



Where California Began

A Pocket Handbook to the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur Country



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by
Helen Shropshire and Winston Elstob

Dedicated to
All the thousands of people who have taken our tour
of the Monterey Peninsula. As promised, here are the pictures
and story of "Where California Began."

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by
Helen Shropshire and Winston Elstob

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Introduction

Monterey County, located midway down California's spectacular coastline, is many different things to many different people. But almost all who pass this way heed the siren's song and return again and again.

Mid-center of its 5600 square miles is the great Salinas Valley, the Salad Bowl of the Nation. The upside down Salinas River wanders back and forth as it makes its way up the valley to the sea. Vineyards vie for space in the rich soil with the vegetables and the sugar beets, producing gold medal winning wines. Three of California's twenty one missions are located within its borders. Poets have sung its praises, artists have found it an inspiration. Authors have used it as a background for many a tale, and Hollywood has found it a convenient and authentic locale for motion pictures.

The Monterey Peninsula is the most westerly point of land. Historically speaking, it is the most important spot in the entire State with over forty nationally recognized landmarks, including the second bead on Padre Serra's Rosary of Missions. With golf courses numbering more than a baker's dozen, it is internationally known as the golf capital of the world and the home of the "Crosby." It is the winter home of the migrating butterfly. It is a haven for birds and sea animals alike: Johnathan Livingston Seagull and many of his friends and relations, cormorants, pelicans, harbor seals and sea lions and the charming, vivacious sea otter. Trees, indigenous to no other earthly place courageously face the sea.

Along the crescent of the Monterey Bay is Ft. Ord, the Naval Postgraduate School, the Defense Language Institute and the Coast Guard. The eight communities, each unique unto itself, which boast being a part of the "Peninsula," are in some places nestled so closely together, it is difficult to tell where one begins and another leaves off. The inhabitants speak many languages and are of many faiths. There are places of worship for Roman Catholics, Greek and Russian Orthodox, Mormons, Buddhists, Christian Science and over twenty-five different denominations of the Protestant Faith. If none of these should meet your needs, there are community churches of non-denomination.

It is aptly named, the Circle of Enchantment.

The earliest inhabitants of its recorded history were the Indians named Costanoan (Coast) by the Spanish. Archeological finds date them back 2500-5000 years or more. It is thought that this may have

been a "way station" or even a trading center for other tribes, since "finds" have been made of tribes remote from this area. A ceremonial rock located on Presidio Hill indicates to some historians that this was more than just a casual village.

While Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed along the shores in 1542 and named the most northwesterly point, Point Pinos (Point of the Pines), it remained for Sebastian Vizcaino to be the first European to actually set foot ashore in 1602. Like those who have come after, he was enchanted with the area. In his log he wrote of the noble harbor shaped like an O.

Under an oak tree close to the water's edge, an altar was fashioned. Mass was said, grass pulled and stones thrown, as was the custom and the territory claimed for God and for Spain. Vizcaino named it Monte Rey for the Conte de Monte Rey, Viceroy of New Spain.

The noble harbor had to wait for over 150 years before Spain got around to the task of colonizing the territory known as Alta California. About the middle of the 18th century she began to realize the necessity of doing something about the vast territories she had claimed along the western coast of North America. Research of past explorations indicated Monterey as a likely place to begin.

Don Gaspar de Portolá, reigning governor of Baja California, was given the order to head an expedition. Padre Junipero Serra, President of the Franciscan Order, was to accompany him and minister to the spiritual needs of the members of the expedition. It would also be his duty to establish missions and christianize the aborigines.

Portolá and his troops came overland. Serra came by ship from San Diego. They met on the shore of Monterey Bay, June 3, 1770. Recognizing the oak tree described in Vizcaino's log, Serra celebrated Mass under its sheltering boughs. Portolá performed the ceremonies of rededicating the territory to the King of Spain.

The site for the Presidio was selected close to a stream, a cannon shot from the shoreline. The next year Padre Serra decided the best permanent location for the Mission should be in the fertile valley close to where the Carmel River emptied into the sea.

By 1775 the fort at Monterey was sufficiently secure that the capital for Alta California was established here. The inhabitants were a handful of hearty soldiers, the padres and the Indians.

Supplying this outpost by ship was proving a monumental task. The Captain of the Presidio of Tubac, Juan Bautista de Anza, had long had a dream of opening an overland route to the coast of California. In 1774 he was given permission to take a few soldiers and make a scouting trip to Monterey. This preliminary trip was so successful that Antonio María Bucareli y Ursula, Viceroy of Mexico, authorized him to form an

expedition for the purpose of escorting 240 men, women and children overland to the Coast of Alta California. They arrived in Monterey March 10, 1776.

This small group would spread out over the land of California from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Their names would be listed as the founders of San Francisco and the Pueblo of San Jose. Proud names still answer to roll call of many of California's schools ... Garcia, Sanchez, Pacheco, Bernel, Alvarez.

Seaside, the largest Peninsula city, Sand City, the smallest and Del Rey Oaks form the eastern boundary. Unconcerned with tradition, it is here that most of the light industry is found. The main concern of Pebble Beach and Carmel Valley is Peace and Quiet. But Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel are torn by tradition.

Of the three, peaceful, quiet Pacific Grove seems to have maintained its status quo the best. True, much to the dismay of the Neighbors' Club, it gave up its temperance law and voted in alcoholic beverages, but the shoreline still belongs to the City. The butterflies still return every year to spend the winter, the otters still frolic in the waves and the seals sun themselves on the offshore rocks.

Carmel's oldtimers wish everyone would go away and let them live in their fancied world of artists and writers of pre-incorporate time. But the roadways were surfaced, making it inviting for the automobile to be driven up and down the picturesque streets. Hordes of visitors are attracted to the numerous small gift shops and art galleries. Some inherent quaintness prevails with no street addresses, no mail deliveries, no sidewalks in the residential areas, trees growing in the middle of the streets and even in the middle of some houses.

Monterey struggles to keep every vestige of its heritage as well as the visitor. When the sardines left the need for financial survival was apparent. To quote John Steinbeck: "...they fish for tourists, now, not pilchards."

With its historical background, luxury hotels, fine eating places, major events throughout the year and great scenic beauty, there *is* something for everyone in Monterey County.



The fabled Vizcaino-Serra oak tree. At No. 24 on the Walking Tour Map you will find an historic marker on the site where the famous tree grew. You will find the stump behind the little Cathedral, No. 3 on the Tour Map. You will find a piece of it in a case in the Old Mission in Carmel. And ... you will find a chair carved from another piece of it in the First Theater, No. 34.

Where California Began ...

By the beginning of the twentieth century the Vizcaino-Serra oak tree, which through the centuries had been a part of two great events in California's history, the first in 1602 and the second in 1770 when Father Serra knelt under its boughs, was nearly dead, a victim of lightning and just old age. In 1905, unfortunately, the land on which the oak tree stood belonged to the local utility company. They had not heard of its fame and told their workmen to get rid of the old dead tree.

Without further ado it was cut down and unceremoniously dumped into the Bay. No doubt the workmen believed the waves would carry it out to the Pacific and dispose of it, as nature does, on some distant shore or in Neptune's locker.

But their reckoning was wrong. The local priest, Father Mestres of San Carlos Church in Monterey, where history too has played its part, was horrified to learn of the fate of the Vizcaino-Serra oak tree, by now floating out on the currents on its way to oblivion. He hurriedly summoned a couple of his parishioners, who were fishermen, and implored them to rescue the tree before it was too late and disappeared into the deep.

The fishermen sailed out on the Bay of Monterey, found the oak and brought it back to the beach. Placing it in a cart the great stump was taken to San Carlos church and placed at the rear of the building.

In due time, Father Mestres with the help of Mr. Greene, one of Monterey's true benefactors, had a plaque made to mark the oak stump, and, to pass on for all time, a piece of California history. Now, you may find this relic behind the church, guarded by two fig trees, its decaying wood reinforced with cement.

If you are a Californian and have an Eastern cousin who believes that California began only yesterday you might visit this spot and explain how a large oak with spreading boughs dipping in the water, once stood by Monterey's beach. Vizcaino, Spanish explorer and veteran naval officer, on December 17, 1602, said Mass in a rustic chapel there, "placed in the shadow of a large oak tree," and declared the whole region for Philip the Third of Spain.

His glowing report "the best port that could be desired" would be placed in the Spanish archives. Spaniards for some time thereafter would call California, 'Monterey,' as its "Noble harbor, shaped like an O" would fire the Spanish imagination.

Then, of course, Monterey was the ultimate destination of the

Sacred Expedition from Mexico. When Padre Junipero Serra and Gaspar Portola met on Monterey's beach on June 3, 1770 and celebrated their success in finding Vizcaino's "Noble Harbor," they sang the 'Te Deum' under the same oak tree. They hung the Royal Standard and once more claimed the territory for the King of Spain by flinging a handful of earth to the four winds.

You might ask your Eastern cousin, "When did the Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock?" "In 1620, you say?" Then explain that this old stump behind the San Carlos Cathedral predates Plymouth Rock by eighteen years, as Vizcaino said Mass under its sheltering boughs in 1602!

Where California Began.



The Noble O Shaped Harbor.

Monterey

In 1602 Sebastian Vizcaino called it a noble harbor shaped like an O. He envisioned it as a safe harbor for Manila Galleons from the Philippines.

In 1879 Robert Louis Stevenson described it as being the shape of a bent fishhook. It had long since been realized that it provided safe anchorage only when the “northerlies” didn’t blow.

Breakwaters now protect the sports fishing boats and private yachts. Only occasionally do the large ships drop anchor.

The transition from a small fishing village started to occur in 1880 with the opening of the Del Monte Hotel. Commerical fishing began to support the economy shortly after the turn of the century. For the next thirty-five or forty years, a good share of the citizens were involved in it one way or another.

During both World Wars many military personnel were trained here. This continues to be a contributing factor to the economy of the Peninsula.





Visit of the Fleet to Monterey Bay, August 27, 1919. The visiting ships included the light cruiser Birmingham and various destroyers.



Every kind of transportation. Walking, bicycle, auto, small boat, large boat, aircraft.



New Municipal wharf. Small boats of fishing fleet in foreground.

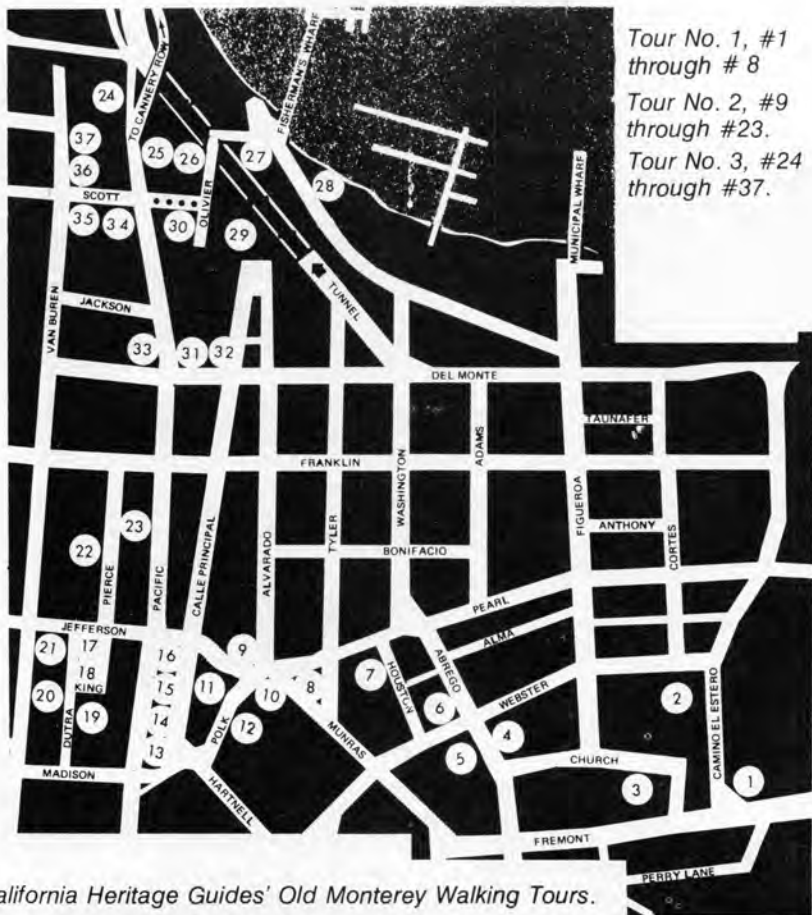




The Plaque reads: "Juan Bautista de Anza, 1734-1788, acknowledged to be the earliest, most intrepid explorer and colonizer on the North American Continent. No. 1."



