

Mrs. Moreland's school for young ladies

By BETTY LEWIS

"Architect Weeks is preparing plans for the school which Mrs. M.S. Moreland is going to build in this city. It is to be a school for young ladies, under the direction of the Catholic Church, and is to be called the Moreland Notre Dame School.

"It will be located on the Catholic Church property on upper Main Street, opposite St.

That was Watsonville

Patrick's Church. The building is to be 60 x 100 feet and to have two stories, a basement and an attic. It is to be well lighted with wide halls and every improvement for a modern building of its character.

"The expense of the building construction is to be born by Mrs. Moreland, who is to establish the school in memory of her daughter, the late Miss Josie Moreland." — The Pajaronian, Nov. 17, 1898.

Margaret Moreland was born in Ireland and came to the United States in 1852. She settled in Connecticut for 10 years and then moved in 1862 to the Pajaro Valley, where she met and married rancher Samuel Moreland in 1866.

Three children were born of this union, two dying in infancy. The other, Josephine, was to attend the Sisters of Notre Dame in San Jose. In her senior year, 1888, at the age of 18, she died of pneumonia. Thus, the Moreland



Moreland Notre Dame was built in memory of Margaret Moreland's daughter Josie, who died of illness at age 18.

Notre Dame Academy. After Mrs. Moreland's husband died in 1875, she had leased the ranch and moved to Van Ness (Rodriguez) Street.

Local builder H.J. Wood was contractor for the school building, the first floor of which had two large classrooms, the chapel, the room of the mother superior, two infirmaries, a parlor, art room, store, cloak room, and bathrooms. Up in the attic were four dormitories and from their windows could be seen a panoramic view of the Pajaro Valley.

The formal dedication of this building took place on Dec. 27, 1899, with Sister Mary Veronica appointed as Mother Superior of

Moreland. In the information pamphlet relating to the facilities and other pertinent facts about this school for girls, the following appeared: "Parents are requested to furnish the Superior with the list of the correspondents that they desire for their daughters. The list should be as concise as possible."

As to student apparel, following are just a few of the items each girl was to bring with her while boarding at the school: "Four pairs of bloomers, three nightgowns — pajamas prohibited, and three dozen handkerchiefs." Quite a few handkerchiefs by any standard!

At the time of the 1906

earthquake, Moreland Notre Dame was almost consumed by fire when an inflammable liquid in a vial spilled and ignited in the chemistry room, causing more than \$10,000 in damages. The local hose company saved the structure and insurance covered the damage to the top portion of the building.

The following is from the Moreland Notre Dame Academy Tuition Schedule: "The scholastic year is divided in two sessions of about five months each; the first opens in the early part of August and closes about the twenty-first of December; the second usually opens the Monday following New Year's Day and closes about the first of June. Tuition, Board, Laundry, Plain Sewing — \$225.00 each session."

Mrs. Moreland died at the age of 90 in 1919, having outlived her husband by 44 years. The building was demolished in 1963 as larger facilities were needed. But the demolition required extra work; the 64-year-old building had been strongly built and rejected the wrecking ball wholeheartedly.

A new convent was erected, the elementary school having been built in back, facing Brennan Street, in 1942.

Many girls walked through the halls of the old Moreland Academy, the large gingerbread Victorian building which has faded into the past but not out of the minds of former students and teachers.