location of the public telephone in the rear of the store, in charge of Miss Alice Morey. R. Hilby is a young man of fine business ability, an honored and prominent member of the Native Sons of the Golden West and member of the California American Pharmaceutical Assn. and is recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens.

"Mr. V.A. Glotzbach, who occupies a neat store across the street from the Cypress office, is dealer and manufacturer of jewelry, abalone jewelry, shells, sea moss, palms, and also a repairer and diamond setter. He is a musician, a member of Chambre's orchestra and plays several instruments. He is a native son and has been established in Monterey for 20 years."

The Monterey History and Art Assn. has been given a number of prized examples of Mr. Glotzbach's work, which have been on exhibit at various times in Casa Serrano.

Included in the collection is a pendant of gold quartz surrounded by pure California gold which once belonged to Mrs. Millie Birks, a pair of earrings of the same materials, along with a number of other pieces of beautifully designed jewelry.

"History Monterey" lists the alcaldes, mayors and presidents of the City of Monterey from Jan 2, 1856, to April 18, 1898:

P.A. Roach, first alcalde, ayuntamiento of Monterey, first mayor, City of Monterey, April 6, 1850; Gilbert Murdock, mayor, Jan. 13, 1851; J.B. Knapp, Jan. 12, 1852; Jno. M. O'Neal, Jan. 13, 1853; D.R. Ashley (president of the board), July 25, 1854.

Josiah Merritt, Jan. 4, 1854; John Burke Phillips, Jan 24, 1859; Manual Diaz, June 5, 1865; J.B. Smith, Dec. 28, 1867; John Myers, June 1, 1868; Francis Doud, June 7, 1869; I.A. Skinner, June 15, 1887, and Louis Schaufele, June 12, 1888.

Also listed are officers under the new incorporation and the governors of California under Spanish and Mexican rule. First under American rule was Peter H. Burnett, 1849-1851.