

MONTEREY HISTORY AND ART ASSOCIATION

1973

ADOBE HOUSE TOUR

presents

AN ORIENTAL ARGOSY



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH AND 29TH 10 AM TO 5 PM

TICKETS: \$1.00 CHILDREN AND MILITARY IN UNIFORM
\$4.00 ADULTS ... AVAILABLE AT EACH ADOBE

COFFEE AND TEA SERVED AT CASA SERRANO
412 Pacific Street

MONTEREY HISTORY AND ART ASSOCIATION PROUDLY REPRINTS THE TEXT OF SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL AND TO WHOM THE 1973 ADOBE TOUR IS DEDICATED.

Text of Senate Resolution

Text of the California State Senate Resolution honoring Mrs. Mayo Hayes O'Donnell is as follows:

"Whereas Mayo Hayes O'Donnell has figured prominently in the community life of the Monterey Peninsula for several decades and lives at historic Casa Soberanes (The House of the Blue Gate) on Pacific street in Monterey, which she has deeded to the State of California as an historical monument; and

"Whereas Mrs. O'Donnell is a native daughter of the Golden West, born and reared in Tulare County, who moved to Monterey in 1925, two years after her marriage to the late William O'Donnell, former assistant publisher of the Monterey Peninsula Herald; and

"Whereas Mrs. O'Donnell and her husband showed a deep and abiding interest in the history of Monterey from the time of their settlement there, which has continued through years of leadership on the Monterey History and Art Assn. and the Monterey Foundation; and

"Whereas Mayo Hayes O'Donnell helped organize the Casa Abrego Club

and served for five years on its board of governors and planned the El Estero Rose Garden for the garden club, which gave it as a memorial to her husband; and

"Whereas Mayo Hayes O'Donnell, perhaps more than any other individual, has kept alive the spirit of 'Old Monterey' and delighted thousands of Californians who have read her column in the Monterey Peninsula Herald entitled 'Peninsula Diary', which has enriched their lives through her interesting and varied historical accounts of early California and the significance of Monterey in the early days of our state;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the State of California that it takes great pleasure in calling the attention of the citizens of this state to the unique contributions of Mayo Hayes O'Donnell to the understanding of exciting historical events of the past and to the enjoyment of things present and in commending Mayo Hayes O'Donnell for her energetic and inspirational achievements throughout the years."





1

CASA BUELNA
801 Mesa Road

Built by Antonio Buelna during the years 1818-1821, where this Mexican soldier-turned school teacher established a school for girls, which was continued after his death by his daughter Senora Hillaria de Buelna. This was one of the first homes to be built on the hills outside the Presidio's protective walls.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Williams Evans, have begun a program of careful restoration and preservation, while up-dating the wiring, plumbing and engineering of the old-structure. We are deeply indebted to young people who have the vision to see the value of retaining the beauty of the past, and accommodating it to the present requirements.



2

STEVENSON HOUSE
530 Houston Street

The Stevenson House on Houston Street (known in early days as Merchant's Row) is literally a shrine for Stevensoniana. Within its adobe walls are seen many articles of furniture, books of first edition, original illustrations for his books, manuscripts, keepsakes and personal belongings of the beloved writer, Robert Louis Stevenson, given by members of his family to the house where he spent several months in 1879.

For many years, the Stevenson House was known as the French Hotel. The original owner used the building for a warehouse. It was assessed in 1851 to Dona Manuela Girardin, whose daughter Marie Clementine, married Dr. J. P. Heintz, and they operated the building as the French Hotel. In 1937, the historic adobe was endangered by plans for destruction; and was purchased by the late Edith van Antwerp and Mrs. C. Tobin Clark, now of San Mateo, who in turn presented it to the State of California as a memorial in 1942. Stevenson's step-daughter presented the Monterey History and Art Association with the heirloom furniture which Stevenson had had shipped to Samoa where he resided until his death, and, and where he lies buried.

