

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Tribute

With the passing of Miss Margaret Jacks an era also has passed. She was one of the most kindly, dependable, friendly, and generous persons I have ever known. To work with her in the Monterey History and Art Assn., the Monterey Foundation and other walks of life in the City of Monterey, was a privilege and a pleasure, for she was always fair and square in all her decisions and discussions - and who can dispute these words?

The City of Monterey, many organizations and her hundreds of friends are going to miss her more and more as the days, months and years go by for when a crisis arose and help was needed and needed at once, it was then that Miss Margaret Jacks was standing by to help. Let's not forget her and continue to give thanks that such a person lived in our midst.

It came to my memory recently when I was walking through the Friendly Plaza to attend the reenactment of the signing of the State Constitution in Colton Hall, presented by the eighth grade of Walter Colton School, that a number of years ago the three beautiful redwood trees standing near the wall on Pierce street within a hand's throw of Colton Hall, once were named in honor of the three sisters, L. M. and V. Jacks. Maybe that would be an appropriate place to place an historic marker in their memory.

A few days after Miss Margaret's death, a San Francisco newspaper writer printed this tribute entitled "The Fruitful Land":

"When the will of Margaret Jacks was filed in Monterey last week, it was disclosed that the bulk of her estate - possibly involving millions - will go to Stanford University.

"Miss Jacks died at 87. She was the last surviving member of the family of David Jacks, her father. The story of David Jacks exactly parallels that of California statehood. Arriving in Monterey in 1850, he had a 'land itch'. At the peak of his career he had sole ownership of the area now including Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, Marina and Fort Ord.

"Now the estate accumulated from the rich properties will go largely back into public domain, but in a sense that stirs the imagination. Miss Jacks has channeled her heritage into the lives of people not yet born. These

people will help shape the course of human history, some of them in a major way.

"The fruitful land had made life good for Miss Jacks' farsighted father, and for his heirs on into the days when she was the last. Contemplating death, she sought a way to make it perpetually fruitful for all Californians, but especially for the men and women of many generations who will find the skills and wisdom in Stanford's halls that will serve humanity.

"In a way, the good land of Monterey County has come full circle. David Jacks found it a primitive land of incomparable beauty. He made it serve his vision and industry. Now, through the deep insight of his daughter, the ultimate value of the region over which he once ruled goes far beyond his concept of land's worth and man's enrichment."

I was pleased that the mayor and council of Monterey passed a resolution in Miss Jacks' memory and recorded it in the minutes. Who deserves such an honor more?