

The Fourth Decade

1955 – 1965

Club Rooms and
Club Dues

Thirty-fifth Anniversary

Operation Bookshelf

The Larch Tree's
25th Anniversary

Presidents



MRS. HENRY M. SHIELDS
1956-1958



MRS. MARK W. TAPLEY
1958-1960



MRS. WILLIAM SLATER
1960-1962



MRS. GEORGE E. STEWART
1962-1964



MRS. ALBERT E. BOLLENGIER, JR.
1964-1966

CLUBROOMS AND CLUB DUES

The nation was basking in the “Eisenhower years” but times were changing. A “Cold War” with Communism existed, a young veteran born in the 20th Century was elected President, a Cuban missile crisis was averted and the U. S. soared into space with John Glenn’s orbiting of the Earth. The assassination of President Kennedy, the growth of civil rights and the escalation of the Vietnam situation affected the entire country, including The Woman’s Club.

MEMBERSHIP

By 1955, the Club still had a full membership of 500 with a healthy waiting list. The number of women waiting to join was larger than at any previous time in the history of the Club. The total membership – Active, Junior, Evening, Sub-Debs, Activators – was approximately 800. The Activators “graduated” their first class of 38 integrated members, who, as alumnae, would develop a service project of their own. By the thirty-third year of the Club, 1958, the membership was 836. Dues were holding steady at \$10 for Actives, \$3 for Evening, \$2 for Sub-Debs and \$2 plus \$2 for Ways and Means for the Juniors. (If a Junior did not support at least one of the Ways and Means projects, the extra \$2 was forfeited.)

In 1955 an amendment to the Bylaws was adopted whereby the Presidents of the Club would automatically become Life members when they completed office. The then 14 past presidents joined the existing list of Life members. Honorary membership was also defined for the Bylaws.

With the Building Fund earning interest but vacant and improved land becoming more scarce in the area, a “Development Committee” was appointed in the Club year 1955-56 to explore

the questions of housing, membership and dues. In addition, the many committee and board meetings, workshops and study groups, diversional therapy work sessions and department days were putting quite a demand on members’ homes as well as the Larchmont Avenue Church. Also it was felt that the president, treasurer, chairmen of membership, finance and personnel and the editor of *The Larch Tree* could function more efficiently in a central location. A general questionnaire was sent to the membership seeking reaction to the question of a clubhouse and its financing. The results came back with the Club members divided equally pro and con.

In 1959 escalating operating costs made it apparent to the Executive Board that in the near future no substantial increase for any item would be possible without presenting a deficit budget. Except for the first two years of the Club’s existence, dues had been ten dollars. In 1950 a \$1.00 assessment was made for a tea table fund, later followed by another \$1.00 assessment. For 33 years dues had remained the same while costs had skyrocketed, reported Edna M. Stewart, Finance Chairman.

In 1934 the Club spent \$700 in “contributions” to the Larchmont Avenue Church. In 1958 that had increased to \$1,600, over a 100% increase. Printing and postage costs were nearly four times as much. Programs did not keep the same pace but in 1958, \$1800 was spent as against \$1100 in 1934. All these increased costs had been financed by the \$10 dues and the use of surplus funds.

“The Agencies tell us that in the past ten years, costs of programs have increased 30 to 50% ...” wrote Mrs. Stewart in a *Larch Tree* article in November 1959. “What about our program budget while these costs were rising? For the last 13 years

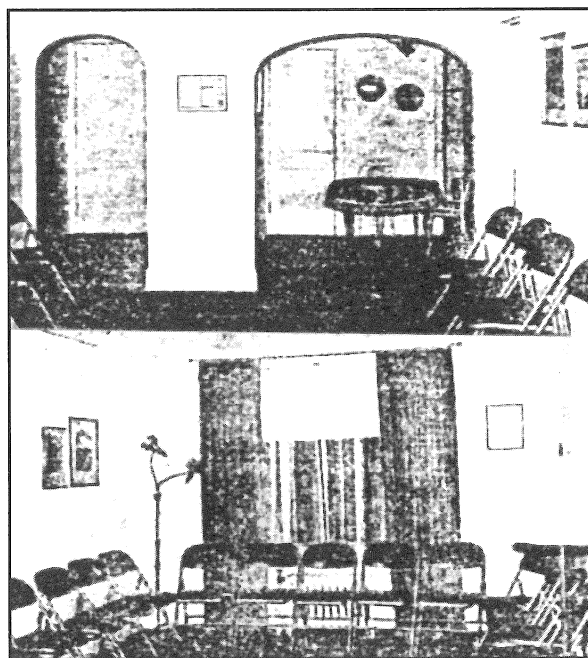
the allowance has been \$1800 as it is today, with a brief interlude of three years when it was raised to \$2000.

"It is certain that we shall not be able to maintain the high standards of excellence established over the years for our programs, unless we give our program chairmen more money to work with."¹

It was a valid position; the Executive Board voted to raise dues to \$15, the amount to include the \$2 assessments previously levied on members, making the actual increase for each member \$3. The Club still had the lowest dues of neighboring woman's clubs.

In March 1962 the Club began renting a three-and-a-half room apartment at 172 Myrtle Boulevard. It was to be used for meetings and work and to house much of the Club's larger equipment. Furnishings were provided by individual and group contributions.

In the 1962-63 club year, the Club accepted 41 Actives, 11 Juniors, three Evening and 52 Sub-Deb members for a total of 107. Membership was over 800 with a long waiting list.



ATTRACTIVELY REFURNISHED THREE-AND-A-HALF ROOM APARTMENT ON THE SECOND FLOOR AT 172 MYRTLE BLVD., LARCHMONT, HAS *THE LARCH TREE* FILING CABINETS AND MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE, STORAGE SPACE FOR THE MAGNETTES OF THE ACTIVATOR ALUMNAE, AND ALL THE OTHER PARAPHERNALIA A BUSY CLUB NEEDS TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Woman's Club was celebrated in January 1960 with a large birthday cake and special tributes to the Founders and Charter members. President Virginia A. Tapley wrote in *The Larch Tree* in her "President's Message":

"As everyone must be well aware by now, this is the 35th Anniversary of the Club's founding and this month (January) is our Anniversary Month. We owe much to our Founders and Charter Members who had the vision and wisdom to point the way and then capably started us along that path. The purposes of the Club can always bear

repeating lest some of us have never read them.

"The objects of the Club are threefold:

1. To engage actively in assisting any movement which has for its objective the Civic or Philanthropic betterment of the Community.
2. To promote interest in Literature, Education and the Fine Arts.
3. To study and discuss topics of public interest.

"Reflecting on these objectives, I think it is abundantly clear that we have fulfilled them and that we have justified our Founders' faith in the

future. Our emphasis on Philanthropy, with its expanding fields of service; and with the Activator group now six years old and the Activator Alumnae, all adding to the hours of service for our programs, has shown a purposeful and increasing dedication to the first objective. Our Department programs which have grown in interest and importance year by year; our Art Show, Craft Shows, Book and Author Luncheon, Book Review programs, panel discussions, legislative reports and our excellent Club Day programs fulfill the last two objectives."²

A special gift was a new fifty-star American flag presented to the Club as a birthday present by Mrs. William E. Shelton, one of the Founders.