In this house you will see the use of Chinese matting-wall to wall, and here there is exhibited the sewing or work table delicately decorated with gold on black lacquer, and with ivory fittings of 26 pieces, bobbins, needle cases, etc. The fringe on the silk bag is original, but the bag itself is a duplicate of the original which has shredded from age, and had to be replaced. The feet of the table end in dragon heads, as described in the manifest of the S/S EVALINE which brought in the rich cargo in 1849, the subject of our tour.



3

GORDON HOUSE
526 Pierce Street

The Gordon House, at the corner of King and Pierce Streets was one of the first milled lumber houses to be built in Monterey. The north half of the building, one of two houses imported around the Horn by Philip Roach in 1849, was framed and sheathed and trimmed in Eucalyptus or Gum from Australia, milled in New England, and erected in that same year. Roach was the last Alcalde of Monterey and the first Mayor (1851).

In 1850, Roach sold the property to Wm. S. Johnson, who was Sindiuco (trustee) to the Ayuntamiento (council), the first of which was held in Colton Hall January 2, 1850. The next owner, in 1853, was John Burke Phillips, an attorney who arrived in California in 1847 with Company D. New York Volunteers.

In 1871, Samuel B. Gordon, from whom the building takes its name, became the new owner and erected the south half of the house, consisting of two rooms with fireplaces. This work was constructed of local Pine and shows the difference in rot and pest resistance in Australian Gum. Gordon was well known in civic affairs and was president of the board of trustees, 1877 to 1883.

The detail in the new part is interesting, particularly the fine heavy cornice in the living room, an imaginative Victorian plaster run molding. In contrast, the cornice in the north wing is more sympathetic with the early New England farmhouse character of the building.

Gordon conveyed the property in 1900 to T. A. Work; three consecutive owners followed in the next three years, and numerous others since. The house is a privately owned residence.

