

Women's Clubs Continue To Carry On Activities

By ELEANOR POWELL
News Woman's Editor

The women of this area have busy running club affairs since the early 1900s.

Two of the earliest organizations, the popular Entre Nous Book Club and the Wednesday Afternoon Book, had their beginnings initiated around 1910.

The Mount Airy Woman's Club was in full swing during those years, but disbanded due to World War I. In 1947 the Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club was formed under the leadership of Madie Early, Lucille Vaughn and Ruth Myers, with Lib Perkins assuming the presidency for two years.

As members of the junior club reached the age limitation of 35 years old, they started the present Mount Airy Woman's Club in 1953, with Madie Early serving as its first president.

Mrs. George Marshall, the president of the first Woman's Club in the late 1920s, also served as state president for the number of years and was instrumental in organizing the two clubs here in later years.

All of these organizations are active today with full memberships. Looking back on the past 50 years, several garden clubs were started, followed by two sorority chapters. The Altrusa Club was begun, with the local chapter of the American Business Women's Association gearing up during the 1980s.

The ladies auxiliaries to the American Legion had its beginning after World War I and the auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars after World War II. The Lady Lions stemmed from the Lions Club, while women have begun joining the formerly all-male Rotary Club and the Jaycees during the past five years.

The two book clubs continue to function much today as they did in the beginning and are still going strong. Originally, new members had to be a daughter, daughter-in-law or a relative of a club member, but through the years the rigid rules eased somewhat and "outsiders" have been taken into the membership.

Nina Yokley recalled some years back that she joined the Entre Nous Book Club following in the footsteps

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of her mother, Mrs. D.E. Hoffman, who came to Mount Airy about 1910.

Julia Bolick, recalling her childhood years, said her mother, Mrs. Jesse Prather, entertained the book club at their home on North Main Street.

"Oh boy, that was quite the thing. I couldn't wait to get home from school when they met. We always went to the back door when mother was having the book club. I got to taste coffee topped with whipped cream and eat some of the desserts," Bolick added.

She joined the group, later leaving for Washington, D.C., and Winston-Salem to work for some 40 years. Bolick now lives in Mount Airy and continues as a member. Mrs. Prather was one of the charter members.

The 1930 club roster included Mrs. E.C. Ashby, Mrs. John Ashby, Mrs. T.N. Brock, Mrs. T.G. Fawcett, Mrs. George O. Graves Sr., Mrs. J.M. Hollingsworth, Mrs. E.M. Hollingsworth, Mrs. Joe Gwyn, Mrs. J.A. Hadley, Mrs. D.E. Hoffman, Mrs. E.H. Kochtitzky, Mrs. Will Hollingsworth, Mrs. O.W. Kochtitzky;

Also, Mrs. J.C. Hollingsworth, Mrs. J. Raymond Smith, Mrs. J.D. McCollum, Miss Katherine Price, Mrs. J.D. Sargent, Mrs. R.W. Sparger, Mrs. A.V. West, Mrs. J.F. Yokley, Mrs. Clara R. Sobotta, Mrs. B.Y. Graves, Mrs. Cullen Merritt, Mrs. W.W. Burke, Mrs. W.F. Carter Jr. and Mrs. G.D. Fawcett.

None of the club's present members can remember why it was named *Entre Nous*, but the French title means "between us." According to a member, the group started with a group of ladies who gathered in the afternoons to embroider and later decided to exchange books and play Boston Rook.

It was quite an exclusive club, according to information handed down through the years, with the group gathering at members' homes for afternoon meetings.

It is recalled that good books were not available as they are today, so that was the purpose of exchanging books and, of course, to play Rook.

A local historian recalls that during those days, evangelists were down on dancing and card playing, with playing bridge the worst of all. She said, "I've heard that's why they played Rook. It was a little lighter than bridge."

