

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 1, 1966

California In 1841

Announcement has been made of the publication of "James Douglas in California in 1841", being the journal of a voyage from the Columbia to California on behalf of the Hudson Bay Company, with an introduction and explanatory notes by Dorothy Blakey Smith.

Sir James Douglas was chief factor at Fort Vancouver and later first governor of British Columbia. The political as well as the commercial aspects of his expedition by sea to California during the winter of 1840-41 are set forth with shrewd observation and furnish a vivid, highly interesting narrative. The social life and customs of early California, its trade practices, and its government, are closely observed and reported. The original manuscript of the British Provincial the Douglas Journal is in British Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.

A collector's item, this book has been set up by hand in its entirety and imprinted in three colors and bound in a limited edition of 500 numbered copies. It is illustrated with line engraved portraits of James Douglas and Juan Bautista Alvarado, a native of Monterey and governor of Alta California. The price is \$15.00 in cloth, \$22.50 in leather, plus sales tax. The Vancouver Public Library is the agent.

Mrs. David C. Regnery was a recent visitor to Casa Soberanes seeking to learn more of Monterey's historical heritage. Mrs. Regnery is a member of the San Mateo County Historical Association and is particularly interested in the life of Capt. Maddox while on duty at the Presidio in Monterey, and the role he played at the Battle of Santa Clara.

In the book "Story of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition" she found this paragraph: "Monterey County displayed relics of the Spanish Missions, the days when under Spain and Mexico it was the capital of Alta California. The flagpole and the American Flag raised on it by Commodore John Drake Sloat was exhibited. There was also a copy of the original Custom House."

I remembered reading or of being told that one of the old Spanish cannons had been taken to San Francisco to display in the Monterey exhibit at the Exposition and was never returned, so I told Mrs. Regnery that fact. So before leaving the Peninsula she and her hostess, Mrs.

Ann Blinks, motored to the Presidio and located nine (9) cannons: five at Fort Mervine, two at Father Serra's statue and one hitching post at the Sherman-Halleck headquarters next to the Larkin House, all of which are land pieces and of American origin in the 1860s. There is also a bronze cannon at the museum of the Custom House, dug up at a spring in the Pebble Beach area.

On March 26th, the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society was privileged to meet at San Miguel Mission of the Archangel in San Miguel. It was through the efforts of this society that the San Miguel Mission is to receive a bronze plaque from the State of California marking it as a State Historical Monument No. 326.

After the unveiling and dedication of the plaque members and guests were given a special tour of the Mission San Miguel Archangel and museum, following which the Franciscan Mission Fathers and Brothers gave a supper for the guests.