

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Hospitals

Dr. Garth Parker was the speaker at a recent meeting of the Monterey County Historical Society held at the home of Mrs. F.S. Baker in Salinas, at which time he reviewed the history of the medical profession in Monterey County.

Dr. Parker began his talk with the statement that few people know that the first private hospital in Monterey County was erected in Castroville. It was a three-story frame building situated just about where the moving picture house is now located. Dr. John Parker, father of Dr. Garth Parker, commenced practice in Castroville in 1874 and he states in his notes that the hospital existed before his arrival. The first Masonic lodge in the county was organized July 15, 1869, according to a Herald story on March 23, and met in the hospital of Dr. E.J. Martin, just outside of Castroville, on the road to Moss Landing.

The next private hospital was the Salinas Valley Sanitarium opened in 1903. It was part of the old Globe hotel which stood on the corner of San Luis and Pajaro streets, according to Dr. Parker. One wing of the hotel was cut off and moved down San Luis street, just about where Dr. Rollin Reeves' office is at the present time in Salinas. The other wing was on the corner of San Luis and Pajaro streets and they used that part of the old frame hotel as a hospital.

In 1907 Jim Bardin built the Bardin hospital which was a private benevolent institution; this afterward was sold to Dr. Murphy, who had it moved to its present location. Dr. Murphy then built the Park Lane Hospital and later sold it to a corporation.

The Monterey hospital is a private institution. After the Grace Deere Velie hospital was erected, it was turned over to a corporation and is so operated.

The Monterey County Hospital was first built in Santa Rita by Dr. Samuel Hilton Archer, the grandfather of Mrs. K. Hovden of Monterey. He was hired by the county in 1872 to operate it. Dr. Archer afterward sold the building to the county and the buildings were moved over to the present site. The present Monterey County Hospital cost \$167,000. Years ago, according to Dr. Parker, the building of a new hospital was discussed that would have cost, at that time, \$6,000; the proposed new hospital will now cost \$22,000 a bed.

"In June of 1856, Dr. J.L. Ord and Dr. John Callaghan began practice in Monterey. According to a news item of that date, it also "marked the end of the Belcher Roach Vendetta", stated Dr. Parker. Dr. Ord was the brother of General Ord for whom Fort Ord was named. He married Dona Angustias Jimeno, following the death of her husband. Don Jimeno was the builder of the first convent in Monterey which stood where the San Carlos garage and the Moose building now stand. Dr. Callaghan married Engracia Munras.

Dr. Archer started in Monterey, and later moved to Salinas to practice. One of the first doctors to practice in Salinas was Dr. E.J. Martin who had also practiced in Castroville and in Monterey. Dr. Parker bought out Dr. Martin about 1900. Dr. Tuttle and Dr. Oliver Smith Trimmer were early time Monterey County physicians, both started in Salinas and later came to the Peninsula.

Dr. Trimmer was the great-uncle-in-law of Mrs. Winifred Beaumont of Pacific Grove. Mrs. Beaumont's father, Charles Kirkham Tuttle, one of Pacific Grove's first druggists, opened a drug store in Salinas when he was a young man of nineteen years, for J.B. Scott.

Dr. Tuttle was a chemist. He has been credited, according to Dr. Parker, with the discovery and development of TNT, and received \$40,000 from a powder concern for his formula. Later, Dr. Tuttle moved to Northern California. There was no relationship between Dr. Tuttle and Charles Tuttle.

All of these early doctors were Civil War veterans, Dr. Parker told his audience. One of the most promising of the ex-army doctors was Dr. Archer. He had charge of the county hospital and his only office in town was an old hack. If you had any complaints you would find Dr. Archer waiting in his hack which would be situated about where the present PG&E building is in Salinas.