

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 19, 1952

### **It Rained Too Much in 1891**

Evidently February and March of 1891 were wet months. A short editor's note on February 14<sup>th</sup> read: "Captain Lambert of the Custom House H.N. Whitcomb and the editor of The Cypress have been praying for it not rain. Look out for a big storm."

Telephones arrived in Monterey early in 1891. A Mr. Matlock, district manager of the Telephone Company came to town in February of that year, with the news that the line had been built one mile this side of Salinas and would probably be completed to Monterey within a few days. The instrument between Salinas and San Francisco was the latest improved order and "a whisper can be heard at either end of the line." The same connection was promised for Monterey.

"An Afflicted Neighborhood," is the heading for a story which appeared in The Monterey Cypress in March 1891. We wonder if it was the flu bug or the continued rain, which hit a family down the Big Sur way. The Coast correspondent wrote: "It commenced raining here Saturday night between 12 and 1 o'clock and rained steady until 11 Sunday morning, 1.15 of rain falling during that time. It commenced to drizzle again at 3 p.m. and it lasted for an hour – for all of which we are thankful.

"Have just heard from T.B. Slate, He is very low. His wife is worn out and is sick also. Their three boys are sick in bed; one of Mrs. Slate's brothers, Ignacio Soberanes, is also there sick in bed; Bernardo, another brother is worn out and almost sick; John Gilkey, is there, about worn out; C.H. Stevens was there but had to go home sick; Ed. Barnes was there but wore himself out attending to the sick and is also confined to his bed; Fred Partington had passed the time going to and from the place after doctors and medicine, and is about tired out; the McWay family have done all in their power to help the sick and two of their number have succumbed to the sickness. Mr. F. Rico has kept himself pretty busy attending to the sick and had it not been for him the family would have passed away long ago." Coast

As we reported a few days ago the men and women of the Big Sur country were the grand and generous kind, ever ready to help where help was needed.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Coast reporter wrote "Just heard from T.B. Slate, He is better,"

On the above date there was a note in The Cypress conveying the news that Jack Swan, the pioneer of '43, was in Monterey from Salinas where he had been under medical care. His friends saw him carrying a slate, his hearing having become so defective during his absence, that only through writing a message would he become acquainted with the news of the community. Jack Swan was the builder of California's First Theater.

A nice little story appeared in The Cypress on Feb. 28, 1891, concerning the Monterey street railway and some of the old residents. The first car to run over the newly laid tracks was taken from the freight car on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, placed upon the car track and started for the car house in Oak Grove. When the car under the pilotage of Manuel Wolter, the drayman, passed Doctor Heintz's residence in Oak Grove, the latter ran out and jumped aboard the car with the remark: "Want the honor of paying the first fare into the street railroad fund" The latter accepted the coin (he had no bell punch) and contrary to the rules observed by some street car conductors handed the nickel to Mr. Malarin, who had a band of gold placed around it and wore it for a watch charm for many years.

The street railway ceased to operate many years ago and the rails were finally torn up. The car house was on Sloat street between Del Monte avenue and Fremont, the first street back of the old Hotel Del Monte grounds and the Heintz home was one of the show places of that day.