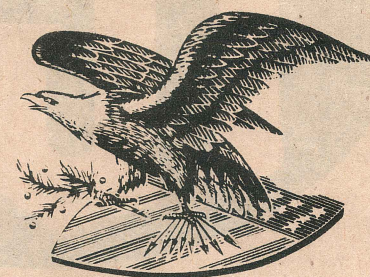


MADRID

AREA

BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Madrid Women's Club Began Back in 1946

One of the active organizations for women in Madrid is the Madrid Women's Club, which began back in 1946.

This particular club has been a strong influence on the city and set the following goal when it organized 30 years ago. "The object of the organization is striving for self-improvement, disseminating a broader culture and promoting a more active interest in the welfare of the community, state and nation." The local organization is an affiliate of the Iowa Federation of Women's Club.

Past presidents of the Women's Club include Esther Sundberg, from 1946-47; Minnie Langland Carlson, Carol Leonard, Jane York, Nelle Kenison, Maude Neff, Kathryn Johnson, Pauline Sundberg, Jean Kellogg, Lillian White, Margaret Keigley, Dorothy Burich, Virginia Lanning, June Anderson, Ruby Boda and Betty Babberl. Margaret Keigley is the current president and has held this position since 1971.



MRS. MARGARET KEIGLEY

There are currently 14 members in the club and they are Virginia Lanning, vice-president; Marilyn Benbow, secretary-treasurer; Opal Lehman, music chairman; Nell Coffman, Ruby Boda, Pearl Davis, Esther Sundberg, Edna Lamb, Florence Berkley, Nelle Kenison, Ellen Webb, Faye Hoffman and Berniece Spring.

The Women's Club had much to do in the furnishing of the Community Room. Since 1953 they have purchased a piano, 42 chairs, coatrack, draperies, flags, 60 inch round table, refrigerator and gas stove. These items have been purchased with money raised by dues and the November Art Show, which began back in 1949. Then called a hobby show, the women have improved the festival each year since and the 1976 show promises to be the best yet. Paintings by Madrid's own Jim Sargent are scheduled to be on display at this time.

Between the years of 1950-1954 this group began doing volunteer work at the Woodward State Hospital-School. The 25 ladies would spend one day a month helping around the state hospital performing various functions. The Aqua Ladies, as they were then known, helped establish a sewing room for the patients and also supplied a sewing machine, bought with money raised through a community project.

Each year a gift is made to Camp Sunnyside and a Scholarship and Loan fund is available to graduating seniors planning to attend college. The Women's Club also was responsible for getting the Meals on Wheels service in Madrid. This project is currently under the guidance of the Madrid Ministerial Association.

The Madrid Women's Club meets on the first Monday of each month at the community room.

Garden Club Strives to Beautify the Area

The Madrid Garden Club has been functioning in the Madrid area long before World War II. However, during the war, the club disbanded due to the fact that many members entered the Armed Forces.

In the fall of 1946, Larry Lanning got some of the old members back together and the club reorganized. The first reorganizational meeting was held at the Lanning house. Some of the charter members of the rejuvenated club included Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sundberg, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lanning, Mamie Blyler, Margaret Blyler Keigley, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lundahl and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bollie.

During the first year the club met in the member's home and now they meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the bank basement. A covered dish supper is always held with the meeting following. These meetings are learning experiences for all 43 members as they study conservation, horticulture, birds, etc.

For the past 10 years the club has had the distinction of being a blue ribbon club, and earning this means that they have met and complied with all the rules and regulations as laid down by the State Club. The group also keeps a yearbook and participates in the upkeep of a roadside park.

Done under the heading of "Boost Our Highways", for the past 8 years the Garden Club took care of the roadside park west of town. Now however, they have taken over responsibility for the park long Highway 17 just outside of Granger.

For the past few years a Garden Therapy Program has been advocated by the club. Mrs. Olive Barclay has headed the project which consisted of the making of terrariums or giving small plants to shut-ins or residents of the Iowa Lutheran Home for the Aged.



MRS. OLIVE BARCLAY

All money raised by the group comes through dues or contributions. The major project undertaken by the Garden Club is the Annual Flower Show held at the Community Room in August or September. This is open to the community and all entries are judged by a professional.



BOB WHITMORE

For many years, the local group has instilled a silent rule into their by-laws which says that only men can hold the office of president. Current officers are Bob Whitmore, president; Clarence Sundell, 1st vice president and Alice Engleen, secretary-treasurer. •

The Garden Club was also responsible for the planting of trees at Mount Hope cemetery around the Veteran's Memorial. They took care of the bushes until they were well established and then care was turned over to the cemetery board.

Watch next
Week for the
History of
Local Area
Country
Schools