

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Fund Raising And A Key

Today I will try to give the readers a bit about the Monterey History and Art Association and the Monterey Foundation back in the early part of 1951.

I will include a brief report on several historical tours which materially assisted in the first projects of this newer organization.

In 1945 the Monterey History and Art Association had a tour of several of the old historic homes and was able to give a check for \$250 to the foundation as the very first subscription to their funds to purchase and restore old buildings.

On October 6, 1948, another tour was given by the association when the Casa Soberanes, the Larkin House, Casa Amesti and Casa Alvarado were opened by their owners and \$910 was realized.

After the expenses were paid, a check for \$744 was sent to the treasurer of the foundation to defray the expense of a new roof on the Gutierrez adobe on Calle Principal, which had been purchased by the latter group and was in the process of restoration.

During the Centennial celebration in Monterey in 1949 another tour was given under the auspices of the Centennial Committee of Monterey. Mrs. Harry Toulmin was appointed- chairman by Dr. Hugh Dormody, then the mayor of Monterey.

She selected a committee of women to assist, and it was decided, with the permission of the Centennial committee that all funds collected would be used to defray the expenses of the restoration program of the Gutierrez adobe.

The front door key to the First Theater in California was finally returned to Monterey and to the theater on May 25, 1951.

A letter had come to the Monterey History and Art Association from William H. Depew of Las Vegas, Nevada, saying that he had the lock in his possession and would send it to the association if it was wanted. It arrived soon after Mr. Depew had been notified that it certainly was wanted. The following history of the lock came with it.

"I have mailed to you the front door lock to the old Theatre. I understand that this lock came around the Horn from New York. It came into the possession of my father, Charles M. Depew, at the time the Hugh Tevis home was being built on the waterfront in Monterey.

"It was the desire of Mr. Tevis that there should be employed as many of the old Spanish residents as possible. For a long time, there were quite a number of old Monterey residents at work on the home and in the garden. They were very grateful for the work and when my father expressed a desire to obtain some of the historic relics of old Monterey, he was given quite a number including the lock.

"There was a large brass key to the lock but Albert Farr, the architect on the Tevis home, induced my father to let him have it. Mr. Farr was an avid collector of early items and obtained nearly everything my father had.

"Among other things there were four cannon balls dug out of the Custom House walls, fired from the vessels to the harbor when the town was attacked."