

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 20, 1950

Another BPWC Anniversary

Last night the Business and Professional Women's Club of the Monterey Peninsula held their 20th anniversary dinner at Cademartori's. It was on October 17, 1930, that the Peninsula branch of the national organization was first organized in the Old Custom House. Since that time the group has been active in the social and civil life of the three communities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Carmel.

It is most appropriate that during National Business Women's Week the Peninsula club should be celebrating its birthday. President Truman sent the National Federation the following letter of praise and encouragement: "I am happy to give encouragement to the theme, "Measure Up for Full Partnership," which you have chosen for the National Business and Professional Women's Week. I believe that the steps which lead to success on the job are basically the same for both men and women. The most successful men and women I know have set their goals high and have worked hard toward them. Successful people know that creative imagination as well as technical ability is necessary for adequate preparation for real partnership in the world's work."

It might be interesting to list for the reader the business women of the Peninsula who have accepted responsibility as officers of the club during the 20 years of its existence. Mrs. Edna McKinlay, now of Kent, Wash., was the first president. Mrs. Edythe Dungan, now deceased, was the second president. She had been a newspaperwoman in Santa Rosa before coming to Pacific Grove to make her home. Mrs. Olive Calvert White, court reporter, was the third president, and Miss Rena Willey, for many years assistant postmaster in Pacific Grove, followed. Mrs. Nettie Hyde, for many years a business woman in Monterey and now of San Mateo served as president for 1935 and 1936. Mrs. Vera Vernon of a yarn shop in Carmel and a resident of Pacific Grove, was president in 1936 and 1937. She was followed by Mrs. Bernice Brenner, daughter of Mrs. Hyde, and the owner of a dress shop. In 1938 and 1939 Mrs. Irene Culp Foreman was president. She had been in the employ of the California Water and Telephone Co. Miss Gertrude Ernst, Pacific Grove High School, was the high officer in 1939 and 1940 and was

succeeded by Mrs. Margaret Dames, the wife of the then city manager of Pacific Grove, Miss Dorothy Berquist, a Monterey High School teacher, was president for the years of 1942 and 1943. Her vice president, Mrs. Carol Baudouin, was president in 1943 and 1944. Mrs. Olga Grayson, florist, became president in 1944 and continued in 1945 with Miss Irene Goodnow of the Bank of America following her for 1945 and 1946. Miss Harriett Coombs of Pacific Grove was president for 1946 and 1947 and Mrs. Laura Hardy 1947-1948 and Mrs. Kitty Ragsdale, 1948-1949 were followed by Thelma Stohr of the junior college faculty for 1949 and 1950. Mrs. Raymond Groth of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co, is the present presiding officer.

During the 20 years of the existence of the Monterey Peninsula Business and Professional Women's Club, they have always been foremost in their interest in civic affairs. In 1932 the members acted as hostesses to the 65 women of the California League of Municipalities and entertained at tea in their honor at Del Monte Lodge. The league had held its annual convention here.

The state convention of the club was held here the second year after their organization. Del Monte Hotel was the headquarters. A luncheon in old Monterey style was held in Memory Garden in honor of the visitors. During that year the late Lincoln Steffens was one of the speakers and Fenton Foster's glee club entertained with an excellent program. Mrs. Vera Vernon organized a series of study groups choosing various countries as background for discussion. During the year a new name was chosen for the club's bulletin - "Novedadas del Arroyo" (news of the brook), named in honor of the editor, Mrs. Agnes Brooks.

The first visit of a national president, Mrs. Geline MacDonald Vowman of Richmond, Va., occurred in February of 1934 when she was honored with a dinner at Del Monte Lodge. Salinas BPWC assisted in the entertainment.

Miss Martha Brouhardt was the public relations chairman for that year and was the genial Santa Claus for the Christmas party.

Miss Edith Carter, private secretary at the First National Bank in Monterey, has been one of the most active members of the club since its inception. From 1934 through 1947 she was the efficient treasurer. At her insistence, the club allowed her resignation to become

effective and in 1949 Miss Irene Goodnow, a past president and a member of the Bank of America staff became the treasurer. Miss Edith Carter took on the responsibilities of auditor.

Of the charter members of October 17, 1930, the following women are still taking an active part in the club activities: Mrs. Christine Raynsford, private secretary; Miss Rena Willey, retired; Miss Edith Carter, First National Bank; Mrs. Wilma Voss, Holman's Department Store; Mrs. Josephine Garrett, Mrs. Mary Hunkin, retired; and Mrs. Elmarie Dyke, County School Supervisor.

The long range program for the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs is: 1 – Training for job betterment; 2 – Opening new doors of work opportunity; 3 – Education for sound management of money; 4 – Planning for mature living; 5 – Cooperation with other business and professional organizations; 6 – Understanding of the special needs and problems of other women, the farm and home women, the women who work in industry, and women in other countries; 7 – Participation as citizens in government and politics to build a strong country and a peaceful world.