

THE BOARD AND BATTEN

Newsletter of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society

December 1994 / January 1995



C. K. Tuttle photo

Mrs. Emily Tuttle

Miss Emily Youman, a daughter of Thaddeus Youman and a niece of Dr. O. S. Trimmer, married C. K. Tuttle on July 25, 1888. Mr. Tuttle was a well-known druggist and civic leader of early Pacific Grove. Emily also became active in the civic affairs of Pacific Grove. Mrs. Tuttle was on the Board of Directors of the Woman's Civic Club when it was incorporated on October 14, 1907. She died on Oct. 17, 1928.

This issue contains part one of a two part story on the early years of the Woman's Civic Club in Pacific Grove. It was written by Sarah J. Diehl of Pacific Grove, one of our members.

Early Years of the Pacific Grove Women's Civic Club (1903-1910)

(The Pacific Grove newspapers from 1897-1910 provided the primary source of information for this article.)

by Sarah J. Diehl

Early Pagrovians could thank a dedicated group of women for many of the town's improvements, including beautiful parks, street signs, and street lights. In February 1903, Julia Platt, Mrs. M. A. Chase, and 14 other ladies formed the Woman's Civic Improvement Club; Miss Platt served as the first president. Some histories of the Club date the beginning to 1897; but the Club's founder Julia Platt was completing a Ph.D. in Germany that year. The Club was not mentioned in the Pacific Grove newspaper until 1903 when its founding was announced. Subsequent articles dated the founding in 1903. The Club joined the ranks of women's civic improvement organizations around the United States. The founding members invited "all ladies who are interested in the improvement of the Grove to meet with them" once a month in Robson Hall. They set the dues at the "small sum" of .10 cents a month.

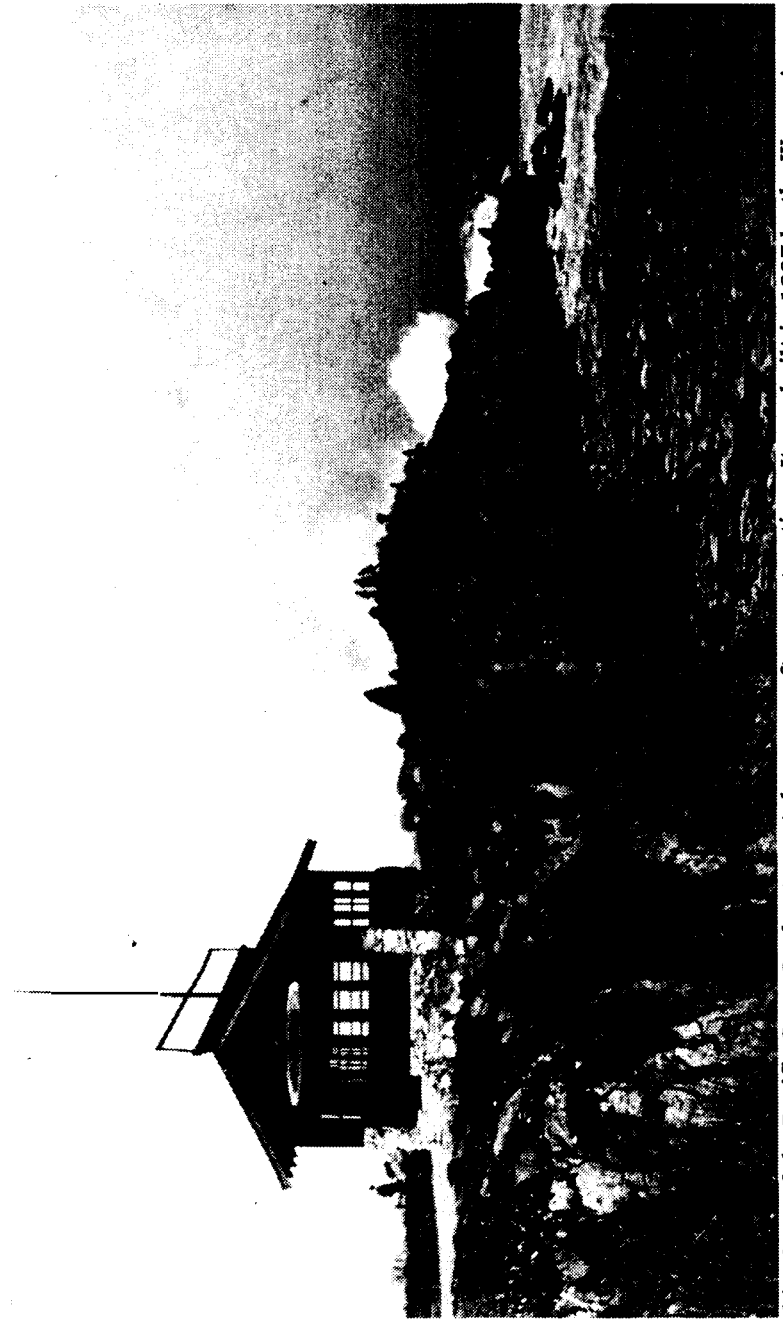
In October 1907, the Club, renamed the "Woman's Civic Club," was formally incorporated. As stated in the articles of incorporation, the objectives of the Club were "to beautify the town and surroundings and to preserve its natural beauties" and "to encourage the cooperation of the women of the city in the work." By 1908, the Club had grown to 105 members, who met 28 times a year in pursuit of a safer and more beautiful town.

