

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 11, 1967

### **Old San Miguel Adobe**

A letter has just come to me from Mrs. Robert R. Work of San Miguel, asking if I might have historical information about the old adobe just south of the Old Mission San Miguel in San Luis Obispo County.

The land on which it stands was Mission property, bought by Petronilla Rios and William Reed, July 4, 1846. Senor Rios built this adobe as a ranch headquarters for the considerable acreage he owned at the time. It was later used as a stage station and was called the Caledonia. It was purchased in 1964 by San Luis Obispo County.

The History and Landmarks Section of the Paso Robles Woman's Club had hoped to rescue this old landmark from oblivion. However, the need for community backing has led the members to enlist the support of all friends of the adobes.

Meanwhile Mrs. Work is continuing to collect all available early history of the interesting old building. If there is anyone hereabouts who has any knowledge of the past history of the particular adobe please write to Mrs. R. Work, Estrella Rte., San Miguel, California, 93451.

All too often old buildings of historic note have been demolished in the name of "progress."

The oldest building in San Jose, the 159-year old Peralta Adobe, will not share in this fate.

The city council has acquired the adobe—one of two adobes still standing in San Jose—and plans are being made to restore it and develop it into a park and tourist attraction.

The adobe was erected in 1808 by Don Luis Maria Peralta, a soldier appointed a year earlier as the Spanish governmental representative in the Pueblo de San Jose of Guadalupe.

Peralta was born in the Presidio of Tubac, Sonora, Mexico, and in the late 1770's his family traveled with a group of more than 200 colonists and Lt. Col. Juan Bautista de Anza from Mexico to Monterey.

In 1781 or 1782 young Peralta enlisted in the military service at the Monterey Presidio, beginning a military

career that lasted more than 40 years, all of it in the province of Upper California. He lived in the San Jose adobe with two unmarried daughters until he died in 1851 at the age of 92.