

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Life On A Monterey Ranch

One of the most intriguing books we have read this holiday season is "Hackamore," the story of life on a California cattle ranch, written by Helen Lynch, illustrated by Albert Micale, and published by Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York. This book, priced at \$3, would make an appropriate gift this Christmas time for an adult, or for either a boy or a girl, whether the receiver knows anything about a horse or ranch life, for he or she will certainly know more about these matters when the book is finished.

Helen Lynch's memories of her childhood on a California ranch provide a background for this fastmoving tale of the modern West that is rich with the detail and excitement of life on the open range.

Helen Lynch was born on a 15,000-acre cattle ranch in southern Monterey County near a tiny settlement known as Playto, now entirely disappeared. The ranch had been founded by her grandfather in 1857 when he decided to settle in the West.

As one of five children in a hard-riding family, she experienced all the joys, vicissitudes, thrills, and adventures entailed in growing up on a big cattle ranch: Round-up time, breaking horses, learning to ride properly, saddling a horse, riding the mountain trails, camping out and all the rest of the joys of living in the country. There, in the tradition of the country, she lived until school and career brought her ranch days to an end.

Her post-ranch life, until a short time ago, has been devoted to teaching in the public schools of San Francisco, where she lives. Although this has been her home for many years, horses, after people, have continued to be her major interest.

In the short review of the book on the dust cover there is this information: "At 15 years of age Nap Lawrence knew what he wanted to do with his life - he wanted to spend it on his father's ranch, working with the horses he loved. But he had to prove to his father that he belonged to this world, that he had both courage and good judgment.

"During one decisive summer on the ranch, Nap trains Papoose, his own beloved Appaloosa pony; displays skill and courage in a dangerous roundup of wild cattle; and,

in a desperate race with the forest fire to save the lives of his sister and her friend, proves himself a man.

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"My First Publication" edited with introductions by James D. Hart, drawings by David Stone Martin and published by The Book Club of California, has been received by the members of this club. The book is printed by Adrian Wilson in Bulmer and Cristal types, employing a lively variety of colored papers for the introductions. It has 120 pages and is bound in decorative boards with cloth spine.

"David Stone Martin, one of America's leading Illustrators, has contributed interpretive drawings of each of the authors at the approximate age of his initiation into print. Reproductions of representative pages from the original publications are tipped in. It is a beautiful addition to the club's typographically distinguished volumes, in its own way as striking and attractive as "The Coppa Murals" which Adrian Wilson printed for the club in 1952." - Copied from the introduction.

In the book, 11 California authors describe their earliest appearances in print, including Richard Henry Dana, Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, Gertrude Atherton, Gelett Burgess, Mary Austin, Wallace Irwin, Jack London, Robinson Jeffers, William Saroyan, most of whom either lived for a time on the Monterey Peninsula or were frequent visitors here.

The edition is limited to 475 copies. The price is \$13.50, plus sales tax where applicable.