

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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News Of A Bygone Era

Today we will entertain our readers with a bit of this and that from news happenings from 1846 to those of more recent date.

The Monterey Sentinel of Jan. 5, 1866, ran 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 the headline, the content of the news item was a disappointment. Over a hundred years ago free publications were being sent out from Washington; 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 Comonfort (Jan 5, 1846 – Monterey Sentinel).

"Married – in San Juan, Jan. 1, 1856, by Rev. William R. Gober, Jessie Hill to Miss Harriett Rey, both of San Jose.

"Accompanying the above note was a slice of the bride's cake. Marriage is a grand institution, and our friends have done well to become sharers of its benefits. May the honeymoon prove perpetual."

Feb. 9, 1856 – "Ladies Fair Raises Funds. The fair raised funds 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 foregoing issue.

An item on Feb. 16, 1856, of the Sentinel read:

"Rancharos in this section expect to get something for their beef cattle in the north, as it will be utterly impossible for the drives to bring cattle from the south

on account of the very scarcity of grass and water. The Salinas River is getting very low."

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