

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 14, 1951

And What Is Writ Is Writ

Today will have another column of "This and That." There will be a bit of the old and new—from 1846 news items to those of more recent vintage.

Under an item in the Monterey Sentinel of January 5, 1866 there appeared this item, headed Monterey Library Association: "The subscribers of the institution will be glad to learn that the library has just received a package from Washington, containing works of great value, which were presented to it by the Smithsonian Institute, and also by the Honorable George Mannypenny, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In the package were volumes of Smithsonian transactions and several folios and bound volumes of scientific character of the highest interest."

After reading the headline the contents of the news item was a disappointment. Almost a hundred years ago free publications were being sent out from Washington and congressmen and commissioners were promoting their interest and getting votes through the same channels as used by politicians today.

A Mexican Appointment—A correspondent of the Bulletin says: Don Jose Castro of Monterey, California, has been appointed Governor of Lower California by President Comonfort, Jan. 5, 1846. Monterey Sentinel.

David Jacks advertised in the same issue of this early Monterey paper that he had a fine lot of seed potatoes and three yoke of American working oxen in order. There was also an advertisement of a house and lot for sale at the Southeast corner of Junipero and Micheltoreno streets in Monterey, assessed to Francisco Granado.

Married—In San Juan, January 1st, 1856, by Rev. William R. Gober, Jessie Hill to Miss Harriett Rey, both of San Juan.

"Accompanying the above note was a slice of the bride's cake. Marriage is a glorious institution and our friends have done well to become sharer of its benefits. May the honeymoon prove perpetual."

February 9, 1856—Ladies Fair Raises Funds. The Ladies Fair raised funds on March 6, for enclosing the cemetery. "Some of our ladies proposed to form a weekly sewing society to raise funds and furnish

material for a fair, the proceeds of which will be applied to pay expenses of enclosing the Encinal cemetery with a plain and substantial fence." The affair was held in Colton Hall according to the issue of the following week.

An item in the February 16th, 1856 issue of the Sentinel read: "Rancheros in this section expect to get something for their beef cattle in the north, as it will be utterly impossible for the drivers to bring cattle from the south, on account of the very scarcity of grass and water. The Salinas River is getting very low."

"Late News" was a blackface headline in the same issue. Important news stories under this heading were brought to Monterey by the Schooner "John L. Stephens." And taken from the late issues of the Alta California. Then followed news from Europe, Atlantic Acapulco and Lower California.

Under the organization notices was listed a meeting of E. Clampus Vitus, stating that a grand gala festival in full regalia would be held on the first of August in this place. An invitation was issued to their San Juan brethren of special degree of B.A.H.P. in good standing who were requested to attend.

On May 24th, the Sentinel announced the intention of the publisher to move to Santa Cruz all he possessions, type, press and equipment. The editorial column stated: "Our task is done. With the childe we say: The torch shall be extinguished which hath lit our midnight lamp, and what is writ is writ."