

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Christmas Gift Suggestion

The most perfect Christmas gift.

Most of us, on this coming Christmas Day of 1950, will be joyfully gathered together with our families and friends. Most of us on that day will be unwrapping a little gift or two for the spirit of giving is abroad in the land, and our hearts are filled with love of our fellow man. Everywhere we will greet one another with smiles and with a cheerful "Merry Christmas."

But for many of us there will be loved ones absent this Christmas – a father, a son, a brother – fighting in the cold of Korea or lying wounded in an emergency station or hospital. So let us not forget, in our hustle and bustle of obtaining gifts for our families, our friends and our neighbors, that the finest gift we can give will cost us absolutely nothing – not even the packaging or posting. It will be packed and airmailed absolutely free to Korea. The gift I am speaking of is a part of you, yourself – merely a pint of your blood.

Your blood is the finest gift you can give your neighbor. By this gift you will share with him your joy in the Christmas season. By this gift the joy that fills the hearts of "Men of Good Will" will be yours this coming Christmas Day!

Miss Margaret Jacks, the first president of the Monterey-Pacific Grove Chapter of the Red Cross, has sent the Diary a letter, a circular and a newspaper clipping, all of which concern the local chapter of the Red Cross from 1904 until 1909.

The circular is signed by Mrs. Willard B. Harrington, president of the California State Red Cross Association, and was sent to all auxiliary societies of the association. In one corner of the stationery is reproduced a line drawing of the Naval clubhouse at Vallejo (under construction).

The appeal begins: "This association desires to call your attention to a work for the gallant sailors of our navy, which we strongly endorse and in which we hope to enlist the cooperation of all auxiliaries.

"Let us not forget our debt of gratitude to the men of the Navy!

"We should not forget our enthusiasm when Dewey and his men were the heroes of the hour; but we should let

it take the practical form of giving something to aid the Sailors Clubhouse at Vallejo.

"There are few towns in the state, I believe, which would not lend their aid to this most patriotic work, when the merits of the case are understood by public spirited citizens."

The newspaper clipping is dated January 3, 1909, and is an appeal to the citizens of Monterey to aid the Red Cross in providing funds for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in Italy. The story reads: "A meeting of the Monterey and Pacific Grove Red Cross Society was held yesterday afternoon in the Old Pacific building in Monterey at which there was a large attendance. The matter of contributing to the Italian relief fund came before the meeting and it was voted to send \$50 at once out of the funds now on hand in the treasury. It was further decided to place a subscription list at various places in Monterey and Pacific Grove for those who care to contribute to this fund. Mrs. William James is the treasurer of the association.

"Will those intending to give do so as soon as possible that there may be no delay in the money reaching the scene of the disaster.

"The funds of the society are in the hands of the town trustees of Pacific Grove and the Chamber of Commerce in Monterey. "The following contributions for the relief fund were received by the society before the paper went to press – Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berwick, \$100; W.N. Furlong, \$10; W.A. Nord, \$5; Coast Counties Real Estate and Investment Co. \$30; Miss Margaret A. Jacks, \$50."

Still the American Red Cross carries on!