

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 9, 1950

### First Days of Our City

The first official record of the City of Monterey shows the "Meeting of the Ayuntamiento of Monterey at Colton Hall, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1850, at 1 o'clock p.m." At this meeting committees were formed as follows: On Roads, Bridges, and Police, on Law and Ordinances and on Ways and Means.

At the meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1850, a "Report of Commissioners to inquire into the accounts of Walter Colton received and ordered on file."

Meeting of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1850, "Communication from Trustees of Colton Hall in relation to Colton Hall. On motion of Mr. O'Neil the secretary be instructed to inform the trustees appointed by Mr. Colton, formerly Alcalde that the Ayuntamiento (council) considered themselves 'ex officio' trustees of the building known as Colton Hall. Adopted"

On motion of Mr. Boston (storekeeper in what is now the "House of Gold"): Resolved by this board that all the town property be placed under its custody as the proper representatives of the people. Adopted."

"On motion of Mr. Diaz. Resolved that the thanks of this body be tendered to the former trustees appointed by Mr. Colton for the good charge they have taken of the building known as Colton Hall. Adopted."

Special meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1850." Secretary's reply to the trustees of Colton Hall read and ordered to be entered on the Journal".

"Copy of Secretary's reply to the former trustees of Colton Hall:

Monterey, Jan. 15, 1850

"To Messrs. D. Spence and others

"Gentlemen:

"Your communication relative to the Trusteeship of Colton Hall has been received by the Ayuntamiento and the board instructs me, their secretary to say – That according to the trust placed in your hands by Mr. Colton it is to remain 'pro tempore' or for the time being until some provision is made emanating from the action of the community.

"Now the board does not consider Mr. Colton can entail his authority after his withdrawal from the official station, for an indefinite length of time.

"Furthermore the board considers itself 'ex officio' custodians of the public property, and as this building is certainly public property according to the report of the 'Commissioners to inquire into the accounts of Mr. Colton' filed in the Alcalde's office, it appears this edifice was built from the proceeds of 20,000 varas of the public domain and from moneys accruing from public revenues. As there are claims now pending for building materials for which the applicants look to this board and not the trustees appointed by Mr. Colton, it is further evidence that this board as the direct representatives of the people have the control of the public buildings.

"With all due deference to your opinion and charge placed in your hands of which you have taken such good care, the board would call your attention to the following resolutions passed by them –

"Resolved – 'that all the public property belonging to the town be placed under the wardenship of the Ayuntamiento as the proper representatives of the people'.

"Resolved –

That the thanks of this board be tendered to the trustees of Colton Hall as appointed by Mr. Colton for the manner in which they have transmitted the building.'

"The board does not wish to imply that the saloon at present occupied by the second Alcaldes court and used by this board cannot be used as formerly.

"They would here assert that the saloon can be used for any other purpose consistent with decency and good order.

"In behalf of the board I have the honor to be –

"Your obt. Humble Svt.

(Signed) Joseph Boston  
Sect. to Ayuntamiento  
Pro-Tempore".

Through an unintentional error, this column stated Monday that Mr. J.A. Romie was the father of Mrs. Romie Jacks. Mrs. David Jacks was the daughter of Mr. Romie and he also has the distinction of being the grandfather of Miss Margaret Jacks of Palo Alto and Monterey.