

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 23, 1950

The annual meeting of the Ladies Circulating Book Club was held at Mrs. W. W. James home on Thursday, January 17, 1901 at 2 o'clock. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. James, chairman pro tempore, Mrs. J.P. Sargent acting as secretary. Reports of the finances read by Mrs. James Moore showed that the club owns sixteen books, no funds in the treasury. Motion made and carried that we keep our books and form a Library Association to be known as "The Monterey Library Association."

The above quotations are taken from the first minute book of the association started on the above date and from that group of 20 women the present public library had its inception.

To continue with those first recordings of the Ladies Circulating Book Club: Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: president, Mrs. Charles Henry; vice-president, Mrs. M.M. Gragg; treasurer, Mrs. J.P. Sargent; secretary, Mrs. James Moore. The following committees were appointed by the president: to select books to be purchased: Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Clara Zimmermann; furniture, Mrs. W.W. James, Mrs. T.J. Field, Mrs. M.M. Gragg; lights and water, Mrs. J. Harris, Mrs. Charles Casper and Mrs. Finch; on room, Mrs. Henry.

A motion was carried that the members take turns alphabetically as library. Motion was carried that the Library be open once a week on Saturdays from 2 until 4 o'clock.

In an old copy of Janice Meredith by Paul Leicester Ford, published in 1899, with the stamp of the Monterey Library Association still there, Miss Etta Eckhardt, the first librarian, pasted the entire list of the first trustees of the first Monterey Library. They were as follows: Mrs. W.W. James, Mrs. William Kay, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Robert Johnson, Miss Orton, Mrs. Josselyn, Mrs. J.B. Roberts, Mrs. M.M. Gragg, Mrs. Charles Casper, Mrs. Fred Botsch, Mrs. Emily Fish, Miss Bickford, Miss Margaret Jacks, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Charles D. Henry, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Conn, Mrs. Clafin, Miss. Perry, Mrs. M. Harris, Mrs. J.P. Sargent, Mrs. Ross Sargent, Mrs. Conn, Mrs. Clafin, Mrs. M. Harris, Mr. Henry Olmstead, Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Percy Dolley. Evidently these women and their husbands were so well known that given names were not necessary to identify

them in the community. Instructions printed for each book asked the borrower to: 1 – Cover the first book received with cloth, 2 – As soon as read pass to the member whose number follows yours on the list and 3 – No member is to retain a book over two weeks.

On January 23rd, 1901. A vote of thanks was ordered sent to Mr. Doud Sr. for the use of his rooms on Alvarado street for the library. It was also voted that "Any person may become a member of the Assn. by paying to the librarian the regular dues of forty cents a quarter, or \$1 per year payable in advance." Pastors, Priests and Editors of Monterey were elected honorary members.

In April of 1901 the trustees decided to hold a tea in the Library rooms and charge 10 cents for refreshments. They now had \$45.05 in the treasury and decided to buy some additional books. Room committee reported that six chairs, a table cover, vases, and a plant had been donated. Mrs. Charles Henry (the mother of Mrs. Lou Henry Hoover and Mrs. Jean Henry Large) was appointed to care for the room during the month.

A vote of thanks was extended in May to Messrs. Johnson and Carr for the use of the rooms which the library was to occupy until Jan. 1, 1902. The minutes of September 12th made quite a feature of the gift of a set of Dickens received from Miss Stella Gonzales. A Roof Garden Party was decided on as a means of raising funds on Friday, Dec. 6th. The room committee reported as follows: "Owing to the length of time before the Custom House would be available they had taken the rooms formerly occupied by the Monterey Investment Association at \$5 a month. On motion it was decided that they would rent one room to the Physical Culture Class at a rent of \$2 a month, the class to have the use of the room two evenings a week. In the first year of the Library's existence the trustees had had to move three times. All the locations were at the lower end of Alvarado street – where the National Dollar Store is now and across the street in an old adobe building, where the Federal Hotel is now, we are told.

By motion it was decided at the July 3rd, 1902 meeting to open the Library rooms for the purpose of entertaining the "Ladies of the Parlor of Native Daughters and members of the committee of the Sloat Monument."

The book committee purchased a set of Stoddard's Lectures in September of 1902, at a cost of \$28 to be

paid at the rate of \$2 per month. Also the purchase of a set of books by Foreign Authors with Scribner's magazine for \$8 a year at the rate of 50 cents a month. A vote of thanks was extended to Major Sherman for his donation to the Library of a picture of the "Custom House". Wonder where that picture is now?