Club Projects

From the start, the Club tackled Pacific Grove's garbage problem. The Club successfully lobbied the City Trustees for an ordinance preventing vacant lots and parks from being used as garbage dumps and requiring all garbage to be kept in covered containers. The Club then hired men to bury 15-20 years of rubbish that had accumulated on some vacant lots. Periodically from 1903-1909, a committee appeared before the Board of Trustees to ask that the ordinance be enforced more vigorously.

Another of the Club's early projects-street signs-made possible the town's free mail system. In June 1906, the City Trustees requested the Club's help, and by February 1907, Mrs. Nagle, the head of the Club's street sign committee reported that 213 signs would be needed at a cost of \$180. The Club raised the money and placed all the signs by March 1908.

(Continued)



This photo of the Pacific Grove Lookout was taken soon after construction. It was built in 1907 by the Woman's Civic Club. The sign above the door reads: "Vista Station". Soon afterwards steps were added down to the beach and the area around it became surrounded by dahlia gardens.

The Club's Secretary reported that "...due to Mrs. Tuttle, Mrs. Walkington, and Mrs. Nagle...Pacific Grove enjoys the great privilege and convenience of free mail delivery. These ladies personally superintended the placing of posts and street signs, even painting some themselves, and although one of them (the heavyweight) had a bad fall, she only laughed at her scratches...."

Club members also rolled up their sleeves and planted flowers and trees throughout the town. Over several years, Club members cleared the weeds from the embankment on Lighthouse Avenue and planted calla lilies, mesembryanthemum, shrubs, and palms. In 1904, the Club started beautifying the waterfront and attempting to save the trees on Lighthouse Avenue as it was graded. In 1907, the Club invited the townspeople, especially the school children, to a shrub and seed planting. The Club also improved many of the local parks, cleaning up and planting Caledonia and Greenwood Parks, as well as developing a park at Lover's Point.

The development of the municipal beach and Lover's Point was an ongoing project. The Club supported the placing of stone steps to the beach and benches on Lover's Point, purchased plants for the park, and participated in many weeding and planting parties on the Point. In 1907, representatives of the Club and the City Trustees met with the public about the Club's plan for a lookout on Lover's Point. The proposed lookout was not without controversy, and the newspaper carried several letters to the editor pro and con on the proposal.

