

Peninsula Dairy Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 6, 1967

Myron Oliver

During the year of the San Francisco fire of 1906, Chris Jorgensen, a noted artist who had pioneered painting in Yosemite Valley for thirty years, built the only stone house in Carmel except that of Nina Foster.

The stone house of Chris Jorgensen was to be the winter home of the family, and was destined to become the LaPlaya Hotel in 1912, just in time for the influx of American Traveling Public which otherwise might have gone to Europe.

At the February meeting of the Board of Directors of the Monterey History & Art Association, held in Casa Serrano, the association's headquarters on Pacific, an oil painting of the Old Custom House, paired by Jorgensen in 1928 was unveiled.

The painting had been discovered by Myron Oliver who restored it and cleaned it and then offered it to the association. The directors purchased the painting and it is now hanging in the Casa Serrano, where visitors may see it on Saturday and Sunday afternoons each week.

Many of our older artists knew Mr. Jorgensen quite well, including Miss Charlton Fortune, Myron Oliver and Ferdinand Burgdorf, and many painted with him her on the Peninsula.

The above item was written before the death of Myron Oliver and much of the information it contains come from him.

He was always on the lookout for furniture, objects of art, old maps and other things to enhance the charm and value of Casa Serrano. There are now examples of the work of Armin Hansen, Charlton Fortune, Frank Myers, Jorgensen, Charles Rollo Peters, Ferdinand Burgdorf and several others, including some acquired of early scenes, because of their value as pictures of old Monterey.

Myron was made an honorary life member of the Monterey History and Art Association when he was presented with a framed certificate by the board of directors. He was honored at last year's Merienda with the Laura Bride Powers Memorial Award, in recognition of outstanding service to Monterey in the spirit of the association's goals.