

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 12, 1954

### Old Newspaper Items

It was on Dec. 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 15, 1870, there appeared in the same newspaper another item: "The sheriff's office has been removed from the court house to the jail." On March 31 the news continues: "The governor has approved the Blankenship bill for relocating the county seat of the county." Then on May 5 was this announcement: "The clerk's office and the 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, but where the basement was we do not know. The item also reported that a new roof had been put on the court house in addition to other expensive repairs made on it. That portion of the work completed the needed repairs to the building, according to the reporter. History is repeating itself today for we notice that the city council has ordered work done on the roof of Colton Hall in April, 1954.

An amusing item in the May 5 issue of 1869 was "The streets – while some of the gallops and ruts in 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 for a town of this size."

On Thursday, Oct. 6, 1870, the following item on styles appeared: "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 each in Monterey, being rare, attracted unusual attention. We

were told by these parties that camp life in the vicinity of this place is truly enjoyable."

Among other items of interest to the readers of 1869 were: "There are now owned in this town 19 pianos which for a population of 1,900 persons speaks well for the musical talents of our villagers."

"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 three pounds of trout eggs brought by him from Lake Tahoe."

"A grand ball took place in our spacious court house hall in celebration of the Centennial (Monterey's birthday) on June 3."

Also in this issue of the Republican it was reported that sand was being shipped to San Francisco for the manufacture of glass.