

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 8, 1950

A Few Old News Items

It was on December 16, 1869 that the *Monterey Republican* printed the following news item: "The vault which is now being erected and rapidly approaching completion, the site of which is between the County Jail and the Court House building (Colton Hall), we visited yesterday. The structure is of solid granite and the dimensions, 12x20 feet and 12 feet high. It is designed for a safe in which to keep important county records."

On March 16, 1870 there appeared in the same paper the following item: "The Sheriff's office has been removed from the Court House to the jail." On March 31st: "The Governor has approved the Blankenship bill for relocating the County set of the County." Also on May 5 there appeared this announcement: "The clerk's office and County records have been removed to the new apartment recently fitted up in the basement of the Court House. They seem to be much more convenient."

The Court House was still Colton Hall as the County seat was not moved to Salinas until February 1873. The item also reported that a new roof had been put on the Court House in addition to other extensive repairs made to it. That portion of the work completed the needed repairs to the building, according to the reporter.

An amusing item in the May 5 issue of the paper was: "The Streets – While some of the gallops and ruts of our streets are being filled in, we should think that those engaged in the work would use materials other than manure for the purpose, and then the manure could be used for enriching the soil of our gardens. A great deal of work needs to be done on our streets to put them in the condition they should be in for a town of this size."

On July 14, 1870, the *Republican* reported that the "Female Institute at San Juan under the supervision of the Sisters of Charity of that place, has been closed by an edict of the Supervisors of France. Why this order was given we are not informed. It is generally understood that this institution was in a prosperous condition."

On Thursday, October 6, 1870, the following item appeared in the *Monterey Republican*: We received a visit this week from a party of Santa Cruz ladies. They are a portion of a party of campers and were attired in

the neat but scanty bloomer costume. This costume looked very pretty – what there was of it – and the appearance of such in Monterey, being rare, attracted unusual attention. We are told by these parties that camp life in the vicinity of this place is truly enjoyable."

In another item: "Following is the list of members who compose the Brass Band which was organized in June; with their respective instruments on which they perform: E-flat clarinet, John F. Hoels; E-flat cornet, Felipe Gomez; E-flat cornet, Charles Rodriguez; B-flat cornet David Little; B-flat tenor, Antonio Osio; B-flat tenor, John Kinlock; E-flat alto, Thomas Layton; E-flat alto, Herbert Mills; B-flat tuba, F. Doud Jr.; B-flat trombone, Jacob Durr; snare drum, M. Merritt; bass drum, Juan Vasquez.

"This band is progressing splendidly and promises ere long to recognize no equal this side of San Francisco."

There are now owned in this town nineteen pianos which for a population of 1900 persons speaks well for the musical talents of our villagers," quoted from the June 9, 1871 issue, as are the following:

"Furniture repaired – A.W. Reynolds, Pearl Street. A few more of those tip-top Russian River chairs on hand."

"The trout caught by Peter Carlos (mentioned in the *Republican* last week) was 26 inches long. It was caught in the Pajaro River, where J.P. Sargent had placed some 3 pounds of trout eggs brought by him from Lake Tahoe."

"A grand ball took place in our spacious Court, House Hall in celebration of Centennial, on June 3rd."

Also in this issue it was reported that sand had been shipped to San Francisco for glass.