
50th
Anniversary

1895



1945

MRS. JOSEPHUS BLACHLY
US 30, R. R. 4, Box 205
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

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Anniversary

1895

1945

50TH
ANNIVERSARY

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Valparaiso Woman's Club

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SARAH PORTER KINSEY MEMORIAL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA

~

Wednesday Evening, February 14, 1945
7:45 o'clock

INTRODUCTION

Fifty years ago a group of twenty-five Valparaiso women joined together for the purpose of mutual improvement through educational lines. From that beginning has grown the departmental Valparaiso Woman's Club.

This Club owns its own club house, known as the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial. It is governed by a Board of seventeen and a three-member House Committee, the Chairman of which is a Board member.

During the presidency of Mrs. Hinkle an effort was made to place on file photographs of all Past Presidents. In 1940 Mrs. Hauff appointed a History Committee to collect as much Club data as possible that it might too be filed. Following with this same idea your President continued with a History Committee for 1943-1945. In the fall of 1944 the Board voted to publish a Fiftieth Anniversary booklet, one for each Club member, that would be a history of the past fifty years in picture and story.

To Mrs. Grover J. Hinkle, Mrs. A. R. Putnam, and Mrs. May Fenton we are indebted for the procurement of photographs of all Past Presidents. Mrs. E. W. Chaffee, Mrs. C. H. DeWitt, Mrs. W. I. Wilson, and Mrs. Ira C. Tilton worked to make the history as complete as is possible in limited space.

Club women have ever done the thing which most needed doing and many of them have taken employment to release men for the armed forces. The Honor Roll of sons, daughters, and husbands of Club women, in the service of our country number seventy-five with six gold stars.

An Anniversary Gift of one hundred dollars is gratefully acknowledged from Miss Beulah Bondi of Hollywood, California, in memory of her mother, Mrs. A. O. Bondy, Charter Member. Miss Flora Reffelt, an ever generous Clubwoman, presented a gift to the Club of a Currier and Ives print and a painting, "Cottage in Autumn" by Clifton Wheeler, an Indianapolis artist.

"The greatest architect and the one most needed is Hope." Let us Hope for that day when Peace may reign upon this earth.

MRS. LORENZO D. SMITH
President.



SARAH PORTER KINSEY MEMORIAL — HOME OF VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB



MRS. M. F. PARKER
CHARTER MEMBER

Dedicated to the pioneer club women who with steadfast purpose and unfaltering will, lay the foundation on which we have built.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



MRS. N. L. AGNEW
1895-1898
1899-1901



MRS. A. C. SMITH
1898-1899
1903-1904

**HISTORY
OF THE
VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB**

1895 - 1918

BY MRS. E. W. CHAFFEE ASSISTED BY MISS MABEL BENNEY

Having no personal knowledge of the early years of the Valparaiso Woman's Club we decided to turn interviewer and consult one who had known all the early members.

The following information was furnished by Miss Mabel Benney.

The thought of the founders of the Valparaiso Woman's Club was to form a neighborhood group interested in current fiction with a background of history and geography to supplement their reading.

Mrs. Agnew first proposed an evening club. She asked Miss Benney to join and she accepted.

Later Mrs. Agnew told her the majority of the women favored an afternoon meeting, which automatically excluded a public school teacher.

The environs of the club geographically were the homes within the boundaries of Valparaiso and Franklin Streets.

Starting with Mrs. Agnew's home on the corner of Institute and Michigan, there was Mabel Arnold diagonally across, Mrs. Destie McConahy next door west; Mrs. Margaret Segerdahl a block north; Mrs. Alice Windle at the south corner of the Agnew block; Mrs. Charlotte Crumacker across the street.

Next door south lived Mrs. Lucia Upthegrove; south of her, Mrs. Eva Finney. Where the Public Library now stands was the home of Mrs. Emma Haste. To the east on the corner of Morgan and Chicago we find Mrs. Ruth Cornell; farther north, Mrs. Myra Heard; to the south Mrs. Neva Brown; across the street from her, Mrs. Agnes Thatcher; and facing Mrs. Thatcher's house, the home of Mrs. Huldah McLellan.

Mrs. Lola Smith's home was across from the Public Library lot; and Mrs. Louise Letherman lived on Franklin, where later the manse of the Christian Church was built. Mrs. Elma Wood's home was the southwest corner of Chicago and Franklin.

Such was the neighborhood club, but nearly every member had some friend eager to join the reading circle.

It was decided to limit the club's roster to twenty-five, a number any of the homes could accommodate.

Eight new members were agreed upon, Mrs. Margaret Percy Beer, Mrs. Eva Marble Bondy, Mrs. Elizabeth Cole, Mrs. Freelove Elam, Mrs.

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MRS. A. O. BONDY
PRESIDENT-ELECT



MRS. H. M. BEER
1901-1903
1910-1912

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

Anna Fleming, Mrs. Mary Long, Mrs. Nathalie Parker, and Mrs. Gabriel Sweet, each one a leader in Valparaiso's intellectual or civic life.

It is interesting to note that six of the city churches were represented on the charter roll. Study clubs have developed camaraderie among the different elements of every town where they have flourished.

On February 14, 1895, the Club was organized under the name of the Ladies' Reading Circle, which in June, 1896, was changed to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Reading Circle and later to the Harriet Beecher Stowe Club.

The officers for the first year were:

President	Mrs. Kate L. Agnew
Vice-President	Mrs. Charlotte Crumpacker
Secretary	Mrs. Eva S. Finney
Treasurer	Mrs. Lola Smith

Meetings were held in the homes of the members, in alphabetical order, every Tuesday at 2:30, from September to July inclusive.

There was no printed year-book for the first year. The programs were given out at each meeting and printed in *The Daily Messenger*.

Under date of June 12, 1896, appeared the following notice:

The Ladies' Reading Circle will meet at Mrs. Segerdahl's next Tuesday at 2:30 o'clock.

Quotations	John G. Saxe, Mrs. Stowe
Mark Twain	Mrs. Agnew
Testa and his Works	Mrs. H. B. Brown
The Abyssinians	Mrs. Elam
Coronation of the Czar	Mrs. Finney
Cyclones and their Causes	Mrs. Haste

The year-book for 1896-97 contains the following list of "Books to be Read":

Armazindy	Riley
Through One Administration	Mrs. Burnett
Ramona	Helen Hunt Jackson
Marble Faun	Hawthorne
Iron Crown	Denison
Robert's Rules of Order	
United States History	

Every meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer. This custom continued until 1904.

Business meetings were held on the fourth Tuesday of September, December, March, and May.

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MRS. O. P. KINSEY
1904-1909

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

The aims and interests of this friendly group of neighbors widened year by year. Every project for the good of Valparaiso was, and has been, endorsed by the Woman's Club and given material support. The widening of horizons was evident in the affiliation of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Club with the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, and later with Indiana State Federation of Women's Clubs.

On May 27, 28, and 29, 1902, in the Methodist Church of Valparaiso, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Club entertained the state convention of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs. The three hundred delegates were entertained in the homes of Valparaiso. To quote Mrs. Crumpacker, "Valparaiso never does anything by halves." There was a most notable gathering of representative women at this convention. Mrs. Virginia Claypool Meredith, chairman of the committee of Home Economics, presented as speakers: Mrs. Nellie Kedzie Jones of Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Miss Alice Norton of the University of Chicago, Miss Margaret Blair, and Miss Juanite Shepherd of the University of Minnesota. Mrs. May Wright Sewell of Indianapolis introduced Miss Mary Breed, Dean of Women at Indiana University, and Miss Eliza Browning, city librarian of Indianapolis. Other notable women present were Mrs. Samuel Perkins, president of the Indiana Union, Miss Mercia Hoagland of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Grace Julian Clark of Irvington, the last named a successful agriculturist. Besides the question of Home Economics, two other matters of paramount interest discussed in this convention were a traveling Art Exhibit and the appointment of women on school boards.

Valparaiso did herself proud in the way of entertainment. A banquet, followed by a reception, was held in the Methodist Church parlors. An evening concert was given by the Choral Club of the University in the Auditorium of Valparaiso University.

