

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 14, 1968

Council Worries of 1850

As far back as January of 1850 the Common Council was worried over the crowded condition of the City owned buildings in Monterey, about the school system and proper housing, about the property in front of Colton Hall and to whom it belonged and most of all about where to put the public library. They were also excited about the prospects of making Monterey the state capital.

But these weighty problems were not the only matters to be settled by the Common Council, some minutes of which follow:

Meeting of January 21, 1850

"On motion of Mr. O'Neill—that a privy be built in the yard of Colton Hall. Adopted."

Meeting of February 5th, 1850

"On motion of Mr. O'Neill. Resolved that a special meeting be called for to take place tomorrow afternoon at 8 p.m. and that the Perfect of this town be invited to attend, for the purpose of consulting upon the propriety of tendering the Public Buildings of this town to the Assembly now at Pueba of San Jose provided they will remove hither. Adopted:

Proceedings of the Ayuntamiento of Monterey with the cooperation of Mr. D. Spence, Prefect held in Colton Hall Feb. 7, 1850.

"Whereupon it was resolved: That this body offer the Legislature of the State of California use of the public buildings in this town for the term of five years from the passage of this resolution for its future sittings free of expense. And that a committee of five be appointed to wait upon the members of the Legislature now in session at San Jose to request their acceptance of the same, and that the said committee be empowered to urge speedy passage of an 'Act to incorporate the City of Monterey' now before that Honorable Body. Adopted unanimously."

Meeting February 25th, 1850

Mr. John O'Neil, one of the delegates appointed at a special meeting to proceed to San Jose having returned, reports

"That the bill for the 'Incorporation of the Town of Monterey' has rec'd the first reading and has been referred to a committee on Corporation to be reported again to the Senate on the twenty third inst, for a second reading, previous to its being sent to the house."

"Our proposals of inducement for removing the Capital of Monterey referred to a committee on "Public Grounds and Buildings, who were instructed to report, the last of the present month."

Communications rec'd from the trustees of 'Public Library' asking for a portion of Colton Hall."

"Moved and seconded that they be informed the Building itself is already tendered to the Legislature of this State. Adopted."

Meeting March 18th, 1850.

"Petition rec'd from the residents of this town asking for the use of a portion of Colton Hall, to be used as a public library."

On motion resolved that their petition be granted—they too have use of a portion of the building for so long as a time as the town many deem it advisable."

The Ayuntamiento was changed to the Common Council of the City of Monterey April 6, 1850.

Meeting April 6th, 1850 "on motion by Ald. Abrego that a committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the state of the schools kept in Colton Hall setting forth what is taught, and what salaries are paid the teachers and what rooms are furnished, and by what authority said rooms are furnished.

"Resolved furthermore that the resolution passed on Monday, the 22nd, 1850, be, and is hereby repealed.-- Carried."

"Resolved that the President of the Board is hereby empowered to grant the use of Colton Hall to any parties on application. — Carried."