

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 27, 1961

Mrs. Laura Bride Powers

Mrs. George Applegarth of San Francisco was present at the recent annual meeting of the Monterey History and Art Assn., when she presented a very handsome Book of Memory to the association as a memorial to her mother, the late Mrs. Laura Bride Powers. Mrs. Powers was the first curator of the Old Custom House and the inspirer of the organization of the History and Art Assn. in Monterey and the one who insisted that its objects be carried on consistently. Mrs. Applegarth was accompanied by her husband, George Applegarth, noted San Francisco architect.

The book is quite large and thick, covered with red leather, embossed in gold leaf, with each page encircled with a well-designed blue border. The printed introduction names Mrs. Powers and relates her many and generous activities for the preservation of historic Monterey.

The Book at Memories was designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy of San Francisco, national and internationally known for his fine printing and winner of many awards in the field. On Thursday, Jan. 19, Francis P. Farquhar, President of the California Historical Society, named four Fellows and presented six Awards of Merit at an awards banquet and annual meeting of the society, in the ballroom of the Society's headquarters on Jackson street in San Francisco. Among those named were Mr. and Mrs. Lawton Kennedy, in recognition of outstanding service to the society and distinguished attainments in the field of California and Western History.

Monterey has been honored by Westways, the monthly publication of the Automobile Club of Southern California, with a painting by Elin Waite, a Westways staff illustrator, who chose the little old locksmith building at Scott and Tyler for the front cover. It is a delightful, amusing picture, pleasing in color and true in style to the period in which it was built.

The inside caption reads: "Cover artist Elin Waite is an inveterate lover of old houses. Everyone she finds she paints. When one is razed, she grieves. This Victorian specimen, with its well weathered facade, she discovered one gray winter day in Monterey. This one does not seem destined for destruction for a while, for

the locksmith still plies his trade here. Elin is pleased. And so are we ... pleased to have her fine painting for our cover."

The upper story of the lock shop was once a one-story building located where the little park is at the intersection of Alvarado and Calle Principal. It and the cottage next door were moved from that location many years ago to a lot north of the Monterey Theater, now known as the Wharf Theater. There Mrs. J. G. Lambert, aunt of Mrs. Millie Birks, who resides next to the Locksmith building, had a shell and curio store in the curious building which is now the upper story shown to the Westway cover painting. Next to these buildings are a row of little houses on the west side of Tyler street near Scott. They were built close together at the very rear of the lot. We became curious about these several buildings a few years ago and went forth to learn their history.

Mrs. Lambert was a giving refutation of the charge that not one of her sex could drive a nail straight. The row of little houses had been built by Mrs. Lambert to house the lumber for her lumber yard which occupied the block on Tyler street. When the houses were no longer needed for that purpose, the fronts were added, and the rooms rented to fishermen. Her father was Peter H. Masters, an early day jeweler in Monterey, but that is another story.

When the foreman of the planning mill and lumber yard became unsatisfactory and things were running at sixes and sevens. Mrs. Lambert sold her curio and shell store, dismissed the foreman, and decided to run the mill herself.