

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 11, 1950

### **Many Rare Gifts**

Today we will devote the Diary to a "thank you" to the people of Monterey, the Peninsula and Salinas, who have been so kind to us – historical Monterey. In the three state-owned buildings there are numerous and valuable gifts and loans all of which make up a collection of furniture, costumes, pictures, documents, etc., which attract not only the interest of our own citizens but the interest and admiration of our tourists.

The Monterey History and Art Association, at a meeting held Monday afternoon, accepted with the deepest appreciation the gift of a rare map of the West when California was considered to be an island. Mrs. Sidney Fish is the generous donor and the gift has been made in memory of her late husband. The map was printed in France but the date was deteriorated with age. It is hanging on the west wall in the Custom House, where visitors to the building will be welcome to study it. Also on display is a very old and large camphor chest, leather covered and studded with brass – the gift of Mrs. W.R. Holman.

At the meeting of the association on Monday, the directors voted to send a resolution to the council of the City of Monterey, commending the excellent manner in which Colton Hall had been restored and the interpretation which has been presented to the building as it looked in 1849, and the purpose for which it was used more than 100 years ago. They wished to extend a vote of thanks to Mrs. Guy Curtis and the members of the museum board who have carried out the restoration program.

A list of the gifts and loans to Colton Hall should prove interesting and should attract more of our local residents to this historic building. When the visitor arrives the first impression is almost one of awe, for it is so simple, so pure in architecture, furniture and arrangements. A framed portrait of Walter Colton, the builder is hung over the mantel on the north end, and on the south is one of George Washington. Crossed over each are two handmade American flags. The table at the south end in front of the replaced fireplace is the original old pine table upon which the Constitution of California was signed. It stands upon a platform and holds the picture of the chairman of the convention. Other reproductions of this table which is on loan from

the members of the Francis Doud family are placed in rows inside the railing which divides the room. Opposite each delegate's place is a card bearing a picture if available, and captions with names and historical data of his birth, his life and his death.

Among the gifts which further furnish the hall and the smaller rear rooms are two brass ship's lanterns from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Norris; framed recollections of the Rev. B.H. Wiley; a schoolmaster's trunk given by George Norton Jr.; the picture of George Washington, Mary I. Greene; a copy of the book "Three Years in California," by Walter Colton, Poor Scholar Book Shop; "Eldorado" Bayard Taylor, Holman's Book Den; a copy, in actual size, of the two pages of the California Constitution, one with the signatures, gift of Joseph Knowland; a large brass lantern from the Roderick Dhu, from Mr. and Mrs. Pal Clark; a candle snuffer with an unusually long handle, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Oliver; an iron scale dug up by Orville Watkins near the old jail; old axe head found near the cemetery by Chester Stalter; box of slate panels found under Colton Hall floor boards.

One of the most prized gifts is the original painting of the California Bear which was used to design the state seal. Charles C. Nahl was the artist. Mrs. Augusta Nahl Allen of Portland gave the painting to Miss Nellie Smith to present to Colton Hall.

Eight benches in the hall were copied from an original without a back which was given by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Curtis. A pair of very old benches were given by the Monterey History and Art Association.

Mrs. Harry Toulmin commissioned George Seideneck to copy the original portrait of her grandfather, Thomas O. Larkin, which is hanging over the mantel in the small rear room. In a glass case there is the flag with 26 stars, 10x12, which Mrs. Mrank [?] Massie gave in memory of her mother, Mrs. Lucy Little Wolter. The flag was given to Mrs. Wolter by Capt. John Bliss and had been carried by Fremont's men.

A framed picture entitled "The Classic Columns of Colton Hall" by L.S. Slevin, was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis. Other gifts from the Curtis family are a tin grease lamp and an 1868 rim lock and knobs for the back door. Rep. Ernest K. Bramblett sent a copy of the California Exhibition in the Library of Congress catalog for display and Mrs. J.C. Anthony gave a pair of saddle bags which

had been used by Mr. Anthony's father in the Clarence King expedition to California.

A grand nephew and two grand nieces of Walter Colton, Julian Myrick and Misses Mary and Blanche Myrick, have sent from their eastern home Walter Colton's wallet in which was an old Mexican coin dated 1818.

On February 22, 1935, the Misses Margaret, Lee and Vida Jacks presented to the City of Monterey the mahogany pedestal table upon which the Constitution had been signed in the Rodriguez-Jacinto home on Alvarado Street. After being inscribed on parchment the constitution was again officially signed in Colton Hall on October 13, 1849. After occupying a prominent spot in the council chambers for some years the table now rests in Colton Hall where it is admired and respected by all.

And so the interest in the old buildings and in Monterey's historic past grows with the years.