

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 11, 1950

Memories of Monterey Hose Co. No. 1

Probably one of the last living members of the Monterey Hose Company No. 1 is Mr. Otis Mantor, who still lives in Monterey and who remembers much of the early day activities of the company. Mr. Mantor came to Monterey in 1885 and joined the hose company the following year. This was before the department was officially organized.

They had a two story building on the street before Alvarado, he says, with only a hose cart on the lower floor and a meeting room upstairs. Herb Bispo of the present fire department has a picture of the old building and also the first minute book which he has let me borrow for a while.

There was also started about the same time a hook and ladder company, but they had no hook, no ladder, only a wagon possibly – although Mr. Mantor is not sure if he ever saw one. The hose cart was a two wheel affair, and the hose was of woven material. The great ambition of the company was to beat the Pacific Grove company, and they always did, at least as long as he was in the group.

The races were held on Alvarado Street, starting at the head of the street and running down toward the lower end, past Lambert's lumberyard and ending near the Custom House. There were six men to a side on the cart. Mr. Mantor does not remember ever putting out a fire but he did not remain in the department after it was organized, and later went east and remained there for a number of years.

When William Parker came to Monterey and entered the department everything changed. A fire department was really organized.

In an old brown paper covered, long and narrow book – the same sort of book in which butchers used to keep their daily accounts – the first entry was made of the meeting of the Monterey hose company on March 3, 1890, but those minutes state that a regular meeting of February 3 and a special meeting on February 14, had been held and recordings of those meetings were read and approved.

Grant Towle was the foreman and W. Hutt was second assistant. Absent at roll call were Ad Gunzendorfer, A.A. Osio and Alex Sanchez. Others mentioned were R.A.

Mauldin and J.A. Smith. Manuel Wolter was fined 25 cents for absence at the February 14 meeting.

The committee appointed to present resolutions in regard to a fire department to the city trustees, reported that they had performed the duty requested of them. Application presented for Stockdale as member, W.E. Parker elected chairman of the standing committee. Bill from Grant Towle for one can of coal oil, \$1.90. Members Kessell, Liewald and Osio requested to return badges to the company. Discussion of assisting in celebrating of coming July 4, and giving a ball. Attention of all members called to that part of the constitution which makes it a duty of each member to provide himself with a uniform within 30 days after his receiving notification of his election to the company. Exempt certificates were delivered to the following members: Manuel Wolter, Ed Ingram, R.A. Mauldin, John Ingram, Alex Sanchez, Louis Shaufle and Charles Norton.

Meeting of March 21, 1890, for purpose of electing delegates to elect officers of the department. Nominated were R.A. Mauldin, J.A. Smith, J.H. Girardin, H. Knapp, Mantor, F.S. Perry, Charles Few, Glen Friedman. Elected were J.A. Smith, J.H. Girardin, Few and Perry.

At a meeting on April 7, 1890, the minutes of the meetings of January 12, February 3, February 14, March 3 and 31, were read and approved. Resignation of Alex Sanchez was read and he being square on the books, it was moved and carried that his resignation be accepted. Resignation of Louis Shaufle was also read.

At a meeting on April 21 it was moved, seconded and carried that the company organize a running team to run against the Pacific Grove team on the coming 4th of July. Ad Gunzendorfer was the secretary at this meeting.

On May 5 the secretary reports "a bad time getting someone to accept nominations, but at the close of the evening Frank J. Kessel had been elected foreman; James Stockdale, first assistant and Otis Mantor, second assistant. Ad Gunzendorfer was chosen as secretary. Total net receipts from the July 4 ball were \$86.55 [?] The resignation of F.S. Perry was accepted. After some "hot discussion the meeting was voted adjourned."

On October 6, 1890, the foreman "rescinded all fines for September absences on account of meeting room not being lit up in time, or meeting called to order at proper hour."