

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 1, 1966

Treasure Sale Coming Up

I have received a few notes from the Monterey County Historical Society announcing that organization's plans for the next several weeks, including the date for a "Treasure Sale" to be held October 2, 1966.

The event will be held in the Cottage Museum, and the Rodeo Grounds across from Sherwood Gardens and north of the municipal, swimming pool in Salinas.

In connection with his interesting event there will be an antique auto exhibit. Refreshments will be served and auction will be held of all sorts of articles which have been given throughout the past year by members and friends of the society. John Hughes of Salinas is the chairman of the committee planning the event.

Several years ago while the late Mrs. Mary L. Greene was curator of the Old Custom House, we made a trip to Paso Robles to see a whale gun in a gun shop there. It proved to be just what we wanted for exhibits in the Old Custom House. We bought it for the History and Art Association, put it in the back of the car, brought it back to Monterey and it is on exhibit in the Custom House now.

On this same trip the owner of the gun shop showed us a miniature whale boat all properly rigged and manned by a group of whalers, which he gave to us. We brought it home and wondered just what we would do to make it even more authentic than it was for the little whalers were celluloid dolls and the water was colored corrugated cardboard.

We quickly solved the problem by going to our friend Mrs. Eulalia Stauffer in Pacific Grove, noted for her charming little figures, which she molds herself, dries them in her oven and dresses them authentically. She cheerfully consented to make over the water and make the tiny whalers. It is now one of the most popular exhibits in the Old Custom House for children and grownups alike.

When Mrs. Stauffer sent to the History and Art Association her gift in memory of Mrs. Greene, she also wrote this: "It was a blessing to have known her. Her Sparkling personality and ready wit touched us all with a bit of magic. I shall never forget her first reaction to the little fishermen I created for the old whaling boat.

"She said: 'Bless their little hearts.' She did not know at the time and I doubt if I have told anyone before, but my name is solidly stitched in the heart region of each tiny figure. So I feel in a way that they too express certain sentiments at this time."

Mrs. Stauffer tells me that the little whalers are all properly attired both in underwear and outside clothing. She made their shoes and Miss Peggy Coombs donated a good pair of real leather gloves to make a coat for the chief whaler, who is the only figure standing in the boat, enjoying his pipe smoking.

One of the former men with the Division of Beaches and Parks built the stand for the glass-covered case which contains the whale boat and put a small step upon it so the little children could look down into the boat and see all the rigging and the seated whalers, with oars in hand.