

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 30, 1950

Some History of Local NDGW

IN 1907, Mrs. Carrie Whitcomb Wolter was elected president of the Junipero Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West. The members entertained at an Easter Ball in Bagby's Hall and had a tea honoring the Daughters of the Confederacy.

In 1908, Mrs. Josefa Gomez Hubbard was president and the parlor entertained the officers of the Atlantic Fleet which was in the bay and sent baskets of flowers to each ship. In the historic scrapbook are copies of the letters of appreciation received from the officers in charge.

Maude Pelton Alves was the presiding officer in 1909. That year the ladies of the GAR were entertained and the parlor sponsored a Halloween and a Cascarone Ball, an apron and necktie social, a penny social and a whist party, all with the Custom House as the setting.

Beginning in 1909, the following members acted as presidents of the parlor: Grace Allen, May Ryan, Jennie Kilpatrick, Hattie Ruhl Grimes, Charlotte Manuel, Lou Brown, Estelle Gonzales, Cecelia Romine, Jennie Gibson, Hermena Lange, Josefa Hubbard (a second term) and Carrie Read, which brings the list of past presidents up to 1930.

In 1916, Mrs. Lucy Wolter presented to Junipero Parlor an old flag which had floated over the San Francisco Custom House in the early 70's.

On Sunday, May 21, 1916, the grand president of the Native daughters of the Golden West, Mrs. Mary Hill, dedicated the Mission Bell in front of Colton Hall and it was blessed by Father Mestres. The string of Mission Bells along the coast of California, marking the trail of the Mission Fathers, has long been a project of the Native Daughters.

No meetings of the parlor were held in the Custom House from October 1917 until January 3, 1918, when the old building was under repair.

On October 9, 1931, 14 out of a membership of 19 greeted Grand President Evelyn I. Sarlson. For years the parlor had met in the Old Custom House but that year the membership was asked to vacate by the government, at that time the owners of the Custom House reservation. Now the building and reservation

are the property of the State of California and are under the supervision of the Division of Beaches and Parks. The offer of Miss Matilda Bergschicker to hold the meetings in her home was accepted. That year Miss Bergschicker celebrated her 27th year as secretary of Junipero Parlor.

Other past presidents were Mrs. Angie Kynoch, Mrs. Philamora Ligo Otazua, Mrs. Clara Brown, Mrs. Louisa Schiaffina Balestera, Mrs. Margaret Baudour, Miss Joan Giamona, Mrs. Elmarie Dyke, Mrs. Anita Abby Church, Mrs. Marjorie Coleman, Mrs. Mary Louise Arehardt, Mrs. Mary Dorney, Mrs. Alva Banta, Mrs. Lucille Cummings and Mrs. Ruth Brown Byles. The present president is Mrs. William Kneass.

During 1932 the events in which the Native Daughters took an active part in Monterey were a dancing and card party benefit for homeless children; playing host to the grand president, and honoring Miss Bergschicker, organizer and active member of the parlor. Miss Bergschicker gave an instructive talk on the history of the Bear Flag and informed the group present at the Monterey Civic Club meeting, that that day was the 82nd birthday of the admission of the state into the Union.

The entire proceeds from dancing and cards in May of 1932 was given to the fund of the state organization for the support and care of hundreds of orphans in proper homes. It is part of the work of the homeless children committee to see that these children are properly cared for until such time as they can be placed in good homes where they will have proper care.

Miss Matilda Bergschicker was honored by her fellow members in September of 1932. A banquet followed the regular meeting.

The affair was planned for her following her attendance at the Grand Parlor meeting where she represented the local group for the 20th consecutive year. She was presented with a silver compote in appreciation of her work in behalf of the Peninsula parlor. Miss Bergschicker now resides in San Francisco but has retained her membership in Junipero Parlor.

On July 2, 1935, Mayor W.L. Teaby of Monterey signed Resolution No. 3548 C.S. which read: Resolved: That the City Council of the City of Monterey on its own behalf and on behalf of the citizens of said community, hereby express its profound appreciation to Junipero Parlor, No. 141, Native Daughters of the Golden West, for its gift of the beautiful Bear Flag of California; and, Be it

Further Resolved that a true copy of this Resolution duly authenticated under the Official Seal of said City be forwarded to the parlor. Passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Monterey, this 2nd day of July, 1935, by the following vote: Peter Hay, George MacDonald, Roddie Maddock, "Buck" Perry, W.L. Teaby.