In 1975-76 as a part of California's Bicentennial celebration, a re-enactment of the de Anza Expedition (1775-76) was achieved under the leadership of the California Heritage Guides. Above picture shows arrival at the Old Presidio in Monterey, March 10, 1976.



California Heritage Guides' Old Monterey Walking Tours.

The major historic sites of Monterey are conveniently clustered into three areas. If you are a history buff, we suggest a stroll through history. Allow approximately two hours for each "stroll" of about six blocks. Photos of the historic area are keyed to the map.

The Cathedral-Stevenson area is covered numbers one through eight. Just beyond number six is a path through a garden which will bring you to number 7. Plan your arrival here on the hour for a guided tour through the house. After the tour walk through the garden behind the Stevenson House to Munras and on to number 8.

The Larkin House-Colton Hall area is covered number nine through twenty-three. Again, plan to arrive at number sixteen on the hour for a guided tour through the House.

The Custom House Plaza area is twenty-four through thirty-seven.

There is usually ample parking available in each area. The State of California makes a nominal charge to adults to visit some of the houses.



Lady of Lourdes. Replica of the shrine and grotto at Lourdes, France. You will find St. Bernadette behind the tiny palm tree.



Vizcaino-Serra Oak, oldest relic in California, if not the Nation, as it pre-dates Plymouth Rock ... 1602. The tree grew close to the Sea. Under its sheltering boughs Mass was said for the Vizcaino Landing in 1602 and the Serra-Portola Landing in 1770.



Oldest indigenous statue in California, thought to have been carved by Mexican master stonemason, Manuel Ruiz, is our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron Saint of All the Americas.

The Royal Presidio Chapel

The Royal Presidio Chapel built in 1794 is the oldest building on the Monterey Peninsula. The Indian laborers who constructed it were under the direction of Manuel Ruiz, Mexican Master Stonemason. The plans for the little Chapel are still on file in the archives in Mexico City.

It was first built as a long narrow building, but when it was renovated in the middle of the last century, transepts were added, giving it the shape of the Cross. Until the 1940's the courtyard was paved with whalebone in the design of the Star of Hope. The whalebone can be viewed at the rear of the church.

The Stations of the Cross were painted in Rome in 1890 for a church in Santa Cruz. They were brought to the Chapel in 1953.

In 1961 the Chapel was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. In 1968 it became a Cathedral for the second time, the smallest in our Nation. No. 3.



Archeological Digs show the remains of an early foundation where California's first families lived, the Royal Presidio of Monterey. No. 2.





Casa Madariaga. This little adobe was purchased by widow Maria del Carmen in 1846 for \$500. She had sold her Rancho Pescadero, 4000 good acres, so she could move to town and enjoy all the pleasures of the old Pacific Capital. Maria received twelve cents an acre for her Rancho, which is present day Pebble Beach. No. 4.



Casa Pacheco built in 1840 by Francisco Pacheco, wealthy landowner, ex-soldier and benefactor of the Presidio Chapel, is the largest adobe in Monterey and present home of the Pacheco Club. Extensively restored, it is best known by Montereyans as a private hospital. At one time it was a house for women of easy virtue, frequented by cowboys, who lacking money, paid for their pleasures with their heavy beaten silver spurs. No. 5.

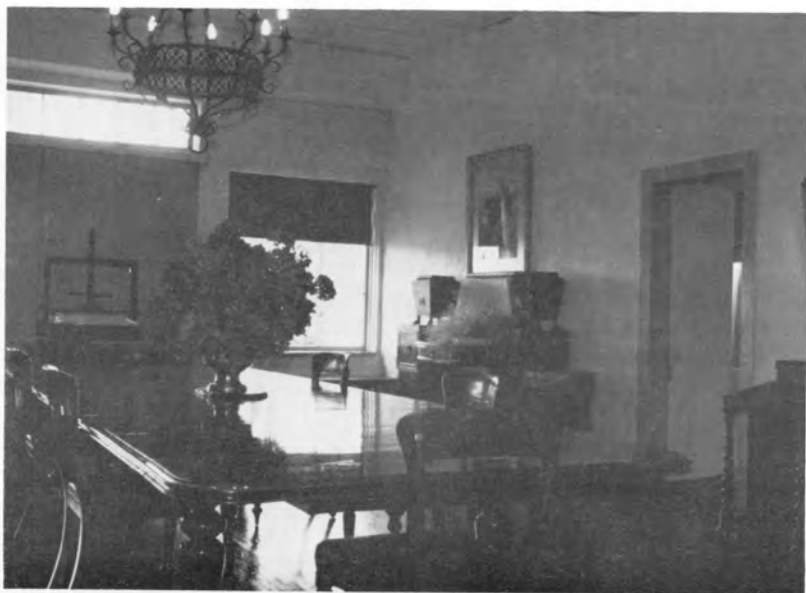


Casa Abrego built by Don Jose Abrego, wealthy merchant, in 1834. Most of the early homes faced the east to catch the morning sun. Famous for being the center of social life in Monterey during the Mexican era, the Casa Abrego was the scene of elaborate Cascarone Bailes, where black eyed senioritas broke egg shells filled with confetti and perfume over the heads of their dancing partner to signal their preferences. No. 6.





*Stevenson House, Second floor window was Stevenson's room.
Site No. 8*



This room houses the exquisite furnishings from the family home in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson, a thin and gaunt-looking young man of 29, arrived on the Monterey Peninsula late summer 1879, thoroughly exhausted from a 6000 mile journey from Edinburgh, Scotland, across the Atlantic to New York City, and then by emigrant train "Across the Plains" to Oakland, California.

Always of frail health and suffering from tuberculosis, Stevenson made the long arduous journey because his sweetheart, Fanny Osbourne, had written him saying she was desperately ill and needed him. Ten years older than he and a married woman, Fanny had removed herself to Monterey; (as she was unhappily married to Sam Osbourne, a court reporter of Oakland, and a man who had his way with the ladies, much to her distress).

Although Stevenson spent little more than three months in Monterey, it was a significant period of his life, ending with his marriage to Fanny in San Francisco in the spring of 1880.

The Robert Louis Stevenson House on Houston Street in Monterey (which was called the Old French Hotel when Stevenson occupied a bedroom there for two dollars a week), now houses an extraordinary collection of Stevensoniana; (given to the State of California by his family); and including such rare family heirlooms as his grandfather's mahogany dining room table, a bookcase of first editions (he wrote over 200 books) and a room full of his Samoan belongings.

No visit to the Monterey Peninsula is complete without taking the one hour tour of the Stevenson House (tours on the hour throughout the day) where you can hear the timeless love story of Louis and Fanny, find out about Treasure Island, see the Stevenson artifacts, and as a bonus, discover a well-preserved Monterey Adobe with its yard-wide walls, deep inset windows and timeless atmosphere.



The nursery filled with Victorian toys to excite the heart of any child and especially those who remember well the old fashioned nurseries.

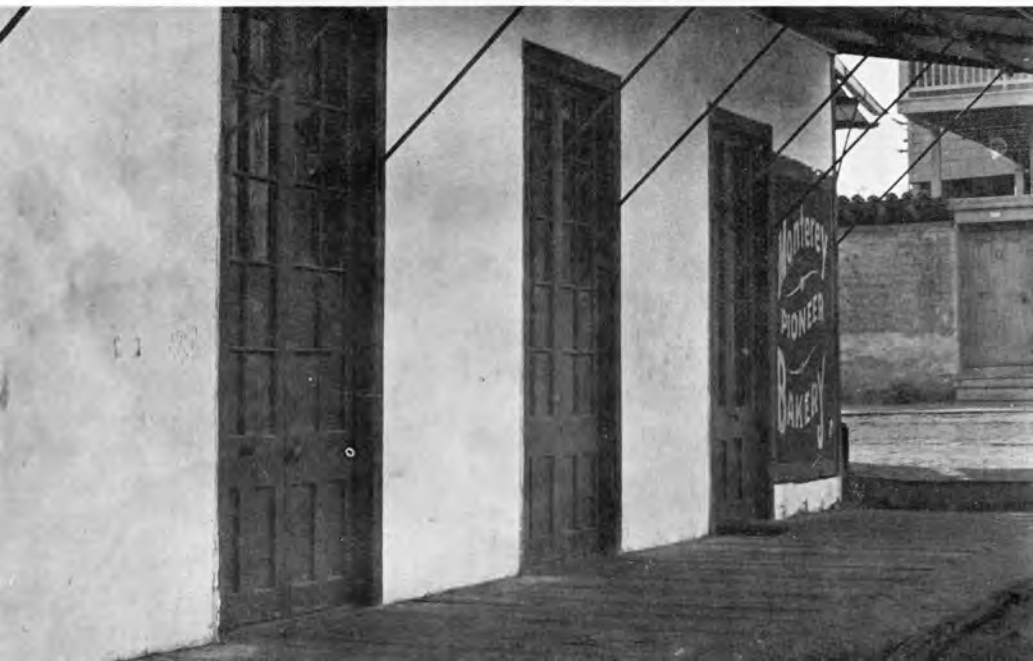


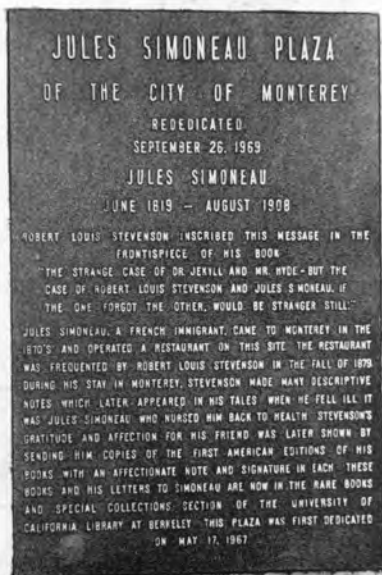
Stevenson slept here! On display are his personal belongings including his shawl, velvet smoking jacket and carpet bag.



Jonathan Wright Ranch, Robinson Canyon, Carmel Valley, Robert Louis Stevenson's "Goat Ranch," where he was cared for after being found near death in a nearby canyon.

Simoneau Restaurant. The WPA Guide Book, American Guide Series records that a brace of hungry bohemians decorated the restaurant of Jules Simoneau with frescoes done in "beer and shoe blacking."







The Cooper House, home of John Rogers Cooper, fiery Yankee skipper. The adobe wall is in excellent condition. Close examination reveals the various things ... twigs ... straw ... plants that were mixed with the mud as a binder. No. 10

Barns in the middle of Monterey. A part of the Cooper-Molera estate left to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.





Amesti House, built by Don Jose Amesti, wealthy Spanish Basque Juez (judge). It is one of the loveliest of the early adobes with its secluded walled garden in the rear. It was left to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1954 by its last private owner, Frances Elkins. Open for viewing on Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Small charge. No. 11.



Sculptured dogs guard the front door.



Early photo of House of Four Winds taken from the rear.

House of Four Winds built by Thomas Larkin and used by him as a store. Named by the Indians of the time, La Casa de Cuatro Vientos, for the hand wrought iron weather vane on the roof. No. 14.





Allen Knight Maritime Museum houses a fascinating collection of the sailing ship era, the fishing and whaling days in Monterey and the local Naval history (1846) important to the Nation as well as California. No. 13.

Sherman's Quarters, also built by Thomas Larkin in 1834. During the American occupation, 1847-49, it served as military quarters for Lt. William Tecumseh Sherman who served under Col. Richard B. Mason, military Governor of California. The spiked cannon was used as a hitching post. No. 15.



Larkin House

Thomas Oliver Larkin arrived in Monterey in 1832. He built his home in a style which was to become known as Monterey colonial architecture, a combination of Spanish and New England. It was two story with an indoor staircase, hip roof and balcony encircling the entire house. It was the first house in Monterey to have real glass windows.

Mr. Larkin was a merchant fresh out of Boston. The lower rooms served as his store with the family quarters on the second floor. He was an astute business man and built several of Monterey's buildings as well as the wharf.

In 1843 he became the U.S. Consul to California and retained that position until the peaceful take-over of the territory by Commodore John D. Sloat in 1846.

The house, located at Calle Principal and Jefferson, is filled with priceless antiques donated to the State of California by Mr. Larkin's granddaughter, Mrs. Harry Toulmin. Conducted tours are given daily except Tuesday every hour. No. 16.





Mrs. Toulmin's bedroom with its teak bed and fascinating collection of oriental art objects.

The office of Thomas Larkin, California's first millionaire.





Casa de la Torre, originally a 3 room adobe, has had several wooden leanto additions. It sold at one time for \$7.50 in back taxes. No. 17.

