

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

November 6, 1959

### **First Red Cross**

Last in a series of two

The Monterey chapter of the American Red Cross was formed here for the War of 1898 by a group of the most prominent women in the community at that time. 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 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 Association respectively, 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, 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 day's work were laid out 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 to the Red Cross.

On June 15th, 1898, the following executive committee was selected to serve with the officers: Mrs. Hollenbeck, Mrs. B. A. Eardley, Mrs. Ella S. Gay, Mrs. J. A. Pell, Mrs. P. G. Denlinger 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 Monterey-Pacific Grove chapter of the American Red Cross was held in the Pacific Grove headquarters on Tuesday, Oct 4, 1898 at 2:30 pm. There were 43 persons present. The following resolution was offered by Mrs. B. C. Winston and after being read, was unanimously adopted, and ordered spread 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, and 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 to future efforts in the relief of suffering humanity."