

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

July 19, 1950

Red Cross Work in Disasters of the Past

The Spanish-American War being over, the headquarters of the Red Cross Society were given up in Pacific Grove and goods on hand were packed and stored away, according to the report submitted by the chairman, Mrs. E.S. Gay, on October 11, 1899.

On October 2, 1900, the annual meeting of the Monterey-Pacific Grove Red Cross Society was held in the Old Pacific Hall with Miss Margaret Jacks, the president, presiding. The war was over but another disaster needed their support. The Rev. H.S. Snodgrass presented the following resolution:

"Whereas: God in his providence has permitted a sorrowful disaster to fall upon the citizens of Galveston, Texas, and as the Red Cross is represented by Miss Clara Barton, the national president, now on the field at Galveston, and as this local Red Cross desires to assist in the good work of providing for the injured, the homeless and destitute at that place. Therefore, be it resolved: That \$15.00 of our funds be sent to the California Red Cross to be forwarded to the proper place through the proper channel." The resolution was changed to read \$25, and was then unanimously passed.

Still active although but with a handful of members, the Monterey-Pacific Grove Red Cross held a special meeting on April 20, 1906, at the home of Miss Jacks to answer another call for help – the great San Francisco fire and earthquake had taken place two days previously. Present at this special meeting of the executive committee were: Mrs. M.M. Gragg, Mrs. P.G. Denninger, Mrs. W.W. James, Mrs. R.C. Sargent, Mrs. E.A. Fish, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mrs. J.A. Pell.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a committee be appointed to canvass Monterey and Pacific Grove for rooms, clothing and money to be used in caring for the homeless people from San Francisco. Mrs. James was appointed the chairman of the committee in Monterey and Mrs. Denninger for Pacific Grove. Mrs. Gragg was appointed for Monterey and Mrs. Eardley for Pacific Grove to secure headquarters in each town. It was also voted to that a group be assigned to secure suitable quarters to be used as a hospital and to see the doctors and nurses in each town as to the time they could give

their services in caring for the sick. Mrs. R.C. Sargent and Mrs. J.A. Pell were to act in this matter.

Miss Jacks was to confer with the Merchants' Association in Monterey and the city trustees of Pacific Grove to let them know that the local Red Cross stood ready to assist them in their relief work in caring for the refugees rendered homeless by the great disaster.

On May 7, 1906, it was reported at a special meeting of the executive committee that a large quantity of garments and bedding had been shipped from both Monterey and Pacific Grove. Four shipments had been made containing 78 comforters and during the week before the meeting the women of Pacific Grove had made 160 garments for women and children.

Since these first minutes of the Monterey-Pacific Grove chapter were written, there have been other wars, other disasters and other calls for help. The chapter has grown in size and importance and there is more and more work to be done as the days go by. Most important of many Red Cross activities at the present time is probably the blood procurement program, sponsored jointly by the Monterey-Pacific Grove and the Carmel chapters and a medical advisory committee.

Mrs. Walter Anderson and Paul Whitman are chairmen of the Monterey-Pacific Grove and Carmel chapters respectively. Once each month the motor unit of the San Jose Blood Procurement Program of the American Red Cross comes to Monterey in order that local citizens may have the opportunity to take part in this important activity Blood donors are asked to call for an appointment for the next visit of the motor unit on July 27 at the YMCA building on El Estero from 10:45 a.m. until 2 o'clock. Telephone Monterey 2-5951 or Carmel 7-6921.

Mrs. F.L. Knudsen is assistant chairman of the blood program for the Monterey-Pacific Grove American Red Cross chapter. Others interested as chairmen in the various activities of the chapter are: Mrs. Charles Harris, Grey Ladies; Mrs. Henry Tiedeman, Mrs. Angus Griffin, canteen; Mrs. Harold McLean, volunteer services; Mrs. George MacDonald, production; Mrs. John Payson Adams, Mrs. Jessie Caffee, Motor Corps; Wayne Greenfield, first aid; Frank Young, water safety; Mrs. Lloyd Busby, home service; M.R. Gragg, disaster relief; Mrs. Paul Clemons, Junior Red Cross; Mrs. Hugh Dormody, radio, and Mrs. William O'Donnell, publicity;

Mrs. Cecelia Flickinger, nurses recruitment; William Stahl, fund raising.

The next regular meeting of the Red Cross board of directors of the Monterey-Pacific Grove chapter, will be held at the Country Club with a business session followed by a luncheon and a speaker on a topic of interest to the Red Cross worker.