

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Days of Monterey Woman's Civic Club Told in Old Papers

The Monterey Woman's Civic Club is forty-four years old. It was founded in 1906, on March 19th to be exact, when a group of women gathered in the rooms of the Monterey Library association to form a civic club. The minutes of that meeting as recorded in the first record book will be of interest today.

"A preliminary meeting was held Thursday afternoon in the rooms of the Library association by a number of ladies interested in the organization of a civic club to act in conjunction with the Merchants' Association for the welfare of Monterey.

"The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Katharine Sargent. Nominations for temporary president and secretary were made and Mrs. Sargent and Mrs. Clara Zimmerman were named for those offices. It was moved, seconded and carried that the election of permanent officers be laid over. Carried.

"Mrs. E.T. Erb made a motion which was seconded, that a committee be appointed to confer with other civic clubs. The committee, as appointed, consisted of Mrs. Nina Moore, Mrs. Bertha Gunzendorfer, Mrs. M. McGowan, Mrs. Annie Tower, and Mrs. H.M. Porter. The meeting adjourned to March 22, at 3 o'clock.

"Signing these minutes as founder-members of the Monterey Woman's Civic Club were: Mrs. J.P. Sargent, Mrs. Ross Sargent, Mrs. D. Roderick, Mrs. W.W. James, Mrs. H.A. Olmsted, Mrs. William Kay, Mrs. Sophie Harris, Mrs. A.B. Gunzendorfer, Mrs. Annie Tower, Mrs. Jennie Kilpatrick, Mrs. Bertha Brick, Mrs. Clara Zimmerman, Mrs. Nina Moore, Mrs. W.H. Davies, Mrs. H. Mcl. Porter, Mrs. Catharine Fisk, Mrs. E.T. Erb, Mrs. C.P. Carmody, Mrs. L. McConnell, Mrs. M. McGowan, Miss Anita Pardee, Miss M. Doud, Mrs. W.T. Read, Mrs. E.B. Hall, Mrs. L. Manlock, Mrs. Charles Barber, Mrs. C. Casper, Mrs. A.G. Metz, Mrs. C.W. Peterson, Mrs. Amy Bickford Hooke, Miss Margaret Jacks, Mrs. D.W.W. Johnson, Mrs. Kruger and Mrs. C.D. Henry."

On March 19, 1937, the club celebrated its thirty-first birthday, and in a newspaper clipping of that date I find that Mrs. B.D. Marx Greene was the president of the club. Mrs. Mary Farrell was the hostess chairman for the occasion. During the afternoon the late Carroll

Sandholdt sang a group of songs, accompanied by Mrs. Reuban L. Serrano, who now resides in Tucson, Arizona.

In another clipping, yellow with age, for it was printed in 1907, there appears this story: "The Monterey Civic Club met in the rooms of the Merchants' Association with an encouraging number of members present. Mrs. David Roderick, the president, presided.

"The report of the committee on the Civic Club ball at Hotel Del Monte was called for and listened to with a great deal of satisfaction by the ladies of the club. The committee gave a detailed account of the receipts and disbursements and after presenting the club with all receipts for bills paid, turned over to the treasury of the club \$214.65.

"A vote of thanks was given to the committee and to the management of Hotel Del Monte, who threw open their lovely rooms and furnished the music free of charge to the ladies, and to the employees of the place, who did so much for the comfort and enjoyment of the guests."

"Also to the lady patronesses, the press of Monterey, Ross Sargent, the efficient floor manager, and the young men who acted as his assistants and on the reception committee, and to Martin Birks, who greatly assisted the ladies at the door.

"Mrs. J.D. Dobbins, chairman of the garbage committee, gave a lengthy report on the work being done by the committee. A great deal of valuable information has been collected relating to the dumping of garbage in Monterey, and copies of the ordinances bearing on the subject have also been secured. The club will endeavor to secure receptacles to be placed along the main streets in town in which can be placed papers, peelings and litter of all sorts.

"The 14th of March being Luther Burbank's birthday and the State Arbor Day (have we now forgotten both?) Mrs. Maude kindly offered to furnish the club with forty trees to plant in Monterey on that day. Her offer was accepted with thanks and a committee appointed to look into the best possible place to plant these trees and to decide upon the variety.

Mrs. Walter Baylor Hill and Mrs. Charles Clark, who were in Monterey to make arrangements for a Daughters of the Confederacy convention, were guests of the club.

In March of 1907 the annual election of officers was held and according to another old clipping the following officers were unanimously elected: president, Mrs. H. McIver Porter; first vice-president, Mrs. J.R. Dobbins; second vice-president, Mrs. Jennie Kilpatrick; third vice-president, Mrs. David Roderick; recording secretary, Mrs. Davies; financial secretary, Mrs. Charles Few; treasurer, Mrs. McGowan. After the new officers had taken their seats a rising vote of thanks was given Mrs. Roderick for the efficient manner in which she had conducted the club during its first year, as president. Mrs. Roderick responded with a few pleasant words."

Mrs. Roderick was the grandmother of Mrs. F. L. Knudsen of High street in Monterey, and Mrs. Few was the donor, with her husband, of the Few Memorial buildings in Colton Hall park.

In following columns we will tell more of the history of the club and of the House of Four Winds, the clubhouse.