

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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MISSION MUSIC

The Carmel Mission will be the setting for a program of Early Mission Music to be given this coming November under the sponsorship of the Monterey History and Art Association.

The program was first given in the twilight, candlelit hours in Mission La Purisima State Historical Park near Lompoc about a year ago. The California Mission system was the beginning of Western civilization in California and the old Missions of California represent the authentic, historic buildings and life style of our early California heritage. Much of the inspiration and culture of the period is expressed in the music of the times. As presented in a Mission church, live, and with reverence, it reflects the mood of the original participants — the Padres, the settlers, the soldiers, and the native Indians — who came to the Missions for sustenance in a difficult period.

Sister Mary Dominic Ray, O.P., Director of the American Music Research Center at Dominican College, San Rafael, created the program after many months of research. John Biggs, composer-Conductor, whose Consort performed the premiere program and who continues to present the song and music of the Mission Era, also contributed in the research for authenticity.

The program starts with a procession entry to the music of 13th century Spain and moves into the church music as performed in old Mexico — with even the folklike, rhythmic "Musica para la Navidad" (Music for the Nativity). The Indigenous Music of the California Indians opens the second part of the program. Reviews of the programs that have been presented at Santa Barbara, La Purisima and San Juan Bautista state that the hundreds at the performances were intrigued by the transcriptions of songs and tribal dances of the Miwok, Mojave, Yurok and Monterey Indians.

The Mission acoustics have richness; the hundreds of candles give a warmth to the old walls, the perfection of the tone of the singers and the musicians is balanced by

their obvious enjoyment of their music, and the audience leaves with a sense of spiritual renewal.

All members will soon receive an announcement and details for reservations. Hugh Steven of our Board of Directors is Chairman for this very unusual program.

A LETTER TO ADMIRAL STONE

Among the letters received from visitors to the Maritime Museum those from school children are often most valued. Steve Shevlin of the Elysian Heights School in Los Angeles wrote to our Director Admiral Earl E. Stone in May as follows:

"On behalf of the sixth grade class, I would like to thank you for allowing our class to visit the Allen Knight Maritime Museum during our recent California trip. This was one of the highlights of our trip and a most educational tour for us ... we loved all those model ships. We just loved our afternoon in Monterey.

"Our eight day adventure was a grand success. We saw the marvels of Yosemite National Park, we went to the bottom of a limestone cave, watched gold panned along route 49, and met our legislators in Sacramento. We rode cable cars in San Francisco and sat in the actual room in Monterey where our state's constitution was written. We really had fun living and traveling together. Thank you for your help."

MONTEREY BAY 1830s

The bay presented a lively scene at this time, being filled with a kind of small fish called "Sardinas," thousands of which, in endeavoring to escape from the pursuit of larger fish, were cast upon the beach. These attract a multitude of birds that devour them, on shore and in the water. Numerous whales feed upon them also, and constantly play about the ship. At times these enormous creatures will raise themselves almost entirely out of the water, and fall into it again with great force. While preying upon this food, they are not unfrequently attacked by the sword fish and killer, when, like the sardinas, they are driven upon the beach to die. The Indians, during this yearly visitation, may be daily seen up to their knees in the surf, with their nets, which are easily filled, and this the inhabitants are supplied with provision, and at night bears come from the woods, heralded by the howling of wolves, and the barking of coyotes. It is a merry sight, to behold, on a bright sunny day, the joy of the Indians, at the landing-place, as they scoop with their nets — the leaping of the silvery fish that are thrown upon the rocks — the darting of the birds, and the splashing of the water as they pounce upon their prey — the jumping porpoise — the spouting whale, all of which attract hundreds of spectators to the beach and keep them there for hours beholders of the scene.

The above description of Monterey Bay in the 1830s was written by Alfred Robinson in his volume LIFE IN CALIFORNIA first published in 1846.

WALTER COLTON AND MONTEREY'S TOWN HALL

The association sponsors a historical essay contest for peninsula high school students in connection with the annual Sloat Landing ceremonies. We feel the prize winning essay of this year is worthy of publication.

Teresa Hilleary is California born, and has lived in Monterey for 13 of her 17½ years. She will be a senior at Monterey High this fall. In addition to working part-time at the Monterey Public Library, she is a volunteer worker at Community Hospital. Her other interests include bicycling, Key Club and literature, especially poetry. Future plans are attending MPC and the University of California at Davis, with a major in one of the health sciences.