At the annual election Mrs. Margaret Percy Beer was named state vice-president. After the Valparaiso Club joined the Indiana Federation, Mrs. Kate Agnew was appointed State Chairman of Forestry.

The three pioneers of the club, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Crumpacker, and Mrs. Smith, were remarkable women; the first a born organizer, the second a cosmopolite, and Mrs. Smith a woman of unusual intelligence and warmheartedness.

The use of their christian names in the first roster of the club was a definite departure from accepted usage. But, while progressive, they embodied all of the old fashioned virtues. They were good cooks and exercised warm hospitality. The only serious disagreement that threatened the club its first year was the serving of too bountiful refreshments in some of the homes.

Mrs. Agnew continued to serve as president until 1898 when she was followed by Mrs. A. C. Smith, who served one year. In 1899 Mrs.

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MRS. W. E. PINNEY
PRESIDENT-ELECT



MRS. I. W. HOWERTH
1909-1910

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

Agnew again was elected president and served two years. Mrs. A. O. Bondy was elected president in 1901; but, she being unable to serve, Mrs. H. M. Beer, the vice-president, was elected to the office and served until 1903.

In 1902 the club was enlarged by two new departments. The department of Art was organized with Mrs. Estelle Gardner as chairman. Meetings were held on alternate Thursday evenings at 7:30 o'clock. A Music department was also organized at this time with Mrs. Clara Thornburg Polk as chairman. Meetings were held on alternate Mondays at 7:30 o'clock until 1910. Mrs. W. E. Pinney, president-elect for 1903-4, passed away before assuming the duties of her office; and Mrs. A. C. Smith served the Club a second time during these years.

When Mrs. Sarah Porter Kinsey became president of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Club in 1904, it took on a more democratic character. She insisted that its privileges should be open to every woman interested in any of its departments and willing to contribute to some one of its programs. Her heart knew no guile and harbored no resentment toward those who disagreed with her. During her regime the name of the club was changed to the Valparaiso Woman's Club. The first one hundred dollars of the building fund was set aside while she was president.

Mrs. Kinsey was honored not only in Valparaiso but throughout the state and nation. It was through her wisdom that the two state organizations were unified. She was elected president of the Indiana State Federation in 1906 and, in the same year, was made one of the directors of the General Federation. One of her favorite maxims was, "There is no strength in anything that is easy."

The next ten years saw the organization of several departments in the Woman's Club. Mrs. Kinsey brought with her members of the Art Club of which she had been president. In 1905 Mrs. Finette Simons organized the department of Home Economics. In 1908 Mrs. E. E. Shedd organized a department of History.

Mrs. Kinsey continued as president until 1909. She was followed by Dr. Cora C. Howerth (Mrs. Ira W. Howerth).

In 1910 Mrs. H. M. Beer again served as president for two years. During her presidency in 1911 the Club Collect, written by Mary Stewart, was adopted by the Valparaiso Woman's Club and given a permanent place in general meetings. This prayer artfully prepared, fittingly voices the needs of an organization such as the Valparaiso Woman's Club.

By the earlier efforts of the Club the present library was made possible, the Club buying and placing the first volumes. At this time, 1911-1912, the Club donated the first twenty-five dollars used in the

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MRS. E. E. SHEDD
1912-1914



MRS. A. R. PUTNAM
1914-1916

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

purchase of the lot where the Carnegie library now stands, following with a gift of one hundred dollars.

During the presidency of Mrs. E. E. Shedd, who served two years, a new Music and Dramatic Art department was organized in 1914 with fifty-five members. Mrs. Inez Hughes was chairman.

On April 4, 1913, a musical play, the "Doll Shop" was staged at the University Auditorium by members of the Woman's Club. One hundred twenty-five dollars was realized for the benefit of the flood sufferers of Indiana.

Mrs. A. R. Putnam became president in 1914 and served two years. At the close of her first year she very wisely prepared a summary of the principal activities of the club and had it published in the Year-book. Her example has been followed by each succeeding president. The year's work opened with a reception by the officers to the members of the club on October 9, at the home of the Vice-President, Mrs. E. W. Chaffee. The University Orchestra furnished music throughout the social hour. The Club's twentieth anniversary was observed in a social way at the Elks' Club rooms. A buffet luncheon was followed by a program of "Prophecies for the Club." Souvenir booklets, compiled by Mrs. A. R. Putnam, giving a brief outline of the inception and growth of the club were presented to the members.

In April a department of Civics was organized with Mrs. A. A. Williams, Chairman. The subject of study was "Civic Needs of Valparaiso." The first year of this department was very successful. A Parent-Teacher Club was organized. Instructive lessons were given by Mayor P. L. Sisson on "City Ordinances"; by Prof. Geo. W. Neet on the "Proper Care of Trees"; by Prof. W. F. Ellis on "Indiana," and by Mr. L. A. Gordon on a lung-motor demonstration. Sixty-seven members were enrolled.

On Peace Day, May 18, the Club held its annual banquet when one hundred twenty women were seated at the tables. Each of the six departments contributed to the program. On Home-Coming Day the Club was represented by six auto floats.

During Mrs. Putnam's second year the anniversary-gathering was in the form of a Banquet of Months. The members were seated at tables corresponding to their birth months. Decorations and stunts appropriate to the different months were provided by the various members, much wit and originality being shown. One hundred fifty-eight members and guests were in attendance. It was considered one of the most enjoyable functions the Club had ever held. During the year the Club enjoyed the hospitality of the Hobart Reading Club, the Gary Civic Service Club, and the Fortnightly Club of Whiting.

At this time contributions were made toward many worthy objects, among them the Pioneer Mother Memorial Statue and the Longfellow Home Memorial. The sum of fifty dollars was paid to the State Endowment Fund. The building fund was increased to \$419.07.

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MRS. E. W. CHAFFEE
1916-1918



MRS. G. A. DODGE
1918-1920

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

The Club marked its twenty-first year by the adoption of a Club pin and a Club motto, "The greatest happiness of the greatest number."

Mrs. E. W. Chaffee was president during 1916-1918. The president's reception held at the home of Mrs. E. F. VanNess proved to be a delightful affair. A called meeting at Mrs. Kinsey's was an important event. The hostess, with Mrs. W. E. Harris and Mrs. W. H. Gardner, had attended the General Federation in New York City. The Club assembled to hear the reports of the three ladies. These gave an idea of the breadth of the work of the Federated Clubs of the United States.

The Literature department, with Mrs. F. B. Chester as chairman, opened the year's work with a fitting program celebrating Indiana's Centennial of Statehood. During the year the group studied Latin America. An extended notice of the program was given a place by the editor in the "Pan American Bulletin." Following this publication came thirty-seven requests from twenty-three different states, for a copy of our year-book.

The Club was represented in the parade on Indiana Centennial Day by five auto floats. The sum of fifty dollars was paid to the State Endowment Fund.

The Club celebrated its twenty-second anniversary with a Banquet of Nations at the Methodist Church. The members were seated at tables representing various nations. Beautiful decorations, elaborate costumes, and clever entertainment, appropriate to the different countries were in evidence. An atmosphere of wit and good humor prevailed among the one hundred ninety-six members and guests.

The Bouchers came to Valparaiso this year, and Mrs. Boucher began her work for the Woman's Club, which culminated in our acquiring our Club home.

A market sale was held in September, 1917, for the boys of Company L. The manner in which the people over the county responded with donations and market produce, and the enthusiasm with which the people of the city and country purchased the goods exceeded all expectations. Three hundred eighty-five dollars were realized.

The Club maintained throughout the year a Red Cross sewing and knitting unit, which met at the Library every Friday. Six hundred forty-four woolen garments were knitted. One thousand sixty-nine dollars were used by the Club for various war activities: Company L. Comfort Fund, \$385.00; Y. M. C. A. war work \$25.00; Y. W. C. A. war work, \$5.00; Christmas packets for soldiers \$6.00; Poet and Ambulance Fund \$10.00; American Red Cross, \$100.00; Decorating local Y. M. C. A. rooms for use of soldiers, \$25.00; Knights of Columbus War work, \$10.00; Belgian Relief Fund, \$3.00. The Club invested \$500.00 of its building fund in Liberty Bonds.

