

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 17, 1964

### **Monterey 'News'**

It was on Dec. 16, 1869, that the Monterey Republican printed the following 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). 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 16, 1870, there appeared in the same paper: "The sheriff's office has been removed from the court house to the jail." On March 31<sup>st</sup>: "The governor has approved the Blankenship bill for relocating the county seat of the county."

There appeared this announcement on May 5: "The clerk's office and county records have been moved to recently fitted up quarters 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. The item also reported that a new room had been put on the court house in addition to other extensive repairs made to it. That portion of the work completed needed repairs to the building, according to the reporter.

An amusing item in the May 5 issue of the paper: "While some of the gallops and ruts of our streets are being filled we should think 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 July 14, 1870, the Republican reported that the "Female Institute at San Juan, under the supervision of the Sisters of Charity of that place, has been closed by the edict of the supervisors of France. Why the order was given was not informed. It is generally understood that this institution was in a prosperous condition."

On Thursday, Oct. 6, the following item appeared in the Monterey Republican: "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. The costume looked very

pretty – what there was of it – and the appearance of such in Monterey, being rare, attracted unusual attention. We are told by these parties that camp life in the vicinity of this place is truly enjoyable."

In another item: "Following is the list of members who compose the brass band which was organized in June; with their respective instruments on which they perform: E-flat clarinet, John F. Hoels; E-flat cornet, Charles Rodriguez; B-flat cornet, Davis Little; B-flat tenor, John Kinlock; E-flat alto, Thomas Layton; E-flat alto, Herbert Mills; B-flat tuba, Francis Doud Jr.; B-flat trombone, Jacob Durr; snare-drum, M. Merritt; bass drum, Juan Vasquez.

"This band is progressing and promises ere long to recognize no equal this side of San Francisco."

The issue of June 9, 1871, reported that the town, with its 1,900 residents, had 19 pianos which "speaks well for the musical talents of the villagers." Other items included the following:

"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 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 Centennial, on June 3." Also in this issue it was reported that sand had been shipped to San Francisco for glass making.