By April 1907, the Club had decided to build a lookout near the Japanese Tea garden [photo October/November 1993 issue], and selected plans prepared by a local architect Miss Emily Williams. The lookout had a stone foundation and was "artistically constructed of redwood lumber." In June 1907 the public was invited to the gala grand opening. Club members wore the Club's colors -orange and lemon- and refreshments were served in the bathhouse pavilion with a percentage of the proceeds going to the lookout. At the dedication, the Club hoped that the lookout would be restful and sheltered place for the weary and the "lover of beauty" to appreciate "the picturesqueness of our rocky coast." Unfortunately, in less than a year the benches in the lookout were vandalized, and the upkeep of the building was a frequent agenda item. (The building was finally donated and moved to the new SPCA shelter.) In addition to beautification projects, the Club undertook public safety projects. In 1908, the Club raised and pledged \$1,200 per year to cover one-half the cost of street lights for the town.

That same year, the Club raised funds for and supervised the installation of cement crosswalks at the intersection of Forest and Lighthouse Avenues, a project "highly commended by the public." In 1909, the Chief of the Fire Department requested the Club's help in obtaining better fire fighting equipment and facilities. The inadequacy of the town's equipment was demonstrated by the March 1910 fire that destroyed the Mayflower Church and all of its furnishings.

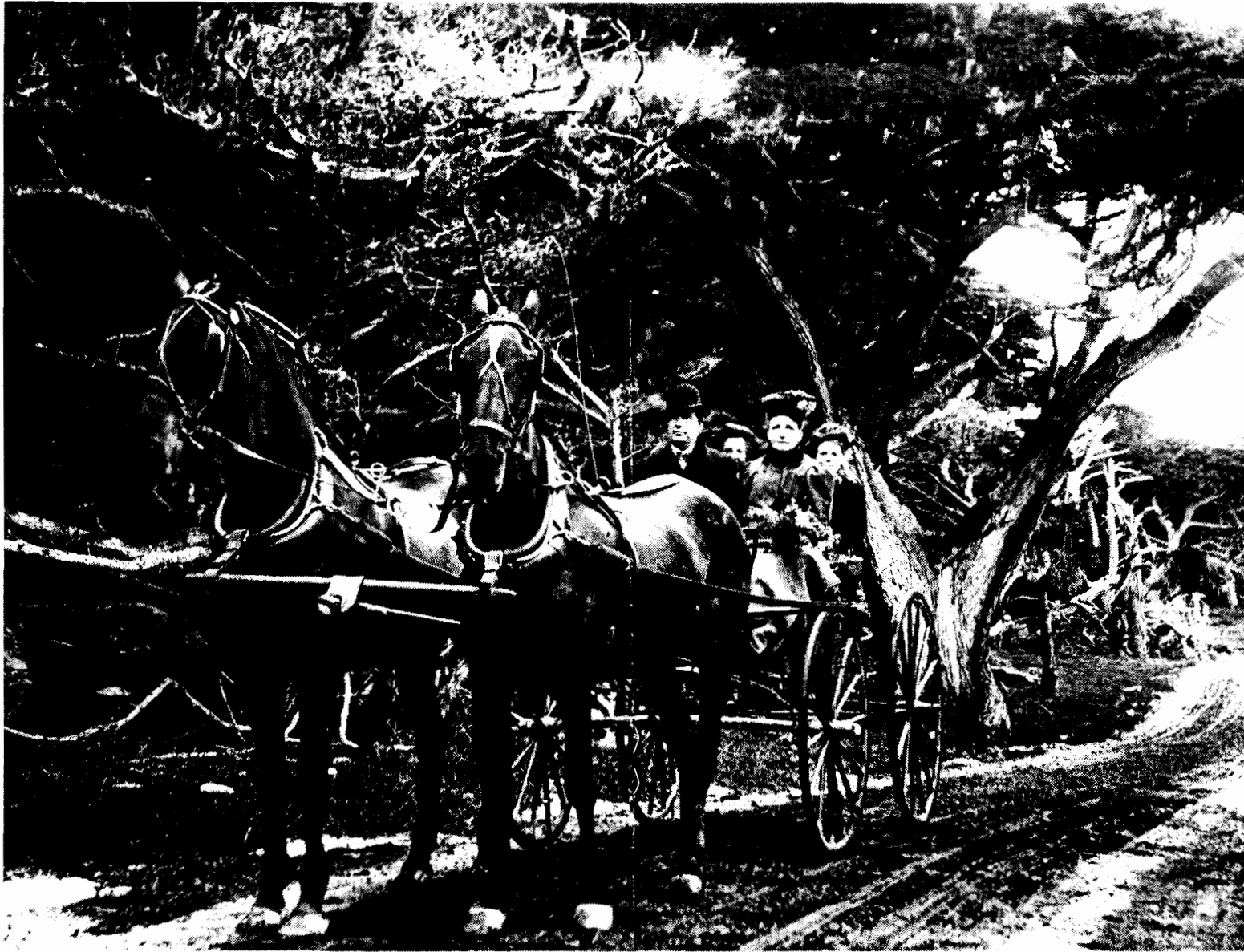
After that fire, the Club pursued the issue of better equipment with the City Trustees.

