

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Save The Landmarks: 1903

In the issue of the New Era for June 10, 1903, the editor, William Kay, writes a comment very much the same as the local papers might write today, and appealing to the public to "Save the Landmarks."

"It is cause for surprise that, with the exception of a contribution of \$17.50 from the local carpenters and joiners union, Monterey has contributed practically nothing to the fund now being raised for the preservation of California's landmarks.

"Most of these historic landmarks are located in Monterey—where California's history began—and their preservation should be, and we hope is, dear to the heart of every resident of the ancient capital." The editor continues: "From all over the state contributions are being made to the fund, and all over the state—Save in Monterey—the movement to preserve the landmarks is receiving hearty support. The town where so many of the building are situated, and which will most directly benefit, should not be the last to give a substantial aid in a good cause." This comment was written in 1903.

On Saturday, May 7, a California Registered Landmark Plaque was dedicated in San Francisco by the Native Sons of the Golden West at the Old St. Mary's, the first building erected as a cathedral in California. The church served the Archdiocese of San Francisco in that capacity from 1854 to 1891. Once the city's most prominent building, much of the stonework was quarried and cut in China and its brick brought around the horn in sailing ships.

A letter has arrived at Casa Soberanes from Don A. Schrupp, a member of the faculty of the Berkeley High School, asking permission to visit Casa Soberanes on May 14th, with the members of the Spanish Honor Society (La Estudiantina). The society has a rather large group of enthusiastic honor students here at Berkeley High, the group approximately twenty-five, plus chaperons, plan to visit Mission San Juan Bautista and points of interest in Monterey. Of course they will be welcome at any and all landmarks in Monterey.

"A Thank You" from Salinas has also arrive at this desk from Mrs. Jean Klanda complimenting the Monterey History and Art Association upon the success of the

annual adobe house tour. Mrs. Klanda wrote: "I am sorry that in the six years that I have lived in Salinas, I just this year took the adobe tour. It was one of most rewarding days I have every had. Your tour was so beautifully done; the escort cars, the Girl Scouts, and the flower arrangements were magnificent. Thank you so much for a wonderful day and believe me I can hardly wait until next year. I'll never pass up an opportunity again to see these beautiful home and buildings.

The first prison brig used in California was the Stafford. It came to Sacramento in 1849 from New York and was moved opposite the foot of Eye street on the river front in Sacramento. It cost \$50,000 but was sold at auction by J.B. Starr to C.C. Hayden for \$3,750 . Hayden sold three quarters of his interest to Charles Morrill, Captain Isaac Derby, and Mr. Whitney, who in turn rented the vessel to the county in March, 1850.

It was used by the county as a prison brig until May when Morrill bought out his partners. Morrill planned to sail between San Francisco and Panama for trading. The ship was so poorly loaded at the levee, that it almost went to the bottom of San Francisco Bay. The cargo was readjusted and the ship left the port, but never returned.

Soon afterward, the county bought the La Grange, of Salem, Massachusetts, and it was moved opposite H. Street in Sacramento. When the big flood of 1862 devastated the city, its seams split, and it tore loose from its moorings. The prisoners were saved just in time and returned to the city hall jail. Since that time Sacramento County has had a landlocked prison for their offenders.