
Canning Labels Added to Trash Cans at Fisherman's Wharf

BY LIBRARY AND MUSEUMS DIRECTOR BRIAN EDWARDS

While he was visiting Anacortes, Washington, something caught the eye of Dominic Mercurio - trash receptacles that were decorated with culturally and historically significant fishing labels of the area. The Fisherman's Wharf Association contacted the City of Monterey about adding similar artwork to our Fisherman's Wharf. Mercurio, owner of Café Fina and Domenicos and Chris Shake of Old Fisherman's Grotto along with Wendy Brickman collaborated with the City to add a bit of color to trash receptacles along the walkways.

Nine unique labels were added from images in the Monterey Public Library California History Room, along with images from the Pat Hathaway Collection of the Monterey County Historical Society. The labels represent the different canning operations of Monterey including abalone, pilchards, mackerel, anchovies, sardines, and squid.

First built in 1845, the initial Monterey Wharf was created by Thomas Larkin to assist in taking in ships. Prior to this initial wharf, ships would have to land on a cove near the base of the Custom House and merchants would bring all of their items up through the tides. All items that were to be sold in Alta California needed to be unloaded and presented inside of the Custom House. By 1913, the City of Monterey purchased the Wharf and it became a commercial hub for fishing and canning operations. The first cannery in Monterey, Booth's Cannery, was initially built just off the side of the Wharf. You can still see the footings today off the Recreation Trail.

The installation of these labels was funded by Tidelands Funds from the businesses along the Wharf; Tidelands Trust Funds directly support improvements and maintenance along the waterfront areas of



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Monterey. Bob Wecker of the Wecker Group and Sal Saia of All Around Signs worked with the Library & Museums and Property Management from the City of Monterey to add a little color on Fisherman's Wharf.

Sign up for a free monthly walking tour of the Monterey Wharf with historian Tim Thomas through the library:
monterey.gov/library/events