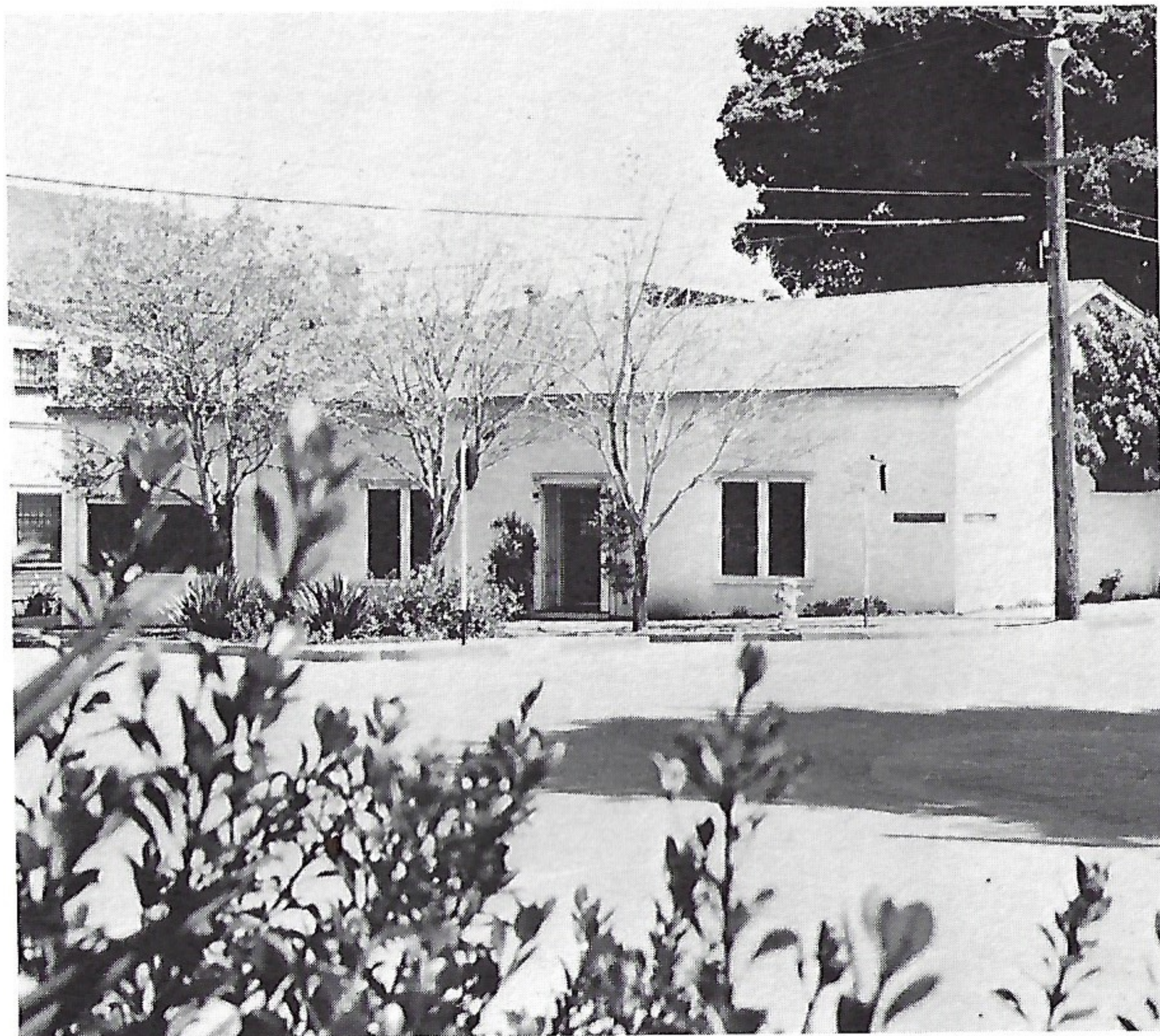


4

HOUSE OF THE FOUR WINDS
540 Calle Principal

The House of the Four Winds, so named because of the weather vane on its roof, was built in 1834 by Thomas Oliver Larkin and used for many years as a private residence and at the time of the American Occupation it was used as a store by Governor Alvarado. The building was used as headquarters for H. W. Halleck as Secretary of State, as the first Hall of Records in the State of California until the department was moved to El Cuartel, and the first recorder of Monterey County, W. C. Johnson, had his office in the building. In 1914, this landmark was purchased and restored by the women of The Monterey Civic Club, and is said to be the oldest clubhouse in the United States. The furnishings are of the American period, and contain many important gifts of this time.

Here you will see Japanese folk dancing by young Japanese-Americans, descendants of the early Japanese who came to Monterey, adding to the richness of the culture here. There will also be demonstrations of Japanese flower arrangement, by local artists.



5

**FIRST FEDERAL COURT
511 Hartnell Street**

The charming one-story adobe still standing on the corner of Polk and Hartnell streets was the home of Don Jose Joaquin de la Torre, a Mexican Alcalde, who held the first Federal Court there in 1836 under Mexican rule. He was still holding office there when the Americans took possession of Monterey in 1846, according to the WPA survey of the Monterey Peninsula in 1937. Monterey assessment books of 1851 record the property as belonging to Gabrielle de la Torre, and still assessed to him in 1856 at a value of \$1,600. A tea room and book shop flourished here for many years, and in 1958 was purchased by Rear Admiral (USN. Ret.) and the late Mrs. L. J. Hudson of Point Lobos, Mrs. Hudson being a descendent of the pioneer Riley and Allen families.

It took three years to complete the construction of this excellent example of Spanish-Colonial architecture, begun in 1835. The whole building is hand-fashioned and many of its small windows are of handmade glass, originally brought around the Horn from New England. It is a good example for use of one of the oldest buildings in Monterey, now being used as law offices by the Hudson heirs. The handsome Chinese rug and valuable Japanese cloisonne vases are from the Hudson collection. A charming garden has been constructed by the owners for the pleasure of those who pass, and those who have business within.



6

**CASA AMESTI
516 Polk Street**

Casa Amesti, designated an historic home and owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and now headquarters of the Old Capitol Club, was the wedding present of Don Jose Amesti to his daughter, Carmen, when she married James (Santiago) McKinley in 1848.

A Spanish Basque, Don Jose came to Monterey at the age of thirty in 1822, building the adobe three years later for his bride, Prudenciana Vallejo, sister of General Vallejo, by whom he had three daughters, Carmen, Epitacia and Caledonia.

