

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 24, 1965

Old News Items

Today we will have another column of "this and that." There will be a bit of the old and new – from 1846 news items to those of only slightly more recent vintage.

In the Monterey Sentinel of Jan. 5, 1866, there appeared this item headed Monterey Library Association:

"The subscribers of the institution will be glad to learn that the library has just received a package from Washington, containing works of great value, which were presented to it by the Smithsonian Institution, and also by the Honorable George Manypenny, commissioner of Indian affairs.

"In the package were volumes of Smithsonian transactions and several folios and bound volumes of scientific character of the highest interest."

After reading the headlines, the contents of the news items was a disappointment. Almost a hundred years ago free publications were sent out from Washington, and congressmen and commissioners were promoting their interests and getting votes through the same channels as used by politicians today.

"A Mexican appointment – A correspondent of the Bulletin says Don Jose Castro of Monterey, California, has been appointed governor of Lower California by President Coonfort" – Jan 5, 1846, Monterey Sentinel.

David Jacks advertised in the same issue of the early Monterey paper that he a fine lot of seed potatoes and three yoke of working oxen in order. There was also an advertisement of a house and lot for sale at the southeast corner of Junipero and Micheltorena streets in Monterey, assessed to Francisco Granado.

"Married – In San Juan, Jan. 1, 1856, by Rev. William R. Gober, Jesse Hill to Miss Harriett Rey, both of San Juan. Accompanying the above note was a slice of the bride's cake. Marriage is a glorious institution and our friends have done well to become sharers of its benefits. May the honeymoon prove perpetual."

Feb. 9, 1856 – The Ladies' Fair raised funds on March 8, for enclosing the cemetery. "Some of our ladies propose to form a weekly sewing society to raise funds and furnish material for a fair, the proceeds of which will be applied to pay expenses of enclosing the Encinal

cemetery with a plain and substantial fence." The affair was held in Colton Hall, according to the issue of the following week.

An item in the Feb. 6, 1856, issue of the Sentinel follows: "Rancheros In this section expect to get something for their beef cattle in the north, as it will be utterly impossible for the drivers to bring cattle from the South on account of the very scarcity of water and grass. The Salinas River is getting very low."

"Late News" was a blackface headline in the same issue. Important news stories under this heading were brought to Monterey by the schooner John L. Stephens and taken from the late issue of the Alta California. Then followed news from Europe, Acapulco and Lower California.

Under the organization notices was listed a meeting of E. Clampus Vitus, stating that a grand gala festival in full regalia would be held on the first of August in this place. An invitation was issued to their San Juan brethren of special degree of B.A.H.P. in good standing to attend.

On May 24 the Sentinel announced the intention of the publisher to move to Santa Cruz all the possessions, type, press and equipment.

The editorial column stated: "Our task is done. With the childe we say: The torch shall be extinguished which hath lit our midnight lamp, and what is writ is writ."