

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Monterey's Museum Board

The Board of Museum trustees was set up in Monterey on Sept. 15, 1938, by Emmet G. McMenemy, then mayor of the City of Monterey, and passed by ordinance by the council on Sept. 20. The upper story of Colton Hall was suggested as a city museum location and that the building be set aside for the use of the Museum Board, which was passed to print by ordinance on Feb. 15, 1944.

The ordinance passed to read, No. 4135, stated that, "The use of the second floor of Colton Hall be given to the Board of Museum Trustees for the purpose of establishing a museum. The amended ordinance, adopted Dec. 2, 1947, sets up a board of nine members to be known as a Board of Museum Trustees for the City of Monterey. The members are to be appointed by the mayor, with the approval of the council, for a term of three years. Such trustees are to serve without compensation. That the mayor, with the approval of the council, shall appoint persons who are students of California history, authorities on the customs, modes and habiliments of the early Californians or are particularly interested in preserving, collecting historical objects for Monterey, as honorary members of the Board of Trustees of the City of Monterey."

The ordinance calls for the trustees to meet once a month and at the first meeting in January of each year the officers of the group are selected.

The board is to have its secretary file copies of the minutes for both special and regular meetings with the city clerk.

The Museum Board can make its own rules and regulations, for the management and control of the museum and the properties therefore, they shall prescribe the duties and powers of the curator, secretary and other officers, subject to the approval of the council.

All gifts, bequests and grants received for the use of the museum are placed in a fund which is designated the Museum Trust Fund and the expenditures from this fund shall be for such museum purposes as are requested by the Board of Trustees of the museum, according to the ordinance.

Monterey, the whole Peninsula and in fact the State of California should be most grateful to the first city council, the first Museum Board, to Mrs. Guy Curtis who collected most of the furnishings and historical objects in the museum at the present time, and later acquired by the Monterey History and Art Association, which organization has left them in Colton Hall on loan; to the Doud family who returned their kitchen table to the south end of the hall where it stood in good use for the chairman of the constitutional convention held there in September, 1849, and to the Jacks sisters, Misses Lee, Margaret and Veda, who gave to the city the small round mahogany table upon which the first draft of the state constitution was signed in the Rodriguez-Soto adobe home on Alvarado street. Another Colton Hall school bench has been added to the others in the museum on loan, from the Monterey History and Art Association.