Grantee of Corralitos Rancho and other lands in Monterey, Don Jose joined the Compania Extranjera de Monterey, was appointed a judge and became alcalde of Monterey in 1844.

An eleven-year old Scottish sailor boy, left behind in San Francisco by a whaler in 1824, soon learned to adjust to his strange surroundings. To his name, James McKinley, he added "Santiago" when he became a Mexican citizen, later prefacing his name with the title Don. For many years he was connected with maritime affairs, at one time serving as agent for Captain Cooper, half-brother of Thomas Larkin, first U.S. Consul in California, and joining the Compania Extranjera in 1832. He undoubtedly thus became acquainted with the Amesti family since there are references to "big, burly Jim McKinley carrying little Carmen (who later became his wife) around in his arms".

Through his own business acumen he acquired mission lands of San Juan Capistrano and San Luis Obispo which, added to the wealth of his wife, made him a man of considerable means. His long career in California business and politics ended with his death in the Polk Street adobe in 1875.

Rescued from oblivion by Mrs. Frances Elkins in 1918, with her taste, appreciation of art and history and vision as to its value, Casa Amesti underwent a thorough renovating, including a basement that took two years to excavate because the ground contained two or three natural springs.

Upon her death Mrs. Elkins willed the property to the National Trust. The Old Capitol Club, formed in 1955, occupies the property as a men's luncheon Club and meeting place and provides the means, also, for maintaining this outstanding example of Mexican Colonial architecture with its exquisitely furnished interiors.

In the upstairs sala will be seen a handsome antique Chinese rug from the Imperial Household, identified because of its five-toed dragon.



7

**THE LARKIN HOUSE
510 Calle Principal**

The Larkin House was presented to the State of California as an historical monument in 1957 by Thomas Larkin's granddaughter, Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin. The 138 year old structure of adobe and wood is distinguished as one of the earliest examples of the now-famous Monterey architecture. The home was built in 1835, shortly after Larkin came to California as a Yankee merchant. He was appointed U.S. Consul to California in 1843 and from then until 1848 his house was the consulate and much of the time filled with visitors. Larkin House contained the office of Walter Colton, first American Alcalde of Monterey, and served as headquarters for the U.S. Military Governor of California. During these years, the Larkin House was the scene of many fine balls, dinners and other entertainment and was one of the famous social centers of early California. Several of the handsome pieces of furniture are from the original but Mrs. Toulmin added appropriately to the furnishings during her occupancy, keeping always within the style and period of the original. Here you will see a handsome Chinese Empress bed, and an unusual Chinese musical instrument.

In her will, Mrs. Toulmin left the sum of \$10,000 to be used to maintain the house in the accustomed manner, and to provide funds for special entertaining to be decided upon by a Committee of her friends responsible for the advice to the State upon its maintenance.



8

**ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM
550 Calle Principal**

The family of the late Allen Knight of Carmel generously donated this important collection to the Monterey History and Art Association, and the museum was opened in 1971 under the guidance of Admiral Earl Stone (USN-Retired) who has brought it into a much used and enjoyed maritime treasure-trove. Here scholars may use the valuable library of books, pictures and rare shipping records. A scale model by Colonel Charles Richmond of the frigate "SAVANNAH", the flagship of Commodore John Drake Sloat in 1846 when he took possession of Monterey and declared California a part of the United States, thus claiming for the United States over 600,000 square miles of territory which now comprise the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and parts of Wyoming and Montana, so that the beginning of our western history was cradled in Monterey.

A rare collection of Chinese junks, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Greatwood, has been recently received and are exhibited for this Tour.

Also exhibited here is the Ming vase given to Monterey by the City of Tainan, China, when sister city relations were established several years ago.