WALTER COLTON AND MONTEREY'S TOWN HALL

The first American alcalde of Monterey, Walter Colton, helped to Americanize the town more than any man in Monterey's history. His accomplishments are many, including being a minister, author, historian, judge, editor and alcalde. However, "his most enduring and remarkable achievement was the construction of a town hall."

Walter Colton was born in Rutland County, Vermont, in 1787. He was the third of twelve children. At twenty-one, he entered Yale University to study for the ministry, and was ordained a Congregationalist minister in 1827. Colton taught and wrote newspaper articles for the next few years. Then, in 1830, he received a commission as a chaplain in the United States Navy.

Colton came to Monterey as a result of the American takeover of California. He was serving as ship's chaplain for the U.S.S. CONGRESS, Commodore Robert F. Stockton's flagship, on a cruise to join the Naval fleet in the Pacific. On July 7, 1846, John Drake Sloat, commander of the Pacific squadron, raised the American flag over Monterey, claiming California for the United States. Sloat appointed Purser Rodman M. Price and Surgeon Edward Gilchrist from his ship to serve as justices-of-the-peace, in place of alcaldes Manuel Diaz and Joaquin Escamilla, who refused to serve under the Americans. A week later, on July 15, the CONGRESS reached Monterey, with Walter Colton aboard.

Commodore Stockton succeeded Sloat as military governor of California on July 27, 1846. Stockton set up a strong governmental administration, replacing many alcaldes with new "American appointees." On July 28, he appointed Walter Colton to be alcalde of Monterey.

Colton accepted his appointment with mixed emotions, saying in his diary:

I have dreamed in the course of my life ... of the thousand things I might become, but it never entered my mind that I should succeed to the dignity of a Spanish alcalde. I much preferred my berth on board the Congress ... But the services of ... (Gilchrist and Price) were deemed indispensable to the efficiency of the ships to which they were attached. This left me no alternative ...

When control of California seemed more secure, Commander Stockton ordered that

an election for *alcaldes* be held in the state's districts and town on September 15, 1846, so the residents would automatically show recognition of the change in authority to the Americans. Although six other candidates ran against him, Colton "received a plurality of sixty-eight votes" and became Monterey's formally elected *alcalde*.

"*Alcalde*" was a term used for various high offices in the Spanish colonies' government. The term has no exact equivalent in English, but it closely corresponds to judge, or justice of the peace. A town's leading civil ruler was called the *alcalde ordinario*. He was considered the "father of the village," and was usually elected to office. The *alcalde* carried his insignia of office on his cane, or "baston." Without the staff in hand, the *alcalde* had no more authority than an average citizen.

Although he had no previous training or knowledge of Mexican law, *Alcalde* Walter Colton served with "intelligence, tact and impartiality." He instituted various aspects of civil government soon after taking office. These were: a newspaper, trial by jury, a strict liquor law, and plans for a town hall. The newspaper, called the *Californian*, was first published on August 15, 1846. It was the state's first newspaper, and Colton's co-editor was Robert Semple. On September 4, Colton impaneled the first United States jury ever summoned in California, so that law breakers in Monterey would receive fair trials. In his words, "If there is anything on earth besides religion for which I would die, it is the right of trial by jury."

The boisterous conduct, drinking, and gambling by Monterey's wild and uncivilized inhabitants troubled the reverend *alcalde*. Soon after taking office, he closed all saloons, stopped all legal gambling and "Sunday amusements," and generally prohibited all disorderly conduct. On August 13, 1846, Colton issued strict orders restricting the sale of liquor. In those days, Monterey did not have a good or secure jail. According to custom, when a Spaniard committed a crime, he had to pay a fine. When an Indian broke the law, he was whipped. Colton decided that this discrimination was unjust. In his journal, he gives his solution: "I have substituted labor ... Each is to make fifty adobes a day ..." His labor gang was also put to work erecting Colton's next great innovation, the town hall and school.