Gorden House, one of California's first houses built of wood. The lumber was milled in Australia, shipped to England, then reshipped around Cape Horn to Monterey. No. 18.



GORDON HOUSE
Built in the early 1840s
lumber hauled from Australia
1 year of the early settlement
history in California



The forty eight delegates, men of varied backgrounds, met in this room in 1849 to draft the first constitution for California.



The Monterey jail (next to Colton Hall) was built in 1854 of huge granite blocks mined in the nearby hills. It served the City in this capacity for over a century. Its most famous inmate was Anastacio Garcia, jailed for killing two Montereños. During the night a group of his friends forced the jail to set him "free." But obviously he knew too much, for the sheriff found him hanging from the rafters. The entry in the record book notes: "Anastacio Garcia went to God on a rope."

Colton Hall

Walter Colton was a Chaplain on the ship U.S. Congress, which arrived in the Harbor in July, 1846. He was to stay on in Monterey and become its first alcalde after the occupation by the United States. He recognized the need for a building large enough for public assemblies and began to build one, a block at a time, using the fines of lawbreakers as well as their services.

In his book "Three Years in California" he records the completion of his building and notes that it was christened after his name "...which will now go down to posterity with odor of gamblers, convicts and tipplers." Some of the workmen were more skilled than others, as an examination of the building attests. In the front the blocks are carefully cut and placed, while the rear shows odds and ends placed as necessary to fill the space.

But in the end Colton was to have created the handsomest building in early California, Monterey was to have a home for the first public school in California and the territory would have a site to hold the 1st Constitutional Convention, when the time came to prepare for Statehood. On September 1, 1849 when most of the male residents of California were off to the gold fields, forty-eight dedicated men of various backgrounds gathered here to draft the future. Seven spoke only Spanish, so it was necessary that all debates be presented in both English and Spanish. Ultimately the entire Constitution was so written.

The upper floor is preserved as it was, when the Convention was held. It is open daily for inspection. No. 19.



Colton Hall decorated for President Benjamin Harrison's visit in 1891.



Casa Vasquez. Although there was a reward for his capture, Tiburcio Vasquez, notorious Monterey bandit, often spent the night at his sister's home, located just a few yards back of the jail. No. 20.

Casa Alvarado, home of the first Governor of California born in Monterey, Don Juan Bautista Alvarado was so busy in his political life, that he married his wife by proxy. No. 21.





The Soto House, thought to have been built in the late 1830's was owned at one time by John Steinbeck, when he was working on his story, "The Pearl."

The Soto House as it appears today. No. 22.





Casa Serrano, open on weekends 2-4 p.m. houses an excellent collection of early California furniture. The upper floor is reached by an outside stairway. Such stairs became known as "elopment stairs." Building property of Monterey History and Art Association. No. 23.

Photo taken from the rear garden of the Casa Serrano shows one of the Old Mission bells, which at one time marked the Camino Real, The King's Highway, connecting all the Missions.



Whaling Station

From a dream of the wife of a Scot to a whalers' boarding house in two short years, this the early history of the Old Whaling Station. David Wight, his travel-weary wife, Mary, and their small daughter arrived in Monterey in 1846. The next year David purchased a parcel of property along the Bay and built a replica of the old family home in Ayton, Scotland.

It was the first two story adobe home in Monterey, and would face the sea, rather than the east as was the custom of Spanish homes. There were two fireplaces, one on each floor, sharing a common chimney. It also boasted an indoor staircase with one of the risers at a different height to catch the unwary who might enter the home without a proper invitation. A lath fence enclosed the garden.

Mary Wight was beside herself with the pride of it all. Her joy was to be short-lived, as with the first smell of gold, David sold the property and was off to seek his fortune.

Albert Trescony, the new owner, turned the home into a boarding house for whalers. The location was well suited. A spotter could sit at the upstairs window scanning the bay through a spy glass for signs of the great mammals. Grey whales were in abundance, December through April and the humpbacks, August through December. The shoreline afforded an excellent butchering ground and space to render up the oil.

In 1851 Corporate papers with a capital stock of \$3800 were filed in Sacramento by a group of Portuguese whalers under the name of the Old Monterey Whaling Company. Permission was granted for whaling "...in Monterey Bay, Carmel Bay and the Pacific Ocean."

While the floor of the house was dirt, one of the directors of the Company, Esolano Silva, laid a whalebone sidewalk along the front of the house. With the decline of whaling, the house was abandoned and fell into decay. In 1904 Mrs. H.S. McNear of San Francisco Bay area purchased it as a summer home for her family. It was remodelled and the veranda added, softening the harsh lines and giving it a Spanish flavor. A stone wall replaced the lath fence. The exact date the wooden leanto was added is not recorded, nor the date the dirt floor was covered.

One member of the family tells of spending his vacations in the house and remembers his grandmother draping the walls of the kitchen with mosquito netting to "keep the adobe flakes from falling in the soup."



Old Whaling Station about 1875. First Brick House at left.

Whaling Station complete with balcony and whalebone sidewalk. No. 25.



First Brick House in California

Gallant Duncan Dickinson, his wife and six children were survivors of the ill-fated Donner party of 1846. About a year later they arrived in Monterey. Mr. Dickinson acquired some ninety feet of choice waterfront property for \$29.00 and started to build a showplace, not of mud but of real fired brick.

By 1849 one wing of six rooms had been completed. It was two stories, three rooms on each level. The ground floor was dirt, and an outside staircase served the second floor.

Gold fever got to the family, and they never returned to complete the home.

It has served as a mortuary, hotel, tamale parlor and offices. No. 26.



Sea lions sun themselves on the Coast Guard Pier.



Custom House decorated for President Benjamin Harrison's visit in 1891. Under Mexican rule the Custom House was gaily decorated with oriental lanterns when foreign ships arrived. One such occasion is remembered because the waltz had just been introduced to Monterey society, but the local priest, Padre Vicente Sarria threatened everybody with excommunication if they performed this dance. W.E.P. Hartnell's young bride, Teresa, asked the Governor, Jose Arguello if he thought the waltz was evil. With true Spanish aplomb, the Governor replied: "The only sin I am conscious of is not being able to beg you for the honor of the dance, Señora Hartnell. Did I but know how to waltz, and were there music, and did I feel like waltzing, I should most certainly waltz!"



Each year on the weekend closest to July 7 the Marines land and raise the Stars and Stripes over the Custom House, re-enacting the seizure of Monterey, July 7, 1846.

Custom House

Historians have never been able to agree on the exact date of this building. There is evidence that a small building did exist as early as 1814. Since the beach at this point was sandy, it was the landing area for the Spanish ships bringing supplies to the colony.

With the Mexican revolt in 1822 the port was opened to world trade. The need for a larger building, a real customs house existed, and by 1827 there was either an addition made to this building or a completely new building erected. To quote one man who was interviewed: "Does one date the tree from the time the seed is planted or when it becomes a sapling?"

By 1840 it was the center of trade for California. All ships desiring to trade within the boundaries of Alta California were required by law to clear customs at this port. With the gold rush of '49 Monterey became almost a ghost town, and in 1850 the office of customs was moved to San Francisco. Monterey became a branch office.

The building has served purposes other than customs office. Many social events were held in the large room. When customs was moved to San Francisco, a custodian lived here. He used the large room as a barn for his cow. Finally, it was completely abandoned and fell into ruin.

After the turn of the century the Native Sons of the Golden West leased the building from the Federal Government for \$10.00 a year. Some monies were appropriated and restoration begun. More funds became available in 1917, and by 1929 it was opened to the public as a museum. In January of 1930 the State Parks System took it over, but it was not until 1938 that California finally acquired title to it from the Federal Government for \$20,000.

The importance of the building was demonstrated when Commodore John Drake Sloat selected it as the site to raise the flag, when he took possession of the territory for the United States in 1846. It is the oldest public building west of the Mississippi and a nationally recognized landmark. Open daily. No. 27.



Custom Agent's office, who has evidently been disturbed during his luncheon by the arrival of a ship.

When visiting the Custom House, remember to climb the stairs in the old section and see the agent's living quarters during the Mexican rule.





Fisherman's Wharf.



Carving of brown Pelican by sculptor Paul McReynolds. Point Lobos is the most northerly nesting place of the brown pelican.

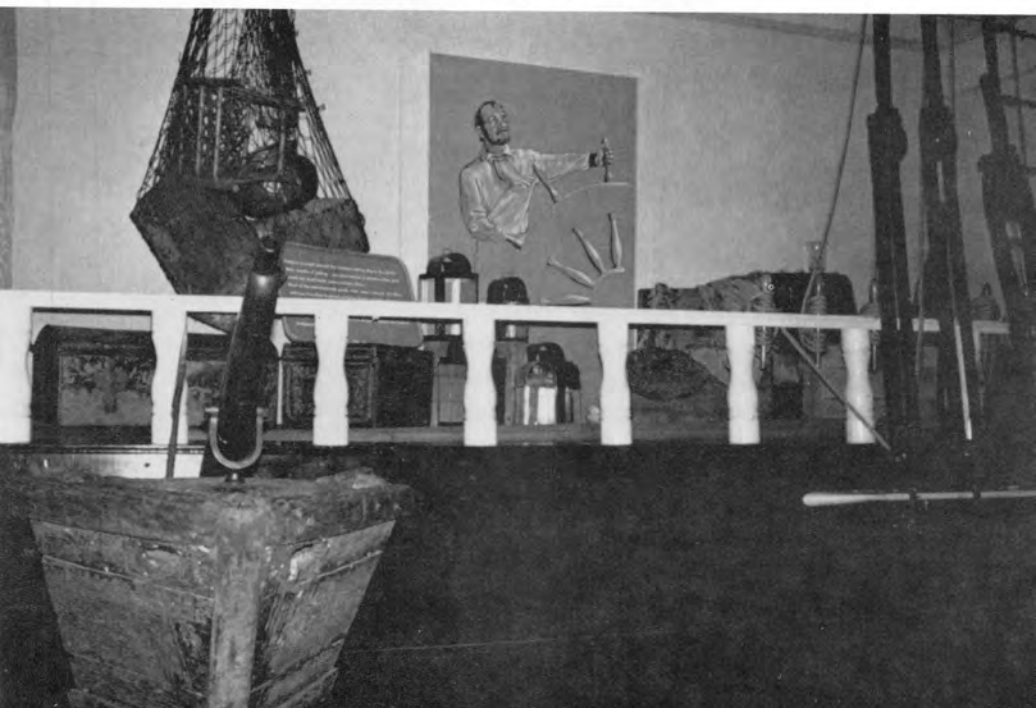


Huge Bronze Anchor found in Monterey Harbor.



Spanish Room, Pacific House.

Monterey Room, 1840's to 1850's.



Pacific House

This fine old building erected in the late eighteen thirties of adobe and chalk rock was presented to the State in 1954 by Margaret Jacks. It has served Monterey well as offices for the U.S. Army Quartermaster, as a City Hall, as a courthouse, tavern, ballroom and church, just to mention a few things.

The walled garden at one time was an area for bear-and-bull fights. Picture, if you will, the balcony lined with excited Montereños, betting on which would win ... the bear or the bull. In keeping with its present-day name, Memory Garden, these activities have all been put to rest. The most robust happening now occurs on June 3, when Montereños gather for the Merienda, the annual celebration of the City's birthday.

The House itself is a fine museum. Each room on the ground floor depicts an era of the Peninsula's history. On the second floor is an outstanding collection of Indian artifacts, which includes woven rush moccasins dating back 4000 years, seven hundred to a thousand year old basket plaques and even a piece of pre-Columbian pottery. The Indian collection was donated to the State of California by Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Holman of Pacific Grove.

The museum located on the Custom House Plaza is open daily for viewing. No. 29.



Pacific House in 1875.

Casa Del Oro

Casa del Oro (House of Gold) is a well preserved building, part adobe, part chalk rock. There are several unverified stories as to how it came by its name: That it was the headquarters for the exchange of gold dust; that it had the only safe in town where gold could be stored; that it was a saloon and drinks were paid with gold dust; that it was a mint. With so many versions, one thing must be true, gold played an important part in its history. No. 30.





Don Gaspar de Portolá, military governor of lower California was chosen to lead the expedition to Monterey in 1769. He would be accompanied by Padre Junipero Serra. They met on the beach on June 3, 1770. Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, presented this statue of the explorer to the City of Monterey as a bicentennial gift in 1976. It overlooks Monterey's Conference Center. No. 32.



Casa Soberanes "The House with the Blue Gate" built in 1840 is noted for its fine old garden and Monterey-style architecture. It was given to the State of California by its last private owner, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell. No. 33.