Philanthropy

The philanthropy program continued to be a very important aspect of Club life. In addition to the contributions of money made possible by the Ways and Means projects, there were the thousands of hours of volunteer service performed by club members.

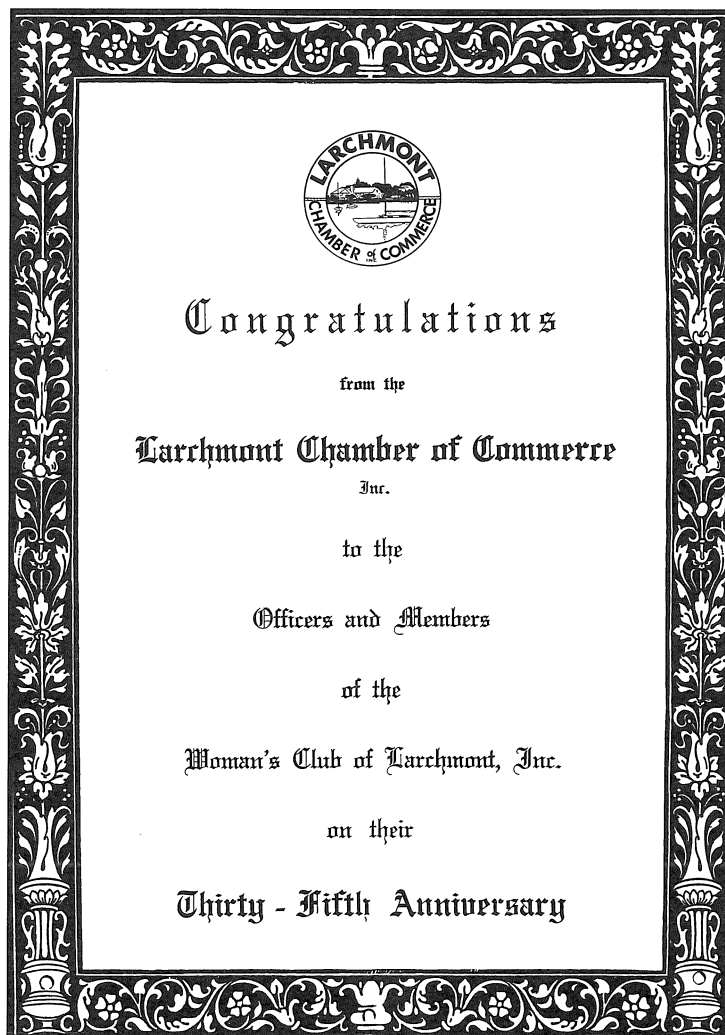
Sharing in many Club philanthropic projects, the three evening departments also promoted special projects. The Evening Department remembered the residents at Colburn Memorial Home and the Detention Cottage at Thornwood with gifts, monetary and otherwise. The Grasslands Hospital Library received the largest single Junior contribution, while per capita-wise, the Juniors contributed more to Philanthropy than any other Section. The Juniors received three awards at the Junior State Convention.

The Sub-Debs continued their monthly visits

to Children's Village and in addition, sent financial aid to a Korean child, a victim of the Korean War, in whom they had long been interested. They also helped with the local Easter Seal campaign.

In January 1958 the Philanthropy Department presented a dramatic portrayal of volunteers at work with twenty boys from Children's Village and six girls from the Jennie Clarkson home also participating. It gave Club members a realistic picture of the work the Club women were performing in the institutions.

The Woman's Club continued to contribute generously of time and money to Grasslands



Hospital (Diversional therapy, Musical therapy and Social Service committees), Children's Village, Jennie Clarkson Home, the Graham Home and County Home. In Larchmont, we contributed to the Community Chest, the Red Cross and the Mamaroneck Student Aid Fund, among others.

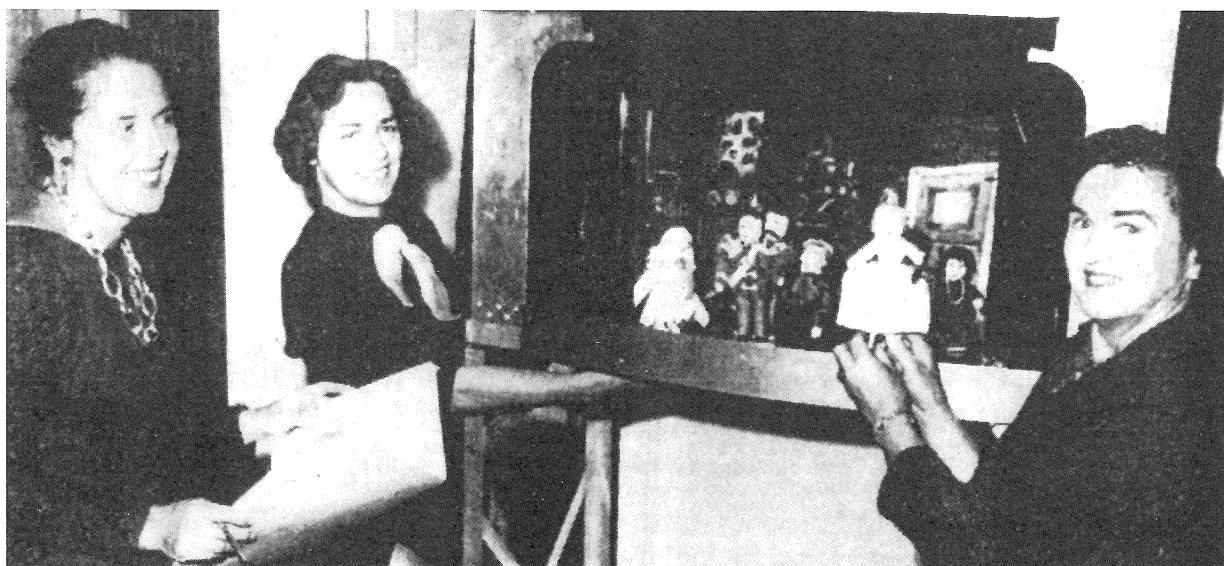
In 1962 the Juniors won a Philanthropy contest of the Westchester County Federation with their report on their service to the Retarded Children's Association. The prize was a sizeable contribution to the Association. In the following year they repeated the performance and the check for \$200 was given in the name of the Juniors to the School for Retarded Children in Pelham.

The Evening Department, as a result of their successful Bridge and Fashion Show in

November 1962, made several contributions to charities including the Red Cross, the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, the Student Aid Fund, Grasslands Hospital, the Cora Wilson-Wingdale Fund, the Harlem Valley State Hospital and the County Home's Men's Ward. They also supported a Federation project, Woodfield House, and contributed to the New Rochelle Music for Rehabilitation program.

