

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Another Monterey Uncovered

Did you, our readers, know that there is a Monterey in Massachusetts? There is, and it became a town in April of 1847. Its history is in the April edition of "Yankee," written by Leslie Rich and illustrated with many photographs by L.F. Willard.

'History books insist that the Mexican War was the only one fought in 1846. That is not quite true. Up in the Berkshire Hills in Massachusetts a decade-old struggle was coming to a climax, setting neighbor against neighbor and even deacon against deacon," the author relates.

"The battleground was a township called Tyringham, where a thousand or so citizens were scatter across the choppy hills east and northeast of Great Barrington. After enjoying a promising history since its formation in 1739, the town is now split into warring factions—the Hop Brookers and the Konkapoters.

"In later years the area became famous for such varied enterprises as a prolific maker of tombstones who had the habit of carving cross-eyed angels and a paper mill which was reported to have the loudest whistle in all the world.

"In October, 1846, the Konkapoters decided to name their new town after one of the battles of that year. After a three-day siege, Gen. Taylor took the large Mexican town of 'Monterrey' in Mexico which sounded both mountainous and kingly. And so a little Spanish town was born in the Berkshires."

A letter to me on June 8 from Frank H. Hammond, administrator of professional programs for the American Association of Museums with headquarters in Washington, D.C., asks that Casa Soberanes be opened to receive two distinguished South American guests of the Department of State.

The gentlemen arrived June 23, and we thoroughly enjoyed each other. The callers were Messrs. Herman Crespo de Toral, director of the Archeological Museum of the Central Bank of Ecuador in Quito and Miguel S. Guerrero, technical advisor at the School of Fine Arts in Cartagena, Colombia.

They were traveling with their interpreter, Eduardo Leyva, a native of Cuba but now of Florida. The

gentlemen were traveling under the auspices of the World Affair Council.

Santa Barbara will be host on Sunday, Aug. 1 from 1 until 5 p.m. for a "casa tour" featuring four houses; the homes of Mr. and Mrs. E. Whittaker, "El Caneda," 123 E. Canon Perdido St.; "El Cuartel: (Presidio Adobe), 122 E. Canon Perdido St.; Rochin Adobe (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Phelan), 820 Santa Barbara St.; and Covarrubias Adobe, 715 Santa Barbara St., where a shawl exhibit will be featured. Refreshments will be served in the garden.

The historical Society Museum at Santa Barbara and De La Guerra streets will be open. The tour will benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Trussell-Winchester Adobe and Fernald House. Tickets may be secured at any of the adobes on the day of the tour.

A campaign was launched last April for funds to restore the famous Sutter sawmill at Coloma. The drive is sponsored by El Dorado County Historical Society and the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce.

The drive is aimed at obtaining enough subscriptions to match funds (\$15,000) approved by the state for the reconstruction of the sawmill where James Marshall picked up the first flake of gold in 1848, starting the great California Gold Rush.

In the May copy of the California Historian, published by the Conference of California Historical Societies, is an article which should be of interest to all of us up and down the coast. We quote:

"Congressman Burt L Talcott introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to stop further quarrying of Morro Bay Rock by transferring all federal right, title and interest in Morro Bay Rock to the State of California.

"Talcott was alerted to the operations of the Army engineers, who were quarrying some 80,000 tons of rock from Morro Rock for rehabilitation of Morro Bay harbor, by the conference and member societies, as well as history-minded individuals throughout California.