

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 31, 1968

A Mystery Cannon

Another note from the San Mateo County Historical Association has reached my desk. It contains several interesting questions which I am unable to answer but to which someone may be able to supply the answers.

Mrs. David C. C. Regnery writes: "I am attempting to retrace the history of an abandoned cannon found recently which is now in the possession of the museum of our association. One theory is that it was abandoned by Lt. (Capt.) Wm. A. T. Maddox enroute from Monterey to come to the assistance of Capt. Ward Marston at the Battle of Santa Clara."

In Colton's "The California Diary," he mentions, fifty more have left Monterey this morning under the command of Capt. Maddox. One party is to come down upon them from the north, and the other is to cut off their retreat to the south."

Mrs. Regnery adds, "Unfortunately this, so far, is about the only confirmation I have for this theory. Am wondering if your association (Monterey History and Art Association) would better know than anyone else if, as military commandant of Monterey in December 1846 and January 1847, did Maddox keep any records, logs, letters, etc? Maddox was breveted for his role in this affair, but I cannot even find the simplest details surrounding it."

Here, is an interesting item concerning the Chinese colony in San Francisco in the present day, as told in "Notes," the publication of the California Historical Society.

"The Chinese Historical Society of America," with headquarters in San Francisco, will celebrate the fiftieth birthday of its founding with a banquet and program of entertainment of the Empress of China, 838 Grant avenue, the evening of Saturday, Jan. 20. The directors of the society have issued a special invitation to all CHS members to participate.

"I expect to see Salinas City grow and increase her streets and her houses extend to this vicinity, while the suburbs of Monterey stretch out on the other side. I also expect to see the time when streets cars propelled by electricity shall cross over another bridge hard by to accommodate everyday travel between Salinas and Monterey."

Salinas Mayor W. J. Hill made these predictions when he dedicated the first bridge at Hilltown on Feb. 9, 1899. About the suburbs, his vision is coming true. . . about the street cars, well, he didn't know about automobiles 70 years ago.

He surmised that Salinas could support 20,000 people. A thousand persons heard the talk, according to notes contributed by Dorothy H. Vera of Salinas to this writer, with visitors coming from as far away as Monterey, by horse and buggy, bringing their lunches and their own bands.