9

FRANCIS DOUD HOUSE
177 Van Buren

One of the first houses built after the American occupation, and was erected by Francis Doud, a pioneer of 1849, and a Mexican War Veteran. He was a native of Ireland and at the age of 16 left his native land to come to New York, where he joined the United States Army to fight the Indians in 1838, and took an active part in the second Seminole war in Florida 1835 to 1842. In the Mexican war he was wounded at Vera Cruz and later at Cerro Cordo, in consequence he was honorably discharged, became a private citizen and came to Monterey. He died at his home in Van Buren street in 1910 and left valuable property in the Salinas Valley area. His wife, Anna, continued to reside in the home until her death. They had seven children whose descendants still live on the Peninsula. Mr. Doud was sergeant-at-arms at the Constitutional Convention in Colton Hall in 1849. The Monterey History and Art Association purchased the home and has restored and preserved it, leasing it to quality shops where the house may be visited by the general public.



10

CASA SOBERANES
336 Pacific Street

Casa Soberanes is believed to be 132 years old, and is in an excellent state of preservation, having had only 4 owners, beginning with Don Jose Estrada, commanding officer of the Presidio of Monterey in the 1840's. He sold the two-story residence to Don Feliciano Soberanes, son-in-law of Don Ygnacio Vallejo. In 1902, the property was sold to Reuben Louis Serrano, grandson of Florencio Serrano, Monterey Alcalde under Mexican rule. In 1941, the picturesque adobe was acquired by the late William O'Donnell, co-publisher of the Monterey Peninsula Herald, and his wife, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell, distinguished California historian, who presented it to the State in 1953, with life tenancy. The beautifully landscaped grounds remain as always. Flower-beds are encircled with century-old, sunken glass bottles. All doors are hand carved from single pieces of wood and large keys are used on the massive brass locks.

A priceless collection of Imari china purchased at the turn of the century in Japan by Captain and Mrs. Richard Lukens, was left to the MH&A Association to be displayed in Casa Soberanes, the home of their dear friend, Mayo O'Donnell. The fine platter of old Imari was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, parents of Mrs. O'Donnell for their Tulare Ranch home in the early 1900's, from a Chinese merchant in San Francisco.

The sala of this home is used as an example of an early American adobe in the Thorne collection of miniature rooms in the Chicago Art Museum.



