

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Days Of The Gold Rush

"California as I Saw It" by William McCollum, is one of that enticing category of rare books, narratives of personal experience in the California Gold Rush, published while the gold rush was still in progress. Wright Howes, in his U.S.-iana, placed McCollum's book among the class of superlatively rare books, almost unobtainable, and calls the work "one of the most authentic contemporary narratives of California in the first year of the gold rush." -

Dr. McCollum came to the California gold fields via Panama. From San Francisco he journeyed to Stockton, thence to the southern mines.

Later expeditions took him to Sacramento and the northern mines on the American river, then again to San Francisco, where he practiced medicine for a brief time. His journal is important insofar as it is one of the earliest gold rush accounts and gives much important data regarding the rapid growth of California in 1849. In addition to the California material, the author relates much interesting information on Panama especially in terms of its importance as a route to the gold fields. His point of view is all the more valuable as emphatically that of a New York Stater.

Dale Morgan, the eminent authority in Western Americana and California history, has edited the journal and written an introduction of considerable importance in which he reviews all the known personal narratives of the Gold Rush. He has included five previously unknown letters written from the Isthmus of Panama in 1849 by W. H. Hecox which put new light on the Panama route to California. He has compiled a table listing ship sailings to California via Panama, giving the names of the vessels, number of passengers, etc. Mr. Morgan has been careful to footnote Dr. McCollum's journal, and provided an extensive index.

"California As I Saw It" is limited to 750 copies. It was released for sale on August 31 by the Talisman Press of Los Gatos. The price is \$6.95.

Another new book just off the press of the San Jacinto Museum at the San Jacinto Monument in Texas, is "Camels in Texas?". It is a colorful, illustrated booklet, retelling the story of an almost forgotten episode in the annals of Southwestern transportation. It is priced at 85

cents per copy, mailing charges included. Those wishing to obtain this book may send check or money, order to Museum, San Jacinto Monument, Texas.

The Grabhorn Press announces the publication of "The Trajedia of Anthonie and Cleopatra" by William Shakespeare, with illustrations by Mary Grabhorn.

The text for this edition, Grabhorn announces, is the seventh in the Grabhorn Press series of Shakespeare's plays and has been taken, as were the others, from the First Folio of 1623. One hundred and eighty-five copies have been printed on handmade paper from England. There are five full page illustrations in color designed and engraved by Mary Grabhorn. Books will be ready for delivery in September and are priced at \$30.00 per copy.

A recent copy of Armed Service News devoted its back outside page to "Music In Monterey" with three pictures and a short article on the activities at the USO at Webster and El Estero. The pictures show Harold Brewer, assistant director, enjoying the piano music of Lawrence Biedes of Fort Ord; a Peninsula Trio-Louise Friedhofer, cellist; Elizabeth DuVal, violinist, and Camille Olaeta, pianist; and Dick Fendrich of Vancouver sharing a program with Mrs. Charles A. Trumbly, a resident of Carmel, and faithful attendant at USO concerts in Monterey.