

California's Finest Heritage

By MARY PICKFORD



ONE who really loves California will find in a study of those things in history, tradition and nature which symbolize this magic land a never-failing source of delight and inspiration. Delving into her proud past, it seems to me, is one of the rarest advantages of living in California.

If one's fancy turns toward architecture, the discovery of an old adobe dwelling or the crumbling arch of an early Mission, or a characteristic tower of the padres somewhere along El Camino Real, or some other bit of beauty that comes from their flair or simplicity, is like meeting a childhood friend.

Similarly, one who loves the gorgeous wild flowers of California never tires of the changing picture that meadows and mesas and deserts and mountain valleys afford. The shiny foliage and snowy blossoms of the ceanothus, the scarlet monkey flower, the poppies, the wild sweet peas, cream cups, thistle sage, manzanita, sumac, yucca, wild cherry, lilac and mint bush—these all thrill as they burst forth each year in their endless procession of color and daintiness.

The ocean, the softly sloping mountains, the desert, the redwood forests and the other triumphs of Nature that are truly and typically Californian—from all of these we can derive true enjoyment.

Certainly California possesses a rich heritage of Nature and historical association. Certainly it behooves all of us who love our state to cherish her traditions and magnify her charms.

I do not know of anything that can give the individual more genuine pleasure than to adhere to this thought. On our Rancho Zorro at Rancho Santa Fe a short distance north of San Diego, Douglas and I are planning years of delight in assembling and restoring some of the charm that has given California such a glorious history.

I really don't see how anyone could violate in the building of a home or the landscaping of grounds this very obvious course which California tradition dictates.

As I have said before in a public gathering, it is almost abhorrent to me to see people transplant architecture which is so violently out of tune with California climate and conditions to this Eden. One would not think of

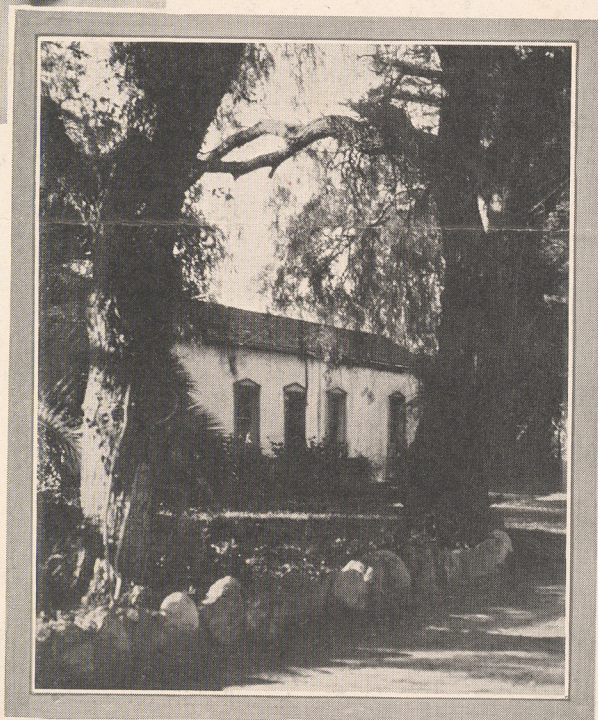


"America's Sweetheart" was prevailed upon to send the accompanying article to *The Modern Clubwoman*. With it we publish the photographs of the famous actress and—

building a Mexican hacienda in New England. Nor should one think of building a New England dwelling here.

We selected Rancho Santa Fe for our country home for two reasons. First, it is rich in romantic tradition of early Spanish life and second, the policies and restrictions imposed by its sponsors all tend to broaden and enhance everything that is typically Californian.

It seems to me that one of the most worth-while and inspiring objectives that the leaders in women's affairs in California can set up for themselves is the guarding of California's loveliness and the preservation of all those things, both natural and historical, which have made this a golden land.



—t w o scenes which indicate how the estate being created by Douglas Fairbanks and Miss Pickford will appear.