

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 12, 1950

Another Anniversary

Tomorrow, October 13, will mark the one hundred - and-first anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of California by all the delegates to the convention held in Colton Hall.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the first constitution was fittingly and elaborately celebrated in Monterey when justices of the supreme and appellate courts of California, United States senators, the attorney general and the bar of Monterey County met in Colton Hall to talk of the early days when California's Constitution was born, and to conduct an impressive program of speeches from the steps of Colton Hall.

Definite and final arrangements for the observation were made through the cooperation of the late Justice John E. Richards of San Jose, and the late A.R. Underwood of Monterey. What began, according to all accounts, to be a modest celebration by a few men developed into one of the most interesting and elaborate anniversary commemorations in the history of Monterey.

Mayor B.F. Wright made the address of welcome at 3 o'clock from Colton Hall steps. Rev. R.M. Mestres of Monterey then delivered an address on "The Old Dominion" which was followed with a talk by Justice William H. Waste of the supreme court on "The Missions."

"The Constitution of '49" was the subject of Chief Justice Louis W. Myer's address. Judge Bradley B. Sargent, formerly of Monterey, returned to speak of "The Framers of the Constitution," after which Justice Thomas J. Lennon, also of the supreme court spoke of "The Son's and Daughters of the Golden West."

Carmel Martin reviewed the history of "The First Capital of California" in the afternoon, E. J. Lynch, grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West, was also a speaker.

A newspaper of that date reports "The program was one of the most educational and inspirational events the Monterey Peninsula has ever known, and it is believed that hundreds of people from Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Carmel were assembled on the grounds of Colton Hall to take advantage of the opportunity.

The enthusiasm of the judges taking part in the program in Monterey was marked from the time the subject of the anniversary was first broached to them, so that the modest affair, first planned jointly by Justice Richards and Underwood, soon became a matter of state-wide importance."

It was not enough to have a full day of speeches and entertainment but the evening hours were also filled with pleasure. At 6 o'clock in the evening the guests of Monterey were dined at the Palace Grill, after which another exceptional program was held.

Father Mestres pronounced the divine blessing, Hon. J.A. Bardin was the toastmaster and Judge Fred Treat brought the greetings of the Monterey Bench and bar to which Justice W.H. Langdon responded. "The Spanish Cavalier," Mariano G. Vallejo, was the subject of the address given by Justice Emmett Seawell. Senator S.M. Shortridge spoke on "California," with Senator C.C. Baker following with a discussion of the state legislature. Justice Wm. P. Lawler was chosen to discuss the supreme court, Justice John W. Shenk, the "Southland" and Justice John E. Richards, "Old Monterey."

Miss Maria Antonio Field sang several Spanish selections including La Paloma, and there was music by a Spanish orchestra.

Other honored guests at the event were: Attorney General U.S. Webb and Mrs. Webb; ex-Senator James Phelan, S.F.B. Morse, John F. Tyler, presiding justice of the First Division, A.F. St. Sure and Benj. Knight.

On the ladies reception committee for the occasion were Mesdames B.F. Wright, F.A. Treat, Martha Cooper Hughes, Allen Griffin, Argyll Campbell, A.R. Underwood and Miss Maria Antonio Field.