

MISCELLANEOUS "GOOD DEEDS" throughout the years!

From the beginning, a Courtesy Chairman was appointed each year to send appropriate cards or flowers to members or members of their families in the name of the Club. Reflecting on the economy, while dues were 50¢ per year, the price of a respectable plant in a suitable was 50¢ to 75¢, and the price of a nice card was only a nickel, (the days before the "very best!"). The cost increased and the guidelines varied, but always the committee has remembered University families in times of sorrow or illness, sometimes with meals, toys (for sick tots, or other appropriate deeds.

Handkerchief Showers (before tissues!) presented a departing friend with delicate, personal remembrances.

At times of special joy and happiness, parties evolved. Crystal or silver gifts or showers were given for brides. Baby gifts from the Club were silver cups, then spoons, and duplicate gifts were given to the only twins (recorded or remembered).

A genuine concern for women students, for their needs as well as encouragement, resulted in financial assistance with clothing for a student from Japan and a 1953 senior who had been accepted as a nurse in the mission field in the Belgian Congo. Several other times, prior to or in addition to the scholarships, members had responded personally to needs of students brought to the attention of the Club.

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During the War Years, the Club cooperated with Red Cross efforts to provide veterans and the "boys overseas" with socks, handkerchiefs, and other small gifts Christmas as well as in an on-going program. In addition to several donations (under \$5 each), members did knitting. In 1946, members contributed \$18.75 to be sent to Winter General Hospital in Topeka for Christmas gifts for the veterans there.

Late in 1945, the plight of a very special Philippine family was brought to the attention of Club members. Anita Aurelio Gonzaga, a music major in voice with the Class of 1940, had returned to Ilo Ilo where her husband was an M.D. specializing in ophthalmic surgery. The lives of the family, now with two or three small children, were in jeopardy in the aftermath of WW II and they escaped to the "hill country" taking very few possessions with them. Anita had lived at the Trump home while attending OU, and was remembered by many with admiration and love and members responded generously as individuals since Club funds were inadequate. Four of the Gonzaga children are Ottawa graduates and are married to graduates, and a son attended before study in the east and a career in grand opera. The entire family moved to Pennsylvania in the early 1960s where Dr. Eduardo Gonzaga both studied and taught at Temple University School of Medicine. (More than anyone wanted to know? -- Just one example of the Ottawa "spirit" reaching around the world.) And the Gonzagas represent a long list of two, three, and even four generation alumni families.)

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The public schools asked for support for the Milk Fund to provide mid-morning nourishment for children whose parents could ill-afford this cost. During the early 1950s, \$5 was contributed each of two years.

At about this time, the plans to establish a scholarship program were taking form, and it was decided (by consensus) that as a Club "charity would begin at home" leaving worthy causes in the community to be supported by those interested.

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Also from the beginning service was rendered to the University community (and often to others in the greater community) by lending the "punch bowl" with cups and other accessories for special events. It seemed to be the only one in town, and the rental fees (25¢, then raised gradually until \$1 was charged for a University related purpose, and \$2 for an outside user) provided for additional cups and replacement as well as for a silver ladle.

Members took turns preparing and serving tea, coffee, and goodies for faculty members as they gathered for the late afternoon monthly meetings in Tauy Jones recital hall. The kitchenette in TJH needed refurbishing and a committee worked with Bob Bundy, Business Manager, to rebuild and paint the cupboards. "Rose Point" china plates and cups, teaspoons, teakettle, and a few other necessary items were on the shelves. The hostesses brought from their homes anything else which they expected to use. "Faculty Wives" hemmed sugar sacks (in the best tradition of the day) for "tea towels," and later Mrs. Martin provided a dozen towels to be hemmed during one of the meetings. Worn out or walked off, another dozen was provided in 1942. With the new Women's Residence Hall and the Commons (1943), the location for the Faculty Meeting was changed and the kitchenette seldom used.

The need for towels was not abated, but a "towel shower" was given in April, 1943, by the members for the Residence Hall kitchen, used by many campus and off campus groups as well as the Women's Club since the lounge was a most attractive room and could accommodate more than a hundred guests.

The next April income from a white elephant sale provided a chrome-plated tea and coffee service which was used often and for many years. In general, it was kept at Tauy Jones Hall, even after the social scene had shifted to the Union where the service was eventually moved.

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In 1945 - 1946, another opportunity to fulfill the purpose of the Club presented itself. Many of the WWII Veteran students were married, their wives either seeking employment in Ottawa or raising families, and a few also were enrolled in courses. To extend our friendship and help them to become better acquainted with each other, Marjorie Martin and a few of the members invited these women for a pleasant afternoon "tea" at the President's Home. Later, the afternoon gathering was held at Campus View, student residence where Dick and Doris Peters were directors. As enrollment increased, the number

of student wives increased, and the scene of a party in October, 1946, was the Commons where Doris Peters directed the games, and refreshments were served to 50 Club members and guests.

The married students now were ready to create their own avenues for friendships and social life. Before 1954 they formed Chi Theta Lambda, a University social club for married students.

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In 1961 the Club purchased nine aluminum serving trays, a pair of candleholders and candy dishes matching the punch bowl, and increased the number of cups to 150. With punch bowls now in several churches and available for rent from one of the downtown stores, the equipment became freely available for any University use. With the completion of the University Union, it was handed to the care and supervision of the Union Hostess.

In 1964 the Club purchased a silver coffee and tea pot for use in the new University Union, the Women's Educational Society having given two silver trays and candelabra. Members also contributed Betty Crocker coupons in great quantities to enable the University to obtain at least 100 silver teaspoons and salad forks for a nominal expenditure.

Always alert, in 1987 the advantage of insulated coffee-servers for dinners, meetings, or other social events was recognized. Again, response by individuals of the Club was essentially a Club response.

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Financial assistance as a Club focused on the Scholarship from the first award in 1954, but some finger seemed always on the pulse when help was needed for equipment, as above, or for especially rewarding experiences. In summer, 1977, the Chorale with Director Joyce Stuermer traveled in Rumania under the Friendship Ambassadors program, and \$50 was contributed for the concert tour from the Club treasury.