

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 3, 1967

Our First Hospital

Very few people probably know that the first private hospital in Monterey County was erected in Castroville. It was a three-story frame building situated just about where the moving picture house is now located.

The late Dr. Garth Parker of Salinas gave a talk before the Monterey County Historical Society on April 6, 1950, on the early doctors and hospitals. I was present and took notes on the valuable historical information he presented to the society that evening.

Dr. Parker's father, commenced practice in Castroville in 1874 and he states in his notes that the hospital existed before his arrival.

The first Masonic Lodge in the county was organized July 15, 1869, and met in the hospital of Dr. E.J. Martin, just outside the village on the road to Moss Landing.

The next private hospital was the Salinas Valley Sanitarium opened in 1903. It was part of the old Globe hotel which stood on the same corner of San Luis and Pajaro streets. One wing of the hotel was cut off and moved down San Luis street, just about where Dr. Rollin Reeves' office was later built. The other wing was on the corner of San Luis and Pajaro streets and they used that part of the frame hotel as a hospital.

In 1907, Jim Bardin built the Bardin Hospital which was a private benevolent institution; this afterward was sold to Dr. Murphy, who had it moved. Dr. Murphy then build the Park Lane hospital and later sold it to a corporation.

The Monterey Hospital is a private institution. After the Grace Deere Velie hospital was erected, (formerly the Carmel Community Hospital) it was turned over to a corporation.

The Monterey County General hospital was built in Santa Rita by Dr. Samuel Archer. He was hired by the county in 1872 to operate it. Dr. Archer afterward sold the buildings to the county and they were moved over to the present site. The present Monterey County hospital cost \$167,000. Years ago, according to Dr. Parker, the buildings of the new hospital was discussed that would have cost, at that time \$6,000 a bed.

In June of 1896, Dr. J. I. Ord and Dr. John Callaghan began practice in Monterey. According to a news item

of that date, it also "marked the end of the Belcher-Roach Vendetta". Dr. Ord was the brother of General Ord for whom Fort Ord was named. He married Dona Augustine Jimeno following the death of her husband. Don Jimeno was the builder of the first convent in Monterey which stood where the San Carlos garage is now. Dr. Callaghan married Engracia Munras.

Dr. Archer started in Monterey and later moved to Salinas to practice. One of the first doctors to practice in Salinas was Dr. E.J. Martin who had also practiced in Castroville and in Monterey. Dr. Parker bought out Dr. Martin about 1900. Dr. Tuttle and Dr. Oliver Smith Trimmer were early time Monterey County physicians. Both started in Salinas and later came to the Peninsula.

Dr. Trimmer was the great-uncle-in-law of Mrs. Winifred Beamont and Mrs. Gladys Fox. Their father was Charles Tuttle, one of Pacific Grove's first druggists who opened a drug store in Salinas when he was a young man of nineteen years.

Dr. Tuttle was a chemist. He had been credited, according to Dr. Parker, with the discovery and development of TNT, and received \$40,000 from a powder concern for his formula. Later, Dr. Tuttle moved to northern California. There was no relationship between Dr. Tuttle and Charles Tuttle.

(To be continued.)