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MRS. J. W. HISGEN
1920-1921



MRS. W. F. ELLIS-PICKARD
1921-1923

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

The twenty-third anniversary of the Valparaiso Woman's Club was held February 16, in the Elks, Club rooms. The two hundred fifty women present made the largest attendance in the history of the Club. Fourteen neighboring clubs sent representatives: The Woman's Club of Hammond, East Chicago, Indiana Harbor, Chicago Heights, Gary, Hebron, and Laporte; the Civic Service Club, Departmental Club, College Club, and Musical Club of Gary; the Hobart Reading Circle; and the Fortnightly Club of Whiting.

One of the most entertaining features of the program was Mrs. E. W. Agar's reading, "Her Own Money" by Mark Swan, which showed Mrs. Agar's art of characterization at its best. Groups of songs by Mrs. O. A. Weaver, Mrs. Niles Fisher, and Mrs. J. M. Sheldon, respectively, charmed the audience.

Upon the wall, surrounded by American flags, had been hung a large service flag with twenty-two stars. Mrs. A. C. Smith, in appropriate language and manner, made the unfurling of this flag a very impressive ceremony. She said, "This afternoon it is the high privilege of the Valparaiso Woman's Club to unfurl a service flag in honor of the sons, the daughters, the husbands and the brothers who have gone to help make the world safe for women and little children. This flag contains twenty-two stars. The stars are of the same magnitude, but one shines with kindlier, tenderer light than the others—the star that represents Miss Olive Whitlock (now Mrs. Warren Dillingham), the daughter of Mrs. T. K. Whitlock, a nurse who goes to heal and not to hurt. (Of the twenty-two represented, all returned safely.)

They are scattered far and wide—some to the North, where the great military hero is Grant: some to the South, where the great military hero is Lee—brave, able soldiers, both, and Americans to the core.

"Here's to our sons in the wind-swept North
When they meet on the fields of France....
May the Spirit of Grant be over them all
When the sons of the North advance.
Here's to our sons in the "sunkist" South
When they meet on the fields of France.
May the spirit of Lee be over them all
When the sons of the South advance.
Here's to the North and the South as one,
When they meet on the fields of France.
May the Spirit of God be over them all
When the sons of the Flag advance."

Dainty refreshments were served by the daughters of members of the Club at the close of the program. Besides the service flag, the Club at this time purchased a large American Flag.

Too much space would be required to fittingly enumerate the splendid work of each of the six departments. For details of the

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MRS. C. W. BOUCHER
1923-1925



MRS. M. S. CAMPBELL
1925-1927

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

department work, you are referred to the file of Year-Books in the Club Files, at the Public Library or at the Historical Room in the Porter County Court House.

1918 - 1923

BY MRS. C. H. DEWITT

Following the administration of Mrs. Chaffee, with its enthusiasm for club work and its spirit of sociability, came that of Mrs. G. A. Dodge, President, 1918-1920. Mrs. Dodge had been a member of the Club almost from its beginning and had served on the Executive Board for several years.

Though the fighting in World War I ended in November 1918, the Red Cross Unit of the Woman's Club continued to meet regularly each week until May, 1919. Hundreds of knitted articles and other garments were made for hospital use, for soldiers, and for Belgian refugees. "Our Woman's Club has been able to write in its history a record of accomplishment of which we are proud." Mrs. C. W. Boucher, chairman of the unit, was assisted by Mrs. A. J. Louderback, Mrs. Geo. Taylor, and Mrs. John Ross, nee Nina Ward.

With the discontinuance of Red Cross work, programs and club activities resumed their accustomed importance. At the President's Reception (1918) Prof. R. A. Tallcott of Valparaiso University read the play, "Experience", and (1919) the book, "Liar". An informative address on "France" by Mrs. Boucher, an instructive lecture on "Vivisection" by Dr. Zoethout, and amusing original stunts by the departments highlighted the General Meetings. The Art Department sponsored an exhibit of Japanese paintings from the State University, at the public library. About six hundred people viewed the display.

On the Club's twenty-fourth anniversary, Mr. Kinsey served a turkey dinner to more than two hundred women at the First Methodist Church. Each department contributed its share of the program, the Home Economics Department introducing Mrs. Christine Frederick of New York who talked on "Table Etiquette". Later it was discovered that the speaker was Prof. Tallcott. Twenty-five years afterward Dr. Tallcott of Syracuse, N. Y. when reading "Prologue to Glory" here before the Woman's Club recalled the time when he impersonated a woman.

The silver anniversary party was held in the high school rooms under the guidance of Mrs. Boucher. A humorous anti-suffrage play was presented with music, witty speeches, and original poems by club members.

The Club received from Miss Mary R. M. Beer of Iron Mountain, Michigan a gift of a number of bound magazines to be placed in the public library for the use of the Club. Nine excellent books purchased

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MRS. R. B. WISE
1927-1929



MRS. W. I. WILSON
1929-1931

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

and used by the Literature Department were given to the library. Contributions were made to the Legislative Council of Indiana, the Roosevelt Memorial, and the Strauss Memorial.

Mrs. John W. Hisgen became president of the Club in 1920. At the opening meeting, Mrs. Chas. Doty presented an unusually fine report (read by her daughter, Mrs. A. R. Putnam) of the Bi-ennial Convention G. F. W. C., which she had attended at Des Moines, Iowa, as a delegate from the V. W. C. The tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims was fittingly observed by special programs throughout the year. Club members put on original comedy, pageant, and pantomime for entertainment. Under the direction of Mrs. A. O. Bondy a beautiful "Pageant of the Months" passed in review before the general club. The Art Department posed some living "Madonnas".

The Altruria dining room was the setting for the twenty-sixth anniversary banquet, which was followed by a program of music, readings, a solo dance, and a chalk talk.

In October, 1920, Mrs. O. P. Kinsey gave to the Club a gavel made from a tree under which the first legislature met at Corydon, the first capital of Indiana.

In 1921 the present method of election was adopted.

The most notable achievement of the year 1920-21 was the completion and furnishing of a public rest room for women in the court house—the culmination of five years' effort by the Civics Department. "Its inception and completion is due to the untiring and faithful work of the committee, Mrs. F. J. Ingram and Mrs. A. R. Putnam. It is a monument to the committee and to the department". The sum pledged for support of an Armenian orphan was paid, sixty dollars.

The President's Reception, with a program of music and readings by local talent, was held at the home of Mrs. W. F. Ellis when she became president of the Club in 1921. During the two years of her administration she emphasized programs of educational value, as well as social enjoyment. The Art Department presented two lectures: Miss Gertrude Harris on "The Art of the Silversmith", with a rare collection of old silver, and Mr. Chas. Burkholder, curator of the Art Institute of Chicago. Dr. H. M. Evans' account of his trip around the world, and a "Public Health" talk by Miss Kitchen, county nurse, added interest to the programs. In their home talent entertainments the club members displayed marked literary ability, originality, wit, and humor.

The anniversary banquet in 1922 was held at the M. E. Church and in 1923 at Altruria Hall, each with a diversified program by the various departments.

At this time the Club contributed to the band fund for summer concerts, and gave two bathrobes for the free ward of the Christian

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MRS. C. H. DEWITT
1931-1932



MRS. E. H. EARLE
1932-1934

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

Hospital. Twenty-five dollars was given to the Indiana Federation of Clubs toward the purchase of the Fautleroy home. At a cost of one hundred and fifty dollars, raised by the Civics Department, a matron was installed in the recently opened public rest room and paid until the county took over the maintenance of all rest room expenses January 1, 1922.

On July 19, 1922, the Club suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs. Kinsey which occurred at the home of her sister in Kentucky.

In March 1923 Mrs. Boucher was elected president of the Club. Soon after the election, but before assuming the duties of the office, she invited the members of the Board of Directors to her home and presented a plan for acquiring a club home and making it a memorial to Mrs. Kinsey. The idea was enthusiastically received by those present. At the general meeting in May "Mrs. Boucher talked about the prospect of having a club home. This brought about a great deal of discussion which resulted in Mrs. Bondy's motion that the Valparaiso Woman's Club buy a club home. Mrs. Hisgen seconded the motion. It was put to a vote and carried. This home was to be called the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial". With a definite project to work for, a period of increased activity began.