One of the Club's goals in its early years was to build a clubhouse of its own. Between 1903 and 1910, the Club met in T.A. Work & Co. Hall, Robson Hall, the El Carmelo Hotel, and members' homes. In 1908, the Club applied to the City to lease Greenwood Park for the purpose of erecting a clubhouse and beautifying the grounds. But, in 1910 the Club accepted the Museum Association's offer of three lots on Grand Avenue until such time as they should be needed by the Museum. The Club paid the Museum \$1 per year plus part of the property taxes for a 10-year lease. The Pacific Improvement Company donated two cottages to be moved to the site, and the Club accepted Miss Emily Williams' design for turning the cottages into a clubhouse.

The Club appointed several committees to oversee the design and furnishing of the clubhouse. They had hope to hold the cost of improvements to \$1,000 but that was found impossible, and they borrowed \$300 more. The exterior of the building was shingled. The interior contained two large rooms, with a small stage at the end of the main room, a ladies dressing room, a small kitchen and pantry, a dining room, and a storeroom in the attic. Mrs. William Adam directed the decorating of the rooms, and her husband, a local artist, donated a painting of a sand dune.

The formal opening of the clubhouse in December 1910 was one of the notable social events of the Grove." The Club secretary Mrs. Olmstead read a list of the work done by the ladies since the Club was formed seven years before. Mr. Burwell spoke on behalf of the Museum and noted that he would request the club ladies to put a flea in the ears of the City Trustees on behalf of the Museum. City Trustee Edward Berwick recognized the community works of the Club and rejoiced with them in the splendid hearth and noble home that they had built for themselves."

(Editor's note: This is the end of part one. Part 2 will be continued in our next issue.)



C.K. Tuttle, with his wife Emily and daughters Winnifred and Gladys, out for a drive on the 17 Mile Drive.

Photo Courtesy of Pat Hathaway

Down The Piney Path

News of old Pacific Grove from the Pacific Grove Review and the Monterey New Era (January - February 1901)

by E. C. Davis

- ◆ The Seventeen Mile Drive is being gravelled and put into first class condition.
- ◆ Jonathan Wright's pension has been increased from \$8 to \$12 per month. He is a Veteran of the Mexican War.
- ◆ Professor David Starr Jordan of Stanford University was down the first of the week.
- ◆ Three cottages on Forest Avenue and Lighthouse are to be moved to make room for the Work Block.
- ◆ A class for the study of English has been formed for the young ladies of Pacific Grove under the able direction of Professor Sandwick.
- ◆ Dr. Williams and Cecil Gretter bagged a number of fine fat pigeons while out hunting.
- ◆ Five students will graduate from the high school, only one of which from the Grove's ninth grade.
- ◆ Will Winston has left town with his trained seals in the Norris Bros. Circus.
- ◆ Mr. Eardley has departed for the P. I. Company's dam 30 miles up the Carmel. He will make a thorough inspection of the property for the purpose of making repairs.
- ◆ In the Washington's Birthday Cantata there are thirteen little girls in white, representing the original states; girls in red and blue representing thirty-two more states, and ten girls in Revolutionary costume. Thirty boys are dressed in Revolutionary costume, six as sturdy smiths, and six merry farmer boys. \$40 was raised to improve adjacent land to the school for a flower garden, to be done with the permission of the P.I. Company.