A visitor to Monterey at the time commented:

Woe betide the pockets of those who slaughtered cattle at their doorsteps, or the rollicking gentry vaulting at full speed through the streets, or drunken Indians, or quiet persons in back rooms, amusing themselves at *monté* — for down came that ivory-headed (sic) cane — "*Alcalde de Monterey*" — like a talisman; and with a pleasant smile he would sweep the white and yellow dross into his capacious pockets. Others were mulcted in damages, or made to quarry stone for the school-house; but, whether native or foreigner, the rod fell impartially on all their pockets ...

In 1846, Monterey needed a building such as Walter Colton was planning to construct. There was no specific school building, so "school was held wherever a room could be found." There was no place where assemblies could gather, and no building to house the offices of the local government. The presidio buildings were used for these purposes. Colton saw the need for a town hall. Noting the lack of money in the municipal treasury, he decided to use prison labor to erect the

construction. This enabled it to be built at almost no cost for labor. Money needed to buy materials came from the sale of town lots, donations from citizens, fines on gamblers and other law-breakers, and liquor taxes.

In March, 1847, Colton's plans for the construction were complete, and the work started. On March 4, he wrote in his journal:

In the mean time (sic) I shall set the prisoners quarrying stone for a school-house, and have already laid the foundations. The building is to be sixty feet by thirty — two stories, suitably proportioned, with a handsome portico. The labor of the convicts, the taxes on rum, and the banks of gamblers, must put it up.

A quarry, about two miles southeast of Monterey, was used to supply the stone for the building. The quarry provided a soft, yellowish-white sedimentary rock called "chalk rock." It was easily cut, mellow in color, and destined to last for centuries. Colton found some limestone about ten miles from the town. When mixed with hair and sand, it made a good wall finish for the hall.

Work on the construction went slowly for many months. It was hard to find, among the prisoners, workers who had any skill. Stonecutters were very scarce. The labor progressed all through 1847 and to the summer of 1848. Then, gold was discovered in California, and the great Gold Rush began. Everybody deserted Monterey, workers and all, leaving the hall only partially completed. No work was accomplished for months. But in the fall of 1848, the miners started to return, and work began again.

Finally, on March 8, 1849, Monterey's town hall was completed. Colton wrote:

The town hall, on which I have been at work for more than a year, is at last finished. It is built of white stone, quarried from a nearby hill, and which easily takes the shape you desire. The lower apartments are for schools; the hall over them — seventy feet by thirty — is for public assemblies. The front is ornamented with a handsome portico, which you enter from the hall. It is not an edifice that would attract any attention among public buildings in the United States: but in California it is without a rival.

Colton Hall is a New England style building, with two stories, and a sloping shingled roof. It faces the east on a gentle hillside. A small park, called "Friendly Plaza," is in front. Over the front entrance on the first floor a large portico, supported by two columns, reaches from the ground to the roof. The portico has a balcony with a wooden railing. Two doors open onto the balcony. The first floor of the building consists of a hallway, with a large room on each side. These rooms were used for school rooms in 1849, and from 1872 to 1897. On either side of the portico are three large windows on each floor. The second floor is a large assembly hall for meetings, balls, and other functions. It was said that "... prominent among the buildings on the high ground stood the Town Hall — a truly neat and spacious edifice of yellow stone ..."

Soon after the hall was finished, school began. About fifty children attended. The teacher, who later founded the University of California, was Reverend Samuel Hopkins Willey. He was a minister who had come to Monterey in February, 1849. At

first, the class had to cope with a big problem: the boys and girls did not speak English, and Reverend Willey did not know any Spanish. But after a while, communications were established. The school continued for six months until September, 1849, when it had to be closed because of the Constitutional Convention.

From September 1 to October 13, 1849, California's first Constitutional Convention was held at Colton Hall in Monterey. Forty-eight delegates from ten districts assembled to write the Constitution. The Convention had two main purposes. One was to meet the present and future needs of the people by making a Constitution to regulate internal government. The other purpose was to qualify California for statehood by presenting the Congress with a document they would be sure to accept. Some of the delegates were native Californians who did not speak English, so William E.P. Hartnell translated everything into Spanish. After about six weeks of debating, they approved and signed a Constitution for the state of California. The convention adjourned on October 13, 1849.

For over two decades (1850-1870), Colton Hall was used as a school-house and served as the seat of Monterey County. It also remained the town hall for many years. But after the capital of California was moved from Monterey, the town became less important, and people moved away. Town buildings, including Colton Hall, were neglected, and fell into a state of disrepair. In 1891, the Monterey City School Board of Trustees decided to tear down the hall, and replace it with a new school building. The wall around it had already been torn down before the people of Monterey realized what was happening. Just in time, the citizens held a meeting and raised enough money to buy another site for the school.