The lovely garden in the rear.



First Theater

The very first performance at the First Theater back in 1848 was a sellout at \$5.00 a seat. Jack Swan, an English sailor, had built the adobe and wooden structure as a sailors' lodging house and barroom. A few soldiers, bored with the lack of activity in the small village, persuaded Mr. Swan to let them put on plays in his dining room. This first performance included a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

History records that five ladies were in the audience. Soon they would also be performing on the tiny stage. Whale oil and candles have provided the footlights. Army blankets helped with the scenery changes, perhaps a blue one if the scene was nautical, a green one for the forests and meadows.

As it happened to so many of the early buildings, the first theater was eventually abandoned and fell into ruin. A small group of publically minded citizens found the means to restore it and deeded it to the State as a museum in the early part of this century. It is registered landmark #136.

On Monterey's 167th birthday the Troupers of the Gold Coast put on their first performance. Every weekend since they have been performing nineteenth century plays. This is the oldest, active Little Theater Group in the nation.

The audiences cheer the heroes lustily and hiss the villains with gusto. Sarsaparilla is served at the bar during intermission. Popcorn has been discontinued, as the villains resented being pelted with it.

Museum is open daily except Monday. No. 34.





First Theatre Bar, noted for its bottle collection and forty niner atmosphere.

First Theatre in California before restoration. Erected in 1846-7 by Jack Swan, a sailor, as a sailor's boarding house. California's first paid theatrical performance given here.





Doud House. Open to the public. Ask to see Monterey's first indoor plumbing. No. 36.

Perry House, one of Monterey's Victorian houses. Open to the public. No. 35.





Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library was originally the First Episcopal Church in Monterey dedicated by Bishop Kip in 1876. Library open to the public Wednesday and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. No. 37.



Camels in Monterey. St. James church in background before it was moved to present location. Building on the right is the Soberanes adobe.

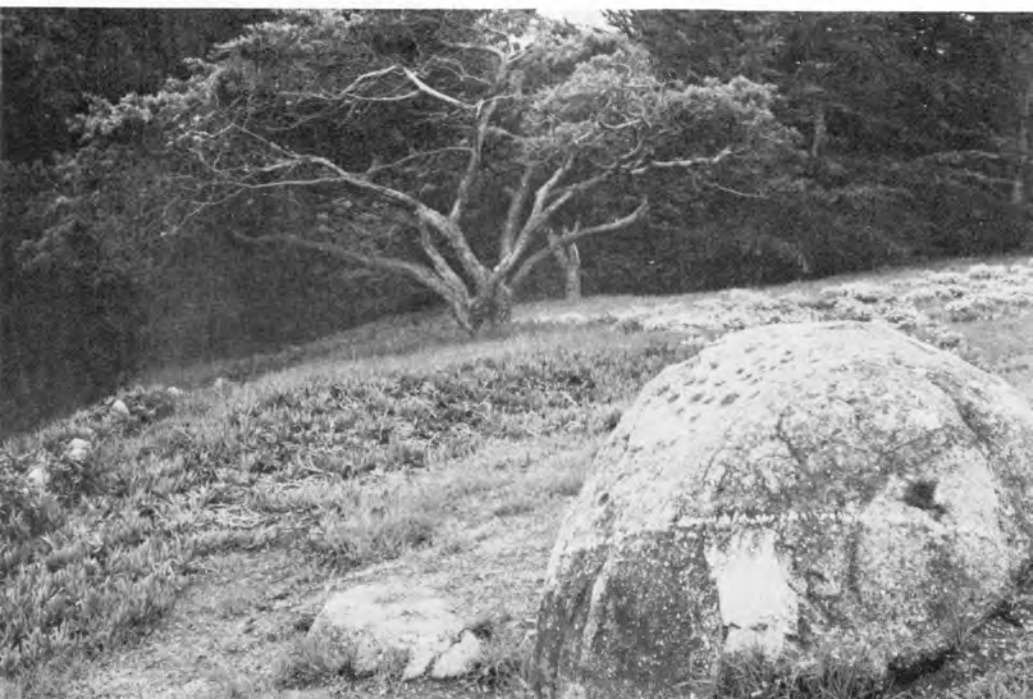
Alvarado Street decorated for President McKinley's Good Will Tour.





U.S. Army Museum located on Presidio Hill houses a really fine collection of Army weapons and uniforms including artifacts dealing with the military history of Monterey. Within easy walking distance are several historic sites.

On the hill back of the Army museum is a pitted granite boulder used by the Indians as a ceremonial rock.



This huge stone monument with the eagle atop was to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary (1896) of Commodore John D. Sloat's take-over of the territory for the United States. Dedication was delayed for 14 years.



Unveiling of the Sloat Monument, June 14, 1910. Ceremonies are held annually to commemorate Sloat's landing on July 7, 1846.



Old Del Monte Hotel

The first great change came to the Monterey Peninsula in the late 1870's when the so-called Big Four came to town, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, Collis Huntington and Charles Crocker. They had developed Nob Hill in San Francisco, owned the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads, among other huge holdings.

They started buying up land for about \$5 an acre, erected the Del Monte Hotel, advertised as the "Most Elegant Seaside Resort in the World" and started bringing the "world" in on their railroads.

Robert Louis Stevenson who was living in Monterey the latter part of 1879 when the hotel was being built wrote later: "The Monterey of last year no longer exists. A huge hotel has sprung up in the desert by the railroad ... Alas for the poor little town! It is not strong enough to resist the influence of the flaunting caravansary, and the poor, quaint, penniless native gentlemen of Monterey must perish, like a lower race, before the millionaire vulgarians of the Big Bonanza."

Guests were met at the private railroad station with horse and carriage. The now famous 17 Mile Drive started here, making the loop around the Peninsula, and at that time it was just over 17 miles long.

A Chinese fishing village occupied the present site of the Del Monte Lodge. A stop would be made here for the guests to purchase lunch and souvenir abalone shells. When Teddy Roosevelt was a guest at the hotel, he disdained the carriage and demanded a "good horse" to do the 17 Mile Drive.

During World War II the Navy leased the property as a cadet training station. After the war it was purchased outright and the Naval Postgraduate School was established here. It provides the highest quality education to members of all five U.S. services and twenty-three allied navies.



The Del Monte Hotel looking across the Roman plunge. The hotel burned twice, the second time in the 1920's.

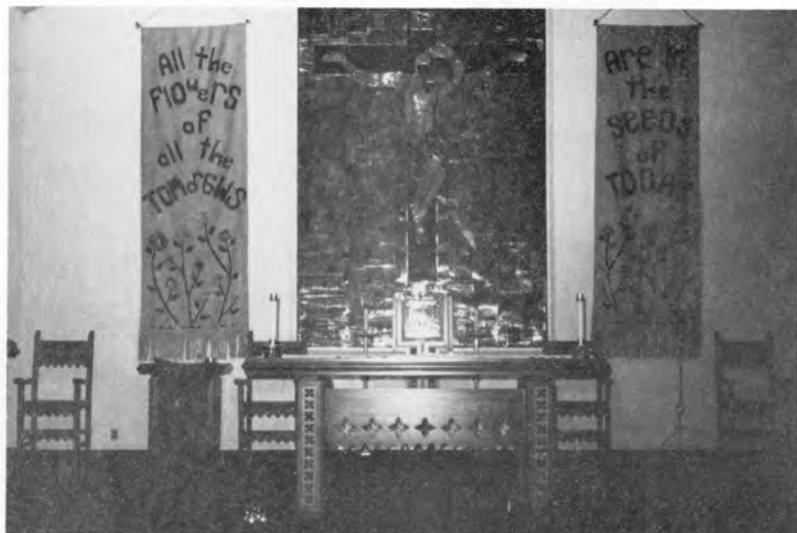
In 1975 a NATO conference was held here. The flags of the fifty states encircled the mast from which the Commanding officer's flag flies.





One of the formal gardens. When this was a hotel, 500 full-time gardeners cared for the extensive grounds.

St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. From the dedication plaque: "...The final touch of completing this Chapel was the installation of the copper crucifixion behind the altar. This was taking place at the precise moment of the tragic assassination of our beloved Commander-in-Chief, President of the United States John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The first mass offered here on 23 November, 1963, was offered for the eternal repose of his soul."





Hank Ketcham, creator of Dennis the Menace Cartoon has lived on the Monterey Peninsula off and on since Dennis was a tiny tot. The Monterey Peninsula Jaycees built the park and Mr. Ketcham gave the name. Do your youngsters a favor and let them find out about Dennis the Menace Park. Located at Pearl and El Estero.

The charming and vivacious sea otter abound in the kelp beds along the Monterey Peninsula coastline and south to Big Sur Country. Unaware of the rules about taking undersized abalone, they are the bane of the abalone fishermen. Abalone tank farming is a new business on Cannery Row. Everyone wishes them well in this endeavor, so that the sea otter may continue to entertain all comers along the shoreline.



Cannery Row

"Cannery Row in Monterey in California is a poem, a stink, a grating noise..." So wrote John Steinbeck in his book, "Cannery Row." This is the story of the "Row," when Monterey was known as the Sardine Capital of the World. This was the time when purse seiners with nets big enough to encircle a football field crowded Monterey's harbor. This was the time when the pungent "smell of prosperity" so permeated the air, that Pacific Grove threatened to sue Monterey.

Then the silver horde started to disappear, and all the people wondered why. They came to Ed Ricketts, marine biologist and the famed "Doc" of Steinbeck's novel.

"What's happened to all the sardines?" they asked. The reply was simple: "They're all in cans!"

John Steinbeck, the only one to have been awarded the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is a true product of Monterey County. He was born in Salinas and grew to manhood there, and there, under an oak tree in the family plot, remain his ashes. He labored in the fields and the factories with those whose stories he would tell. So much of Monterey County is a part of his writings, it has become known as Steinbeck Country.





Upper photo: John Steinbeck was born in this house in Salinas, February 27, 1902. The house, located at 132 Central is now a restaurant, operated by the Valley Guild.

Bust of Steinbeck on Cannery Row, Monterey.

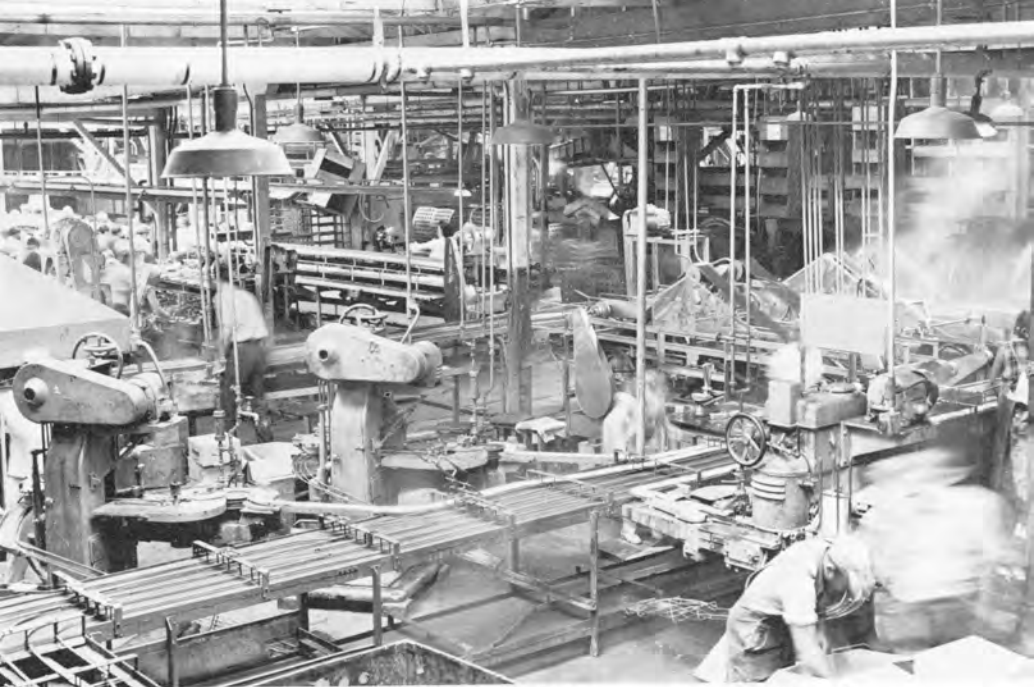




Sites on Cannery Row, all which figured prominently in Steinbeck's novel, "Cannery Row."

Doc's Lab...Canneries, which are fast disappearing into Monterey Bay...last remaining 'Pipes' which Steinbeck used to house some of the denizens of Cannery Row...Wing Chong Market.





