

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 8, 1961

The Monterey Museum Board Meets

The Monterey City Museum Board met in Colton Hall the last Monday in October with a most interesting agenda to follow. Charles Rollo Peters, the chairman presided, and directors present were Mrs. M. R. Gragg, Mrs. Andrew G. Reinhold, Mrs. O. C. Young, Myron Oliver, Mrs. Stuart Weill, Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell, James Tolagson, and City Manager A. D. Coons, Miss Ann Martin was the absent member.

Shown and read by the curator, Mrs. Pauline McCleary, was a letter from Samuel Pearson of Sunland, Calif., containing a small fragment of the last Mexican flag to fly over the Custom House in Monterey, along with a brief history. It had been secured July 6, 1846, by Don Jose Vallejo who hid it and subsequently took it to his house at Mission San Jose, where his children had used it over a playhouse until all but the red was worn out. July 13, 1909, half of the red strip had been given to the Monterey City trustees to be preserved until such time as the city had a museum.

There also was a note read from Don Palmer of Santa Cruz, who is a newly-found former pupil of Colton Hall School who last attended classes here in 1888 or 1889. He had read about the recent Colton Hall school reunion held in Colton Hall.

A discussion was held on the landscaping of a small patio between the old jail and Colton Hall, facing Dutra street, which had been the boys' playground when school was in session at Colton Hall. Oliver expressed the opinion that the ground should be left as it was when a playground was there with the exception of possibly a few potted geraniums in terra cotta pots, as decoration.

The board voted thanks to the Monterey History and Art Assn. for the loan of another school bench to add to another there belonging to the association and making four in all. Two were given by the Boronda family and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Patton. Two other very good looking benches of the Spanish or Mexican period of Monterey also are on loan from the association.

The museum board also granted the request of Mrs. Talcott Bates to be allowed to invite the State Board of Education to meet in Colton Hall for a catered luncheon on Nov, 30. It was thought quite suitable for such an

event to take place in the historic building which probably was the first public school building in California under American rule by Walter Colton, the first alcalde of Monterey.

A portrait was on display of Mrs. Thomas A. Allen, whose first husband was William Bushton, the builder of the first frame house in California. The painting probably the work of Leonardo Barbieri, early-day painter of California, has been expertly restored by Myron Oliver. The painting was in the Barkle collection and given to the city of Monterey by his family after the Rev. Barkle's death.

Other gifts to the Colton Hall Museum are Vols. I, II and III of a five-volume Dictionary of American and West India published in London in 1812, from Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Dewar of Del Rey Oaks. From Julian Myrick, of New York City, two books by Walter Colton, "A Visit to Constantinople and Athens," (New York, 1836) and in 1851 reprinted under the title "Land and Sea"; and "The Sea and the Sailor", (New York, 1851).

During the past few months, the stabilization of surfaces of wood in front of Colton Hall, a new roof on the old jail, lower floor rooms painted and restored, have all been accomplished.

The second student 'school reunion was held Sept. 11, and brought back 46 former pupils and their families, with the museum board acting as hosts.

It also is interesting to note the attendance of tourists and townspeople to the museum: August, 6,879; September, 3,396.