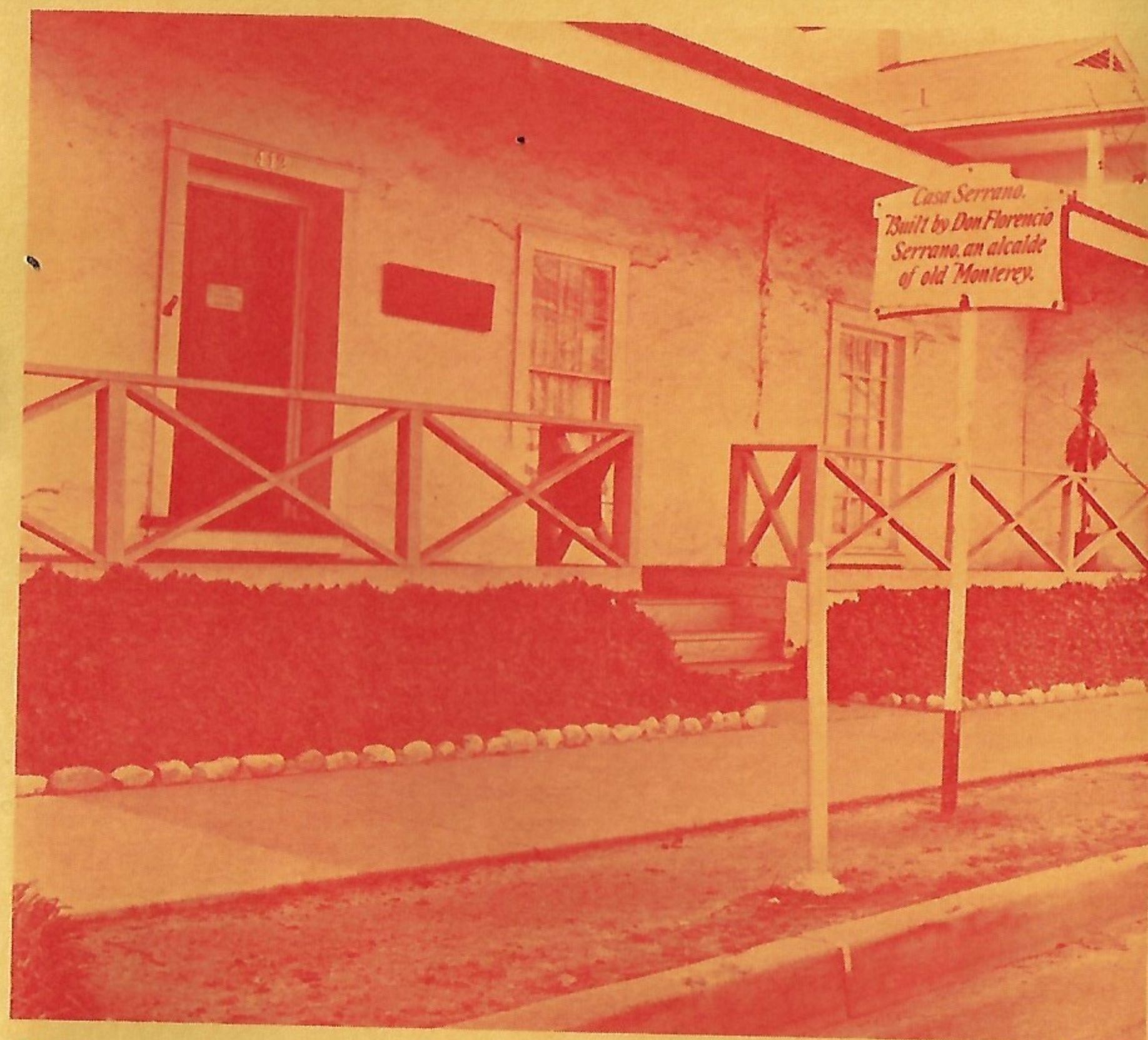
11

MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY
157 Van Buren Street

Built in 1876, the former St. James Episcopal Church was the first Protestant church built in Monterey, and services were held here through the years. Princess Louise of England worshipped in the little church, and it was here that crews from several English vessels in the harbor attended memorial services for Queen Victoria.

The Monterey History and Art Association acquired the building when it was threatened by Urban Renewal and moved to its present location from its original place on Pacific Street, and now houses a library of California and named in honor of Mayo Hayes O'Donnell whose unswerving devotion to the goals of the Monterey History and Art Association has saved and restored many an endangered adobe for posterity.

Here the Association is privileged to display the treasures of Chinese culture, collected by the Porter family of Watsonville who, in the 1880's, befriended the Oriental colony there. Complimenting the beautiful brocades, robes, silver and ivory will be the flower arrangements by Hobi Hayashi, master craftsman of Ikebana.



12

CASA SERRANO
412 Pacific Street

Florencio Serrano, well-educated gentleman of pure Spanish blood, courted and won the hand of the daughter of Don Joaquin de la Torre, and after their marriage in July 1845, they completed the building of the adobe which had been started but not finished. They raised a family of sons and daughters and here Florencio had his school and brought education to Monterey and here he died. The Monterey History and Art Association purchased the adobe from the Serrano heirs in 1959 and use it as a permanent home for the Association. The major portion of the furniture in the building was a gift from the estate of Margaret Jacks, who had commissioned Gump's of San Francisco to select and purchase authenticated handmade furniture in use at the time of Junipero Serra's life in his home area of Mallorca. There are two articles belonging to Florencio and Juanita Serrano, a black horsehair covered sofa, which came around the Horn, and a handmade corner cupboard in the Sala. Featured on this tour is a tea set made in Canton for James Grant, a prominent merchant of San Francisco for whom Grant Avenue is named, who periodically made trips to China. The tea set is of English design, and bears his initials J. G. in gold leaf on the pieces. His daughters who moved to the Monterey Peninsula and died here willed the tea set to the MH&A for preservation of its historic interest. The round sandalwood table in the parlor is also from China, being constructed without nails, and put together entirely with slotted wooden dowels, and was brought here on a Spanish galleon for trade for hides and tallow. The large porcelain vase from the Gonzales estate is elaborately decorated with many aspects of living and with saurians on the throat of the vase.

