



Elmarie's Legacy

- Elmarie Hurlbert Hyler Dyke left quite a legacy. She served on innumerable committees and organizations, and received countless awards and citations for her decades of work and community service. My Ahree was named by the Chamber the City's official Mrs. Pacific Grove and Honorary Fire Chief by the FDPG in 1966. She was quite a woman, and her accomplishments legendary – she left us so much more than the Feast of Lanterns.
- Elmarie was a member of and performer at the west coast Chautauqua Assembly, president of the Pacific Grove Retreat Association, a 1915 member of the first graduating class from Pacific Grove High School (now PG Middle School), a 1918 graduate of the San Jose Normal School, now San Jose State University. She taught music and art at Pine Street School (now Robert H. Down Elementary School) and for 32 years she was superintendant of the Monterey County School District comprised of over 30 schools spread throughout the County.
- During WWII she started the local chapter of the American Red Cross and was the first Councilwoman to serve on the Council for the City of Pacific Grove. Elmarie was a member and president of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. During her tenure as president she created the official design for California's State flag that was approved unanimously by the State Legislature in 1952.
- She was director of entertainment for the Monterey County Fair and founder of the Monterey Concert Association. As its director she brought such performers as The Vienna Boys Choir, The Von Trapp Family Singers, The Robert Joffrey Ballet, and Metropolitan Opera baritone Robert McFerrin to Pacific Grove. In doing so, she broke many racial barriers and norms that performers of color experienced across the country. Elmarie worked with Rev. Nance of the First Baptist Church to remove the restrictions that limited homeownership to one neighborhood for the African-American community in Pacific Grove. She also hosted her own daily radio program, "Then, Now and Tomorrow with Elmarie".
- Mrs. Pacific Grove lunched with presidents and governors and was a life-long friend with Chief Justice Earl Warren. She loved Pacific Grove and Pacific Grove loved her. Upon hearing of her death her City ordered its flag lowered to half staff and the California State Assembly adjourned in her honor.



Joanie Hyler co-exec director 1981



Elmarie & Clyde Dyke early 1960's



Feast of the Little Lanterns PGHS 1913, Elmarie (age 17) seated in the middle holding a fan