One of the many canneries which operated on the "Row."

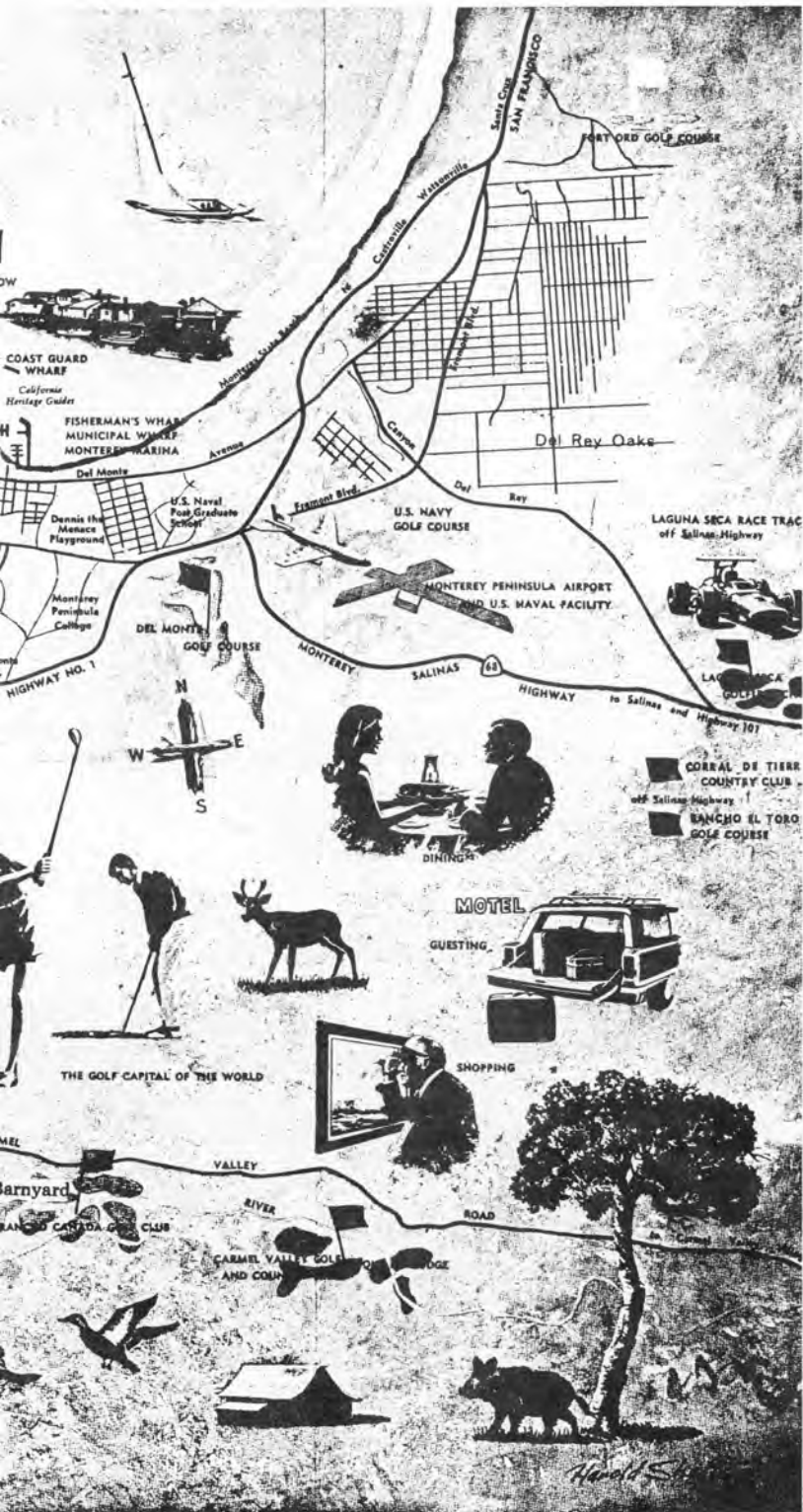
A part of the Sardine Fleet, when Monterey was known as the Sardine Capital of the World.



THE MILE DRIVE
follow the yellow line



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Pacific Grove

About the middle of the last century a Scotsman by the name of David Jacks had acquired almost 100,000 acres of the Monterey Peninsula. This included most of the area now known as Pacific Grove. He built a fence across it and chose it as his home.

In 1873 he met a Methodist minister by the name of W.S. Ross. Both the Reverend Ross and his wife were in poor health and were looking for a temperate place to make their home. Mr. Jacks allowed them to build a very small place in his pine forest. In a few months both had regained their health.

They entertained many visitors and among them was Bishop J.T. Peck, a member of the Retreat Association. This association had its headquarters in San Francisco and was composed of leaders of the Methodist church. This group was looking for a place for a Christian Seaside Resort, a place to hold summer camp meetings. Bishop Peck thought he had found the perfect place in the location of his friends' home in the pine woods near Monterey. David Jacks favored the idea and negotiations were begun to acquire the property.

The Association determined that lots should be 30'x60' and sold for \$50 with one half down and the balance in one year at one percent interest. No one could hold more than two lots. This was 1875.

The fence with its padlocked gate was to remain for many years. History records that it took a judge by the name of Langford to put an end to it. One evening, tired of having to hike the half mile to the Retreat Association office for the key, he took an axe and chopped it down.



Pacific Grove, when the first permanent homes were beginning to appear on the hill. Shacks built on the rocks are a part of the old Chinese fishing village.



The migrating monarch butterfly returns annually to Pacific Grove, arriving in October and staying into March. Sculpture by Gordon Newell located at Lover's Point.





Chinese Village, present location of Hopkins Marine Station.

Hopkins Marine Station.



Hopkins Marine Station

The Hopkins Seaside Laboratory was first established in 1892. It was the only such biological laboratory on the "American side of the Pacific." First built on what is now known as Lover's Point, it was named for one of its founders, Timothy Hopkins. By 1916 it had outgrown this tiny point of land and was moved to its present site at Cabrillo Point, also known as China Point. It is a part of Stanford University, and at the time of the move, the Board of Trustees changed the name to Hopkins Marine Station. One of the finest Marine Laboratories in the world, men and women come from nearly every nation to study and to teach.



When the Station was located on Lover's Point.



When Pacific Grove was a city of tents, and the Methodists held annual retreats.

While the Methodists were the founders of Pacific Grove, it was the Episcopalians who erected the first building especially for a church. Built in 1887, it was modelled after a church in Bath, Somerset, England. It reflects the romance and love the Parishioners share with one another. Located at Central and 12th St. Photo by Frank Keillar, Courtesy St. Mary's Church.





Memorial Altar, St. Mary's-by-the-Sea dedicated to the men and women of the armed forces of our Country. Reredos designed by Sculptor Sigismund Wolf.



Tiffany window in a door of old Victorian home.



Pacific Grove is famous for its Victorian homes. The Gosby House on Lighthouse Avenue has been converted into an Inn complete with Victorian furnishings.

Lighthouse

The Point Pinos Light, oldest extant lighthouse on the west coast, has been a guardian of shipping off the treacherous shoreline since 1855. Robert Louis Stevenson had tea with the keeper one day in 1879. He praised the man's hospitality and his piano playing. There have been two lady keepers of the light, one in 1855 and another in 1890.

Little has changed about the structure except to electrify the light and automate the system. However, in case of power failure the old fashioned mechanical equipment is on standby and can take over in an emergency.

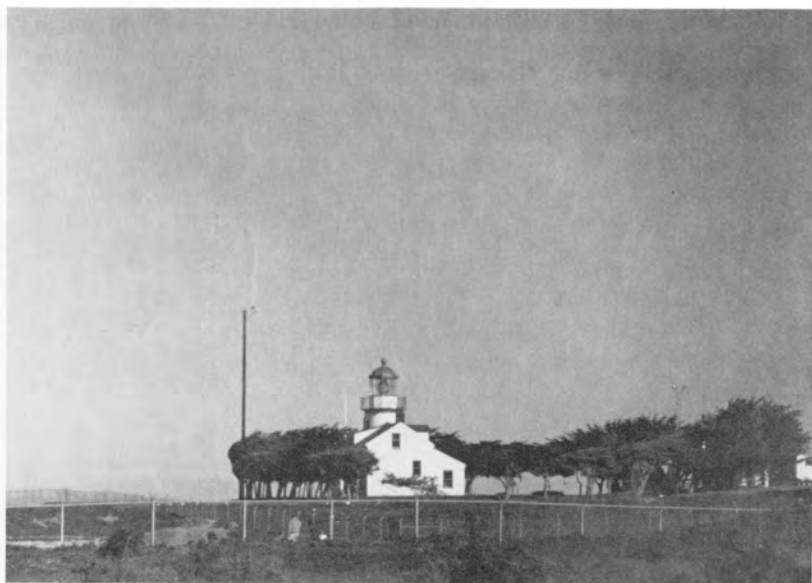
In spite of its vigilance a fishing boat went aground and broke up at the point in a storm in April, 1976. Ironically, she was named for the patron saint of the fisherman, Santa Rosalia. It had been from her decks that the fleet received its yearly blessing in colorful ceremony each September.





Early Photo of the Lighthouse.

As it looks today.





Asilomar began as a summer camp and conference center for the YWCA with a modest thirty acres donated by the Pacific Improvement Company. At the time it was acquired by the State there were sixty acres in the Park. It now comprises ninety-eight inspiring acres of forest and coastline. Above photo shows the administration building designed by Julia Morgan, the first woman graduate of L'ecole de Beaux Artes in Paris.

This world famous conference center and State Park is beautifully situated in a grove of pine trees facing the Pacific Ocean. Asilomar means refuge by the sea, and this spot reflects the meaning in its truest form.



17 Mile Drive

Seventeen Mile Drive is a kaleidoscope of golf course, wind bent trees, crashing surf, beautiful homes and wild life. The Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament is played annually on three of its courses.

Two ocean currents meet head on off Point Joe. The cormorants and sea lions amicably share the offshore rocks. The brown pelicans fly in graceful formation along the shoreline in their never ending search for fish. The ground squirrels and seagulls beg for handouts.

You can visit it time and time again, as no two days are ever alike. The best route is to enter at the Pacific Grove Gate. There is a charge to go through the gate made by the Pebble Beach Corporation.



Pacific Grove Hotel, Pacific Grove.

A Tallyho drawn by a span of high stepping horses carried guests from the Old Del Monte Hotel in Monterey around the "Drive."

The original Del Monte Lodge located at the present site of the Lodge.







Monterey Cypress

The Monterey Cypress, one of the rarest trees in the world, grows as an indigenous plant only at Pt. Lobos and about a two-mile stretch between Cypress Point and Pescadero Point within a half mile of the high tide zone. When it grows as a native plant, the new growth originates from the root of the parent tree.

It has been widely planted, but outside of its native habitat it is subject to a fatal fungus called the coryneum canker. Any tree so attacked cannot be saved.

The oldest trees are estimated to be about five hundred years but it is difficult to ascertain the exact age. Some years it grows, some years it remains dormant and some years it forms only half rings. In the dedicated grove along the 17 Mile Drive where it is protected from the wind, it grows straight and tall like any normal tree. At Point Lobos where it meets the winds head on, it is tortured into many shapes as it clings desperately to rocky ledges.

Robert Louis Stevenson described them as ghosts fleeing before the winds. Robinson Jeffers said, cypress trees "... the sailor wind weaves into deep sea knots."



The famous "Lone Cypress" at Midway Point on 17 Mile Drive. Point Lobos is the distant point of land on the horizon.

Carmel

The developers of Carmel, Frank Powers and James Franklin Devendorf, who struggled so hard to build the little village as a tourist center, would be astounded at the eventual success of their labors. There is more to Carmel-by-the-Sea than a gorgeous ocean front beach, quaint "touristy" shops and winding roads set amid a forest. There is a mystique, a melding of the bohemian legend, a stunning environment and an excitement of current activities that create an attraction for thousands of visitors each year.

Like the rest of the world, Carmel's legend has changed. Gone are the milk "shrines" and the quaint candle lanterns. The battle to keep Ocean Avenue from being paved was lost long ago. Creeping modernization has covered the city like the inexorable cement that paves not only Ocean but also the charming dirt paths that used to be next to it.

Abalone is no longer caught and pounded at the beach to the tune of the ritual of an improvisational chant. It is now a delicacy one pays exorbitant prices for at the best restaurants. Merchants no longer leave their shops open with notes on the cash register inviting customers to make their own change. In fact, you no longer leave your front door unlocked with a note explaining when you will be back — alas for the practical realities of modern life.

