

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 1, 1965

Outstanding Christmas Cards

There were so many outstanding Christmas cards coming my way this 1964 year that I felt that several of them deserved special mention in my diary today.

There was "The First Christmas in Old Monterey" sent by the Casa Munras. The cover design is most artistic, with red and green as the color scheme and the illustration and title beautifully lithographed.

On the back cover is a drawing of the Royal Presidio Chapel (San Carlos Church) in Monterey and a short history describing it as one of the oldest church buildings in continuous service in California. Sue Wiseman wrote the text and the Dougherty family and Rudy Richter, with all those at the Casa, sent out the greeting.

Dr. Albert Shumate of San Francisco chose this year to honor his friend Carl Irving Wheat, one of California's well-known native sons who lives in his beautiful home in the hills above Stanford University. I quote the testimonial as Dr. Shumate wrote it and sent it to his friends.

"On May 30, 1964, the Grand Council of E. Clampus Vitus unveiled a plaque in the old gold town of Murphys. The dedication honored its most distinguished member, Carl I. Wheat.

"It was Carl who revived this Gold Rush order during the years 1930-32. Since then, E. C. V. has expanded a hundred-fold, its chapters, extending from Trinity in the north to San Diego in the south.

"Carl Wheat was raised in Los Angeles and in 1915 received his bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, and a Phi Beta Kappa key from Pomona College.

"After serving in the United States Army Air Service in World War I, he entered Harvard and received his law degree. Between 1922 and 1929 he was associated with the Railroad Commission of California, serving many years as chief counsel. He carried out his legal work in both Los Angeles and San Francisco and in the mid-1930's, in Washington, D.C.

"He was one of the few members of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles and founder of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, serving the latter as its first master of the press. His enthusiasm for fine printing resulted in his

own press – the 'Wheat Stalk' and later he was active in the Book Club of California, of which he served as president.

"Carl was for many years a director of the California Historical Society, as well as editor of its 'Quarterly.' Over 50 splendid articles written by him have appeared in this magazine.

"Carl also served as a director and as president of The Friends of the Bancroft Library and as a member of the National Parks Advisory Board. Of the books he has written, his monumental five-volume cartographic study, 'Mapping the Trans-Mississippi West,' stands as a great project.

"Of all the above accomplishments, none are closer to Carl Wheat's heart than the uproarious, fun-loving Clampers. It was most fitting that his old friend, Charles Camp, spoke at the dedication. While Carl was unable to leave his beautiful home in the hills above Stanford, he was pleased that the plaque on the stone walls at Coke Woods Old Timers Museum on the main street of Murphys would recall his love for the Mother Lode country.

"I (Dr. Shumate) felt it a privilege that I was able to preside at the ceremonies at Murphys as the Sublime Noble Grand Humbug of the Grand Council of Venerable Clampatriarchs of E. Clampus Vitus, a title Carl wrote in the by-laws, as only he would!"

The tribute to Carl Irving Wheat was designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy in his shop in San Francisco. A bas relief of Carl Wheat appears opposite the tribute.