For several years there had been an organization of the clubs of the county under such leaders as Mrs. P. J. Horn, Mrs. H. M. Beer, Mrs. W. E. Harris and others. The Chairman, Tenth District, I. F. C. was present at the annual meeting, V. W. C. in June, 1923 for the purpose of re-organizing the county federation. Officers elected were; President, Mrs. A. R. Putnam, Valparaiso; Vice-President, Mrs. Sadie Hoshaw, Hebron; Secy-Treas., Mrs. E. W. Chaffee, Valparaiso; Trustee, Mrs. Della Cannon, Kouts.

At the beginning of this period (1918-1923) there were six departments of the Club: Literature, Art, Home Economics, History, Music and Dramatic Art, and Civics. The Music and Dramatic Art Department, organized in 1914, was discontinued in 1920. They had studied "Modern Composers and Dramatists," "Operas and Opera Composers," and "Music of Today". Mrs. T. F. Hughes, Mrs. R. A. Tallcott, Mrs. R. C. Higley, Mrs. G. R. Harrison and Mrs. J. M. Sheldon had served as chairmen.

Heading the Literature Department through these years were: Mrs. F. B. Chester, Mrs. M. S. Campbell and Mrs. S. A. Wallace. Broad reading and careful study were shown in the development of the programs. "Women in Modern Literature," "Women in World Movements," "Women of the Bible," and "Shakespeare" were study topics. Requests came from the Chairman of Literature G. F. W. C. and the General Federation magazine for the study plan of "French and American Democracy". Mrs. F. J. Sheehan of Gary, a leader in the movement to preserve the Indiana dunes, gave an inspiring address on "The Dunes". The department volunteered the support of two Armenian orphans for one year.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



MRS. IRA C. TILTON
1934-1936



MRS. GROVER J. HINKLE
1936-1938

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

Mrs. B. A. Howlett, Mrs. L. E. Dowdell, Mrs. R. B. Wise, and Mrs. D. E. Kelly were, in turn, chairmen of the Art Department. The study through the years was interesting and instructive. Ancient and modern art were considered. Mrs. Kelly was hostess to the department on a visit to the Art Galleries of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College at South Bend where hang many originals by the Old Masters as well as paintings by modern artists.

The Department of Home Economics increased in membership from fifty-three to one hundred eleven to become the largest department of the Club. Just about everything that could be of value to a homemaker was given a place on the program. There were demonstrations of all kinds of cookery, salads, and candy-making by members skilled in the art. Interior decorating, systematic housekeeping, sewing and the making of dress forms all were discussed. Local physicians gave health talks. The Christmas Party was introduced and became an annual affair. Mrs. S. J. Young, Mrs. C. H. DeWitt, Mrs. E. G. Osborne, and Mrs. L. F. Beach were chairmen.

Study of the "History of Europe" and "Industrial History of the United States" occupied the History Department under the leadership of Mrs. Ira C. Tilton, Mrs. S. E. Shideler, Mrs. G. W. Neet, and Mrs. W. E. Seymour.

The Department of Civics through its various committees accomplished much. The Old City Cemetery was kept in order, city parks were improved and the public interest aroused to the importance of maintaining them. Shrubs and flowers were planted to hide unsightly places, and every effort was made to make the city beautiful. Chairmen were: Mrs. C. W. Boucher, Mrs. J. D. Stoner, Mrs. F. J. Ingram, and Mrs. J. F. Patrick.

In June, 1923 a memorial service for Mrs. Kinsey was held at the Methodist Church. Among those speaking in her honor were: Mrs. W. J. Torrance, Evansville, Ind., Pres. I. F. C. and Miss Vida Newsom, Columbus, Ind., General Federation Director. Mrs. Kinsey had been President, I. F. C. and also Director, G. F. W. C. Mrs. Boucher gave a beautiful tribute for the Valparaiso Woman's Club.

1923 - 1932

BY MRS. W. I. WILSON

The years from 1923 to 1939 will always be known to members of the Valparaiso Woman's Club as the era in which the dream of owning a club home came true. This is the history of the activities of the first nine years of that era. However, a glimpse must be taken into the past to find the origin of that dream.

The year book of the Valparaiso Woman's Club of 1906, naming Mrs. Kinsey, President; Mrs. E. F. Van Ness, Secretary; and Mrs.

50TH ANNIVERSARY



MRS. A. J. FEHRMAN
1938-1939



MRS. ROY B. JULIAN
1939-1941

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

H. J. Upthegrove, Treasurer; contains in the first printed treasurer's report these items:

BUILDING FUND

Mrs. O. P. Kinsey, donation	\$ 14.50
Mrs. Charles Vickery, donation	15.00
Luncheons	8.75
Club donations	67.80

TOTAL \$106.05

Evidently the membership, increased from 25 to 163, suggested the necessity of a building for club meetings and Mrs. Kinsey made the first donation. The Art Department made the first departmental contribution, \$2.15 in 1907. The 1910 book records "Proceeds Economic Bake Day \$5.00" and this rule "One Third of the yearly balance of the Club's funds shall be turned into the Building Fund at the Annual."

By 1912 the Building Fund had grown to almost \$300 but \$81.74 was withdrawn to pay the \$100 pledged to the city library fund. The unselfish act of sending \$125 that same year to aid flood sufferers set the example of the club never becoming too interested in the building fund to help worthy causes.

In 1914 ten shares of Building and Loan stock, bearing interest at 6% were purchased with a payment of \$202 and a \$5 a month obligation. A quotation from the October, 1916 meeting says, "Miss Corboy suggested the members discuss the possibility of the club being able to secure the use of the Dr. Loring house (the present club house) should the business men not take it for a YMCA building. A committee was appointed to investigate, Miss Corboy, Mrs. Putnam, and Mrs. Dodge." In March of 1917 the committee reported unfavorably. In a few days the nation was engaged in the World War and in 1918 \$500 was withdrawn to purchase a second Liberty Loan Bond.

It was Mrs. C. W. Boucher, the 17th president who had the wisdom and courage to see the feasibility of acquiring this home in 1923. There were at that time 247 active, 32 associate and 4 corresponding members willing to follow her leadership. While she was vice-president she had successfully promoted the idea, so plans were immediately put into action to increase the building fund of \$581.96. The first big project was the entertainment at the Memorial Opera House which netted \$400; another one later \$364. The Interstate Lyceum Bureau furnished entertainment of superior quality and added \$500 to the fund.

In October letters of incorporation were taken out with Mrs. Boucher, President; Mrs. Putnam, Secretary; Mrs. Pagin, Treasurer. Committees were appointed to investigate twelve different properties, but no decision was made until this recorded meeting, "The Valparaiso

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MRS. JOHN A. HAUFF
1941-1943



MRS. LORENZO D. SMITH
1943-1945

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

Woman's Club met at the Central School building August 23, 1924 to make the final decision on the purchase of property for a club house. A committee from the Elks, (owners of the Loring property) were present and presented the proposition they had to offer as follows:

"The purchase price of their building to be \$30,000 with a gift of \$5000. The club to pay no interest on the amount of indebtedness until possession was given and they would pay the club 6% on the amount paid. The offer was accepted."

Later the Elks presented all furnishings of the building, rugs, draperies, and furniture. The Vivians gave their dishes and furniture.

The property was to be vacated as soon as the Elks Temple was completed. The property consisted of two lots and the large building, which it is interesting to note, was built in 1906, the very year Mrs. Kinsey gave the first Building Fund money. Although it was decided by both the Board and the General Club to sell the vacant lot to decrease the indebtedness, if necessary, so much sentiment against it was evidenced that it was never put up for sale.

The first application for quarters in the building came in February 25 from the Sphinx Club. They were established in August and have met there continuously since.

At the March meeting it was decided that if any one wanted to furnish a room in the club home, same could be named for her, if she so desired.

The last Annual in a home was in 1925 with Mrs. Campbell, who that day succeeded Mrs. Boucher as president. She and Mrs. W. I. Wilson as secretary and Mrs. G. J. Hinkle, treasurer, became the officers of the corporation. The first officers became the Memorial Finance Committee. In later years the names of Mrs. G. G. Shauer, (1926); Mrs. H. H. Loring, (1929); and Mrs. M. S. Campbell, (1933) were added to it. At this meeting the first equipment for the building was authorized:—Four dozen folding chairs at \$22.50 per dozen.

