

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Old Ice Wagons**

This amusing entry appeared in the September issue of "History News", the publication of the American Assn. for State and Local History.

"Anybody Seen an Ice Wagon Lately". From Lawrence B. Romaine, Middleboro, Mass., comes a plea for preservation (if it isn't already too late) of an ice wagon or two.

It seems Mr. Romaine has inquired widely among museums and restored villages without finding an example. Even museums specializing in carriages, wagons, and other vehicles report "no ice wagon." Curators whom he has contacted say they have never seen one in their travels.

In an article, "The Case For a Missing Ice Wagon", published in the July issue of "The Spinning Wheel," Mr. Romaine sums up the results of his search and reports some facts he has dug up on the once-thriving ice industry.

Many colorful and pictorial wagons were made for the trade by the Knickerbocker Ice Co. of Philadelphia. The company's first catalogue appeared in 1864. Mr. Romaine's article is illustrated with six colored pictures of ice wagons from the 1897 catalog. According to the catalogue ice wagons sold for from \$175 to \$460, and those with pictures on the sides cost \$75 extra. The Knickerbocker Co. sold vehicles in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, California, Virginia, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Quebec, Bermuda, and elsewhere, yet it appears that not one has found its way into a museum.

In the announcement of the taking over of the Wayside Inn, the historic hostelry in South Sudbury, Mass. made famous by the poet Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn," by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the notation that Casa Amesti in Monterey, Calif. is among other properties accepted by the National Trust for operation for the public enjoyment.

The Ford Foundation made a grant of \$500 000 in Feb. 1956. for restoration of Wayside Inn and to provide for its future maintenance. Last year the famous Inn was swept by fire.

Richard Howland, president of the National Trust, commented: "Military and political figures have been well remembered in our histone house museums, and our organization is happy to add to the list of properties it administers for public benefit one that reflects American literary and cultural heritage. It is our hope to preserve the atmosphere of an inn which was first licensed more than two centuries ago and served generations of stage-coach travelers and neighboring citizens.

The National Trust also owns Woodlawn Plantation, once part of George Washington's Mt Vernon estate in Virginia, and Decatur House on Lafayette Square, Washington. DC. It also owns the house in which President Woodrow Wilson died in Washington, which is occupied by Mrs. Wilson during her lifetime.

The directors of the Santa Barbara Historical Society sponsored the ceremonies marking the Trussell-Winchester Adobe as State Historic Landmark 559 on Oct 12. The Native Daughters of the Golden West, the Old Santa Barbara Mission fathers, the restoration committee, Mission Canyon Chapter D.A.R., and other clubs and organizations took part in the ceremonies. Dr Aubrey Neasham, state historian, Division of Beaches and Parks, dedicated the Landmark and Francis Price, distinguished Santa Barbara lawyer and historian, was the speaker.

Vol. I, No. 3 of Noticias del Puerto de Monterey, the quarterly publication of the Monterey History and Art Assn., has reached the membership. The featured article, written by one of the editors, Donald M. Craig, concerns the life of Miss Anna M. Wells, Mrs. Edwards Williams, and Mrs. Joseph Boston Sr., mother of Joseph Boston, prominent Monterey merchant of the 1850's. It also gives the history of the efforts to bring the services of the Protestant Episcopal Church to Monterey. A group of Miss Wells' letters are reproduced in the "Noticias" through the courtesy of the Bancroft Library at the University of California and the efforts of Mrs. William Kneass, curator of the Old Pacific building in Monterey.

In the publication there is also a reproduced picture of a watercolor of Monterey as it appeared in 1855. It was painted by James Madison Alden who was a member of the Northwest Boundary Survey. He had a reputation for accurate observation. and this sketch looking up Alvarado street and Calle Principal from the Custom House gives an excellent picture of the sleepy old town.

The original painting was presented to the Monterey Public Library by the artist's daughter Sarah Alden Dorsey of Maryland.