

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Seal Of Monterey

There still some folk who are attracted to the seal of Monterey which appears on all Monterey's city-owned property, such as automobiles and trucks, and wish to know its meaning—especially the meaning of "Anda," so today I will repeat a story I have used before, after being questioned upon the subject by the Monterey Library which has missed its copies.

On June 18, 1887, the Monterey Argus printed an article in the editorial column, probably written by George E. Clevenger, the editor and publisher of that date. Headed "Anda" the comment read: "After much scrubbing and polishing, assisted by the use of acids and other 'cleaners' known to the printers' craft, the dirt and grease which had accumulated and almost grown into the old city seal during its many years of idleness, has been removed, and the word 'Anda' stands out in clear cut letters as the motto of the town.

"It is sincerely hoped that this seal with its motto meaning "'stand out of the way,' has, as it were, been taken from its long rest. The old town may, as the old seal has done, cast off old rust and unprofitable accumulation of those things which tend to clog the progress of the town; and the motto 'stand out of the way 'may be the watchword of all citizens having the welfare of the city at heart."

The motto "Anda" caused some objections on the part of scholars. They said it should have been "adelante" (forward)—that "Anda," being the imperative of the word "Andar," (to go, move on) was a homely expression, only used to drive cattle and to urge aborigines to move along; but as there is a wide latitude in the choice in mottos, from "Excelsior" down to "Strive and Thrive," notwithstanding their learned and undoubtedly "Anda" was retained.

In a clipping from an early day San Francisco newspaper dated June 8 without the year, there appeared another interesting story about "Arms of the City of Monterey. Interesting Reminiscences of Early Times in California—A Contribution to History."

It read it part:

"In your account of the recent festivities in Monterey, your reporter has been misinformed in reference to the flag bearing the arms of that ancient city, which was

carried in the procession. The late Lieut. Derby did not design the arms or emblazon them upon the flag. The arms was designed by a member of the city council and officially adopted as the arms and seal of the city in the 1850.

"Lieut. (later General) Sully, in hinting some of his father's talents as an artist, and with all having a taste for heraldry, painted the arms in proper colors, technically embellished on them. The flag was painted to be used in a Fourth of July celebration that year. Lieut. Alfred Sully, son of the noted artist, Thomas Sully, directing the whole ceremony. Since it was the first Fourth of July after the adoption of the State Constitution, and since the times were good in Monterey in those days, everyone was brimful of patriotism, as you may suppose, and we all looked to glorious career for old Monterey."