

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Some Recent Books**

All those people impressed with the importance or the interest of local history must be happy these days with the large number of volumes dealing with local, state or regional Americana that are making their appearance.

"Landmarks of New Canaan," published by the New Canaan Historical Society, priced at \$8.50, is a beautiful, folio-sized volume that so well indicates the contribution that can be made by a small historical society to the better understanding of the American past. The volume contains over 150 different articles, each previously printed in the local newspapers and each beautifully illustrated. More than 100 authors have contributed to the volume and over 40 artists furnished illustrations; one, Edwin Eberman, did 46 illustrations himself.

Mrs. Mildred Lee Hills Anderson of Castile, N. Y. has written and published "Genessee Echoes" (\$2.95). This history of a small section of the Genessee Valley gives much insight into the settlement of central New York and tells the interesting story of the "Grand Canyon of the East" and what is now Letchworth State Park. The book is illustrated with many photographs and provided with an index of persons.

Coming West, Ella M. Cain's "Story of Bodie" (Mother Lode, Press Sonora, Calif.) tells of one the later mining camps, perhaps second to none for its lawlessness, that has recently become a California State Park.

Dawson's Book Shop, Los Angeles, paper, \$2.40; Cloth, \$4.00; has published a slim booklet in a limited edition; Don Meadows "The American Occupation of La Paz" (\$5.00). This minor incident in the Mexican War took place in 1847. Jack R. Wagner's "Short Line Junction" (Academy Library Guild, Fresno; \$4.75) is the generously illustrated account of seven short railroad lines in California and Nevada.

Marion S. Scanlan takes her readers, via "automobile, ferry and canoe" along the trails of Joliet and Marquette in her "Trails of French Explorers" (San Antonio. The Naylor Co.; \$2.50). This is a delightful and an attractive volume, filled with small items of local interest for anyone who is interested in the French population in the U. S.

Andrew F. Rolle has told of the life of William Heath Davis, 1822-1909, in his "An American in California" (Huntington Library; \$4.25). The book tells of an American who came to California before the gold rush and embraced certain aspects of the Spanish culture. Based on careful research, this adds immeasurable to our understanding of the early period of California history.

Latest volume of the New American Nation series is Ray Allen Billington's "The Far Western Frontier" (Harper; \$5.00). This is a readable and quite complete account of the West between 1830 and 1860.

Few names in the annals of the Far West are more or better known than John Charles Fremont, whether one admires him or not. Now Allen Nevins, author of "Fremont: Pathmarker of the West," has edited the volume of Fremont's account of his explorations first published in 1887: "Narratives of Exploration and Adventure" (Longmans; \$8.50).

Irving Stone's "Men to Match My Mountains" (Doubleday; \$5.95) is an extremely interesting account of the opening of the Far West. Confining himself to California, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. Mr. Stone has given us one of the best volumes in an excellent series; Doubleday's "Mainspring of America."

Clifford M. Zierer has edited a useful volume "California and the Southwest" (John Wiley; \$11.25). This is a geographical study that accents regional interdependence.