The Activators continued to help with philanthropic services as well as providing a welcoming environment for new members to become acquainted. The Activator Alumnae continued their pattern of good service by their work with the "Magnettes," the magnetized puppets they developed.

"CINDERELLA," LATEST MAGNETTES PRODUCTION OF THE ACTIVATOR ALUMNAE OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, IS PICTURED IN REHEARSAL FOR MONDAY'S PRESENTATION TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF MAMARONECK AT 2 P.M. AT THE MAMARONECK FREE LIBRARY. MRS. THOMAS W. KELLY, MAGNETTES CHAIRMAN, HOLDS THE SCRIPT WRITTEN BY MRS. C. JAMES GREENLEAF AND MADELEINE T. SWEETING. MRS. ROY FLOWERS, SECOND LEFT, IS CO-CHAIRMAN AND MRS. DOUGLAS CLEPHANE IS ONE OF THE PUPPETEERS WHO WILL TAKE PART MONDAY ALONG WITH MRS. GREGORY ABBOTT, MRS. ARTHUR GASPARINI AND MRS. EUGENE LAUGHERY. OTHER SHOWS IN THE MAGNETTES REPERTOIRE ARE "WIZARD OF OZ," "PUSS IN BOOTS," AND "SNOW WHITE." (STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BYRNE. *THE DAILY TIMES*, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1964.)



One of the earliest productions of the Magnettes was an adaptation of "The Wizard of Oz". The puppets, made by the Activator Alumnae women of a plastic, sponge-like material and appropriately clothed, had magnets attached to the soles of their feet. The hidden puppeteers moved the puppets around by moving magnets against the underside of the metal stage floor. Jim Grady, husband of one of the Activators, Jean Grady, built the accurately detailed stage. In the final scene of the show, the Wizard, standing in the basket of his flying balloon, slowly rose from the stage and floated away into the distant sky. This was accomplished by means of strings manipulated from backstage.

It is uncertain what happened to the stage, but a possibility being considered is that it was a casu-

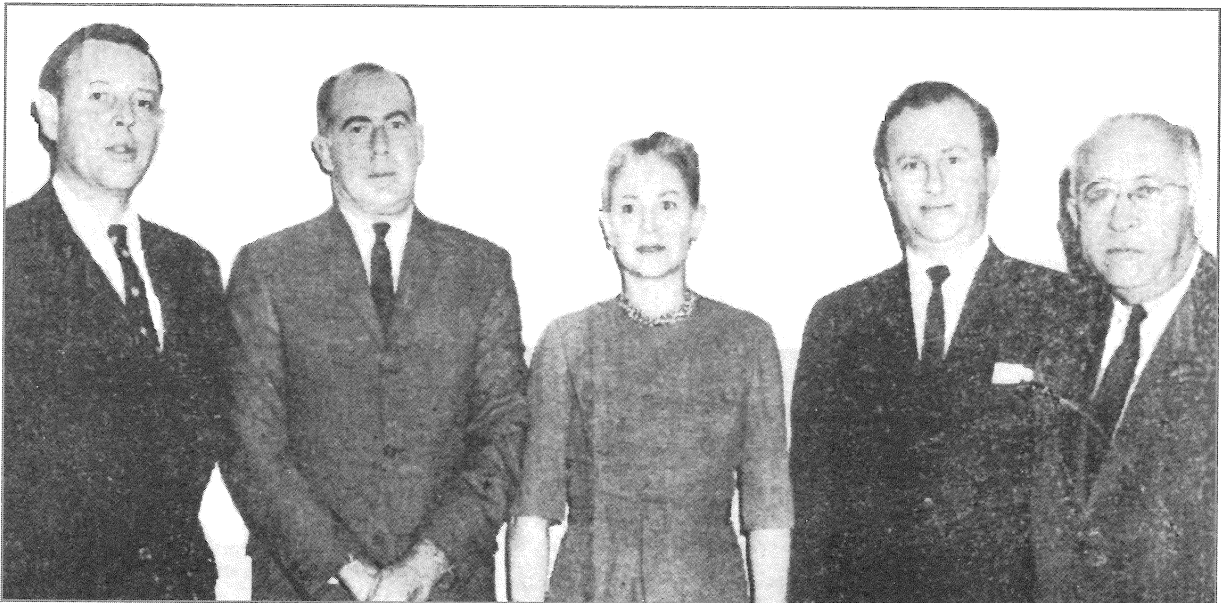
alty of the 1969 fire in the clubrooms in Chatsworth Gardens.

The Activator Alumnae also worked on diversional therapy projects and made hand-crafted articles which were sold at the annual philanthropic bridges.

PROGRAM

On December 6, 1957, the Literature Department presented the first Book and Author Luncheon. It was held at the Larchmont Avenue Church and featured three guest authors, B. J. Chute ("Greenwillow" and "The Blue Cup"), James Yaffe ("Nothing, But the Night") and local resident, Phyllis McGinley ("The Year Without a Santa Claus"). A fourth guest was drama critic for *The New York Herald Tribune*, Walter Kerr, also a

LUMINARIES IN THE LITERATURE WORLD WHO ENTERTAINED THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT FRIDAY AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON ARE FROM THE LEFT, PETER JENNISON, AUTHOR OF "THE GOVERNOR;" CASKIE STINNETT, AUTHOR OF "BACK TO ABNORMAL;" MARIE KILLILEA, AUTHOR OF "FROM KAREN WITH LOVE," AND AT THE RIGHT, MAX GORDON, AUTHOR OF "MAX GORDON PRESENTS." BOB NICHOLSON, SECOND FROM RIGHT, WAS MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR THE PANEL PROGRAM WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 260 MEMBERS AND GUESTS. THE PROGRAM WAS SPONSORED BY THE CLUB'S LITERATURE DEPARTMENT. MRS. ROBERT F. HELGREN, CHAIRMAN. (STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN SARNO. *THE DAILY TIMES*, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1963.)





LEFT: LOCAL RESIDENT, PHYLLIS MCGINLEY, AUTHOR OF "THE YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS," WAS A GUEST SPEAKER AT THE FIRST BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 6, 1957.

BELOW: THE KILLILEA FAMILY, LARCHMONT RESIDENTS, IN THE LIVING ROOM OF THEIR HOME, "SURSUM CORDA." LEFT TO RIGHT: MARIE WITH SHANTY, GLORIA WITH ETCETERA, RORY SITTING NEXT TO OCEAN BORNE, KAREN WITH PANDORA IN HER LAP, JIMMY, MARIE JR. WITH HALLOWEEN.



Larchmont resident and author ("Pieces of Eight"). One hundred seventy-five members and guests attended. The popularity of the Luncheon assured its continuation and it became an established event for the Club.

The Art Show held at Chatsworth School continued as an outstanding beautiful cultural contribution to the community. A large attendance and much enjoyment indicated the community's approval and support. In 1960, painting demonstrations by local artists in the evening proved to be a popular innovation.