Mrs. Boucher retired from the presidency, only to devote herself more intensely, if possible, to removing the debt until she made the last \$100 gift. The public had bestowed upon her the title "The First Lady of Valparaiso".

Nothing in the following years pleased the membership more than Mrs. Boucher's acceptance of the invitation in 1935 to move into the building. Her own furniture in the room on the second floor made it truly her home. A party was held to celebrate her 80th birthday. Later a large picture of her, unveiled by her young grandson, Boucher Sturdy, was hung permanently in the club home.

Almost a year elapsed after the purchase before the building was turned over to the club, although a Civic departmental and General

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meeting had been held in it. The initial payment was \$10,082, the first \$100 being Mrs. Boucher's personal gift. Much of this money came from her efforts entirely, from founders, organizations, and from the admirers, friends, family and former students of Mrs. Kinsey. Seventy-one individuals, organizations and club departments had become Founders by the payment of \$100 or more.

On July 24, 1925 the new officers and the Finance Committee met with the officials of the Elk's Lodge at the old Farmers' State Bank to finish the conveyance of the property. The Bank took a mortgage on the property, secured by two \$2500 notes and two \$5000 notes—a total of \$15000.00.

In happy anticipation of the dedication, the house was set in order. It has always seemed a remarkable thing how well this structure suited the needs. Practically the only changes made were the cutting of the large opening into the East parlor where there had been a single door and connecting two rooms on the second floor in the same way. These rooms were chosen by the Jacob Lowenstine family and completely decorated and furnished by them in memory of their mother. Mrs. R. C. Higley decorated a room and several individuals and firms donated material and labor just as they have done through all the succeeding years. On September 21, with a beautiful new interior, the building was ready for the Dedication.

To this important occasion were invited the President of the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs, District and County Officers, Lake County officers and presidents of the local organizations which had assisted financially.

In her welcoming address Mrs. Campbell said, "This is a club home, not a house, to serve as a community center where all may meet and share its hospitality."

Mrs. Bondy in the dedicatory address said, "Who shall gainsay that from the time the foundation stone was laid by Dr. Loring until the present moment, that this building was not designed and intended for its present purpose?" She acclaimed Mrs. Boucher a leader without peer, whose clear judgment, will and courage, whose supreme faith in the willingness and ability of the members to support her plans and efforts, constituted the sustaining power that had led this movement to its fruition."

In a resume of the life of Mrs. Kinsey, Mrs. Bondy said, "The name of Sarah Porter Kinsey suggests dignity, charm and the grace of perfect womanhood. The thousands of students she tided over the perilous ways in college and her host of intimate friends know that the name stands for a character whose many sides were as luminous as the facets of a famous gem. It remained for the Valparaiso Woman's Club to christen the first Club Home and Community Center in this state in honor of one of Indiana's most noble women educators.

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"The younger generation who will know Sarah Porter Kinsey only by what they hear or read will scarcely touch the hem of her garment. Nevertheless, they will be inspired by the immortal principle crystallized in her name; and the 27,000 club women in this state will praise and honor her and record her name in the history of Indiana's club leaders."

Mrs. Boucher dedicated the Lowenstine rooms thus: "Into the world comes sometimes a soul whose mission seems to be to quiet turbulent spirits, sooth the restless mob, make less bitter the stinging whips of fate and sow joy where discord reigned. Such a woman was Goldie Lowenstine. The world has a place for brilliant, aggressive women, but it must have the home loving, tender mother, the sympathetic comforter, the gracious, forgiving woman. All these was Goldie Lowenstine. Mr. Jacob Lowenstine, her husband and ever her lover, and family are preparing beautiful rooms in her memory, a place all women may enjoy. In no place can the virtues of this dear woman be so effectively used as in our Woman's Club."

The front parlor on the west was dedicated the Harriet Beecher Stowe room and there were five charter members present to receive this honor: Miss Mabel Arnold, Mrs. James McConahy, Mrs. A. C. Smith, Mrs. Isaac Cornell and Mrs. A. O. Bondy.

A trio, Mesdames C. A. Nixon, Mrs. L. T. Frederick and Mrs. S. Unruh accompanied by Mrs. Morony, furnished the music and Mrs. F. B. Chester read a poem written for the occasion.

In a letter Mr. Kinsey wrote "I am sending you a box containing all I have been able to find in the way of newspaper articles concerning Mrs. Kinsey's work and the letters received by her during the years she was actively engaged in legislative club work. I suggest that a proper, safe place be prepared not only for this collection, but for all the club history, its origin growth, and work."

The \$857 raised by the bazaar made it possible to pay the first \$2,500 note six months in advance.

By this time Girl Scouts were holding their meetings in the basement of the building, the Sphinx Club in the Lowenstine rooms, the Mother's Club, Celtas, Lady Foresters, League of Women Voters, DAR, WCTU, Methodist SS class, and Alpha Xi Epsilon sorority were using the main floor, giving testimony that the building was truly a Community Center.

This had been a very wonderful year for the club, saddened only by the death of a charter member, Mrs. E. D. Crumpacker. The club held Open House on New Years Day for its many friends.

Mrs. Campbell entertained the officers at the first of the Vanishing Luncheons, a project so successful almost \$1100 was realized.

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In March, 1927 at a party honoring Mrs. Boucher, Mrs. Chaffee expressed the club's appreciation of her efforts in making the home possible and the club made her an Honorary President. Mrs. Chester dedicated the middle parlor "the heart of the home" the Elizabeth V. Boucher room. Mrs. E. F. Van Ness made the presentation of a beautiful chime clock for the room and a crisp \$100 bill.

At this time the Porter County Red Cross association took headquarters in the basement of the building with a two year's lease. The Porter County Tuberculosis Association came into the building, also the Oasis Club which has met there continuously since. The Western Union Telegraph Co. converted another room in the basement into a school room and used it for several years.

A contribution of \$50 was made to the Fireman's Fund following a disastrous fire in the business district, and payments of \$10 and \$25 to the Fauntleroy Home. A large picture of Mrs. Kinsey was presented by her husband and hung in the hall. Mrs. Curran gave a piano for the Lowenstine rooms.

During the presidency of Mrs. R. B. Wise from 1927 to 1929 the club was the recipient of a number of gifts. Mr. and Mrs. John Van Ness installed beautiful lighting fixtures in the parlors in memory of E. F. Van Ness and honoring Mrs. Van Ness. Mrs. Boucher placed a similiar one in the hall and hung a painting done by Mrs. E. L. Loomis in the Lowenstine rooms. Prof. Kinsey sent a bronze tablet to be placed at the entrance of the building. Mrs. S. L. Finney presented a painting, Mrs. William Henry, a chair, while Mrs. J. D. Stoner loaned the use of her piano, which Mr. Rhinehardt kept in perfect tune.

At the reception in 1928 the Progress Club Sextette of South Bend gave a musical program and in return the club trio appeared on a program at the new home of the Progress Club. This was the beginning of many reciprocity meetings which proved so popular for several years.

This year Mrs. Bondy, a charter member, took the first life membership. The series of lectures the "American Statesmen" by Edward Howard Griggs was sponsored, proving profitable. A successful bazaar and benefit show in which Beulah Bondi made a personal appearance increased the Building Fund materially. The sale of the goods for the blind began at this time and has increased through the years. A gift was made to the Lincoln Memorial Fund and a book sent to the National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. The first payment was made to the County Student Loan Fund at Valparaiso University. A gift to the Anti-Tuberculosis Society set a precedent for following years. The Club Woman magazine was placed in the Public Library.

When Mrs. W. I. Wilson became president in 1929 the Cecilia Club, directed by Mrs. Morony and accompanied by Mrs. R. D. Blount,

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was the most popular musical group in the city. So generous were its contributions to the Woman's Club, it seemed almost a part of it and represented it a number of times at reciprocity meetings. It appeared at the convention of the IFWC at Indianapolis in 1930. The president's reception was a program given by neighboring clubs, honoring the Cecilia Club.

A new design appeared on the year book—the club flower, the forget-me-not, designed by Miss Jane Lee. The book was dedicated to Mrs. A. C. Smith, Charter member and past president who died in 1929.

