Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O’Donnell
January 16, 1950

Fifty-four years ago the newspaper in this city was the Monterey Cypress, published by W. Michaels, with F.C. Michaels as the business manager. A copy of the issue of July 4, 1896, has been presented to this column and we hesitate to wait until July 4, 1950, to review some of the interesting and amusing facts contained therein.

The large front of the four-page issue is striped in red, white and blue in honor of Independence Day. The issue also celebrated California’s Jubilee, and a three-column-wide program of the four-day celebration is prominently displayed. All the ceremonies were under the auspices of the Grand Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West. Military maneuvers were in charge of Cavalry Troop C, Captain M.J. Burke, commanding.

On Sunday a Mexican picnic was scheduled at mid-day in the pine woods above Fort Halleck, in the U.S. Military reservation. (Picnic free to all.)

“On Tuesday at 10 a.m. the civic societies and all patriotic people are expected to join the Grand Lodge of Masons of California on Alvarado street, and march with it to the site of the Sloat Monument, in front of Fort Halleck, for the purpose of laying the Sloat Monument cornerstone.”

At 12:30 p.m. there was a grand parade from Del Monte to the Custom House, where the ceremony of raising the flag took place.

Miss Edna Ingram, who later became Mrs. Benjamin Wright and the mother of Mrs. Harold Sand and Mrs. Shelburn Robison, was the Goddess of Liberty; Miss Florence Schaufele, now Mrs. L.E. Kimball and mother of Mrs. Thomas DeLay, represented Monterey. Jacob R. Leese was the Grand Marshal.

The Monterey Cypress announced under the masthead that the publication was for “Protection and Prosperity” and asked its readers to vote for William McKinley of Ohio for president and Garrett A. Hobart of New Jersey for vice president.

In a news item it was reported that “Monterey was in gala attire today,” the item reading, “Will witness the commencement exercises of California’s Jubilee at Monterey. The ceremonies will be conducted under the auspices of the Native Daughters. The people of Monterey have worked with a will, and all the buildings have been beautifully decorated. The pavilion on Alvarado, Franklin, and Main streets is completed and ready for visitors, and all preparations have been made to make the celebration of California’s fiftieth anniversary a grand success. We bid our visitors a hearty welcome to Monterey and hope they may fully enjoy their visit.”

Another short item of interest read:

James Ward the old favorite, and his company will open a five nights’ engagement at Bagby’s Opera House commencing Sunday night, July 5th, in the famous war play, “Old Glory.” There will be a whole regiment of soldiers on the stage in uniforms, good songs, and up-to-date dances. During the week Jim will produce the following plays: “Through by Daylight” “Ranch 10,” “Streets of New York,” and “After Dark.” Reserve seats are on sale at The White House.

Another item, under the heading “Promotion Examinations”:

“The following pupils of the Monterey public school, having passed the required examination given by the County Board of Education, will receive certificates of promotion from the primary to the grammar grade: John Hunt, Herbert Schaufele, Lupie Serrano, Addie Giannini (Mrs. Frank Smith), Rosie Urbanus, John Kelley, Robert Stevenson, Ida Rose, Annie Davis, Emily Silva, Ora Kent, Pliny Barnes, Philip Goncalves, Cecil Bagby (Mrs. Dan Cooper), Joe Abrego, Antonio Rose, Nelson Hanna, Willie Tibbetts, Sam Rico, Charles Bostrom, Annie Gonzales, Julia Allen and Albert Chaine.

“The graduates from the grammar grade are Rose Bemrose, Sam Goldstein, and Carrie Bostrom.”

J.B. Hickman was the principal and at that time lived in the Gordon House on Pierce street, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nevill Cramer.