

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 9, 1951

### Happy Birthday

Twenty-five years ago on April 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of business men of the Monterey Peninsula gathered together in the basement of the San Carols Hotel to form the first Kiwanis International club in this area. There were thirty-five prospective members present from Camel and Monterey, Pacific Grove not being listed for some unknown reason. The anniversary of that event of a quarter of a century ago, will be observed with all proper ceremony and honors will be bestowed at the regular luncheon meeting on Wednesday at the Casa Munras.

It is interesting to recall to memory the Monterey of twenty-five years ago. There was but one service club, the Rotary Club, organized two years before in Monterey. Since that time the Lions, Exchange, Business and Professional Women's Club, the Soroptimists, and several others have come into being.

The Old Custom House was closed up tight except for the regular meetings of the Native Sons and Daughters and the building and reservation then belonged to the Federal Government. The First Theater was a gift shop and museum, the House of Gold was privately owned, and the Stevenson House was threatened with destruction under private ownership. Colton Hall, where the Constitution of the State was drafted and signed was not open to the public as it is now, there was no breakwater extending into the bay and the municipal wharf was beginning to be a realization. Monterey has progressed.

### NEW CLUB LAUNCHED

And so it was that a group of men, with the ideals of Kiwanis International in mind enthusiastically launched a new service club, which was chartered on October 23, 1926. When the club was organized, the previous April, Kiwanis International had been in existence only eleven years. Since that date, when it had 95,372 members, the organization has increased its membership to more than 200,000 business and professional leaders in 3,200 clubs.

Albert F. Randolph is chairman for the special meeting Wednesday. Boyd Beall, Monterey postmaster and a member of the Board of Director will introduce Walter Hahn, city manager and speaker of the day. Four

charter members, whose names are still on the roster, will be honored – Arthur Metz, Ray Baugh, Edward Peterson and Myron Oliver.

It will be interesting to repeat here the list of organizing members and their qualifications for membership. The late Albert W. Files, real estate was the first president. Members signing the charter were: A. D'Acquisto, Del Monte Fishing Company; Frank Jacobs, Monterey Investment Company; William N. Varien, barber; William Parker, American Railway Express Company; Ray Baugh, Monterey Furniture Company; Edward Peterson, garage; Arthur Metz, Monterey Investment Com.; J.C. Anthony, building contractor; W.E. Allen, shoe store; A.M. Allen, Monterey Canning Company; John S. Becker, musician; William B. Cowley, dry goods; H.D. Fagan, lawyer; Earl L. Files, engineer; H.V. Follette, shoe store; Frederick Godwin, La Playa Hotel, Carmel; J.W. Gillogly, grocer; Louis Goldstine, dry goods; Edward W. Gould, manufacturer; W.C. Gretter drugs; Dr. William Gratiot, physician; Romie C. Jacks, subdivider; Mark Kinsey, newspaper; C.W. Logan, capitalist; W.T. Lee, printing; Dr. Martin McAulay, physician; Myron Oliver, artist; W.L. Overstreet, newspaper, Carmel; S.W. Ollason, ranches; J.P. Pryor, real estate; Ross Sargent, abstracts; David Schwatz, dry goods; John L. Steward, postmaster; R.C. Section, manager telephone company; Louis Simonson, architect; C.E. Tupper, credit association; Dr. W.L. Teaby, physician; Emery L. Valley, landscape engineer; Benjamin F. Wright, druggist; and Gail L. Chandler, men's clothing.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The club has grown with the years, both in membership and activities in the community and now has a membership of over 80 men. It has sponsored clubs in Salinas, King City, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Carmel Valley and was itself sponsored by the Watsonville club. Stephen G. Magyar is the 1951 president of the Monterey Club and Don H. Murdock of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, is the president of Kiwanis International.

During the 25 years of the Kiwanis Club's existence in Monterey its membership has fostered all activities for serving youth, the underprivileged, the handicapped, and in all public affairs for the betterment of the Peninsula at large.