Fashion shows were popular programs. The October 1954 Ways and Means event was a Breakfast Fashion Show at Arnold Constable in New Rochelle, at 8:45 a.m. On October 1 the American Home Department had presented a Millinery Fashion Show by Mr. Rolan Mattson. They later

offered a hat-making course. Breakfast Fashion shows were also held at Altmans and Bonwit Teller.

One Club Day program in 1960, eagerly looked forward to by members, was to be John Crosby, the "urbane and noted TV critic for *The New York Herald Tribune*" speaking as "Television's Severest Friend." But Mr. Crosby notified the Club that he was much too busy and cancelled his date to appear to speak. The program chairman was, fortunately, able to find a replacement for him, the comedienne making waves at that time, Miss Phyllis Diller. She came and performed to mixed reviews, the reactions from Club members to her performance varying considerably. It was probably the most remembered program the Club ever presented. (See "Looking Back: The Way We Were" Ruth Taub's "Soundside Glances")

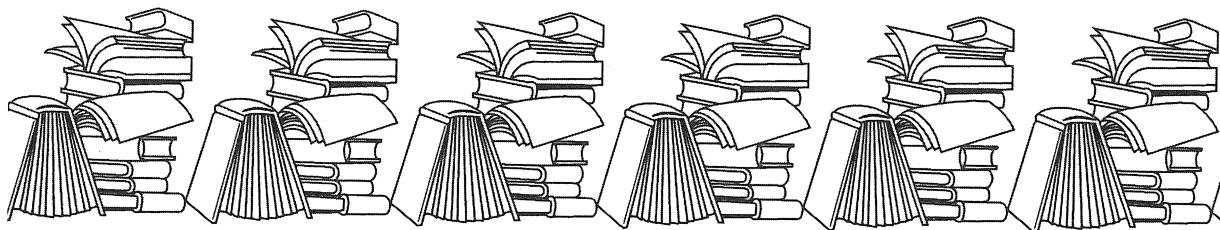
OPERATION BOOKSHELF



The Literature Department sought permission from the Executive Board to present a new project to the Club and appeal for volunteers. The project was "Operation Bookshelf," the collecting and processing of books and magazines for five assigned institutional libraries. Mrs. Benno Elkan accepted the chairmanship, a group of 25 enthusiastic workers was secured and the project, as an off-shoot of the Literature Department and a stepchild of the Philanthropy Department, took off. Donations of books were brought to club meet-

ings, to the home of the chairman or called for by the transportation committee. In slightly over a year (1959-60) it processed 3,117 hardcover books and more than 2,000 paperbacks, condensed volumes and magazines, and delivered them to various institutions.

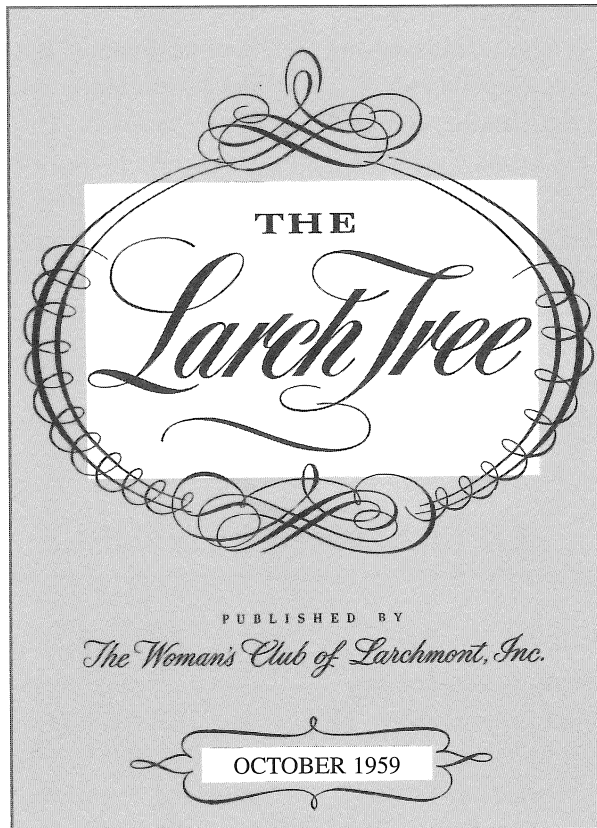
The Institutions chosen to be the recipients were: The American Library in Paris, the Westchester County Penitentiary and Jail, St. Christopher's School in Dobbs Ferry and the Harlem Valley Hospital.



THE LARCH TREE'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



The Larch Tree continued to inform members of club activities and to grow in reader interest. The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Club issue was the largest ever with 44 pages, a testament to the interest of advertisers as well as Club members. The April Club Day 1961 program featured a presentation of *The Larch Tree's* 25th Anniversary show, an original musical revue written by Maddy Sweeting, Director of *The Larch Tree*. It was called "Deadline." *The Larch Tree* staff teamed with the Drama Department to present the gala event.



A new cover for *The Larch Tree* was designed by Saul Nesbit, a nationally known designer and packaging consultant. It appeared in October 1959. Mr. Nesbit had created packages for nationally known brands such as Revlon, Borden, Marlboro, Schick Razor, Ballantine and Charles Antell. The Rochester Folding Box Company made the cover cuts in high-type metal (a costly matter) and contributed them to the magazine. Mr. Alvah Sweeting, husband of Maddy, was associated with that company.

Deadline Dithers by Maddy Sweeting

Try to forget – at least for a week
The story you wrote in order to eke
Out space, at two o'clock in the morning
Spurred on by Gertie's late warning
"A full page ad has just come through.
I couldn't say no." So, out of the blue
Three pages to fill, more copy to juggle
Right on the heels of your victorious struggle
To chop and trim and cut and pare

To thirty-two pages, not a line to spare.
Last night it was finished, a plump thirty-six
Hand polished pages, with no hint of the tricks
Of expanding and padding and s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g
you used.
No wonder, though groggy, you really enthused:
This is to date my very best number
Another *Larch Tree* is set for slumber.

Looking Back: The Way We Were

November 1958 WHAT ARE WE LIKE?

How do YOU rate as the typical club member? Read on with yourself in mind.

Last Spring, the Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs issued a questionnaire to thousands of club women in the county. Many of *us* filled them out – remember? The purpose was to find out what we, club women, are like. The response was tremendous and here is a picture in part of *us*.

We join clubs not because we are unhappy and want to kill time – but to fill time. Ninety-three percent of us are basically content with our lives and ninety-six percent rate our marriages as happy ones.

Fewer than 5% are single; 8% are widowed and 1% are divorced.

