

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 6, 1968

Thank You to Hostesses

Today we must give some praise and a great big "Thank You" to thirty Peninsula women, members of the Monterey History and Art Association, who have given of their time to serve as volunteer hostesses each Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1 until 4 o'clock at Casa Serrano on Pacific street, the headquarters of the association. The rooms are always decorated with special displays, and on the walls, there are paintings of many of our old-time artists who at one time or another made their homes in Monterey.

During the past year there have been visitors, who signed the guest book from Guam, Iceland, Holland, England, Australia, Austria, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Denmark, and many more from the United States. Many local residents have visited the old adobe for the first time. Service boys and foreign students have enjoyed visiting there also.

The hostesses have been Mesdames: G. V. Nevius, Josephine Fussell, Florence Gates, V. C. Warren, I. Norman Downer, Elizabeth Hill, Gordan Hall, Donald Goodhue, R. C. Barkelew, Don Venes, A. C. Daniels, Wilma Lazeby, E. M. Porter, Mary Elizabeth Thomsen, Elizabeth Buckley, C. R. Spangler, Stewart Goode, Van Court Warren, Leland Paul, John Francis Doud, George Tomlinson, Talbert Josselyn, Ivan Wilson, R. V. MacDonald, Thelma Bailey, Wallace Lowry, George Clemens, Misses Dorothy Peacock, Marian Eley, Lila Adams.

Mrs. Oliver Watson of Pacific Grove is the hostess chairman.

The oldest house in Salinas changed hands at Christmas time as a gift to the Monterey County Historical Society, Inc., on December 23, 1967. It was the historical home of Mrs. Helen Baker Currie and Miss Florence Baker on Romie Lane. It was built by their grandfather, Isaac Julian Harvey, first mayor of Salinas. He had the two-story residence built in 1868.

The Harvey granddaughters spent most of their lives in the home now situated at 238 E. Romie lane. Before being moved to that site it was in the heart of downtown Salinas.

The donors hope that the residence will be kept much as when their grandparents and parents lived in it. In

recent months they have been rearranging and adding to original pieces so that when completed the home will be representative of a typical early merchant.

It will be used for Monterey County Historical Society board meetings and for such other sessions as befit a veteran of 100 years. The house was first on Gabilan street, facing south, between Main and Monterey streets. In 1874, soon after Harvey became mayor of Salinas, the residence was moved around the corner to face on Monterey street. In 1939 another move took the old house to its present site on East Romie lane, named for the Romie family of which the mother of Miss Margaret Jacks was a member.