

Peninsula Dairy Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 15, 1965

More on the Jail

"More on the Jail" was the headline over the editorial in the Sept. 1, 1855 issue of the Monterey Sentinel. The newspaper was published in Monterey from June in 1855 to June of 1856, when it, with all the equipment, was moved across the bay to Santa Cruz, the editor having accepted an invitation for free transportation to that city by schooner.

Through the kindness the publisher of the Sentinel in Santa Cruz a few years ago I was privileged to see and copy from the bound volumes of this newspaper for the years it was published in Monterey—110 years ago.

In the story on the Monterey jail, which was attached to Colton Hall on the south, the editor reports that the supervisors have paid the contractor, Mr. H. DeGraw. The cost was 16 to 18,000 dollars in all, and "as a place of security and a jail of solidity it cannot be surpassed by anything south of San Francisco. "The fund had originally been set at about \$20,000, having been the proceeds of a special taxation of 1 per cent on property in the county. After its collection the "Court of Sessions" took the matter in hand for the erection of the jail.

The court of the county is adjourning in Colton Hall; reported the Sentinel in its September issue of 1855. Colton Hall built by Walter Colton, alcalde of Monterey, was in those days the largest building in California.

The item went on to relate that Colton Hall had been thoroughly repaired and covered on the outside with a good coat of cement, which was supposed to be proof against any kind of weather.

"The upper story was a large room of grand proportions; it has been divided and in it the clerk and the sheriff of the county will hold their offices," wrote the editor.

"So that now the lugar which has resounded to all our national bands and which has witnessed our female graces keeping time to the melodious sounds of the military band of General Riley, will be repository of legal documents and the musty archives—so the world goes."

There was always newsprint problems for the Sentinel in 1855 for on October 27, the Monterey publication, as the one-page edition, with the following apology: "The

paper which we ordered three weeks since from San Francisco has failed to arrive, we believe through irregularity of the coast trade, we are unavoidably compelled to issue one sheet.

A letter to the editor in southern Monterey County, gave some interesting comments: "Thinking a communication from this place would not be uninteresting to your readers, I avail myself of the present opportunity to drop you a line...The orchards of the Mission (San Antonio) promise an abundance of delicious fruit. An abundance of game abound in this place, such as deer, antelope and grizzlies.

"A couple of Americans passed through here on their way north, with some live bears, two of which were full grown, domesticated to work in double harness."

A legal notice was filed in the interest of the estate of W.E.P. Hartnell, giving the value of the notice for the estate of Jose de Amesti, valuing that inventory at \$60,634.