

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Monterey Seal

There are still some folk who are attracted to the seal of Monterey which appears on all of Monterey's city owned property, such as automobiles and trucks, and they wish to know its meaning especially the meaning of "Anda." So today we will repeat a story we have used before after being questioned upon the subject by a member of the Kiwanis Club during a talk we made at the club's meeting recently on "Monterey's Place in History."

On June 18, 1887, the Monterey Argus printed an article in the editorial column, probably, written by George E Clevenger, the editor and publisher of that date. Headed "Anda," the comment read: "After much scrubbing and polishing, assisted by the use of acids and other cleaners known to the printers' craft, the dirt and grease which had accumulated and almost grown into the old city seal during its many years of idleness, has been removed, and the word "Anda" stands out in clear cut letters as the motto of the town.

"it is sincerely hoped that this seal with its motto meaning 'stand out of way,' has, as it were, been taken from its long rest. The old town may, as the old seal has done, cast off old rust and unprofitable accumulation of those things which tend to clog the progress of the town; and the moto 'stand out of the way' may be the watchword of all citizens having the welfare of the city at heart."

The motto "Anda" caused some objections on the part of scholars. They said it should have been "adelante" (forward): that "Anda" being the imperative of the word "Andar," (to go on, move on] was a homely expression only used to drive cattle and to urge aborigines to move along; but as then is a wide latitude in the choice of mottos, from "Excelsior" down to "Strive and Thrive," not withstanding their learned and undoubtedly correct remonstrance "Anda" was retained.

In a clipping from an early day San Francisco newspaper dated June 8 without the year, there appeared another interesting story about Monterey's city seal. The clipping is headed "Arms of the City of Monterey, Interesting Reminiscences of Early Times in California - Contribution to History." It reads in part:

"In your account of the recent festivities in Monterey, your reporter has been misinformed in reference to the flag bearing the arms of that ancient city, which was carried in the procession. The late Lt. Derby did not design the arms or emblazon them upon the flag. The arms were designed by a member of the city council and officially adopted as the arms and seal of the city in the year 1850. Lt. (now General) Sully, in hinting some of his father's talents as an artist, and with all having a taste for heraldry, painted the arms in proper colors, technically embellished on them. The flag was painted to be used in a Fourth of July celebration that year. Lt. Alfred Sully, son of the noted artist, Thomas Sully, directing the whole ceremony. It being the first fourth of July after the adoption of the State Constitution, and as the times were flush in Monterey in those days, everyone was brim full of patriotism, as you may suppose, and we all looked to a glorious career for old Monterey."

Alfred Sully was a young army officer who played in the first, plays at California's First Theater. He married Senorita Manuelita Jimeno, the daughter of Dona Augustias Jimeno and granddaughter of Don Jose de la Guerra of Santa Barbara. The senorita was born in Monterey and died here on March 28, 1851, at the age of 17 years, and with her Infant son, is buried in the Monterey Catholic Cemetery.

Lt. Sully came to Monterey with Col. J. D. Sullivan's New York volunteers in 1848.