SPONSORS

American Savings and Loan Association

499 Alvarado St. Monterey

Art Berg Tire Service

512 Fremont St. Monterey

Bank of America

482 Alvarado St. Monterey

Casa Munras Garden Hotel

Fremont and Munras, Monterey

Crocker National Bank

439 Alvarado St. Monterey

Del Monte Properties

17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach

First Federal Savings & Loan

Rancho Shopping Center, Carmel Valley

Joseph B. Fratessa

437 Figueroa St. Monterey

Hall and Goodhue,

Paseo Zabala, Monterey

Holman's Department Store,

Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove

Monterey Insurance Agencies,

10 Bonifacio Place, Monterey

Monterey Savings and Loan Association,

449 Alvarado St., Monterey

Northern California Savings,

Dolores and 7th Carmel.

J. C. Penney Company,

418 Alvarado St., Monterey

San Diego Federal Savings & Loan Association,

Del Monte and Alvarado Sts. Monterey

J. D. Thorn & Company,

201 West Franklin St., Monterey

The Outrigger,

700 Cannery Row, Monterey.

Title Insurance and Trust

Pearl and Tyler Sts., Monterey

THE MONTEREY HISTORY AND ART ASSOCIATION



cordially invites ALL STUDENTS IN GRADE 4 in the public and private schools of the Monterey Peninsula, California, to enter an art contest in connection with THE 1973 ADOBE TOUR. The tour theme is:

O R I E N T A L A R G O S Y

Cargoes of Treasure from the Orient to Monterey and California



EACH ENTRY must be an original art work in the theme of early Monterey or California life, pertinent to trade with the Orient, from about 1780 to about 1880. Historical information is offered. Subject matter is not limited to suggestions given, but must be in the theme. Only ONE entry will be accepted from a student.

WINNERS of FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD place will be awarded tickets to the 1973 Adobe Tour, and books on Monterey and California history, courtesy of the Monterey History and Art Association and the Commodore Sloat Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

HONORABLE MENTION winners also will be awarded prizes.

TEACHERS of first, second, and third place winners will be given tickets to the Adobe Tour.

ENTRIES WILL BE ON DISPLAY at the Monterey Civic Club's building: House of Four Winds, 540 Calle Principal, Monterey - near the Maritime Museum:

APRIL 27 (Friday before the Adobe Tour) from 2 to 5 p.m. open only to participants, their families, teachers, news media, and members of sponsoring organizations.

APRIL 28 and 29 (Saturday and Sunday) open only to ticket holders for the 1973 Adobe Tour.

- o Robert E. Ross, President
The Monterey History and Art Association
- o Mrs. E. B. (Minnie) Coyle, Chairman
1973 Adobe Tour
- o Mrs. W. G. (Talma) Wolfe, Chairman
Student Art Project, 1973 Adobe Tour

Post Office
Box 805,
Monterey,
California
93940



DATES Dates are planned around Easter vacations, which vary at different schools, and extend from April 16 through 25. Easter is April 22.

- 6 Notice of the NUMBER of entries from each school MUST be given to the committee, to make plans.
- 10 Entries will be picked up at participating schools.
- 12 Entries will be judged. (Notice to winners will be by telephone or letter. Public announcement will be made later.)

SPECIFICATIONS: for original art entries in the 1973 Adobe Tour Student Art Project, sponsored by the Monterey History and Art Association:

Size: Not smaller than 6 by 8 inches nor larger than 12 by 17 inches (horizontal or vertical).

Mat: Each entry should be mounted on construction paper or cardboard, to have a surrounding mat or border, for better display.

Media: Pencil, charcoal, crayon, pastel, pen and ink, prints, water paints, torn paper, paper mosaic.

AN IDENTIFICATION FORM MUST BE FASTENED TO THE BACK OF EACH ENTRY.

The Monterey History and Art Association
1973 ADOBE TOUR STUDENT ART PROJECT

IDENTIFICATION FORM GRADE 4
(To be fastened to the back of each entry)

Student: _____
First Name Last Name

Address: _____
Street and Number City

School: _____

Teacher: _____
Miss/Mrs./Mr.

