

Romance, Beauty Of Beach Land Lured County Pioneers

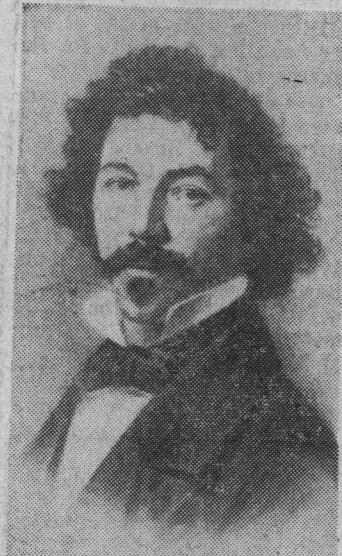
By Margaret Koch
Sentinel Staff Writer

It's like going into another world...

The winter song of the surf comes, through the trees in a muffled boom. Wisps of thin fog hang on the trees which are bearded with moss.

The houses seem to snuggle close to the earth which is lush with green growth above the bare beach; it is a private world all of its own—Potbelly Beach, between New Brighton and Sea-cliff.

It's easy to see why old



Capt. Thomas Fallon, saddle maker, real estate operator and money-lender, built his first home in this area (also a hotel) across what is today School street. He sold it in 1852 for use as Santa Cruz county's first court house.

Thomas Fallon fell in love with the place. It's a spot which brings to mind romantic mysteries like buried pirate treasure, romantic rendezvous and—in later years—rum running by the dark of the moon.

The historic property, once part of New Brighton beach and of the huge Soquel Rancho of Martina Castro, was sold last week by Mrs. Geraldine Moore and her son, John Sinclair, Castro heirs.

The 18-acre property had been in family hands since 1834 when Martina "walked on the land, pulled up grass and threw handfuls of earth... threw stones to the four winds and performed... other acts of possession."

Martina received from the Spanish king, under the Mexican government, a grant of 34,370 acres known as the Soquel Rancho. Ten years later she petitioned for another 32,702 acres back of the first grant. When she received the second parcel she called it "Rancho Palo de Yesca" (Tinder Tree) but received it as Soquel Augmentation Rancho.

In 1850 Martina divided her extensive properties among her eight children. The Castros were the aristocrats of Villa de Branciforte. Martina's grandfather, Isidro, came to California in 1776 with the Anza Party overland from Sonora, Mexico (New Spain).

Martina's grandmother, Martina Boutilier, was of noble French blood.

Joaquin, his sons and daughters, became the grantees of seven large ranchos in this region.

Martina married three times and one of her children was Carmel Lodge, who married Thomas Fallon. Mrs. Moore is Fallon's granddaughter; Sinclair a great-grandson.

Fallon's impressive home in San Jose still stands as the Hotel Italia, according to Sinclair. The old hotel Fallon built at Potbelly Beach in the 1860s or 70s, is gone, torn down in 1939, but remnants of the foundation still exist in Sinclair's front yard beneath the myrtle vines.

Sinclair's own home was built as a dance hall in the early 1930s and redwood lumber for it came from Rancho Soquel operations on Bates Creek back of Soquel. Lumber from that mill also built Fallon's San Jose home and Sinclair has a letter from June 21, 1854, with Fallon complaining of the cost of lumber—\$7 per thousand board feet, delivered in San Jose.

The original Soquel Rancho



A mansion in its day — Thomas Fallon's old home in San Jose, corner of San Pedro and San Augustine streets, still stands, according to his great-grandson John Sinclair.

Redwood lumber for the house was hauled over the mountains from Bates Creek behind Soquel, where it was cut. (Both pictures courtesy of John Sinclair)



DENTAL PLATES

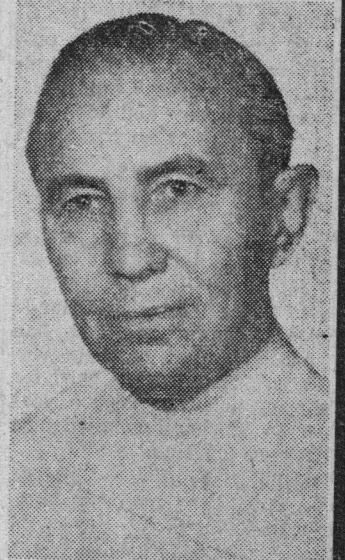
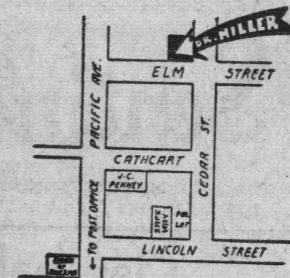
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Discrimination Charges In LA To Be Aired

Los Angeles (AP). — A hearing to air charges of racial discrimination on the part of the Civil Service Commission and other city departments has been scheduled for next Thursday.

Allegations that prejudice — based on race, sex and age — been a factor in city personnel practices will be heard by City Council's personnel committee, headed by Councilman G. Mills.

Areas where discrimination occur, Mills said, were: arbitrary manipulation of service lists by department heads.

2—Use of temporary appoint-

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nents to avoid use of civil service lists.

3—Avoiding appointments until existing civil service lists expire.

4—Improper weighting on oral exams by civil service examiners.

5—Inadequate appeal procedures for probationary employees who are dismissed by department heads.

The commission has denied similar charges in the past.

PUBLIC NOTICE

grant extended from Soquel Creek East to the eastern edge of what is now Cabrillo college campus, or Borregas gulch.

Other branches of the family are said to have founded the town of Fallon, Nev., and built the Fallon House in Columbia, northern California gold mining town. Two cousins, Miss Lulu Lodge and Miss Julia Lodge, still live in the old family home on Capitola avenue in Capitola.

PUBLIC NOTICE



John Sinclair, descendant of the original grantees of the historic Soquel Rancho, looks over a map of the property. An 18-acre section of the beach land between Seacliff

and New Brighton was sold last week. It was a portion of the 1834 Mexican land grant made to Martina Castro. Sinclair and his mother, Mrs. Geraldine Moore, were heirs to the property.

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