Vestiges of the past do remain. Unique and attractive board and bat houses set back in interesting gardens, with individually designed doorknockers and message containers still abound. Once in a while, you can spot one of the Comstock Doll houses — charming cottages looking as if they had just stepped off the pages of a 1920's children's book. Two of the town's major centers of culture remain. The Forest Theatre, where the cast once exceeded the town's population, is still as active as ever. The Maybeck designed library still attracts visitors to browse through its treasures while warming themselves in front of a gigantic fireplace.

It may be that the "only artists living in Carmel today are rich ones," however there are more art galleries than bars, and the visitor with limited time usually finds himself unable to visit them all. Perhaps in no other activity of the seven lively arts is the visitor asked to pay commercial homage in such variety and scope. The old elementary school with its gigantic auditorium is preserved and serves as a center for a myriad of cultural activities; theatrical programs, galleries, workshops and studios. It is the home of the Annual Bach Festival, oldest such event on the west coast.

The spirit of Carmel still remains with many of the citizens. They consider themselves as individuals and have retained the successful fight against house numbers. For many, the walk to the post office is the social highlight of the day's activities, as one can still greet friends, meet new faces and retain a small part of village life. Perhaps this is why Carmel-by-the-Sea attracts so many — there is a little of the "Villager" in all of us.

HARRISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

63



Ralph Chandler Harrison Library (Ocean & Lincoln)

Mrs. Ella Reid Harrison could not have left a better memorial to her husband, Judge Harrison, than the library that has meant so much to the town. The Maybeck designed structure, overflowing with volumes of every kind, is noted for its outstanding reading room and a gigantic fireplace, giving a cozy friendly atmosphere. This structure has served generations of Carmelites, including the writer, poet and citizen and remains today a center of literary culture.



The Pine Inn on Ocean Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea about 1912.



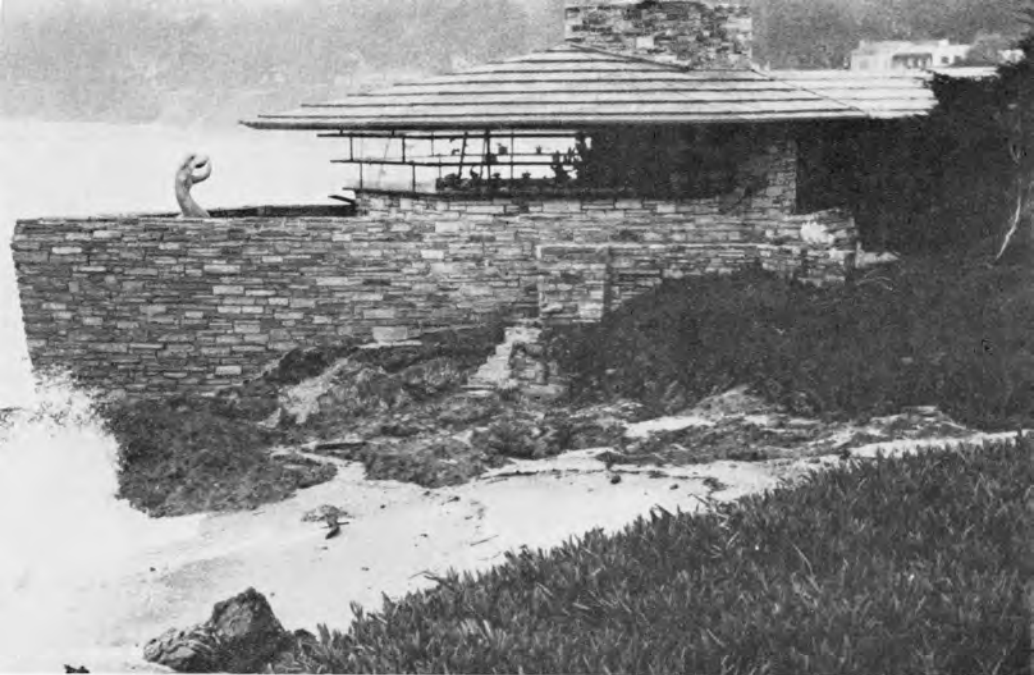
Annual Sand Castle building contest.

Forest Theatre (corner of Mt. View and Eighth)

This outdoor theatre, built in 1910 under leadership of Herbert Heron, was a center of cultural activity during those balmy days of Carmel's "Bohemia." It occasionally had more members of the cast in early pageants than the entire population of the town. One dispute over which play would be produced led to a famous fist fight between two prominent playwrights. The theatrical tradition continues today, and the theatre is the scene of a constant flurry of activity.

Among the modern events is the visit of the Highlanders. They march up Ocean, bag pipes playing, followed by a portion of the town's men, women and children, ending up at the theatre where they give a performance of dances and tunes to their enthusiastic followers. This picture shows the performance.





The Frank Lloyd Wright House

This beautiful home on Scenic Drive designed by the famed architect illustrates how his "natural house" theme is used to highlight the environment, making the house blend with the rocks and ocean against the wind-swept sky. He called this home his "ship house" and it seemed to be one of his favorites. He used it to do an illustration in one of his books.



Serra Statue on Dolores and del Monte. This famed statue standing guard at the rear entrance to the town is often a delight and surprise to the many who chance upon it at the crossroads among the pines. It is not known when Jo Mora completed this delightful memorial to the cleric.

Robinson Jeffers

Robinson Jeffers came to Carmel in 1914 and almost immediately set about building his beloved Tor House and Hawk Tower on Carmel Point. Here he was to live and write until his death in 1962 at the age of seventy-five.

In 1973 he was the subject for one of the 8 cent U.S. postage stamps in the American Art Series. First Day Issues were from Carmel on August 13. Dame Judith Anderson was present to read his beautiful poetry. The above photo shows the home when Jeffers first built it.



Monument to Robinson Jeffers.





City of Salinas. At the time of secularization of the Mission in 1834, this was the Rancho, where some 45,000 head of livestock were maintained.



The original structures were built of wood and adobe with straw roofs. Padre Lausen directed the building of the stone structure. Master stonemason, Manuel Ruiz, who had been sent from Mexico to supervise the building of the Presidio Chapel in Monterey began his labors on the stone church in Carmel in 1793.

After secularization in 1834 the building was allowed to crumble until only the front facade, a few supporting arches and some decaying walls were left.



Carmel Mission, Rio Road and Lasuen Drive

One of the two Minor Basilicas in the Western United States, Mission San Carlos de Borromeo was founded by Junipero Serra in 1770. On August 23, 1771 he moved it from Monterey to a lonely spot near the Carmel River in order to have greater independence from the Presidio. This became his headquarters for all the mission system of California. Fermi Lasuen Serra's successor as President also resided here.



In 1884 under Father Casonova, early efforts were undertaken to restore the historic structure. A spirited committee led by Mrs. Leland Stanford joined the effort. In this picture you can see the temporary roof put on the structure to protect what was left of the interior. In 1931 Mr. Harry Downie was appointed curator and the final restoration phase was undertaken.



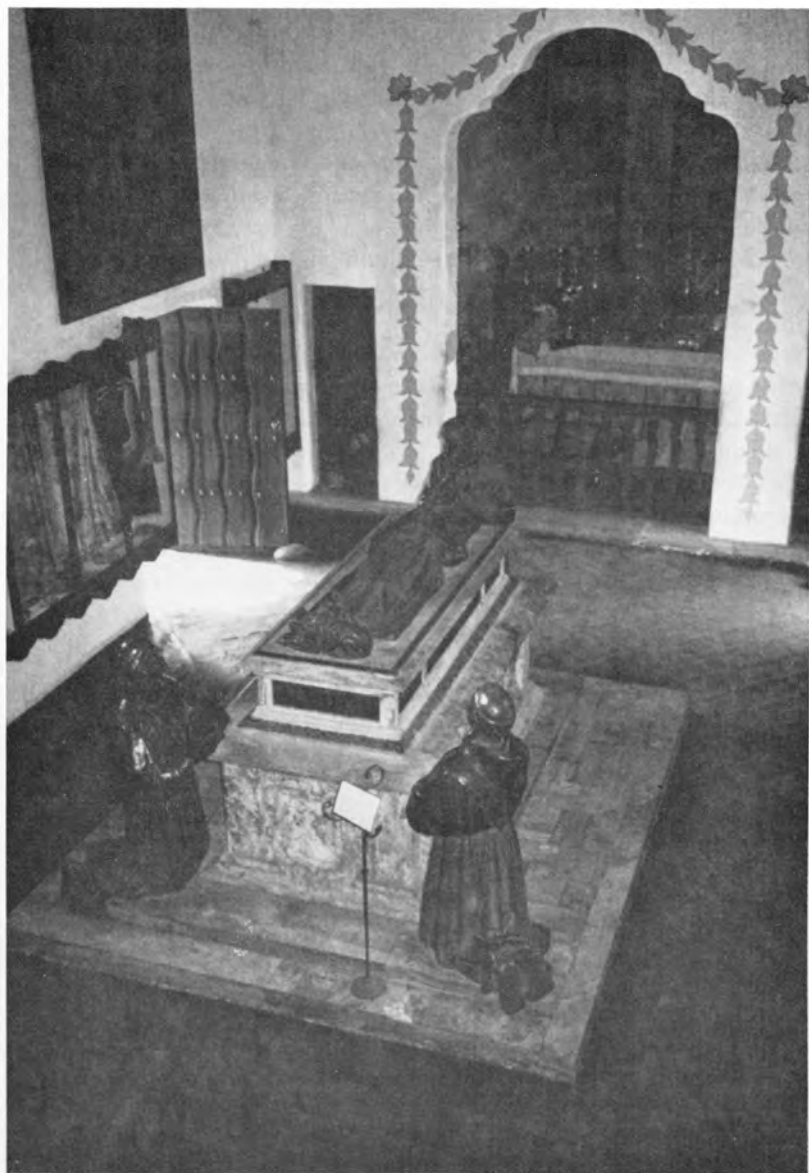
The First Library in California

The volumes were carefully collected by a series of padres after Fr. Palou. After restoration, a search was instituted to gather the books that were in the original library. The tomes are a collector's dream, with the original sheepskin bindings still preserving many of the old books.



Serra's Cell

In Spain, Serra had been a professor at the University of Palma-one of the leading institutions of Europe. He constantly taught the value of "Spartan" life and dedication to the missionary spirit. As one views the plank bed and the rough fixtures of his cell, it is easy to see that he practiced what he preached.



As the movement for final restoration got underway, Jo Mora, famed Carmel artist noted for his "cowboy western" scenes, lovingly created this bronze memorial. Serra is shown lying in state with the California bear at his feet. Looking over him are Crespi, Lopez and Lasuen who are buried next to him in the crypt at the foot of the altar in the main chapel. The Cenotaph is decorated with bronze relief depicting incidents of the mission life in California.

Seaside

A community, where at one time lots were given away with a subscription to a big city newspaper, Seaside is now the largest, fastest growing city on the Monterey Peninsula. It was incorporated in 1954 with about 15,000 residents. The population has more than doubled in twenty-five years. All are justifiably proud of their modern civic center and churches of many faiths.

The City Hall on Canyon Del Rey was designed by the internationally famous architect, Edward Durrell Stone. Mr. Stone succeeded admirably in combining the charm of ancient Greece with the modern needs of city government.

Potted plants line the walls of the corridors and spacious rooms. The main hall provides space for art exhibits. The use of many trees and flowers in the landscaping softens the harshness of the always necessary parking area, making an exceptionally pleasing civic center.



Photo courtesy City of Seaside.



St. Seraphim's Russian Orthodox Church nestled in a grove of trees on the shore of a small lake. Located on Canyon Del Rey across the street from City Hall.



Seaside Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Located at Noche Buena and Plumas.



The tranquil garden of the Buddhist Temple. Located at 1155 Noche Buena.

Point Lobos

Californians are privileged to be guardians of many unique and beautiful natural regions. One of the most precious is Point Lobos, 1250 acres of what has been described as the most beautiful meeting of land and sea on earth.