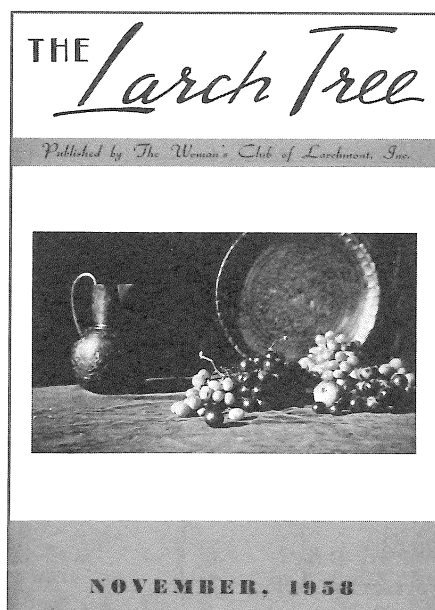
How about employment? Eighty-three percent of us worked from three to ten years before marriage and 10% are still employed part or full-time.

What about families? Well – 55% have children at home and more than 1% have an aging parent or relative living with us.

Who does the housework? Only eight percent have full-time help. Nearly one-third of us have no help at all, even occasionally.

What is our formal education?

More than one third went no further than high



school. Sixty-one percent have had some college education. Eight percent have studied for or received advanced degrees. One out of a hundred has been educated in private schools exclusively. Almost all of us are ready for heavier progressive learning and cultural development.

What do we want from our club?

Our main reason for joining is for activity and friends.

We want our club to be interested in antiques, gardens, decorating, but not in sewing,

cooking and child care.

We are interested in developing our interests or skills in arts, literature, drama, music.

We are interested in civic problems, public affairs and education.

We are primarily interested in Philanthropy. Seven thousand of us aid some 200 Westchester agencies or institutions as volunteers. When we join a club, we are proposing to contribute active and personal concern for human needs in community and country.

Nearly all of us have held, or are holding, positions of some leadership in our club.

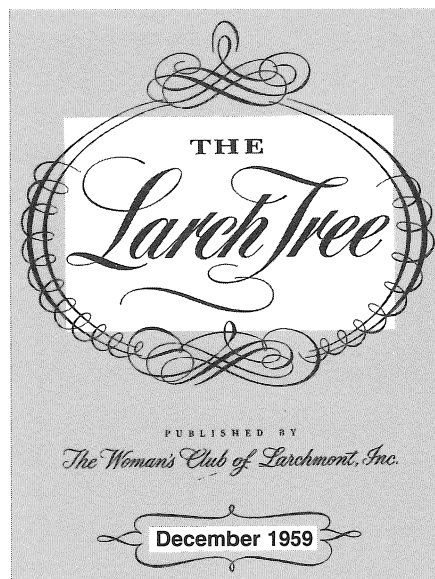
So—this is a brief thumbnail sketch of the Westchester club woman. Are you typical?

Marion Slater

The Sub-Debs in 1958 began sending financial support to a Korean child. This article appeared in the December 1959 issue of *The Larch Tree*. Marcia Madey's father was John Madey, Principal of Chatsworth School.

Caring Enough

By Marcia Madey



"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these . . ."

Last year our board of directors had a conference. The question of should we use all our money towards Children's Village or should we use it towards some other worthy cause was discussed. One girl brought up the topic of sponsoring a child overseas. Our corresponding secretary, Ann Cook, went to work and procured the necessary information. Everything worked out just fine and soon the



MYONG SOON JO

Sub-Debs were the proud sponsors of Myong Soon Jo, a 9-year-old Korean child.

The story of Myong Soon's life is a tragic one. She was only a month old when the Korean War broke out. Her father, Chon Soo Jo, was a laborer on a construction team and

managed to make a meager living. Myong Soon's family did not have a house of their own, yet they lived peacefully until the outbreak of the Korean War. Leaving everything behind them in Seoul, their native town, they fled down south and lived as refugees going through the ordeal of war. Myong Soon's father unfortunately lost the sight of his left eye caused by a fragment during the bombing. With the coming of the cease fire, Myong Soon and her family returned to Seoul only to find that nothing of their possessions remained.

Upon their return to Seoul, Chon Soo became a laborer on a construction team and now makes even less than before. Man Hi, Myong Soon's mother, does her best to make ends meet. But with putting three children through school plus all the other vital necessities, it is quite a difficult task. Myong Soon is one of a family of five children. She has an older brother, Tai Ho, a younger sister, Yong Shim, and two younger brothers, Choong Ho and Yon Ho. Despite all this they think they were fortunate to have escaped and lived through the war which took an alarming toll of human lives.

A grateful letter from Myong Soon's mother, translated and sent by the Save the Children Federation, said in part:

Dear Miss Cook:

First of all, I hardly know how I should be able to express my thanks to all of you through this letter. We welcomed the assignment benefit cash 4,000 hwan from you with thanks.

With the money, Myong Soon paid her school fee, 2,000 hwan, 1 dozen pencils 500 hwan, summer clothes 800 hwan, buying a pair of shoes with 300 hwan and notebooks with 400 hwan. She is now attending her school well and is studying hard with them every day.

Closing this letter, I wish good health and blessing of heaven upon you.

Sincerely yours,

Mother of Myong Soon

Our Christmas package has already been sent off because it takes two months or more to reach its destination. Included in its contents are some spools of thread, needles, pencils, pieces of material, a doll and doll clothes, some toys and a box of Tootsie Pops.

We have been told that sponsoring Myong Soon will not only encourage the whole family, but will really benefit and promote the welfare of the child.



January 1960

DID YOU KNOW?

*Compiled by
Madeleine T. Sweeting
and Ann R. Zulch*



ANN R. ZULCH

... that thirty-five years of fascinating history are carefully preserved in our Club's scrapbooks and yearbooks.

... according to our first yearbook (1926-1927) all one had to do for hospitality was to ask the operator for 10, Mabel Moran's number.

... how leisurely life must have been in those early Club days. The hours to consult the president on the phone were from 10-12 A.M.

...to an appreciative audience of 300, "little Miss Syrilda Carrabine played her mother's daughter attractively" (and surely convincingly) in a play presented at the first Annual Luncheon at Bonnie Briar. (Editor's note: Syrilda Carrabine Helgren became Club president in 1970-72. Her mother was a charter member.)

... the Second Annual Luncheon also featured a play. This was directed by Florence Carrabine and aptly entitled "Happy Returns."

... in our first year all meetings were not serene when punctuated by sirens. Regular Club Day meetings were held in the Weaver St. Fire House and we wonder if Jennie Hill had serious competition when she sang "Trees" at the first Daughter Day Christmas program in 1925.

...thirty members of the Home Economics Department went right to the source when they held a "meating" (sic) in a local butcher shop early in 1926.



CAST OF "MANY
HAPPY RETURNS"
PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MAY
LUNCHEON, 1926.

... the hit of the first Charter Day program in February 1926 was a series of living book reviews presented by Alice Holby and her Literature Department.

... our Better Home Department has really put theory into practice. In 1927 they completely decorated a little cottage on Linwood Road lent them by the builder Mr. C. C. Merritt. Later, in 1931, they sponsored a Better Homes Week for all of Larchmont and this time the mayor, Munroe Stiner, lent them a lovely Colonial on 21 Orsini Drive.