The present membership roster includes Laurie Forbes, Julia Bolick,



Women's groups often entertained with parties during the 1930s. The Women of Central United Methodist Church held a Washington's Tea, and are shown with their guests at the old New Willow Hotel. Seated on the front are Libby Shelton (left) and Marianna Hines. Standing (left to right) are Mazie Cook, William Allred, Flossie Allred, Kitty Miller, Tommy Miller, Mrs. Walter J. Miller, the Rev. Walter J. Miller, Geraldine Miller, Willie Moore Gentry, (unidentified), Bess Merritt, Rachel Holcomb and Will Hale. On the second row are Grace Vaughn, Mrs. Matt Hines, Molly Haymore, Cora Earp, Mrs. Floyd Poore, Minnie Chandler, D.A. Robertson, Clara Clark, Lucy Bowman, Kathryn Mays, Mrs. Paul Hull, Mrs. Joe G. Greenwood and Hilda Hollingsworth. On the back rows are Ruth Minick, Mary Louise Merritt, Ada Shelton, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. C.C. Elder, Mrs. E.Q. Benbow, Elsie Sparger, Mrs. Walter Poore, Mrs. Sparger Robertson, Annie Badgett, Louise Foy, Ethel Doss, Virginia Coltrane, Mrs. R.F. Collins and Mabel Creed.

Sis Hennis, Virginia Jackson, Barbara Coram, Virginia Porter, Lea Simmons, Edith Clair Sykes, Linda Michaels, Nina Yokley, Lib Burke, Dot Wimbish, Blanche Gwyn, Emily Smith, Valeria Shuford, Caroline Sydnor, Jane Britt, Susan Caldwell, Susan Ashby, Janet Nichols, Anita Crossingham and Sarah Harkrader.

Wednesday Book Club

The original list of charter members in the Wednesday Book Club has disappeared through the years, also.

Among the first members were Mrs. E.C. Ashby, Mrs. Jones Brown, Mrs. Marvin Ellis, Mrs. E.C. Foy Jr., Mrs. John Foy, Mrs. R.A. George, Mrs. Hugh Holcomb, Mrs. Ed Inman, Mrs. R.R. Jackson, Mrs. G.C. Lovill,

Mrs. O.K. Merritt, Mrs. Minnie Lee Merritt, Mrs. William Merritt;

Also, Mrs. Sadie Payne, Mrs. John Prather, Mrs. W.S. Wolfe, Mrs. H.O. Woltz, Mrs. L.P. Wrenn, Mrs. J.F. Yokley, Mrs. O.H. Yokley, Mrs. William Hollingsworth, Mrs. J.G. Harrison, Mrs. J.W. Lovill and Mrs. R.J. Lovill.

Some of those joining later were Mrs. Conrad Siceloff, Mrs. Wince Fulton, Mrs. A.V. West, Mrs. Edmund Burke, Mrs. W.S. James, Mrs. Bruce Tharrington, Mrs. Lala Smith, Mrs. Ben Graves, Mrs. Howard Foy, Mrs. Tom Southgate and Mrs. Richard Jackson.

Present members are Barbara Hooks, Libby Lovill, Mary Fawcett, Nancy Merritt, Lib Fawcett, Dora Belle Sykes, Mary Emily Cook, Jewel Jarrell, Babs Merritt, Jo Woltz, Agnes

Woltz, Betty Woltz, Pat Woltz, Clara Yokley, Kathy Outlaw, Emma Merritt, Jean Beroth, Tanya Rees, Jim Henry, Esther Lovill, Jonnie Rogge, Charlotte Bokesch, Marjorie Holcomb and Kelly Merritt.

Help

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work in raising a barn. But those who remember barn raisings say the men quite often left the farm after only a small amount of supper, going home to sleep and get away from the heat of the late afternoon.

Other activities that are thought to have been shared with neighbors in this area are house raisings, log rollings, apple butter and sugar boilings, weddings and funerals, tobacco work-

ing and dung from fields). Reports of weevils breaking for part of a corn shucking are n-

Regarding the word "husk," linguists say the preferred term in New South and as far north as Pennsylvania.

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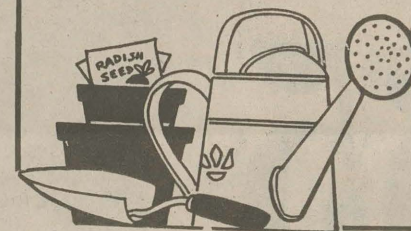


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