

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 23, 1951

Yesterday's Newspaper

Mr. M.W. McMenamain is the donor to this column of an issue of the Monterey Cypress published February 23, 1889. It is Vol. I, No. 8, of the weekly publication, of which H.L. Bradford was the publisher. Mr. Bradford stated in the masthead that subscriptions were positively in advance.

Mr. McMenamain's friend, William Pabst of San Jose, found the newspaper while sorting some legal papers that had come into his possession and thought that such an ancient item should be returned to the city of its birth. The news items, the advertisements and the amusing continued stories are all interesting and informative, as well as a far cry from modernism.

The leading story on page one is entitled "Incorporation! The people are unanimous for it. Views expressed by representative men (no women listed). A committee appointed to define city limits."

This story is followed by the legal notice of the Incorporation Bill as Amended, with the following sub-head: "To repeal act entitled 'an act to incorporate the City of Monterey' approved May 11, 1853, and acts amendatory thereof, approved March 4, 1857, April 18, 1862, and April 2, 1866."

In the third column there is a lengthy review of the melodrama "Nevada" presented by home talent in the Bagby Opera House. Taking part were Charles Inglis, the principal character of "Nevada;" Carter Wadham, Ross Sargent, H.L. Widmer, W.R. Thomson, H. Friedman, Frank Pierce and Ad Gunzendorfer. The ladies who took part in the play were Miss Jennie Cohn, Miss Carrie Swank, who was a Monterey schoolteacher, and Miss Gussie Tibbetts, sister of William Tibbetts of Monterey. A column of personals from Monterey, Pacific Grove and Castroville is interesting reading.

A short item reports: "The Board of Supervisors have passed an ordinance making the driving or riding over the bridge across the Salinas River at a pace greater than a walk, a misdemeanor, with punishment fixed in the shape of fines at no less than \$10 and up to \$100. All monies so collected to be applied to the general fund."

Recorded is this item: "The second ball given by 'Entre Nous' Club took place Thursday night at Bagby's Opera

House and was moderately attended. Music was furnished by outside talent and the hall was neatly decorated."

In the society section a Euchre party given by Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Towle (the parents of Grant Towle, owner of the hardware store now owned by Mayor Les Smith) is reported.

A correction is amusing. "Editor Cypress: Last week's issue of the Argus says that I received a suit of clothes from the White House for giving the alarm, when the building was burning. Please insert this to contradict it. I have not received anything from anyone, except Mr. S.J. Duckworth. Signed. Blanco Diaz."

Under a heading "Society Directory" are the various lodges: Monterey Lodge, F.&A M. William Sutton, Master; Monterey Lodge I.O.O.F., R.M. Mauldin, N.G.; Seaside Rebekah Degree Lodge, Miss Clara Arndt, Nobel Grand; Easter Star, Wm. Sutton, secretary; Order of Chosen Friends; Monterey Parlor, Native Sons B.V. Sargent, president; and the Young Men's Institute, Jos. Schulte Jr.

In the year of the publication of the issue of the Monterey Cypress, J.K. Alexander was the Judge of the Superior Court, U. Hartnell was County Treasurer; Job Wood was County Superintendent of Schools, T.J. Field was supervisor of the Fifth District in 1889. City officers were held by: L. Schaufle, President of the Board of Trustees; A.A. Osio, clerk; J.A. Wolter, treasurer; A. Pinto, tax collector; T.G. Lambert, street superintendent; W.C. Little, civil engineer; E. Michaels and A. Westfall, justices of the peace; A Pinto and J.A. Wolter were also constables; and John O. Kelly was the road overseer.

The only church notice was from the Presbyterian Church. The Rev. H.S. Snodgrass was the pastor and services were held at the Pacific House every Sabbath at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Praise meeting in the evening.

Percy H. Dolly and Miss Millicent F. Partington were married in Santa Cruz, February, 1889 by Rev. Dr. Willey. Partington Canyon was named for the bride's family and the family of Mr. Dolly were old time residents of Monterey. The Dolly property in Monterey bordered the Stevenson House. The newly wedded couple were later the parents of Mrs. James Millington.

H.L. Bradford, the publisher of the Cypress, lived in Pacific Grove and we are told he made his daily trips to

Monterey on a bicycle. In his news comments he writes:
“Why Journalists Are Poor”. One reason why newspapermen are generally poor, is because they underrate their own services. A physician will charge \$2.50 for a 15-minute visit, a lawyer insists upon a \$10 or a \$50 fee for drawing up a contract or a deed, but when a newspaper man puts in his bill he does not timidly.”