The Griggs lectures, "The Shakespearian Series" were sponsored. The proceeds from this and from the bake and rummage sales enriched the building fund. However, during these lean years very little could be done to reduce the indebtedness on the building for attention needed rather to be turned to those in need in our city.

In October 1930 the Relief Committee was created with Mrs. E. F. Van Ness chairman, to solicit, receive, and distribute clothing in the headquarters in the basement. Daily service was maintained for a number of months. Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls assisted in collecting and arranging the \$2100 worth of goods provided by the citizens of the city. Donations from food to furniture gave help and comfort to 210 families. Forty unemployed strangers were given clothing, food and lodging.

A report of the work of this faithful committee won the first prize of \$12 at the State Convention, given by the Indianapolis Star for the best account of club community service activities. Even so small an amount was helpful when demands were daily increasing, and continued to do so for many months.

A Mother and Daughter party held during the holidays in 1929 taxed the capacity of the building and established a custom that has been followed each year since.

The club reached the peak in membership at this time with an enrollment of 323 members, and universal membership went into effect. A filing case was purchased and a custodian appointed to gather and preserve all valuable records, year books, etc., for the club.

Perhaps the most unique of all the presidents reception was that of Mrs. C. H. DeWitt in 1931 for it took the form of a fall flower show. It was held in the Lowenstine rooms. It was a decided success and was a pleasant revelation of the fact that there was such a variety of beautiful flowers in the city. Such enthusiasm was aroused that this became the forerunner of several shows on a much larger scale.

The Bicentennial of Washington's birthday was observed in each department in a special way. An honorary membership was given Miss

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Zada Carr, city librarian, in appreciation of her services to the club. The Second County Student loan was completed. The club lost a very good friend and benefactor in the death of Prof. Kinsey. He left a gift of \$1000. When she retired at the end of one year, Mrs. DeWitt presented a Federation President's pin to the club, to be worn by each succeeding president during her term of office.

During these years (1923-1932) the emphasis seemed to be placed on projects for reducing the indebtedness but the social functions and programs of the club were never neglected. Guest artists and speakers, as well as the talented persons of the club, city and University permitted programs second to none.

Anniversary parties included the program given by Miss Sarah Wilmer in 1924 to three hundred women; the Valentine party in 1925; the banquet in 1926 when Mrs. A. C. Smith gave the club history and the banquet in 1927 at the Methodist Church, with Mrs. Frank Sheehan giving "The Miracle of Time." Then in 1928 Dr. Edgar Frazier of Indiana University was the guest speaker at the banquet at Hotel Lembke. The Presbyterian Church was the scene of the 1929 banquet, followed by an all department program. Guests at the 1930 banquet at the hotel were privileged to hear the state president, Mrs. Edwin F. Miller of Peru speak on "The Pioneer Women of America". An outstanding departmental program entertained the large group of members and guests in the BPOE ballroom in 1931. Mrs. Morony, assisted by the Cecilia Club and her pupils gave a program for the 1932 party.

Through these years the Literature Department was headed by Mesdames A. L. Kellogg, A. O. Bondy, J. M. Tennery, G. B. Wyckoff and J. A. Hauff. An unusual activity was the planting of a Norway Pine on the Court House lawn, to be used as a community Christmas Tree. In 1928 it sponsored the Prize Poetry contest for the High School and Junior High School pupils. It was under the direction of Mrs. Putnam and books were awarded as prizes. It proved so popular it became a yearly event. Two years later Lynn Whipple of the Vidette-Messenger began making a yearly gift of a silver loving cup.

Original Day was sponsored and guests from Gary, Lowell, Crown Point, as well as local people and University students contributed poetry, stories and songs.

Mesdames R. B. Wise, Wm. Chester, E. H. Earle, L. A. Sayers, and Geo. Burk headed the Art Department. Always appreciative of the work of Frank Dudley, the group was delighted to visit his Dunes Studio. The screen donated by the department has proved useful on many occasions and the club appreciated the water color by Miss Lee.

The first art exhibit in the club house was that of twenty-eight oil paintings, the work of Prof. Herbert N. Hooven of the University.

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Prof. Hooven also gave a lecture on "Art" and later presented one of his paintings to the club. There was also a three day exhibit of the work of Henry Anthony De Young and later Jane K. Yungs' work was shown. In Feb. 1929 Mrs. King, president of the Patrons Association of the Hoosier Salon, so enthused the department that it became a patron and the club has been privileged to enjoy the paintings loaned by it. Mrs. Loomis was honored at a Blue Tea.

The Home Economics had as chairmen from 1923 to 1932 Mesdames W. I. Wilson, Geo. Sheeks, V. Harvil, G. J. Hinkle and L. E. Lembke. During these years demonstrations by club women and local persons had a large part of each year's program. In 1929 began the annual fruit shower for the Christian Hospital. In 1930 the department changed its name to the American Home Department.

The History Department did intensive studying under the chairmanship of Mesdames W. F. Ellis, M. E. Packman, Geo. A. Goetz, I. C. Tilton and V. E. Berry, using a chosen subject for the entire year. In connection with the study of Indians, Chief Red Fox lectured in native costume. The Rotary Club entertained the department to hear an illustrated lecture on Canada. Teachers from the University were especially helpful to this department. A beautiful service was held in connection with the planting of a George Washington Bicentennial cherry tree on the lawn.

The Civic Department not only studied the interests of the city under the leadership of Mesdames W. W. McWhinney, W. E. Seymour, J. F. Take, A. H. Reading and Orris Booth, but put its ideas into actions. In 1924 definite plans were made for taking over the beautifying Kirchoff park. Through its efforts, also, the South Park was made more attractive. A meeting was held several years including civic minded men to study local subjects and city zoning. In 1926 the name was changed to American Citizenship and plans were made to pursue a definite study in keeping with the plan of the General Federation. A meeting was held entertaining the League of Women Voters with its vice-president, Mrs. E. Hauser as guest speaker. On another occasion the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls were guests. Extensive work was done in highway beautification and a tulip tree was planted on the lawn with impressive services.

The County Federation was entertained in 1924 with Mrs. Putnam chairman, also in 1925, in 1926 with Mrs. Earle presiding and in 1931. In 1924 the Tenth District convention was held in this city and again in 1930 when Mrs. Putnam was District chairman. At this time this club was placed on the Honor roll on District questionnaire and for Club Woman subscriptions. It was a real pleasure to invite the delegates to visit the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial and honor the woman who had made it possible, Mrs. C. W. Boucher.

1932 - 1945

BY MRS. IRA C. TILTON

The Valparaiso Woman's Club, with five departments and a membership of about two hundred fifty, carried on through the depression.

Mrs. E. H. Earle was president during the "Lean and Hungry" years of 1932 to 34. With limited funds the club house was kept in good condition and the members provided their own programs. The 39th anniversary meeting, "A Study in Contrasts: Then and Now," starring Mrs. John Ross, proved to be a most enjoyable entertainment.

Mrs. Earle arranged for the Woman's Club column in the Vidette-Messenger, with the heading, that is now being used. She wrote a history of the club for the centennial edition of the paper in 1936. She had been first vice-president of the club in 1923-25. She had served as chairman of the Art Department, 1910-12, and again in 1927-29. Succeeding Mrs. Earle, in 1929, as chairman of the Art Department and serving for two years, were Mrs. Lester A. Sayers, Mrs. Geo. Burk, Mrs. R. C. Higley, Mrs. J. W. LaRue (1yr.), Mrs. Leathe C. Ponder, art teacher in the Valparaiso public schools, Mrs. Adolph Haentzschel, Mrs. Frances Albright and Mrs. Ida Cook. Through the generosity of Miss Flora Reffelt, elected chairman, 1944, the department has been a member of the Patron's Association of the Hoosier Art Salon, since 1929. The Hoosier Art Exhibits have been brought to the Valparaiso Woman's Club House, through the cooperation of this department with other local groups. Guest speakers included C. Warner Williams, sculptor, Miss Lucia Hartrath, of International fame, Frank V. Dudley, with his exhibitions and Miss Leota Loop, who painted a picture for the club. In 1934, forty-four members of the department made a pilgrimage to Notre Dame Art Galleries, guests of Mrs. D. E. Kelly and Miss Catherine Corboy. Walt Louderback presented his painting, "Lunch time in Algeciras" to the club, in honor of his mother. Miss Jane Lee gave another of her paintings. In 1940-42, Mrs. Wm. Burns conducted a puttering class and assisted Mrs. Ponder and Miss Ruth Richards to decorate the dining room of the club house. The department purchased the epergne for a center piece and sponsored the purchase of a Dudley painting, "Forest Tapestry" which was presented to the club at the opening meeting in September 1944.

