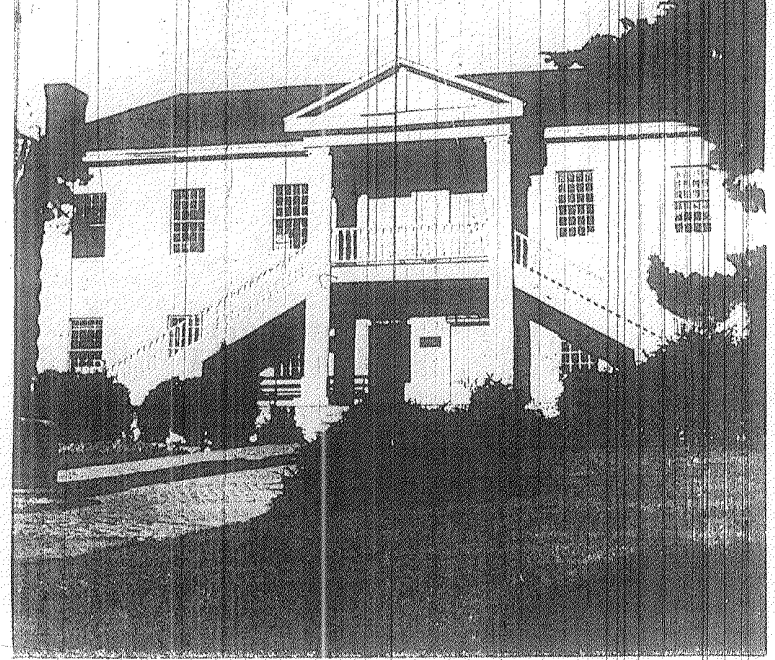

Colton Hall in Monterey, built in 1849 with prison labor and gamblers' fines, was the site that year at which the first California constitutional convention was held. The upper floor today is used to house many relics of that early era. The street level floor is the headquarters of Monterey's police department.

Refund Wanted by Washington Man

COLFAX, Wash. (AP)—One day when he was 13, Harold Doolittle slipped a dime into the cornerstone of the rising Hamilton School.

Doolittle is now 78, but when he heard they were tearing down the old building he traveled the 60 miles from Spokane to put in a claim for his dime. The contractor told him to come back later; it would be several months before the wreckers get to the cornerstone.

Good Excuse To Skip Going to Church

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The Virginia State Highway Department is rephrasing some signs.

Those reading "Do not cross solid line when on your side" are being replaced with new ones reading "Do not pass when solid line on your side."

Not quite different. Motorists apparently think they're, one engineer, whose opinion is on a par with "dead ahead" and "dip" and "dip and cross" and church attendance dropped off noticeably.

44 Years of Hardship Pays Off in Oil Wells

SIDNEY, Neb. (AP) During the 44 years the Hatcher family fought to keep their 640 acres of land through drouth and other misfortunes, Mrs. Ellie Hatcher kept saying "this country must have something more in it than rocks and rattlesnakes."

She was right. Now she can look out over the wheat fields and see three producing oil wells in their midst.

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enjoying Monterey, and he did well with them. But one of the first things he did was build a jail.

Colton Hall was almost not finished. As it neared completion in 1848, gold was found on the American River, and the great days of '49 had begun. Everybody who could, left town, headed north for gold.

Until this year of '49, Monterey had been the principal port of northern California, and San Francisco was a village. Monterey was a village, too, but a better village. It was also capital of California, and the first constitutional convention was held in Colton Hall in that year.

The capital was moved to San Jose, the ocean ships passed Monterey on their way to booming San Francisco, and Colton Hall became a school. Colton regarded its classic-revival lines with love and said, "In California it is without a rival . . . and it is christened after my name which will go down to posterity with the odor of gamblers, convicts, and tipplers." They had helped build the hall with their prison labor and their fines. Ol' Mister Colton didn't 'low no barrel-house ing there.

By the 1890's the city council and the school system were quarreling over it, and it was reported as "being used by campers."

Big day for Colton Hall in recent times, was the California Centennial of 1946 which commemorated the high, fine times when the Rev. Walter Colton had a hall for the convention delegates in his new building.

Colton would be happy with it today. It is the Monterey police headquarters.



COL. DANIEL W. HICKEY

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As with much of Monterey, its Presidio has a long, exciting history. It was founded by Gaspar de Portola and Fr. Junipero Serra as a military outpost of the King of Spain in 1770. In 1846 it was seized by American marines commanded by John Sloat, marking the beginning of California as American territory.

In the quiet 1950's the Presidio now on the hilltop, was the post

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