The city did not have enough money to repair the damage on the hall until 1913. It was then that an appropriation was received from the State government for the purpose of improving and protecting the property. Colton Hall was somewhat changed during its reconstruction. Stairs were built on each side of the portico leading to the second floor balcony at the front. A fireplace and chimney were put in the south end of the building, and a flagpole was put over the front of the portico. The restoration was completed in 1915.

In 1970, the City of Monterey spent \$20,000 to remodel Colton Hall. The termite-eaten front stairs were replaced with new ones. The front (east) and north walls, which had once been plastered over, were stripped. This left the original stonework exposed, in an effort to make it appear more authentic.

At present, the first floor of Colton Hall houses the offices of the museum curator, and the Planning and Building Departments of the City of Monterey. The second floor consists of the Colton Hall Museum, maintained by the city. The main hall of the museum is set up to look like it did during the Constitutional Convention. The original desk, at which the document was signed, faces two rows of long tables. A picture of almost every delegate, and his biographical sketch, is at the approximate place where he sat during the Convention. A wooden railing divides the room in half. On the other side of it are benches for spectators. Two copies of the Constitution, one in English and one in Spanish, are displayed at the head table. The adjoining room has glass cases containing many interesting historical articles. Some of the original school books and materials are shown. Walter Colton's own wallet and alcalde's account book are on display, along with the authentic staff of office.

Walter Colton himself left Monterey shortly before the Constitutional Convention opened. He was in poor health, and died within the next few years. The three years he spent in California were highly productive. He brought many aspects of American life with him when he came, and when he left, Monterey was a very different town. Colton Hall stands as a lasting tribute to the great man who built it, Reverend Walter Colton.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: The Nominating Committee, William Ballard Chairman, has presented the following for election to our Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting this month. Now serving - nominated for one more term: Mrs. Howard Helliesen, Mrs. Robert Littlefield, RADM E.J. O'Donnell, Mr. Raymond Smith, Mr. Eben Whittlesey. New nominations: Mrs. William Moore, Miss Ethel Soliday, Col. James Henderson, Mr. Stanley Pearce, Mr. Eldon Covell. Other nominations may be made from the floor, but remember you must first have the consent of the nominee. Our officers each year are chosen by the thirty Board Members at their first meeting after the Membership Meeting. A slate of officers is suggested to them at that time by the Nominating Committee.

BY-LAWS: The By-Laws as adopted at the special Membership Meeting in January of this year are now available to those who may wish a copy. Please call at the office in the Maritime Museum on Calle Principal.

RODRIGUEZ-OSIO ADOBE: Reconstruction and restoration has started on the old two story building on Alvarado. The City of Monterey has decided to retain ownership and develop it. The association is content that another of our historical structures will be retained to serve modern life. The balcony of this adobe, and that on the old Sanchez adobe a block away will remind us of old Monterey when fine homes and walled gardens graced Alvarado.

IN MEMORIAM: Peter Ferrante, Prof. Charles Taylor.

GIFTS: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stanton have presented a fine collection of kitchen equipment, including bean crocks, double boiler, pie and cake pans, oven roasting pans, etc. Our Casa Serrano kitchen is becoming a source of wonderful "goodies" as prepared by Mary Frances Singleton and her ladies.

The Maritime Museum has received the gift of a beautiful oil of Partington Canyon Landing from Mrs. James Dickie (Jean Kellogg). The O'Donnell Library has received gifts of books etc. from Major Allis Hussey, Co. & Mrs. Wm. McChampan, Mrs. Terry Hackney, Mrs. Edgar Zook, Mr. Chal McWilliams, and Pat Hathaway.

NEW MEMBERS: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Aliotti, Mrs. Virginia R. Harlow, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Karas, Mrs. William A. Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Lord, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Jaddern, Dr. & Mrs. Donald H. McLean, Miss Sheree Nash, Philip C. Nash III, Susan Nash, Kimberly Nash, Mrs. Liston Noble, Mrs. Margie Lee Peck, Mr. & Mrs. Sal Rappa, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rodriguez, Miss Neva June Gribble.

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