Mrs. Ira C. Tilton was president of the club, 1934-36, during which time the club adopted more of the policies and plans of the Federation and more members attended conventions. Several attended Woman's Club Day at Winona Lake. Mrs. Frank Sheehan, past president, I. F. C., appeared before the club with her lecture, "Spirit of Federation". Mrs. A. R. Putnam was then serving as State First Vice-President and was always happy and generous in giving the federation news to the Valparaiso club. Mrs. Walter W. Seymour, chairman of the American Home Dept., G. F. W. C. was a guest speaker. Other

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speakers of the term, included Dr. W. P. Dearing, President Oakland College, Rev. Robert Hall, chaplain State Prison and John Gleason of the Michigan City Dispatch. The Katherine Witwer Concert was sponsored by the club also a reception for the guest artist following the concert in the home of Mrs. E. Warren Stees.

By-laws were revised so that the elections would be held in January. The office of financial secretary was created and Mrs. Lorenzo D. Smith was elected to serve in that capacity. A full financial report of the Memorial Finance Committee was printed, the first time, in the 1935-36 year book. The next year a complete list, of the Founders of the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial, was published in the year-book. Since that time records of all funds are required to be kept by the financial secretary and the treasurer of the club and printed annually with the year book. It was decided to give each retiring president a federation pin instead of the local past president's pin, and to contribute \$10.00 annually toward her state convention expense.

In 1936-38, Mrs. Grover Hinkle was president. With a deeper realization of the objects and aims of the club, "every department presented programs and study for mutual improvement, education, entertainment, and united action." Reciprocity meetings continued. Eleven members attended the state convention at French Lick Springs. Mrs. John Whitehurst, now past president of the G. F. W. C., was secured for a special meeting. Miss Ruth DeYoung, of the Chicago Tribune, Miss Margaret March Mount, Director in State Forest Service and Miss Carter of the Woman's Division W. P. A., were guest speakers. The Porter County Federation, with Mrs. Avery B. Weaver, of Valparaiso Club, president, was hostess to the Fine Arts Festival of the Tenth District. The pen and ink sketch of the Valparaiso Woman's Club Entrance, by Mark Sink, used on the cover of the year-book, first appeared on the January-February 1937, issue of the Indiana Club Woman. Mrs. E. F. Van Ness was unanimously given an honorary membership for her efficient relief work done in the name of the Valparaiso Woman's Club.

Mrs. Hinkle had served as first vice-president. She had been chairman of the Home Economic, now American Home Dept., in 1928-30, recording secretary, 1930-32, and at this writing is chairman of the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial Committee.

The Committee appointed in 1924, served continuously until the final payment was made on the club property, in 1939. The Committee having been enlarged to five members, the names Mrs. G. G. Shauer, Mrs. H. H. Loring, and Mrs. M. S. Campbell were added. After the final payment, Mrs. Boucher's health failed and Mrs. Putnam was appointed chairman. Extensive repairs were made throughout the building and new supplies purchased. Mrs. Mannie Albe was appointed official hostess and cooperated by keeping extra rooms rented. The committee has since been reduced to three members, one appointed

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each year to serve one term (3yrs.) only. At this writing Mrs. Tilton and Mrs. Rowland are members of the committee with Mrs. Hinkle.

Mrs. A. J. Fehrman, First Vice-President in 1936-38, was President of the club in 38-39. She had been chairman of the Government Red Cross work done through Valparaiso Woman's Club during the depression. She secured Mrs. James Wilson, author and traveler, who gave her lecture "Home is Anywhere" to the club. The Tenth District Convention was held in Valparaiso.

Mrs. Fehrman was chairman of the Literature Dept., in 1931-33. She was succeeded by Mrs. R. B. Julian, Mrs. C. M. Smail, Mrs. E. E. Baske, Mrs. Harry Johnson, Mrs. Fred Lansdown and Mrs. Yonly Owens. The department carries a large membership. Some of the best books, portraying the life of people at home and abroad, now and in the past, are reviewed each year by members of the department. Appropriate music, by the best talent in Valparaiso, is a part of every program. Dr. O. P. Kretzmann, members of the University faculty, and other noted speakers have lectured for the club. Worthy of special mention is the Annual High School Poetry Contest sponsored by the department since 1928, which was directed by Mrs. Putnam for fifteen years, until she was succeeded by Mrs. Harry Johnson. The Lynn M. Whipple, memorial award cup is the first prize. The department chairman gives a second award. This contest creates a lively interest, each year, among high school students.

Mrs. R. B. Julian was president, 1939-41. In November 1939, "Burning of the Last Note" marked the celebration of the final payment on the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial. At the Golden Jubilee Party, in 1940, the Porter County Federated Clubs unanimously chose three pioneer club women: Mrs. A. O. Bondy for the longest continuous membership; Mrs. C. W. Boucher for the most outstanding leadership and Mrs. O. P. (Sarah Porter) Kinsey for the longest continuous service, in a club federated with G. F. W. C. The 1940 anniversary meeting featured the "Gay Nineties" and in '41, Mrs. John Koch gave a talk, "Rosemary for Remembrance". Mrs. E. C. Rumpler, State Parliamentarian of I. F. C. gave an address, "Uncle Sam and I" at the fall reception. The Porter County Art Association's Exhibits, by twenty-four artists, were sponsored by the club. Two book cases and valuable books were given to the club by Mrs. Wm. Morehouse. The Valparaiso Woman's Club furnished a room in the Porter Memorial Hospital. Fifteen life members were added during this time.

Mrs. John A. Hauff, president 1941-43, presented the year's work of all departments in chronological sequence in the year-book. Mrs. Lorenzo D. Smith, first vice-president, in arranging the next year book added telephone numbers to the membership list. The constitution and revised by-laws and the articles of association were printed in the 1943-44 year book. Mrs. Smith also arranged a trial calendar, for one year's trial making Tuesday Club Day for all departments which meet

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in the afternoon. The next year at a general meeting, Tuesday was accepted as Club Day by the unanimous vote of those present. The club purchased a concert grand piano. Club members took an active part in all war activities; but the relief work was discontinued. Mrs. Oscar A. Ahlgren, president, I. F. C. was a guest speaker for the President's reception following luncheon served in the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Hauff gave a paper on "City Beautiful" in the Citizenship Dept. in March, 1935. Upon request, after the discussion, Mrs. Warren Stees, the chairman, appointed a committee to consider organizing a Garden Dept. A meeting was called in April and Mrs. Hauff was elected chairman of this new department. With a membership of eighty, the cultivation, care and arrangement of plants and flowers were studied with new enthusiasm and an endeavor was made to encourage civic planting and to develop nature appreciation. The Annual Flower Show took on new interest. The National Garden Bureau bronze medal, offered through the Vidette-Messenger, was presented to Mr. James W. Davis for the best collection of vegetables. Mrs. Edward O'Meara, County Chairman of Conservation, for the Woman's Club enlisted school children in conserving grass and beautifying lawns in their respective blocks. The department conducted the first hobby show in Valparaiso. This was a success, in that it furthered friendliness and neighborly cooperation among men, women and children. It was, also, financially profitable. In 1938, the Grand Champion purple ribbon and a \$25.00 cash award was won by the department for its artistic floral display, arranged by Miss Ruth Richards and Mrs. Wm. Johnston, in a District Flower Show at Crown Point. In 1940, the Club offered prizes for the best kept yards in Valparaiso. The next year Mrs. H. W. Cleveland arranged for the home grounds contest. Cash awards of \$100 furnished by the First Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n, was divided among thirteen home owners in the city. In 1939, the department planted a tulip tree on the north lawn, of the club property, and dedicated it to Mrs. Boucher, on Mother's Day. Cooperating with other organizations, trees and shrubs have been planted on public grounds. Floral displays, plant and seed exchanges and various garden tours have been conducted by the department. A garden center is maintained at the public library. The plants in the urns on the club house porch and the hedge around the grounds are contributions from this department. Mrs. C. H. De Witt, Mrs. Ira Mummert, Mrs. Rudolph Popp and Mrs. J. E. Dreschhoff succeeded Mrs. Hauff as chairman, each serving two years.