Pacific Grove High School is Accredited

Parents who are desiring to locate in Monterey County will be interested to know that Pacific Grove and Salinas have the only High Schools which are on the accredited list. As most people know, pupils who are graduated from an accredited school may enter the State University without an examination, while those from a school not so accredited must pass the examination.

(From the Daily Review of Aug. 9, 1906)

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Photo courtesy of Pat Hathaway

Woman's Civic Club building on Grand Avenue. It was built in 1910 and destroyed by fire in the 1960's.

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Trib Tidbits

(From **In This Corner** by J. A. Keppelman in The Pacific Grove Tribune of Oct 3 & 10, 1947)

ARAP ON THE wrist was in order this week for the Southern Pacific railroad whose crew on the evening train scheduled to arrive in Pacific Grove at 7:05 p.m. found it more convenient to rest over in Monterey about an hour so they could have supper there and then proceed to P.G. by about eight o'clock. No one would care except that passengers destined for Pacific Grove didn't like that hangover in Monterey when they had paid their way to P.G. and then had to get a Monterey taxi to drive them over here at an extra expense. The Southern Pacific was losing considerable good will not only from irate passengers but - more important - from the hundreds of bitter comments these passengers made around the Peninsula.

CARMEL ARTISTS this week were also upset again - badly upset. It just wasn't fair with all their experience and background to have a retired Pacific Grove Business man take first prize in the county fair art exhibit - and for the fifth time - and Pacific Grove being such a backward little town at that. But just the same, A. D. DeRome knew what the public liked (he had been a salesman earlier in life) and he was able to paint pictures that expressed more emotion and more reality than the scholastic brushes of the modern school over the hill. So this year again it was Pacific Grove and DeRome to whom top honors went in the field of art.

FROM THE GROVE theater comes a short story. During one of the tensest moments in a murder picture there recently, an elderly gentleman began groping for something on the floor to the great disturbance of a lady in the next seat. "What have you lost?", she inquired. "A caramel," he answered. "You mean to say you'd go to all that bother just for a caramel?" "Yes," he answered, "my teeth are in it."

New Style in Report Cards at Hi School

A new and improved report card will make its appearance at Pacific Grove High School next week when preliminary grades for the first five weeks come out. The new card is a result of the study made by the class counselors who feel that students' attitudes and work habits should be indicated as well as their class accomplishment.

Accordingly, for the first time, there will be a place on the card where teachers may mark a plus to designate that a student is outstanding or superior in responsibility, work habits and initiative.

(From the 10/03/47 Tribune)

Calendar of Events - 1995

- February 21: Annual membership meeting & election
- April 7: Quilt Show Preview Party
- April 8,9: Quilt Show
- April 8,9: Good Old Days Celebration downtown
- Mid May: Preservation Week Home Awards
- July 24-29: Feast of Lanterns
- October 14: Butterfly Parade
- October 8: 26th Annual Victorian Home Tour
- December 5: Christmas At The Inns

New Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Erin Marie Arnoldy | Harold LeRoy Smith |
| Cindy Daily | Jerre Hutchins |
| Kathy McKenna & Tim Jensen | G.W. & Andrea Robinson |
| Lisa Oates | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Olsen |

Share The Heritage With A Friend Annual Family Membership \$10.00

Members receive *The Board and Batten* newsletter of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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