

Determination and teamwork lead to tons of moving success for Montgomery and Sons.

by Marsha Porter
Montgomery and Sons

Award Winner,
“Heaviest Building
Moved Not on Rubber
Tired Dollies”

Montgomery Contractors, Sacramento, California used two methods to move the same building, and thus could have applied for an award in two categories. The hospital wing was moved using different methods to simplify the move and reduce the jacking required for the move. The ten-inch thick wall shell of the building less the concrete floor and foundation was the desired part of the structure to be recycled. Sawing the concrete walls at just above the floor line made the necessary opening to allow the banding method to be utilized without cutting holes in the wall for placing the normal cross loaders.

A minimal jacking of the structure of only several inches allowed twenty of the 100 ton capacity Hillman Rollers, the “not rubber tired dollies” to be installed. The building shell was then rolled off the elevated foundation, where twenty of the “Rubber Tired Dollies” took over the job of carrying the hospital wing to the new location.

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The 168' long building has had the ten inch thick concrete walls saw cut, steel banding installed and raised sufficiently for the installation of the crawler dollies and is ready to move off the raised foundation.



historic cemetery.

For these moves, he employed the famous John McCullough banding method. He also sought shimming information from H.D. Snow of Fort Worth, Texas. All went smoothly and the buildings were moved without a hitch.

While all this was transpiring, Montgomery and his firm were interviewing for the move of the hospital's 168 foot wing. Sun Micro Systems, the new owner of the site, was eager to begin the renovations needed to accommodate their thousands of employees. It was on a pre-work walk through that the second factor leading to Montgomery's success on this entire job, fell into place. He met another house mover by the name of Howard Kelly who'd been in the moving business long enough to know Norman's father and grandfather.



As the hospital wing is being pulled off the former foundation, the crawler dollies are being exchanged for the rubber tired dollies.



The dolly change complete, the building is now ready to travel to a new location.

Though Norman had been awarded this job, Kelly, well aware of the expertise and generations of moving experience in the Montgomery Moving Company, proposed a joint working crew for the project. Norman heartily agreed and the entire job was completed by a dedicated crew headed by Stephen Montgomery, Rick Boltz and Howard Kelly.

From the start, the men had their work cut out for them as they surveyed the hospital wing with its ten inch thick concrete walls. They had to move the Spanish style, tile roofed structure from a concrete slab and then transport it a mile and a half in order for it to be transformed into a Santa Clara County Library. The building will undergo a 1 million dollar face-lift at its new site. Already looking like it would fit in with the architecture at the University of Santa Clara or Stanford University, with its own Hoover Tower, leaving no doubt as to its duplication of the university's hallowed halls.

Following the job bidding conditions, Montgomery had engineering drawings and steel placement furnished by his in-house civil engineer, Ross Peabody, PE. Recognizing that a move of this magnitude would require more dollies, he ordered twelve new Ron Holland dollies that met with state approval for California State Highway use to complement his own eight regent dollies.

Once again, Stephen astonished local engineers by using a banding system developed by prior house movers.

Steel bar stock was wedged into the saw kerf as it was made by National Concrete Cutting of Sacramento. These strips prevented saw blade binding and also allowed room for the installation of the steel banding. Modifications made in Montgomery's corporate yard made it possible to reuse the main structural carrying steel (weight of steel) from another impressive

job. It had been used to relocate the Pioneer Monument of San Francisco which went on to become the showpiece for the new San Francisco Library.

Finally, his fifteen cross beams were placed into position. The building was raised and loaded on to twenty multi-ton rollers. Next, the building, hovering eight inches above the slab, moved forward leaving the existing concrete slab in order to receive the dollies at a height of 40 inches. This allowed for a successful placement of twenty hydraulic dollies. Amazingly strong, the Ron Holland dollies showed no sign of excessive weight and castered beautifully. Three unified jacking machines, one per zone, consisting of two nine's and



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Steve Montgomery receives the “Heaviest Building Not Moved On Rubber Tired Dollies at the Ft. Meyers Convention”.



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The new Montgomery pull truck had a chance to prove itself on the heavy hospital wing. The move was a total distance of one and a half miles.

COVER STORY

a six jack units were used in this mode for both jacking and supplying the hydraulic fluid for support of the load by the dollies while traveling.

Norman's new Prime Mover was an impressive 525 horse power/four axle big rig, purchased specifically for the move from the Hawaiian Islands. Located by Charley Scott and transported by barge to Seattle, Washington, it was at long last allowed to show off its power. Because it moved the structure faster than anticipated and posed no glitches, Norman, who'd been at his regional office in Sacramento, missed the entire move! What had transpired in his absence was a pull combined with winching, using two parts of one inch wire.

Some things could have gone wrong but they didn't and Norman credits Ernie Duran of Rudolph and Sletten for his cooperation. He also says that the \$50,000 road bed by FIRMA Construction greatly facilitated the move. Last, but certainly not least, mother nature co-operated by postponing the rainy season which could have created huge problems for the move's October completion.

Credit has to be given to Steven Montgomery who selected all the steel from the firm's inventory and for adding his own suggestions to those of their knowledgeable engineer. Rick Boltz, a Montgomery Mover's employee for the past twenty-five years, the Montgomery welders, along with Howard Kelly and his three sons made every aspect of the move a success.



Another view of the recycled Spanish style, tile roofed structure turned into a library.