... Florence Brinckerhoff was once Lieutenant Governor. That was her role in the Music Department's highly successful production of "Naughty Marietta" that played to a packed house at the Mamaroneck High School in 1929.

... Our second Charter Day (Feb. 1927) was marked by an event that won county-wide acclaim. At this meeting our Club pledged \$1,000 towards the support of a cottage at Children's Village as a result of the inspired leadership of our Welfare Committee chairman, Mrs. Warland E. Conklin.

...figures and years may change but never the eternal feminine. The largest Club Day atten-

dance on record to date (January, 1929) jammed the Larchmont Avenue Church House for a Fashion Show. One clipping reads, "Inasmuch as everyone, unfortunately, is not a perfect 36, the professional models will range in sizes from 16 to 42!"

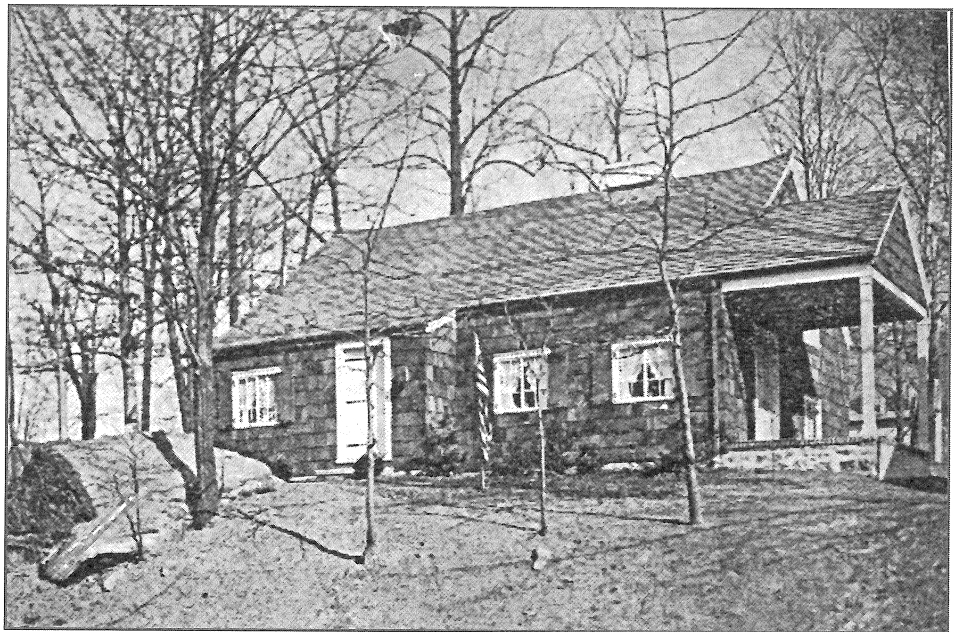
...Emily Richtmyer has an alias: Pitti Sing. "The Mikado" was one of the Music Department's earlier productions (1927) paving the way for many more of such high caliber and variety that audiences gladly paid admission to attend.

...an entire Ways and Means Committee once cavorted as clowns. The Woman's Club Society Circus held on the Weaver Street Fire House grounds on September 27 and 28, 1927, was termed an history-making event and the social affair of the season. (It also netted a handsome sum for the Building fund.)

...we had a television show in 1928. Mrs. Bert C. McCulloch used this term to describe a Drama Department Show, "Station WCL," that provided the May Club Day program.

...the Drama Department has a history of picking good plays for its Theater Party. The very first one in October 1925 was G. B. Shaw's "Arms and

COTTAGE BUILT BY
C. C. MERRITT AND
LOANED TO BETTER
HOME SECTION OF
THE LARCHMONT
WOMAN'S CLUB FOR
INTERIOR DECORA-
TIONS AND FURNISH-
INGS. IT IS LOCATED
AT LINWOOD ROAD,
THE WOODS.



the Man” followed the next month by George Kelly’s “Craig’s Wife.”

...the Art Department remembers with pride its first Annual Art Show in April, 1928. Held in the Larchmont Avenue Church House, tea was served from three to six by ladies “charmingly attired in Colonial garb.”

...two years after its establishment in 1932, our Woman’s Exchange was given a citation as the welfare project sponsored by a woman’s club which has done the most good for its community. This signal honor to our club—and indirectly to Win Sherwood who directed the Exchange for three years—was made at the 1934 annual convention of Federated Women’s Clubs of New York State at Buffalo.

... home movies can be profitable. The Welfare Committee proved this in October 1932 when, for the benefit of local relief, they presented an evening of “Larchmont in the Movies” to an enthusiastic audience of 1200 in the new Junior High auditorium.

... children in Larchmont (and Mamaroneck) can have a happy summer thanks to Mrs. Andrew W. Mitchell. In 1933 her newly formed Recreation Committee not only sponsored but actually carried

out all the necessary groundwork to set up the first summer recreation center for children at Flint Park.

... a certain second-class matter was entered in the Larchmont Post Office on November 18, 1936. Despite the governmental tag we are sure that this first issue of *The Larch Tree* was absolutely first class.

... who the real Activators are ... The group bearing this name was, of course, founded in 1953 under the guidance of Marion Byler. However, the group of women who met in January and then again in February of 1925 could well assume this title. Though now they are known as Founders, Charter Members, and Past Presidents, our Club history bears great and shining witness to their active and productive contributions to our Club and community.

... you can and should be proud of your membership in The Woman’s Club of Larchmont. Not only for our fine achievements in the past and present, but for those in the future that you alone make possible.



January 1960



This article appeared in the January 1960 issue of The Larch Tree. Mrs. Leggette was the mother-in-law of Yoland Leggette, President, 1996-98.

MRS. RALPH M.
LEGGETTE

“Philanthropy” Salutes Our Founders

Philanthropy is defined as the impersonal love of humankind based upon the idea of the brotherhood of all men. It is commonly an organized and systematic relief of the indigent and suffering. It promotes the social elevation of mankind in general and embraces charitable institutions.

