

**THE HISTORY OF THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB
OF RIB LAKE**

*as printed
on 40th Anniversary*

At 3:15 o'clock Friday afternoon, January 20, 1899, eight women assembled in Mrs. C. F. Bowman's hotel parlor and organized the 20th Century Club of Rib Lake. It was purely a literary club with sixteen members banded together for mutual improvement in reading, literature, citizenship, etc., and for many years was the social nucleus of the village.

In 1900 the club federated with the state and district organizations, in 1909 with the general federation, and in 1923 with the county federation.

In the summer of 1924 the club constitution was revised to make the membership unlimited and to increase the activities along civic lines. The influx of new members made meeting in the homes no longer practical and the Woodman hall was rented until the new village hall was completed giving access to the council room. At present, however, meetings are again held in the homes.

From the original sixteen members, the club roll shows a membership, changing from year to year as new members came in and others moved away, totaling 240. Ninety-one of these were teachers. Mrs. J. J. Voemastek, an active member of the present club, holds the honored distinction of membership through thirty-three years.

With a usually miscellaneous program the club has studied a wide range of subjects; English and American authors, English and American history; also the history of foreign countries including Austria, France, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Russia, and China. One entire year was devoted to the study of Wisconsin. In keeping with its "Forward" slogan, the club has studied and discussed the leading questions of the hour and current topics of the day. It has read one act plays, staged several home talent plays, and reported on many modern books.

The club has assisted in many worthy movements. In 1900 it founded the present library, raising money in various ways and donating to its upkeep until the village board assumed the property. Recently the club donated an unabridged dictionary and a set of "The World Book." Subscriptions have been given to the loan fund for Higher Education, Suffrage Fund, Boys' Farm Home and School Endowment Fund, Chicago's Women's Shelter, General Headquarters Federation at Washington, D. C., Downer College Endowment Fund, to the Salvation Army, the Children's Home and Aid Society, The Children's Code, The Helen Mears Memorial Fund, Conference of Social Workers, War Veterans' Fund and Christmas cheer, Indian Welfare, and to the Wisconsin Bell at Valley Forge.

One year Christmas toys were sent to the orphan asylum at Sparta. In war time the club extended aid to the Red Cross, adopted a French orphan girl, subscribed to the "Home Coming" celebration, gave to the Belgium children, the Armenian and Near East Relief.

The organization has sponsored every cause of public interest! At various times petitions were sent to the legislature and men of influence pertaining to the rights of women to serve on school boards, for a county nurse and to combat the liquor traffic. The first lecture course in Rib Lake was presented under the auspices of the club and continued for a number of years until given over to the Men's Alliance.

The past year the Washington bicentennial was celebrated with the planting of two walnut seeds in the library yard. These seeds came originally from the black walnut tree at Mount Vernon. For several years an annual donation of sewed carpet rags has been sent to the soldier's hospital.

The schools of the community have always been of foremost consideration. In the early years flowers were presented to the graduating class. The manual training department of the school was made possible through the efforts of the club and the assistance of Mr. J. Sigurd Stone, pastor of Christ's church, who donated his services as instructor for two years. At one time hot lunches were served to the school children with marked success. At present, the club is cooperating with the P. T. A. in furnishing milk to undernourished children. Much has been done for the children through free dental and medical examinations by local doctors and through the state "Baby Clinics." The club furnishes and sews layettes which are kept on hand at all times for emergencies.

Four years ago the club organized the girl scouts.

Aside from the more serious activities many pleasant social events have been enjoyed; Christmas, St. Valentine and St. Patrick's Day parties, Children's day programs, Mothers' and Daughters' day, Progressive Luncheons, Tour of the Nation's dinner, Banquets, Picnics, sleigh rides and hikes.

From Scrapbook in 20th Century Club File

Black cover with ship 1934-1946 - Rib Lake

Last page of book "History & records of the 25th Anniversary
The 40th Anniversary and Past Presidents Day Dec 18, 1941"

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