The History Dept. which merged with the Art Dept., in 1936, was organized in 1908, by Mrs. E. E. Shedd who served as chairman of the department for two years. Mrs. G. W. Neet, Mrs. H. M. Jessee and Mrs. W. E. Harris each served for one year. Miss Elizabeth McAlilly, a teacher in the University, served as chairman for two years and presented a study of Greek and Roman history. Succeeding her and holding the office as chairman for two years consecutively, were Miss Luella

Porter, Mrs. Ira C. Tilton, Mrs. S. E. Shideler (1 yr.), Mrs. G. W. Neet (second term), Mrs. W. E. Seymour, Mrs. W. F. Ellis, Mrs. M. E. Packman, Mrs. G. A. Goetz, Mrs. Ira C. Tilton (second term), Mrs. V. E. Berry and Mrs. Yonly Owens who served from 1934 to 36 after which the members of the department united with the Art Dept., now Fine Arts Department.

Twenty-eight years had been devoted to the study of history, ancient, medieval and modern; including the Industrial History of the U. S., History of Indiana, History of neighbors north and south, Russia and World War I. Wells' Outline of History was studied for four years, and the last year was devoted to the history of American Institutions. Current Events, in response to roll call, were given at all regular meetings. The department never carried a large membership; but was a substantial part of the club. Special programs included lectures by Prof. H. N. Carver, Mr. A. V. Dalrymple of Manila, P. I., Prof. W. F. Ellis, Rev. E. J. Mungovan, Prof. C. S. Hoover, Mrs. R. E. Whistler's original rhyme characterized by local talent, Dr. Evans' trip around the world, Chief Red Fox in full Indian Costume, Dr. E. G. Schwiebert, Mrs. C. F. Steele of Knox, Mrs. C. W. Boucher, Dr. G. H. Stoner, Commodore Herbert Hartley, former captain of the Leviathan and for the last general meeting Mrs. Anna Morony gave the history of American music with interpretations by members of the Cecilia Club in various costumes.

Mrs. Orris Booth, chairman of the American Citizenship Dept., in 1932-34, presented practical political discussions and a study of the United States Government. She secured Miss Alice Yeakel, past chairman, of American Citizenship, I. F. C., as guest speaker and thus created new interest in the work done by the federation. Mrs. E. Warren Stees was elected chairman and was succeeded by Mrs. Paul Cushman, Mrs. John Ross, Mrs. Geo. R. Harrison and Mrs. Fred Bartz. Each served two years. Mrs. F. H. Hawbrook was elected chairman in 1944. Mrs. Ross, while chairman, invited the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Woman's Relief Corps members for a joint patriotic meeting. The W. R. C. presented a silk flag to the department. The first joint meeting with the Literature Dept. was held in 1941. Mrs. Mildred Loring Fitch, Purdue University, a guest of the department, gave her lecture, "The Mettle of Democracy" to a large audience in 1943. Mrs. Judith W. Lowe appeared on the International relations program, in November 1944, and related her experience "Vagabonding through Europe".

The American Home Department, Mrs. Englebert Zimmerman, Jr., chairman, in 1932, followed the outline on homemaking presented by the state federation. Mrs. Earl R. Paul was elected chairman, in 1933, and served two years. Succeeding her and serving as chairman of the department, for two years each, were Mrs. R. C. Shurr, Mrs. Ray Dean, Mrs. Albert Kuhn. Mrs. Kenneth Wolf and Mrs. Mark Stephens served

VALPARAISO WOMAN'S CLUB

only one year. Mrs. Bruce Borum is now serving her second year. The department has the largest membership in the club. The practical, cultural and spiritual life for homemaking has progressed steadily. Home-making has been presented by state and national speakers and members of the University faculty. Book reviews, discussions by members, appropriate music and various displays have been included in the programs.

Mrs. Lorenzo D. Smith was the twenty-fifth Valparaiso club woman elected president of the club, in 1943. She joined the History Dept. in 1918, where she served as assistant secretary, secretary and vice chairman. Assisting her husband in the printing office, she has proved to be an efficient aid to the year book committee from year to year. The club's Fiftieth Anniversary year-book (1944-45), was awarded first prize at the Tenth District Convention. She was Recording Secretary, in 1934, and Financial Secretary, 1935-37 during which time she put the records of the club on a firm business base. Under her direction the annual sale of goods made by the Blind, begun in 1928 by Valparaiso Club, reached \$166.23, in 1943, and the annual used clothing sale netted \$430.00. The Club purchased War Bonds to the amount of \$250.00 and acted as agent for the sale of bonds and stamps to the amount of \$4277.55 in 1943 and contributed \$198.00 to various funds, such as Red Cross, Cancer Control, Nurse's Scholarship, etc. While serving as vice-president she acted as chairman of by-law revisions and also compiled the record for the honor roll.

For the reception, 1943, Mr. Frank V. Dudley, an artist of renown, was guest speaker and displayed forty of his paintings. The club members enjoyed guest musician, Mrs. Howard Overton, with her Seeing-Eye dog, Beth, in attendance for the September 1944 meeting.

Mrs. W. H. Lykins, First Vice-President I. F. C. (now President I. F. C. and G. F. W. C. Director), visited the Club in March and spoke on "A New Day". She has made the following State Chairmen appointments from the Valparaiso Club; Mrs. George R. Harrison, American Citizenship and Mrs. A. R. Putnam, Post War Planning.

The Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial is now being used by many Valparaiso women's organizations. The Catholic Woman's Club, The Oasis Club, The Sphinx Club, The Gamma Nu Sorority, The Democratic Woman's Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution make it their regular meeting place. The rentals they pay help to keep the building in good condition. The Valparaiso Girl Scouts have been given the privilege of using some of the basement rooms.

The members of the Valparaiso Woman's Club may well be proud of their achievements for the past fifty years. Truly the Sarah Porter Kinsey Memorial is "A place where toilers drop an hour their load of care."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1944-45—Seated—Mrs. Grover J. Hinkle, House Committee Chairman; Miss Flora Reffelt, Fine Arts Chairman; Mrs. Fred H. Lansdown, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Lorenzo D. Smith, President; Mrs. Ray Dean, First Vice-President; Mrs. A. O. Dobbins, Recording Secretary; Mrs. John A. Hauff, Director; Mrs. Rudolph Popp, Financial Secretary.

Second Row—Mrs. Yonly Owens, Literature Chairman; Mrs. Ira A. Mummert, Director; Mrs. J. E. Dreschhoff, Garden Chairman; Mrs. Francis H. Hawbrook, Citizenship Chairman; Mrs. F. W. Blaese, Federation Secretary; Mrs. A. R. Putnam, Parliamentarian; Mrs. Harry J., Arnold, Treasurer; Mrs. May Fenton, Director; (Mrs. Bruce Borum, American Home Chairman, not pictured).



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, incoming and outgoing, also DELEGATES TO I. F. C. CONVENTION, held at French Lick, in May, 1937. Photograph taken by, and at the home of the hostess, Mrs. Earl R. Paul.

Standing—Mrs. J. H. Spindler, Mrs. Ida Cook, Mrs. Ira C. Tilton, Mrs. John A. Hauff, Mrs. A. R. Putnam, Mrs. L. E. Dowdell, Mrs. Ray Dean, Mrs. Harry Pagin, Mrs. E. F. Van Ness, Mrs. John Ross, Mrs. C. W. Boucher, Mrs. R. C. Shurr, Mrs. George A. Goetz, Mrs. Grover J. Hinkle, President; Mrs. Avery B. Weaver, President Porter County Federation of Clubs; Mrs. Lorenzo D. Smith.

Mrs. C. W. Boucher, Mrs. A. R. Putnam continue to faithfully serve on the Memorial Finance Committee.

LORENZO D. SMITH, PRINTER

