

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 26, 1966

### **Briefing At Casa Serrano**

The Monterey History and Art Association headquarters, "Casa Serrano" was open Wednesday morning to the group of hostesses who are in charge at the open house each Saturday and Sunday from 1 until 4 o'clock.

They came to familiarize themselves with the historic items, on display there and hear talks given by Mrs. Tod Singleton, the house chairman; Mrs. Charles Bentley, inventory chairman; Mrs. Oliver Watson, hostess chairman; and this writer.

A conducted tour through the four rooms of the old adobe was made and the hostesses asked questions and suggested ways and means of making the adobe as charming as possible to the tourists and home folks who visit the adobe building.

On display for the first time was a group of articles given by Mrs. Sergei Bormenko of Carmel Highlands to the History and Art Association recently, all of which will be featured each Saturday and Sunday afternoon for the next month or so.

In the collection are a man's Chinese ceremonial robe of tribute silk in a chrysanthemum pattern, with rich delicate embroidered trimmings, and cotton padding lining so the garment is warm for the wearer.

The Peking men are tall, so the garment is long. The sleeves are also very long and the men slip one arm into the sleeve and the other arm into the other sleeve and then cross the arms. They can be made shorter by putting a tuck in the sleeve and turning the cuff back to show the handsome trimming of hand embroidery.

There is also a ladies' short coat trimmed with much colorful embroidery of birds and flowers. Mrs. Bormenko wore these articles, during her residence in Peking when she attended a party or went to the theater. She also carried a tiny, embroidered snuff bag which she used for a 'make up' compact, and a tiny Chinese fan. All of these beautiful things now belong to the association as a gift from Mrs. Bormenko.

This generous lady was in Peking for several years with the Peking Medical College, School of Nursing and also hospital, sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, as a nurse. She and her husband are now retired and

enjoying their Carmel Highlands home. Mrs. Bormenko is a former director of the Monterey Peninsula Visiting Nurse Association.

Visiting with the Barmenco's is Miss Edith Van Orden of San Francisco who accompanied her hostess when she brought the Chinese garments to Casa Soberanes to present them to the Monterey History and Art Association.