

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 18, 1950

Red Cross Formed Here for War of '98

Miss Lou Henry, who later became Mrs. Herbert Hoover and still later became the first lady of the land when her husband was elected President of the United States, was the first temporary chairman of the Monterey-Pacific Grove chapter of the American Red Cross. The meeting over which she presided was held Tuesday afternoon, June 7, 1898, at the residence of Mrs. Hoover's mother, Mrs. C.D. Henry.

The minutes of that meeting are still preserved in the safe of the Red Cross chapter in Monterey. According to the record a committee of young ladies who had been duly authorized and empowered by Mrs. W.B. Harrington and Mrs. L.L. Dunbar, the president and secretary of the California Red Cross State Association, to organize a Red Cross society to embrace the district of Monterey and Pacific Grove. Miss V.A.L. Jones was chosen as temporary secretary.

At the meeting the following officers were elected: president, Miss M.A. Jacks; first vice president, Mrs. R.L. Sandwick; second vice president, Miss Grace Hollenbeck; secretary, Miss Jones; treasurer, Miss Lou Henry.

Miss Jacks reported that on the previous Saturday she had carried 97 bandages and a quantity of surgical dressings as a donation from herself, Miss Henry and Miss Jones, to the Red Cross headquarters in San Francisco. She also conferred with the president, Mrs. Harrington, as to the needs of the soldiers taking part in the Spanish-American War.

Plans for the following days' work were laid as follows: to secure headquarters for each town, to interest the ladies of the two towns in the necessary Red Cross work, to obtain material at once on abdominal bandages and to secure subscriptions for the Red Cross.

On June 15th, 1898, the following executive committee was elected to serve with the officers: Mrs. Hollenbeck, Mrs. B.A. Eardley, Mrs. Ella S. Gay, Mrs. J.A. Pell, Mrs. P.G. Deninger and Mrs. A.W. Jones, for Pacific Grove, and Mrs. David Jacks, Rev. R.M. Mestres, Mrs. T.J. Field, Mrs. E.A. Fish, Mrs. M.M. Gragg and Mrs. W.W. James for Monterey.

The first annual meeting of the Monterey-Pacific Grove chapter of the American Red Cross was held in the

Pacific Grove headquarters on Tuesday, October 4, 1898 at 2:30 p.m. There were 43 persons present. The following resolution was offered by Mrs. B.C. Winston and after being read, was unanimously adopted and ordered read upon the minutes:

"Whereas: Our President, Margaret A. Jacks, has endeared herself to the members of the Monterey-Pacific Grove Red Cross League by her untiring efforts in behalf of the same, that through it hundreds of our brave boys who are fighting for the rights of humanity and for the honor and protection of our beloved land may and have been benefited, both spiritually and physically, and by her efficiency and enthusiasm has aroused interest in the League among our citizens, which we feel has been a benefit to the community, binding hearts together in one common cause, and helping all men to feel that they are brothers:

"Resolved: That we, the members of the Red Cross League in annual business meeting assembled, tender our hearty appreciation and sincere thanks and pledge our loyalty, sympathy and aid for future efforts in the relief of suffering humanity."

Miss Margaret Jacks was that year the unanimous choice of the membership to act as delegate to the convention of the State Red Cross meeting. In reading the minutes through October, 1905, I still find that Miss Jacks was president of the group and still being elected delegate to the convention.

At the same annual meeting Miss Margaret Jacks was again elected president, Mrs. Ella S. Gay, vice president; Mrs. M.M. Gragg, 2nd vice president; Miss Jones, secretary, and Mrs. W.W. James, treasurer.

In the annual report of the president, Mr. C. Underwood was thanked for his donation of the large rooms on Alvarado Street for the headquarters, and Mr. B.A. Eardley of the P.I. Company for the use of the "Old Parlor."

On May 25, 1898, delegates from the various leagues throughout the state met in San Francisco and organized the California Red Cross, State Association. On August 1 there were 89 auxiliaries enrolled including altogether about 20,000 members, and \$90,000 had been collected in the state to finance the program. The state association was reorganized as an auxiliary to the American National Red Cross.