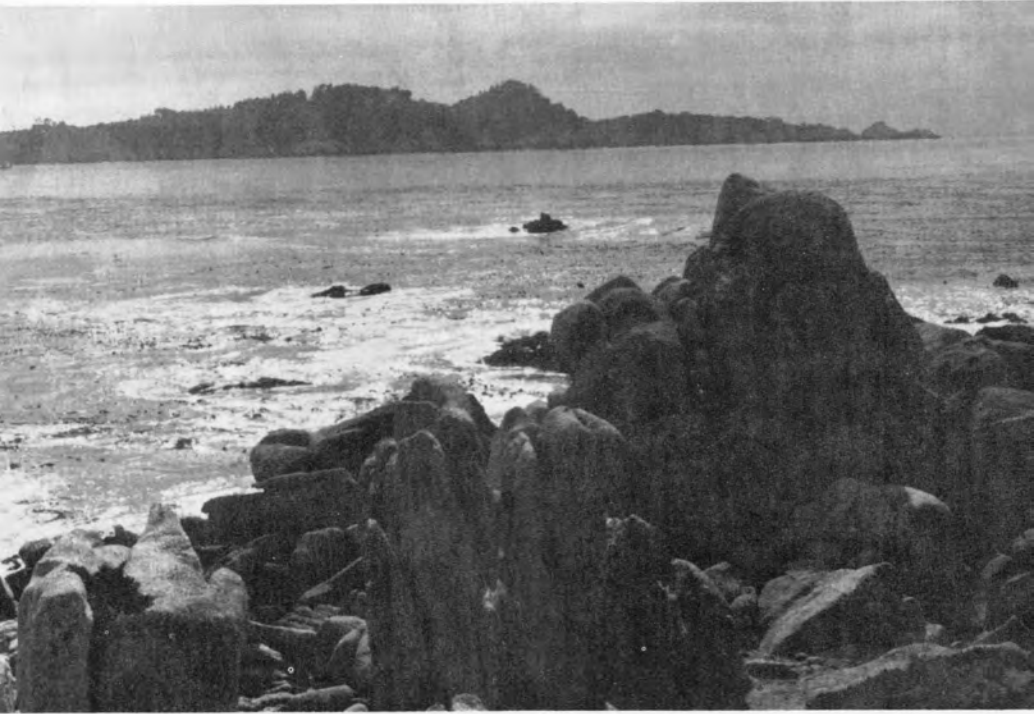
It seems providential that this lovely area has survived, since it has passed through many hands in its brief recorded history.

There is ample evidence that it was a favorite fishing ground for the Indians in its earlier times. It was part of a land grant and even changed hands in a card game. Hollywood built complete villages for motion pictures. The whalers used it, smugglers used it, and Robert Louis Stevenson used it in his story "Treasure Island."

Now it stands safe as an outdoor laboratory of nature's many wonders, a Registered Natural Landmark. Don your most comfortable shoes, park your car and view nature at her most exciting best.



The Monte Carlo set for the motion picture "Foolish Wives" with Eric Von Stroheim. A Million Dollar Movie by Universal Films. Location, Point Lobos, the year, 1922.



Looking across the Bay from Carmel Point towards Point Lobos.



*The most
beautiful
meeting of
land and
sea on
earth.*



Big Sur Country

In 1771 when Padre Junipero Serra was building his Mission at the mouth of the Carmel Valley, the country beyond was known as Pais de Sur... Country to the South. The first persons known to have traversed it were four scouts of the Portolá Expedition of 1769. It took them eighteen days to travel some sixty miles, and they were found more dead than alive.

In 1839 the northern-most part was a land grant to Marcelleno Escobar. The grant extended from the Carmel River to Little Sur and "...inland as far as cattle graze." The Highway was begun in 1919. Two hundred men labored eighteen years to complete it at a cost of ten million dollars. One of the most scenic drives in the world, it stretches for nearly a hundred miles with scarcely any part straight and level.

Thirty-three bridges cross creeks and canyons, many with names lovelier in Spanish than English ... Rio Grande del Sur (Big River to the South), Chiquita del Sur (Little River to the South), Garrapata (wood-tick), Malpaso (bad crossing).

Poets and artists alike have tried to reveal Big Sur Country to the world. Robinson Jeffers said it was rocky ledges, which only a meteor could plough. Lillian Bos Ross called it a State of Mind. Henry Miller said it was a region of grandeur and eloquent silence.

It's a haven for wild life, the otter, the eagle, the condor. It's a transition zone, where the Redwood Zone overlaps the Southern Arid Zone, and the redwood trees grow side by side with the sycamore. There has been gold mined and coal mined and lime mined.

It attracts people from all walks of life, but few remain. They soon fall back into the mainstream of passengers, devastated by the grandeur of it all.



Looking south towards the Point Sur lighthouse located on the large offshore rock. The local residents, concerned about the many shipwrecks, built the lighthouse themselves. The year ... 1899. In 1935 the dirigible Macon was returning north from San Diego with the Pacific Fleet. She ran into "squally" weather and broke in half just ten miles off the "light."

Highway 1 looking north towards the Monterey Peninsula.



Hearst Castle

William Randolph Hearst was the only son of U.S. Senator George Hearst. At the death of his mother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, he was to inherit the vast ranch property, some 240,000 acres stretching 50 miles along California's coastline. From La Cuesta Encantada (the Enchanted Hill) he was truly master of all he surveyed. This was the that he decided to build his La Casa Grande.

He envisioned it as a "home" for his family. He hired Julia Morgan as his architect. The Hearst Castle which you visit today is the result. At the time of his death in 1951, even though the rooms numbered one hundred, it was still unfinished.

In 1958 William Randolph Hearst Jr., on behalf of the family, presented the Enchanted Hill and La Casa Grande with all its treasures to the people of California. His voice trembled as he related stories of the happy days of camping on the hill top as a child. The gift is a memorial to his father and his grandmother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst.

You reach the Castle by traveling about a hundred miles south from the Monterey Peninsula via Highway 1.

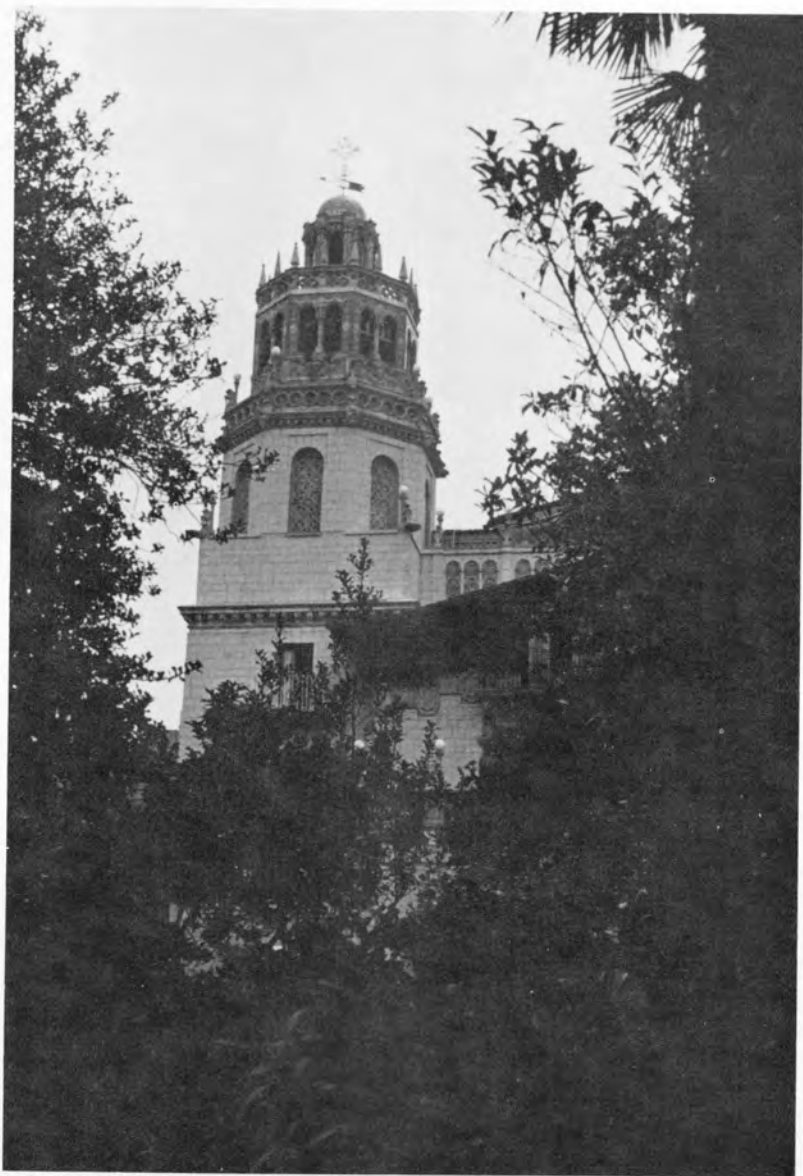




La Casa Grande upper left. Guest houses upper right. Neptune Pool foreground.

Zebra, goats and sheep graze the surrounding pastures with the cattle.





One of the twin towers of La Casa Grande. Towers rise 137 feet above the main entrance.



Neptune's Pool. Pool, faced with marble is 104 feet long. It is surrounded by white marble statues.

Upper terrace which overlooks the valley to the north.





Rose Garden. Lovely marble statues are to be found throughout the gardens.

A corner of the huge Assembly Room, where Mr. Hearst greeted his guests each evening before dinner.



This is not intended as a history of the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur Country, but rather an adjunct for those with whom we have had the privilege of sharing the area and an aid to those who would explore on their own.

For those who would delve deeper into our past, we offer the following recommendations:

Bancroft, Hubert Howe

History of California (San Francisco, The History Company, Publishers 1886)

Bolton, Herbert Eugene

Anza's California Expeditions, 5 volumes (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1930)

Chapman, Charles E.

A History of California: The Spanish Period (New York, The MacMillan Company 1921)

Colton, Rev. Walter, U.S.N.

Three Years in California (A.S. Barnes & Co., New York)

Dana, Richard Henry, Jr.

Two Years Before the Mast (Boston, Harper's Family Library)

Fink, Augustus

Monterey: The Presence of the Past (San Francisco Chronicle Books)

McLane, Lucy Neely

A Piney Paradise (Monterey, Herald Printers)

Taylor, Bayard

Eldorado (New York, Putnam)

Steinbeck, John — Ricketts, E.F.

The Log from the Sea of Cortez (New York, The Viking Press, Inc.)

Stevenson, Robert Louis

The Old Pacific Capital from the Travels and Essays of Robert Louis Stevenson (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons)

The Authors.

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Kissing Rocks on Pacific Grove's rugged shoreline.



Crashing waves of the Pacific, where two ocean currents meet.



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Monterey's noble harbor and pine clad hills. C.C. Flag recorded in his diary in 1879 that Monterey had the shape of an abalone shell and ". . .the Bay, a fine one, might easily hold the world's navies." The Port of Monterey was given its name by Sebastian Vizciano, 17th century explorer, sailing under the flag of Spain and the sponsorship of the Viceroy of New Spain (Mexico), the Conde de Monte Rey.



Bixby Creek Bridge, affectionately known as Rainbow Bridge, the longest single arch concrete span in the world. It is one of thirty three bridges connecting the Big Sur Highway.

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The famous ghost tree on 17 Mile Drive.



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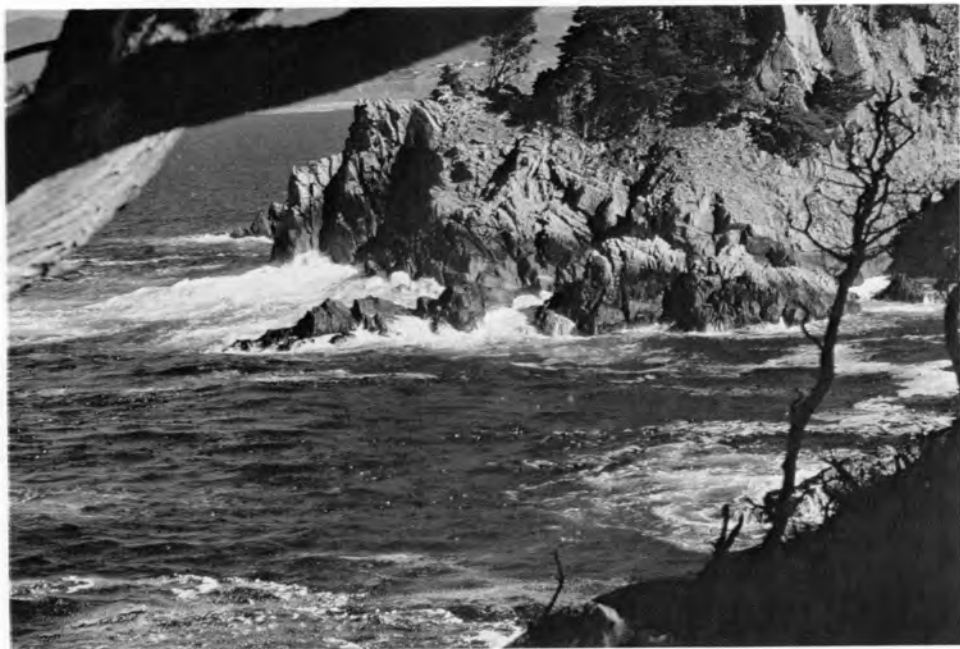
Wind sculptured trees along the 17 Mile Drive.



