



MAUD YOUNGER Suffragist, Feminist, Labor Activist (1870-1936) Maud Younger was born in San Francisco, California, the daughter of a Scottish immigrant, dentist William John Younger. Her mother Anna Maria Lane, an heiress, died when Maud was twelve years old. It was a prosperous, well-connected family; two of her sisters married Austrian barons, and her father moved to Paris in 1900. Maud Younger was educated in San Francisco and New York.

At 31, she visited the New York College Settlement House, and began her work in activism. "I went to see it, stopped for a week, and stayed five years," she recalled.

Younger took up the cause of working women, she took several waitressing jobs to investigate working conditions in restaurants and joined the New York Waitresses' Union. She was referred to as "the millionaire waitress."

After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Younger went back to her hometown to pursue further work in labor organizing. She worked as a waitress to qualify for union membership, then organized the city's first Waitresses' Union.

Although she was a petite woman, she possessed an impressive oratory. She gave the keynote speech to the founding of Alice Paul's National Woman's Party, and the memorial oration for Inez Milhoulland Boissevan's funeral in Washington, D.C. She became the spokesperson for the National Woman's Party, and toured

America declaring the mandate of the Party. In step with Alice Paul's confrontational style, Maud Younger organized demonstrations, public meetings and pressured politicians by directing constituents to demand the Nineteenth Amendment from Congressmen. A powerful voice and a spirited leader.

After California women won suffrage in 1911, Younger worked for the eight-hour workday for women. Younger funded many of the legal aspects of this work, and was an impressive public face of the movement as well. At the 1911 Labor Day parade in San Francisco, she drove a float, a wagon pulled by six white horses.

In late 1920, Maud Younger drove across the country alone, with a dog named Sandy; this trip made her one of the first women to do a solo coast-to-coast drive across America, the very first being Anita King; the trip from San Francisco to Washington DC took 38 days, hampered by excessive rain. She arrived in Washington on 20 December 1920. After the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment secured the right to vote for American women, Younger (and others) turned to advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Younger died in 1936 from cancer in Los Gatos, California, at age 66.