Medium Used: _____

Title of Entry: _____
(if any)

O R I E N T A L A R G O S Y

Cargoes of Treasure from the Orient to Monterey and California



EARLY CALIFORNIA had trade with the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), the Spanish Philippine Islands, and the Orient, from the 1780's under the Spanish flag, during Mexican rule 1821 to 1848, and under the American flag beginning in 1849. As capital of California, Monterey was a major port. Some early recorded voyages:

1784 - The Spanish galleon SAN FELIPE stopped at Monterey on a voyage from the Orient to Acapulco.

1793 - The British sloop PRINCE LEE BOO, from the Sandwich Islands stopped at Monterey enroute to Canton, China. She returned with Oriental goods for the Island trade.

1795 - The first U.S. ship to stop at Monterey was the Boston OTTER, in harbor for part of November and December, on the way to the Sandwich Islands and Canton. Her Oriental cargo was for Portland, Maine.

The OTTER's outgoing cargo was otter skins from the California coast, sold at enormous profit in China. Many New England merchants followed, sending ships around Cape Horn, up the coasts of South and Central America, and California, then across the Pacific to the Orient. When most of the otters were slaughtered, the trade turned to cattle hides and tallow from California ranches. Despite Spanish law forbidding trade with other countries, American ships sent small boats ashore to bring rancheros on board to trade.

1796 to about 1850

DURING THE MEXICAN PERIOD, Thomas O. Larkin was first and only American Consul at Monterey. In 1848 Mexico ceded California to the U.S. The California Constitution was signed at Colton Hall, Monterey, in 1849 (the year gold was discovered in California). California became a state in 1850. Monterey was capital until 1872, when the capital moved to Salinas. Meanwhile, in 1854, U. S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry negotiated a trade treaty with Japan, whose ports had been closed to foreigners since 1630.



MONTEREY MERCHANTS traded with the Sandwich Islands and the Orient. In 1823 Captain John Rogers Cooper came to Monterey in his Boston ship ROVER, later sold to Don Luis Arguello, Mexican Governor of California. Cooper continued as Captain in trading voyages to many Pacific ports. In 1825 he sold 375 otter skins in Canton for \$17,000 worth of Chinese goods. In 1832 Cooper's half-brother, Thomas O. Larkin, arrived in Monterey and soon opened a store with expensive stock from the Sandwich Islands, South America, and China.

In 1849 the American brig EVELINE, with Cooper as Captain and Jacob Leese of Monterey as Supercargo, took \$59,426 in California gold and other credits to \$78,000 total, to the East Indies, Hong Kong, Canton, and other Pacific ports. James Watson of Monterey was an investor. The return cargo of Oriental treasure was auctioned in San Francisco, except items destined for Monterey, including a small marble-top table now in the Pacific Building, once owned by the James Boston family. Other EVELINE cargo included: peacock feathers, grass cloth, silks, satins, shawls, scarves, gold thimbles, gold scent boxes, lacquer shaving and sewing boxes, silver hair nets, ivory tablets, shell combs, beads, rattan chairs, and camphorwood trunks. The ship also brought nine Chinese to be house servants in Monterey.

MEMOIRS of old California families, collected by Henry Cerruti, report an interview with Don Luis Arguello's widow, who said few Monterey families had good house furnishings until about 1824 when ships brought from China and Peru large looking glasses, bureaus, tables inlaid with shell, handsome oil lamps. Most families had nested leather-covered camphorwood chests to store clothing and linens, as there were no closets in early adobe homes. Many families had fine china bowls and dishes. Many had lacquer sewing boxes with carved ivory needle cases and bobbins. One is on exhibit at the Stevenson House. A popular import was the embroidered "Spanish" shawl, shipped from China to the Spanish Philippines, carried by Spanish galleon to Spain and to Spanish outposts, including California. One was given by the Estrada family to the Carmel Mission Fathers, made into an ecclesiastic garment, now in Carmel Mission museum.

ORIENTAL TREASURES may be seen in most of the adobes included in the 1973 tour.

In part from notes by Mrs. Alfred W. Elkinton
Monterey History and Art Association

