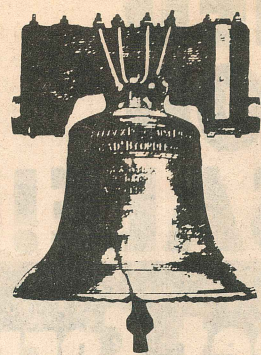
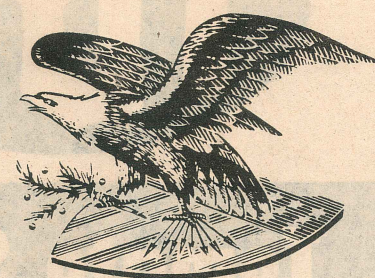


MADRID

AREA



BIG CENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Lions Clubs: "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety"

The International Association of Lions Clubs started as a dream in the mind of a young Chicago agent. The man was Melvin Jones; the dream was the consolidation of several independent clubs, already in existence into one strong, influential unit for service to humanity. This dream was presented to the leaders of various independent groups at a Chicago meeting on June 17, 1917 and from that meeting came a call for the Association's annual convention which was held October 8-10, 1917 in Dallas with 23 clubs participating. Thus one of the world's largest, active and representative service club organizations was founded.

The Association did not become international until 1920 when the first Lions clubs were started in Canada. From that time until 1927 other such organizations were begun in China, Mexico and Cuba. Eight years later Central America entered the fold and in 1936 the first South American club was started in Columbia. It wasn't until March 24, 1948 that this organization reached Europe, and Stockholm, Sweden in particular.

The Lions believe in club meetings with an atmosphere of good fellowship and harmony prevailing. They also stand for developing projects and activities geared to the needs of their communities; in broad participation in an international program of brotherhood and fellowship based upon service wherever the need exists; in service to humanity without thought to race, creed, nationality, religion or politics; in the ultimate leadership of Lionism, but not at the expense or in conflict with the programs of other organizations which seek the same goal of unselfish service to mankind.

Lions Clubs are under charter to Lions International with at least 15 names required upon the document. The Madrid branch was started in 1929 with some of the following names appearing on the charter: Will Jenkins, 1st club president; Carl Lundahl, Walter Anderson, Frank Kenison, Fred Carlson and Dr. Studebaker.

The Madrid club holds their regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Iowa Lutheran Home for the Aged. During the summer months however, they assemble only once a month. All meetings are dinner meetings and commence at 6:30 p.m.

Membership into the club is by invitation only with the application subject to the approval of the membership committee. Members of Lions are people who feel they want to serve the community and have a responsibility for helping to make it a better place to live through personal contact and association with other like persons of the community making for an effective force for community betterment. The club has 50 members at the present time. Ages of the present active members range from 25-89.



Carl Lundahl and Frank Kenison, both 45-year members of the Madrid Lions Club were honored in November 1975 for their long time service. They are two of the oldest active members in the club.

During the course of the year the group does many varied and interesting activities at meetings or through community projects. Different committees are voted upon or assigned at the beginning of each term, which begins in July. These committees are responsible for handling and organizing the happenings at specified meetings such as arranging for a prominent speaker or expert on the particular subject matter at hand or occasionally they have work nights devoted to some project or else just a fun night. An example of the work night idea is the annual light bulb sale in October. Other activities done in the course of a year include public service-type programs such as the annual dinner for the school faculty and administration or a night set aside to entertain their wives.

The Madrid Lions have sponsored the local Boy Scout organization for almost 25 years as well as the Cub Scouts for 20 years. They also are involved in the Scout Blue and Gold Banquet held each year.

Some of the activities carried out by the Lions are listed below. They took an active role in furnishing the park shelter house as well as giving a sizable contribution each year to the Iowa Lions Sight Conservation Commission which seeks ways to prevent blindness and glaucoma. The money is also used in research and treatment of blindness, for in training

purposes and in rehabilitating the blind. The local club also supports local activities such as Community Chest, the Lutheran Home and various youth activities. They also have shown a participatory interest in local health projects and other mass medical check services offered in the school and community. They also help with the arrangements and forms to the Lion's Eye Bank, a project done at University of Iowa hospitals.

The Iowa Lion is the official mouthpiece of the Iowa Clubs and contains news items and projects undertaken by the different state clubs.

The Lions strive for regular attendance at their meetings with 75 percent the designated goal. It was learned through research that throughout the United States there are at least 20 members who have not missed a meeting in a 20 year period. Missed meetings can be made up by attending meetings of other clubs; getting involved in a club sponsored activities; attending a meeting of the Board of Directors of their own club; go to a regional or zone meeting or numerous other ways.

The Madrid organization was started under the sponsorship of the Boone Club and they, in turn sponsored the Woodward Club, when they formed back on Jan. 27, 1970.

The club colors are purple and gold standing for loyalty and sincerity respectively. Their slogan is "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety," and their motto is "We Serve."

The object of Lionism is to create and foster a spirit of "generous consideration" among the people of the world 2) Promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship 3) take an active interest in the civic, social and moral welfare of the community 4) unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual un-

derstanding 5) provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest and 6) encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in business and professions.

Elected officials play an important part in the future of the club. Present officers of the Madrid Lions Club are Chet Barker, president; Mel McFarlane, 1st vice-president; Jim Bingman, 2nd vice-president; Rollin Cronk, secretary-treasurer; chaplin, Rev. Charles Terrell; Marion Romitti, Lion tamer and Al Sorensen, tail twister. The last two offices are unique and not often present in other organizations. The job of Lion tamer consists of finding a meeting and eating place for the club as well as reminding the members to make their meal reservations. The tail twister is almost exactly what his name implies. He is the club "clown" or fun master. He keeps up fun in the club and occasionally he chides members for irregular attendance, failure to wear the Lion pin or hat to club meetings or various other reasons.

Upcoming events of the club include the annual joint meeting of all Boone County clubs which will be March 2 with groups from Boone, Madrid, Ogden and Woodward taking part. Scout night, farmer's night, Lion's information night, and ladies night will also be held in the next six months.

Annual events held by the Madrid group include Scholastic Night, set for June 15 where high school honor students are recognized for outstanding academic achievement and the chicken barbecue held usually in September. This has been a club event for over 15 years.

There is no equivalent club for women at the present time but one is in the developing process at Lion's International. Junior Clubs or "Leo Clubs" have also been established throughout the United States for young people of high school ages between 11-17.