....and Philanthropy was made a fundamental program in our Club, by Constitution decree, when our Founders stated that we were “to engage in

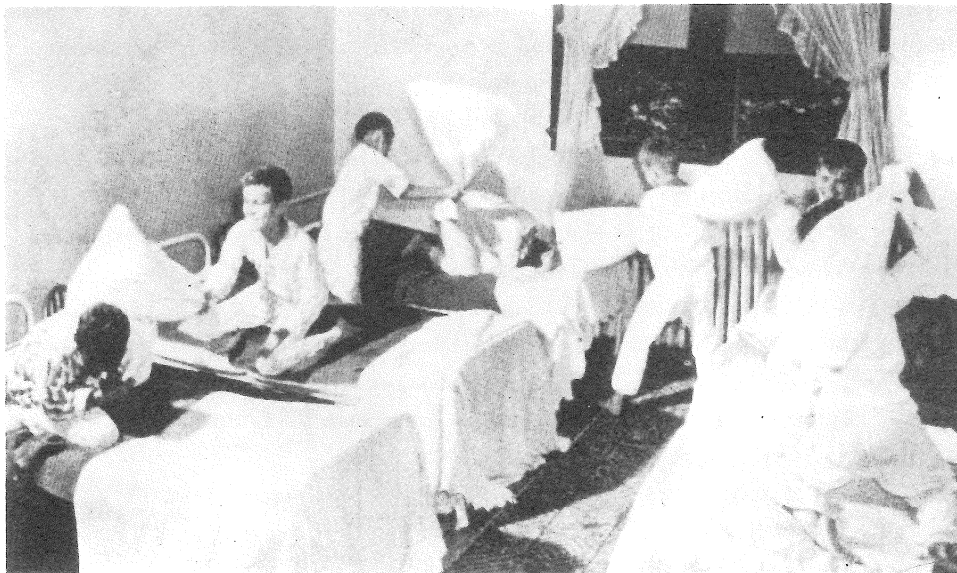
assisting any movement which has for its object the Civic or Philanthropic betterment of the Community”

....and these ideals became our legacy, our inheritance.

During this anniversary year it is interesting to review our accomplishments for the passage of time has brought many changes in the Philanthropic program. It is apparent that social developments and economic trends have always determined our choice of projects and the manner in which help was given.

When there were Depression Years we sponsored The Woman’s Exchange to provide a sales outlet for home-cooked foods. World War II and rationing, plus serious efforts for peace, brought new responsibilities and ended the era of the Exchange.

One early undertaking that has endured through all the years has been our service to Children’s Village. Originally there were both boys and girls, mostly orphans, who needed food, clothing and improved shelter. At the present time the Village is entirely male and our Volunteer program is hopefully aimed at solving some of the problems of juvenile delinquency.



DORMITORY AT
RHINELANDER
COTTAGE,
CHILDREN’S VILLAGE.
(PHOTO FROM *THE
LARCH TREE*,
OCTOBER 1949)

In previous years the girls at Jennie Clarkson were given parties, clothing and home comforts. Today our help is broadened to include psychiatric care, guidance and scholarships.

Modern progress at Grasslands has brought changes. Many childhood epidemics have been eliminated. Sunshine Cottage is closed and the young patients are treated in the main building. Tubercular patients have been reduced in number, other sick people are hospitalized for shorter periods of time and medical research has found new ways to cure old ailments. Mental illness has become a number-one problem. The Service Committee activities at the hospital have increased and taken a different pattern but our club women have grown to meet the needs.

The County Home has recently employed a Supervisor of Volunteers who coordinates and helps

arrange our monthly visits. With her professional understanding we expect to be guided toward new ways of helping the increasing numbers of elderly citizens.

The Activators and Activator Alumnae are resourceful and imaginative in their approach to philanthropic work. We realize that the name "Activator" was wisely chosen for they are truly active in all committees and have proved to be reliably dependable.

It is with pride that the newer Woman's Club members join the experienced leaders to continue this important work. We hope that we shall succeed in our efforts to keep the Philanthropic program vigorously alive.

Mildred H. Leggette



**First President
Elizabeth S.
Gibson sent a
congratulatory
letter on the
occasion of the
Thirty-fifth
Anniversary
celebration.**

Dear Club Members:

Congratulations to you on this the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Club!

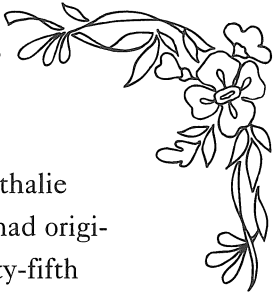
As a Founder and the first club President I recall with pleasure the wonderful first year of our history.

At that time, 1925, there were two groups of women who joined the Club. Those who had lived in Larchmont for many years, and those who had moved from all parts of the country to establish homes in Larchmont.

All were women of talent and ability who were eager to work for the establishment of a club. With such a remarkable group of women the Club was an immediate success.

Now, after thirty-five years, I feel sure both the Founders and Charter Members, who are still with us join me in expressing deep appreciation to the women who have carried on the work down through the years and rewarded us with a Club as it is today – The Woman's Club of Larchmont, 1960.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth S. Gibson



For the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the Club, Nathalie Shelton added fourteen lines to the poem she had originally written for the celebration of the Club's Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1950.

In Celebration

*Another birthday comes around, the thirty-fifth this time,
So – a sequel to the twenty-fifth is added to this rhyme.*

*The Woman's Club of Larchmont now has grown in size and grace,
All waiting lists are longer still, the tempo moves apace.*

*Our art and music richer far, our drama still more clever,
And even finance courses spur us on to new endeavor.*

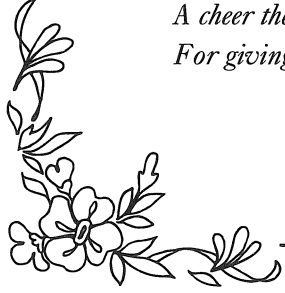
*Our Activators keeping all our members on the run
With many enterprises new, the work is turned to fun.*

*Especially philanthropies have spread so far and wide,
Our hearts and hands of mercy reach Korea in our stride.*

*But best of all our central aim in heart and purpose sound
Is viewed with admiration strong by everyone around.*

*A cheer then to our Founders dear and Charter Members too,
For giving us our Woman's Club – ALL GRATITUDE TO YOU!*

Nathalie Thurston Shelton



PROGRAM CHAIRMEN HAVE A TOUGH JOB

THE DAILY TIMES, MAMARONECK, N.Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1961

It is difficult to please everyone all the time.

Here are two examples of programs from the 60s with, most probably, varied degrees of success.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
THREE HUNDRED MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM AT THE LARCHMONT AVENUE CHURCH HOUSE WHERE LT. GOV. MALCOLM WILSON SPOKE. LEFT TO RIGHT ARE MRS. WILLIAM SLATER, PRESIDENT, MRS. GEORGE D. BURCHELL, PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, WHO INTRODUCED THE LT. GOV. AND MRS. WILSON. (*THE DAILY TIMES*, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1961.)