Point Lobos, where nature has her way.



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Point Pinos Lighthouse, oldest extant lighthouse on the West Coast.

A cluster of Monarch butterflies, wintering in Pacific Grove.





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Robinson Jeffers' home, Tor House and Hawk Tower.



Mission San Carlos de Borromeo, one of two Minor Basilicas in the Western United States, was founded by Junipero Serra. He chose the lonely spot near the Carmel River in order to have greater independence from the Presidio in Monterey. This became the headquarters for the Mission System in California. Fermin Francisco de Lasuén, Serra's successor as President of the California Missions, also resided here.



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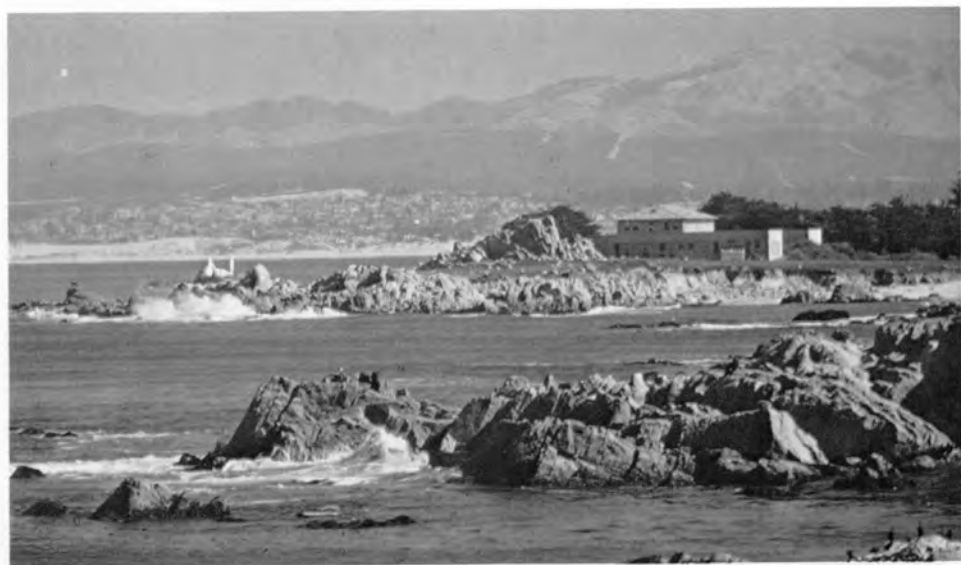
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Pacific Grove's Perkins Park in full bloom.



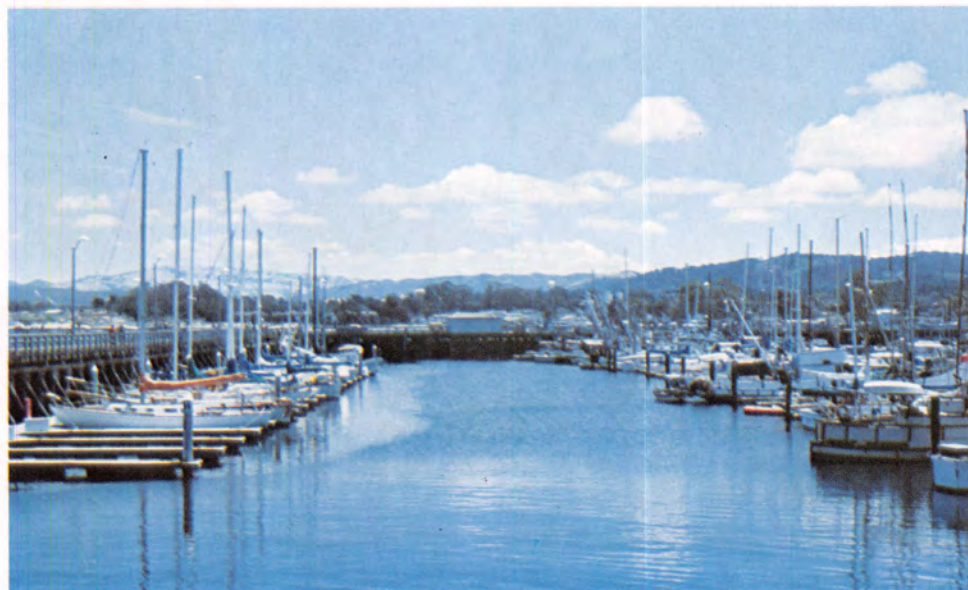
Hopkins Marine Station in foreground. City of Seaside on the opposite shore with the San Gabriel Mountains in the background.

Pacific Grove's Perkins Park in full bloom.



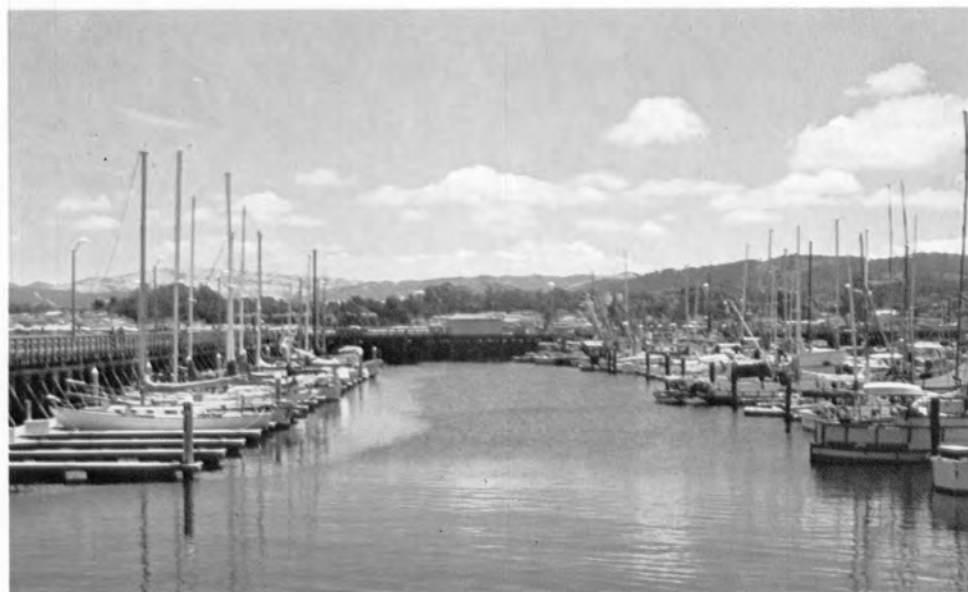
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4 masted schooner on a visit to Monterey.



Yacht Harbor of Monterey

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The interior of the Carmel Mission, now used as a Parish Church. Padre Serra is buried at the foot of the altar. Next to him are his long-time companions, Fathers Juan Crespi and Fermin Lasuén.



Dining room of the Larkin House. Portraits are of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Larkin, as seen by a Spanish artist.



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California's first brick house, home of the Gallant Duncan Dickinson family from Virginia. Note the outside staircase. Staircases had always been on the outside buildings, until Thomas Larkin built his showplace.



The Old Whaling Station. Note the wooden leanto. Many of the early adobes have wooden leantos added on to them. It was a simple way to provide space for kitchens and bathrooms, when people began including these rooms in the main house.



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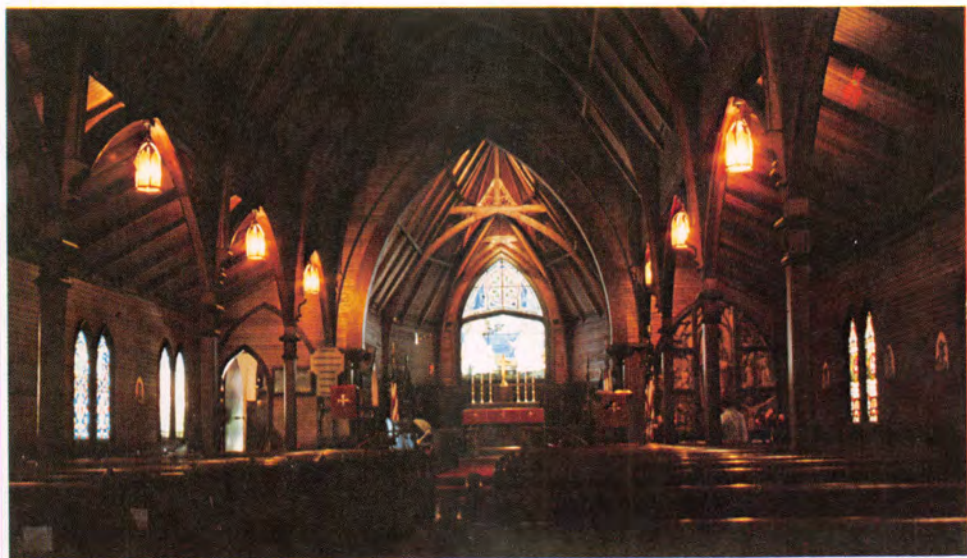




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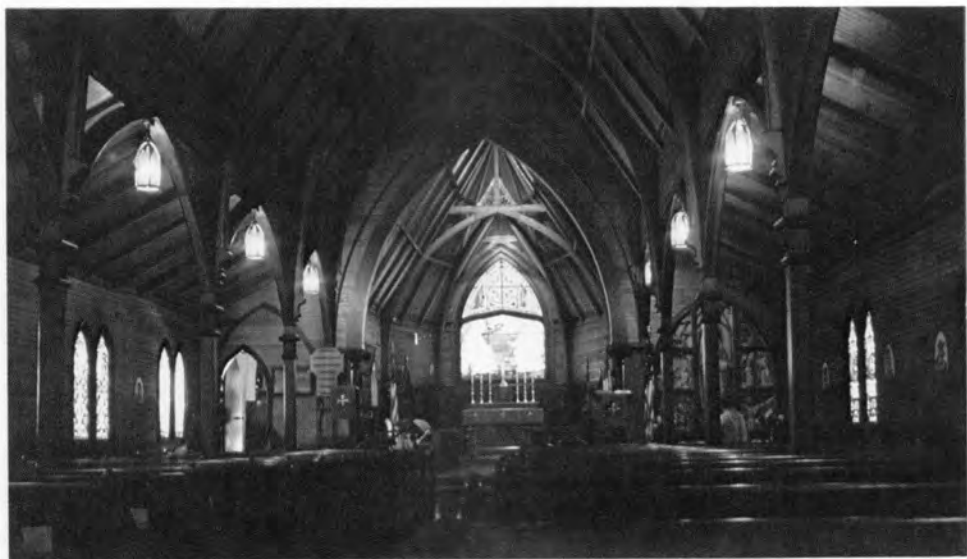




Interior of St. Mary's by the Sea, Pacific Grove's first church building. It is famous for its many lovely stained glass windows, including two signed Tiffanys.



Interior of the Royal Presidio Chapel. Our Lady of Sorrow is in the first niche on the left. It is unusual to find Our Lady dressed in black, ordinarily permitted only where the custom is very old. Her fine clothes were made in 1856.



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About the Authors

Helen Shropshire and Winston Elstob are both professional guides associated with the California Heritage Guides of Monterey. They have shown thousands of people their favorite place on earth, the Monterey Peninsula. The Handbook is the result of the many requests of these people for a journal on "Where California Began."

Both are avid photographers who have collected hundreds of photographs of the historical and scenic points of interest. Helen has the edge here, as her husband, Frank Shropshire, is an independent movie producer. Many of the historical photographs were chosen by her from a treasure trove kept by the Monterey Library.

Helen and Winston are, also by hobby and vocation, true history buffs, but the Handbook, they say, is not meant to be historically exact. Something, they agree, is quite impossible when it comes to the human records of the Monterey Peninsula, and something they would rather feel right about than be too scholarly and remote.

During our Nation's Bicentennial Helen, with Winston in the right seat, directed the highly successful Reenactment of the de Anza Expedition, which retraced the steps of the first colonists to California from Sonora, Mexico to San Francisco. The Reenactment Expedition, which was underway for some nine months, was in the same locality on the same day as the original Expedition, only 200 years later. Winston made his start with Monterey's Bicentennial Celebration in 1970, when he helped organize and train the guides for the popular walking tours of Monterey's old adobes.

The authors hope their stories and pictures will help enliven the visitor's first encounter with the Monterey Peninsula and even might interest some of the present inhabitants to take another look at the Old Pacific Capital.