

October 1, 1951

Community Chest Up to Now

The history of the founding of the Monterey Peninsula Community Chest must of necessity start with the American Legion, for it was that group who first aroused interest in 1928 in establishing a Chest on the Peninsula. But the first organization to take place was when a general committee was formed in 1929 to put on a campaign for funds. The by-laws were accepted June 23rd, 1930 and a board of trustees elected.

Dates for the first campaign were set for March and April of 1929 when the total collections were \$16,115.54 and the disbursements were \$15,229.36. The Chest had been endorsed by the Neighbors' Club, Pacific Grove; Women's Civic Club of both Monterey and Pacific Grove, Monterey Improvement Club, American Legion, Exchange, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs and the Elks.

The first General Committee, appointed for the first campaign for funds were E.H. Tickle, general chairman; W.A. Irvine, New Monterey; Dr. J.J. Williams, Pacific Grove; W.L. Overstreet, Carmel; Jack Beaumont, Del Monte; Ed Bentley, East Monterey; A.G. Metz, Monterey and W.J. Crabbe, publicity.

At first there was no paid secretary and it was not until a couple of years later that Miss Effa Spencer of Carmel became a part time secretary and spent two hours a day attending to the duties of the office which was finally established in the Few Memorial building with the entrance on Madison street. She remained until 1936 when Mrs. Marian Boke Todd took over and has carried on the program since that time. The staff was enlarged after the war when the family service program was added.

E.H. Tickle and Allen Griffin called on the officers of the various organizations to be included in the Chest, of which they were: Salvation Army, Pacific Grove Relief, Boy and Girl Scouts, Red Cross and the St. Vincent de Paul of San Carlos Church, Humane Society and Army and Navy YMCA.

We find in the minutes of June 13, 1929, that the Council of the Chest met and proceeded with the organization of a permanent Community Chest for the Monterey Peninsula. E.H. Tickle, the temporary chairman, presided. Allen Griffin suggested that a board

of governors be elected from the temporary council and Col. Baer of the Presidio of Monterey, seconded the motion. The following were elected to this, the first board of trustees of the Chest: Ed Bentley, Ray De Yoe, Carmel; Col. Roger S. Fitch, Presidio; W.M. McMenamin, A.C. Metz, Mrs. T.C. Edwards, Pacific Grove; and William Fiddes of Pacific Grove. On the advisory board were S.F.B. Morse, chairman; Allen Griffin, Mrs. Paul Hunter, A.T. Skerry Jr., and T.A. Work.

The Chest had become such an important necessity by June 1930 – a constitution and by-laws had been adopted and amended – that it became time to elect permanent officers. A list of trustees, nominated by the service clubs and women's organizations, was read. The 25 elected to service until the following April were Mesdames J. C. Anthony and Joseph Schoeninger and the late Mesdames T.C. Edwards, C.B. Hinckley, and Miss Lillian Ayres; G.H. Burnette, Dr. C.F. Curry, Edward David, G.W. Eckhardt, W.J. Gould, W.A. Irvine, Herbert G. Mayes, J.W. Willington, A.G. Metz, E.H. Tickle, and the late Dr. H.G. Wetherill, J.A. Trowbridge, G.E. Ryker, J.P. Pryor, Dr. Martin McAulay, A.C. Jochmus, Herbert Hume, Louis Goldstine, R.C. De Yoe, Charles M. Brown.

E.H. Tickle was elected first president, Mrs. J.C. Anthony, vice president; Dr. C.F. Curry, second vice president and J.W. Millington, treasurer.

At the annual meeting in 1931, Miss Spencer, the secretary, made her first report of the activities of the Chest. During the year the first social service exchange was set up and the records of families receiving chest aid was kept for the first time, thus doing away with the former duplication of relief work among the agencies. At the time of the report there were on file 382 families and another of 408 transients who had appealed for help and had received something, ranging from a meal to a grocery order, in addition to 43 applicants for work. The service clubs of the Peninsula provided for the milk fund in the schools and the PTA was added to the list of sponsors of the Chest in 1931. At the January meeting in 1931 the Monterey Peninsula Community Chest became a member of the National Association of Community Chests by the payment of one-tenth of one per cent of its budget to the Association of Community Chests and Councils.

Presidents of the Community Chest during the years since its incorporation have been E.H. Tickle 1929, 1930 and 1931; Dr. H.G. Wetherill, 1932; W.J. Gould, 1933; Edward David, 1934; R.H. Partridge, 1935; P.J.

Dougherty 1936; W.J. Crabb, 1937; Mrs. Peter Hay, 1936; Dr. D.T. McDougal, 1939; Robert Stanton, 1941, 1942; Mark Keller, 1944, 1945; William J. Fosset, 1947; Jack Morse, 1948; A.G. Fry, 1949; John J. Redhead, 1950, and Dan Searle, incumbent.