Soundside Glances

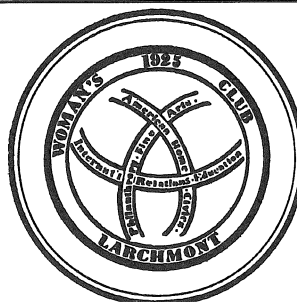
By EUTH R. TAUB

NO PROGRAM CHAIRMAN is apt to dispute the statement that this has been a bad winter for program chairmen, least of all Syrilda Helgren. Poor Syrilda, in addition to being plagued this season with postponements and cancellations because of the weather, was faced last week with the sudden announcement from John Crosby that he was much too busy to abide by his contract and keep his date Friday at the Larchmont Woman's Club. Syrilda put in a nightmare week, and was able to come up with a replacement known as a "hot property" in show business: sick - type comedienne Phyllis Diller, whose star is rising in the entertainment world and who's popular with a good many night club, supper club and television fans. (No one would envy Miss Diller, stepping in at the last moment and knowing she was replacing a personality the club had been looking forward to for many months.) We understand that the ladies' reaction to her varied considerably...all the

way from "she's absolutely terrific" to "such poor taste" and "good heavens, what's the Woman's Club coming to!" Apparently she offended some members of the huge audience (more than 300) with her raucousness and "sick sick" stories...but many others enjoyed her sense of humor and appreciated her sense of showmanship. We heard of only one indignant member who actually got up and left! A lot of the girls liked her burlesque of the Jackie Kennedy look and there were numerous comments on some of her clever lines. And everyone who discussed the program with us agreed that her informal talk with the audience afterwards was charming, and a delight to listen to. Well...that's the way it goes...no program chairman can ever hope to please everybody...and especially after such an inexcusable let-down by John Crosby, about whose defection the less said the better...as far as the Woman's Club membership is concerned. (John Crosby TV show sponsors: beware!)



The articles "Activators" and
"The Larch Tree" are from our
Yearbook 1959-1960



ACTIVATORS

Mrs. James J. Grady, CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Joseph S. Traphagen, Jr. Mrs. Cecil W. Humphreys

SECRETARY

Mrs. John T. Dunne

COMMITTEE

Mrs. Wesley R. Burt Mrs. Harry Gilburt
Mrs. Karl Gorham

GENERAL MEETING DATES:

September 24, 1954

February 25, 1955

December 2, 1954

April 29, 1955

WORKSHOP MEETING DATES:

1st Tuesday—3rd Thursday—4th Tuesday—at 9:30 A.M.

2nd Monday— at 8:00 P.M.

WORKING RULES

The Activators are a philanthropic group formed to further friendships and to stimulate general club interest.

A member of the Woman's Club is eligible to join the Activators Group if she has not reached her forty-fifth (45) birthday. Membership shall be for three (3) years.

Regular meetings of the Activators are held four times a year. Regular Workshop meetings will be held for the philanthropic activities of the group.

There shall be an Activator Chairman appointed by the President for a term of one (1) year. The Chairman shall appoint a 1st Vice-Chairman—to be in charge of Hours and Placement; a 2nd Vice-Chairman—to be in charge of Workshops; and a Secretary. The following Committee Chairmen shall be: Telephone Chairman, working directly with the 1st Vice-Chairman; Supply Chairman, working directly with 2nd Vice-Chairman; and Publicity Chairman, working directly with Secretary. Each Vice-Chairman shall appoint any and such committees as shall be necessary to carry on the philanthropic work of the group.

A tour of Grasslands shall be compulsory to all first class members.

All Activators shall be required to attend three out of four Activator meetings, and one Workshop meeting a month.

Each Activator must give a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours of Club work, of which at least fifteen (15) shall be Activator philanthropic work.

THE LARCH TREE

DIRECTOR

Mrs. Hugh A. Owens

EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Charles W. Kitchell

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Mrs. Ernest W. Bishop

Mrs. Warren S. Quimby

Mrs. David A. Embury

Mrs. Henry M. Shields

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Mrs. Andrew E. Tuck

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Juniors Mrs. John J. Reuter

Sub Debs Sue Hoffman

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Gertrude E. Holbrook

MAILING CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Fred A. Zulch

THE LARCH TREE, published monthly, October through May, is the official club magazine. It includes information about club affairs and people, programs, dates, articles, stories and poems by club members.

The Editor welcomes signed contributions for the magazine for consideration. They must be typewritten.

ALL reports, announcements, articles and manuscripts should be sent to the office of *THE LARCH TREE*, 7 Addison Street, Larchmont, or to the home of the Editor, 68 North Chatsworth Avenue, by the THIRD of the month preceding publication.

Editorial staff meetings held the third Tuesday of each month, 9:30 A.M. at the Editor's home beginning in October.

ADVERTISER'S TEA—Wednesday, November third, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Wholehearted support of *LARCH TREE* Advertisers is essential to the financial success of the magazine.

BELOW, LEFT:

ELEVEN-YEAR EDITOR OF *THE LARCH TREE*, MRS.

CHARLES W. KITCHELL, CENTER, WAS HONORED AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT STAFF OF THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT AT THE LARCHMONT LODGE.

WITH MRS. KITCHELL ARE, LEFT TO RIGHT, MRS.

GEORGE F. VALENTINE, PROMOTION CHAIRMAN OF THE MAGAZINE AND LUNCHEON CHAIRMAN WITH MRS.

WALTER SACHS, SECOND FROM RIGHT, ASSOCIATE EDITOR. ALSO HONORED WERE MISS GERTRUDE HOLBROOK,

SECOND LEFT, WHO HAS SERVED AS ADVERTISING MANAGER FOR *THE LARCH TREE*

SINCE IT FIRST BEGAN PUBLICATION 27 YEARS AGO AND MRS. ERNEST W. BISHOP,

RIGHT, PROOFREADER RETIRING NOW AFTER MORE THAN

20 YEARS OF CONSTANT ASSOCIATION. MRS. KITCHELL,

WHO RETIRES THIS MONTH AS EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER, WILL BE SUCCEEDED

BY MRS. THOMAS P. MACDONELL, ASSOCIATE

EDITOR. (STAFF PHOTO BY AL CARLINO. *THE DAILY TIMES*

MAY 16, 1963.)



ART SHOW

POSING IN THE SCULPTURE COURT AT LAST NIGHT'S OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ART SHOW OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT ARE, FROM THE LEFT, MRS. WARREN L. SERENBETZ, SHOW CO-CHAIRMAN; MRS. JOHN MACCONNELL, SCULPTURE COURT CHAIRMAN; MRS. CORTLAND SPOONER, SHOW CO-CHAIRMAN; AND MRS. RICHARD EARLY, PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN PICTURED WITH TWO WINNERS IN THE SCULPTURE CLASS. AT MRS. SERENBETZ' LEFT IS "MOTHER" BY TRUDE W. MUELLER OF LARCHMONT WHICH RECEIVED THE BLUE RIBBON AND IN THE CENTER



LARCHMONT ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT

1956

Sponsored by
LARCHMONT WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

JUDGES

ERWIN WENDING
GRACE HUNTLEY PUGH
MRS. EUGENIE ROBINSON
ERNEST THORNE THOMPSON

IS "THE FAMILY" BY TOBY PELLER OF NEW ROCHELLE, HONORABLE MENTION. SECOND PRIZE WINNER WAS "LONELY GRANDEUR" A BRONZE BY BLANCHE GOLDBERGER OF SCARSDALE. FOURTEEN SCULPTURES AND 143 WORKS IN SIX OTHER CLASSES ARE ON EXHIBIT AT THE CHATSWORTH AVENUE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM. (STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BYRNE. *THE DAILY TIMES*, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1964.)