

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Old Whaling Station

We recently told the story in this column of the building of the Old Whaling Station on Decatur street in Monterey and related that Mr. Dickenson, the builder of the First Brick House in Monterey, had assisted David Wight in the building of the old adobe house next door which later became the whaling station.

Now we have further information about the brick house, the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Juan Garcia, natives of Spain, true American citizens, beloved members of the Monterey History and Art Association and as thoroughly interested in the early history of Monterey as any of its citizens. In 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Garcia held open house at the First Brick House for two days, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the old building.

In the January issue of Notes from the California Historical Society, the editor writes: "One gift that cannot be omitted from mention in these pages came to us from Harry J. Breen, a descendant of Patrick Breen, member of the Donner party. Mr. Breen came into the society's headquarters on McAllister street in San Francisco, bearing three documents pertaining to the sale, in 1851, to Patrick Breen of 60,000 bricks and 'also 1 lot with all improvements thereon' in Monterey.

The improvements thereon included the old Gallant Duncan Dickenson house, and the bricks were part of those from which Dickenson had built his house in 1847, it being the first brick in California. A part of the sale was also '1 lot or parcel of land 22 varas by 40 extending to the rear of Vives Schultz and Co.,' sold for \$66. The brick house, together with its lot, was sold at \$1,025."

The Schultz store was on Olivier street. This street was named, for Olivier Deleisseques, a Frenchman of some education who came to Monterey before 1850 and married Conception Boronda. Their home was an adobe building facing the street named in his honor.

Mr. Frank Henneken of Seaside presented the Monterey History and Art Association with two large, framed pictures of his aunt, Mrs. Joaquin Gutierrez who, with her husband, built the old adobe house on Calle Principal, restored by the Monterey Foundation. When the restoration has been completed and appropriate

furnishings installed, the pictures will be hung on the walls in memory of the builders.

Mrs. Gutierrez in one of the pictures appears seated with two of her daughters standing on either side of her. To the right is a daughter, Bessie, later Mrs. Paul Rennie, and to the left Mrs. Joseph Schulte Jr., whose given name was Eloisa. Mrs. Rennie's husband was a German-born soldier who came to Monterey at the time of the Spanish-American War. Mr. Schulte opened and owned the Pioneer Jewelry Shop at the corner of Del Monte and Alvarado in years gone by.

Mrs. Gutierrez is alone in the second picture. Both pictures, which appear to be enlargements, were found by Mr. Henneken in the former home of the late Mrs. Schulte on Munras avenue after her death. Mrs. Gutierrez, who was Josefa Escobar, was born in the old home, part of which is adobe, in the lot back of the Monterey Hospital, between Pacific and Cass streets, formerly the property of Mrs. Virginia Escobar Stenhouse. The pictures were probably taken about 1891, according to Mr. Henneken.

Miss Grace Brune has given the History and Art Association an old wooden mallet which was brought from Italy by the senior Juan Bonifacio, the father of Ignacio Maria Bonifacio who, in turn, left his carpenter tools to his son, Juan Jr. The mallet was used in the old days to drive wooden pegs in furniture and floors in lieu of nails.