

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 3, 1962

Notes From Here And There

A few days ago, I wrote in this diary an item sent to me by Claude Faw of Carmel relating to a fire bell as the head stone for the grave of J. R. Hodgdon in the old San Juan Bautista cemetery. Back came a post card from Cmdr. and Mrs. Richard R. Lukins of Santa Cruz and Riverside saying: "We went to San Juan yesterday and sure enough found the bell on the grave of Mr. Hodgdon, former fire chief of the old mission city. It is quite a large bell and the bottom seems to be cemented in with a granite marker over the top. I took a colored slide of it." At the bottom of the card was drawn a likeness of the bell as it appears in the cemetery.

In the PG&E "Progress" magazine for September I noted two stories and pictures relating to Monterey history. The first to catch my eye was an excellent photograph of The Rev. George McMenamin being served coffee by Mrs. Arnaldo Andreazzi on the patio of Cademartori's restaurant in San Juan Bautista. Mrs. Andreazzi is the former Miss Alma Cademartori of Monterey who, with her husband and sister, Miss Rita Cademartori, are now in business and living in the mission city of San Juan. Father McMenamin is pastor of the Mission San Juan Bautista. He is a native of Monterey and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmet McMenamin of this city.

On another page of the magazine is featured a story of the Larkin House in Monterey accompanied by a photograph of this - the home of the first and only American consul to Monterey under Mexican rule. This article is the 11th in a series on California's historical monuments, one of which was on the Old Custom House, Monterey.

A tremendously interesting and important bit of historical information, accompanied by illustrations, appeared in the Bonanza section of the San Francisco Chronicle recently, featuring Monterey as the "city" appeared in 1825. There are four pictures, two in color, painted by Richard Beechey when he visited Monterey aboard the HMS Blossom, an expedition which began in Spithead, England, on May 19, 1825. It was a voyage of discovery and exploration captained by Frederick William Beechey.

The first watercolor, titled "View Taken Near Monterey," is one of the four earliest known paintings of the California coast. The second is a view of the

Presidio of Monterey. The other two are views of San Francisco.

Warren Howell of San Francisco's John Howell - Books, found the paintings on a recent visit to London and New York. The views of Monterey, Mr. Howell believes, were never before pictured by any drawing or painting. They probably were painted during the Blossom's second anchorage at this port, which began Oct. 29, 1827.

Richard Beechey was a 17-year-old, midshipman when the Blossom left England. He was a brother of the captain and the son of a prominent portrait painter, Sir William Beechey.

Mrs. W. R. Holman writes this brief note of interest: "We trust that it is not too late to Save Laguna Grande, known years ago as Seaside Lake.

"We are also interested in the talk about "Marine Custom House project." A call might go forth from the History and Art Assn. for old logs, books, " etc., now before more are destroyed for want of knowledge. Books on whaling come rather high but there were many printed and those possessing them might like to pass them on for preservation, and to pass them on where they would be cared for, for posterity and could be used."

The National Park Service is looking for pieces of "relic wood" in connection with its current restoration of Independence Hall. An 1854 book by a Philadelphia editor says that in 1816 the floor and "heavy old-fashioned cornice" were torn up and down, and cut and sawed and broken to pieces, many of which were sold at high prices as relics." Anyone possessing such wood is requested to contact the curator: Independence National Historical Park, 420 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.