

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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An Old Clock

Another very old dock with an historical background has been added to the collection of the Monterey History and Art Assn. by a gift from Stanley and Russell Cummings. After many years in business in Monterey, the Cummings jewelry store, where Alvarado street meets Calle Principal, is no longer in existence and the building is deserted. The old clock was a familiar sight in the window facing the tiny park and we hope that someday it will be looked at and admired by the home folks and tourists who visit the Casa de Oro when it becomes a restoration of the old Boston Store of the 1800s.

The clock of oblong shape came around the Horn in 1849 with the William C. Cummings family to San Francisco on board the Niantic, Soon after, this sailing vessel arrived in San Francisco the crew deserted her and her master converted her into a hotel or rooming house and she remained on the waterfront until a fire destroyed the upper part. The clock was rescued from the flames to be taken to Sacramento and Cummings carried the clock on his back to safety. The last home for the much-traveled time piece was Monterey.

As for the future use of the hull of the Niantic, it became the foundation of a building known as the Niantic Block, when, it is reported, a number of souvenirs of the vessels were saved. Allen Knight, an authority on the maritime history of California, tells us that an antique dealer in the Mission district of San Francisco had a number of pieces of the Niantic in a collection a few years ago. He valued them at too great a price, so Mr. Knight does not have a part of this old vessel in his valuable collection of historic marine objects.

The Philatelic Research Society announces the publication of "A Century of California Post Offices" by Walter N. Frickstad. This is an outline of the official history of all post offices ever established in California, some 4,240 since the beginning in 1848.

There are several parts to the book, the first showing the data of appointment of the first postmaster for each office, and any subsequent discontinuance, reestablishment or change of name. It also shows the county wherein the post office was established and the

shift if reassigned. It is also interesting to note that from the microfilmed records of the appointments of postmasters, the original handwritten records of the Post Office Department now preserved in the National Archives, have been put to valuable use.

For the benefit of those who wish to dig deeper into the past history of the California post offices of the 1850 period there are 21 lists. Seven are lists published in newspapers and others in California during the decade; six are drawn from the official Register, compiled in those days by the Department of State. The Registers add an interesting item, the compensation allowed the respective postmasters and the net proceeds to the government for each odd-numbered fiscal year, thus indicating, the volume of business transacted.

This is another limited edition of 500 copies. The price is \$12.50. The address of the Philatelic Research Society is 3822 Harrison St., Oakland 11.