



The Sixth Decade

1975 – 1985

Bicentennial of the United States

The 50th Anniversary  
Celebration  
A Banner Year

Another Moving Experience

# Presidents



MRS. EDWARD A. BROWN  
1976-1978



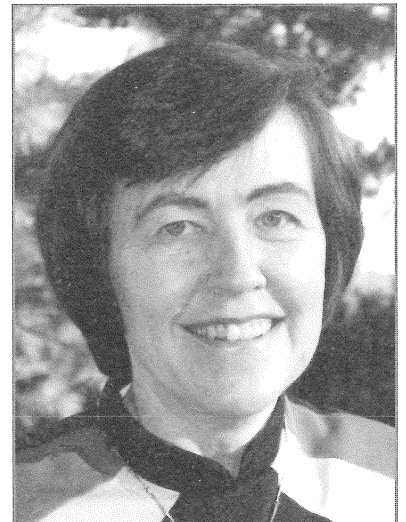
MRS. DOREE G. KLUSS  
1978-1980



MRS. WILLIAM F. YOUNG  
1980-1982



MRS. CHARLES H. HARDY  
1982-1984



MRS. RALPH L. GENTILE  
1984-1986

# THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES

The mid-seventies found the country in a patriotic, nostalgic mood as we prepared to celebrate our Bicentennial Year, 1976. A fleet of tall ships representing many nations joined the celebration and, accompanied by hundreds of smaller yachts and boats, sailed up the Hudson River. A

sense of pride existed as cities, towns, villages and hamlets formed committees and made plans to celebrate 200 years of the Republic in their own manner. Larchmont had a Bicentennial Committee on which The Woman's Club was well represented.

## The 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A BANNER YEAR

The decade opened with the Club preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. There were two special programs. In January a program featuring a series of mini-tableaux written and performed by Club members depicted events of the previous 50 years. The other, held in April, was a "zany review" spoofing the Club's Club Day business meetings. It was also written and performed by Club members.

At the conclusion of the final act of the January program, Past President (and narrator of the concluding segment), Mrs. Albert F. Bollen-gier, Jr. (1964-66) spoke. Stating that meeting the challenge of tomorrow is an ongoing concern of the Woman's Club, she said, "If an organization cannot meet the needs of changing circumstances, it is doomed." She asked for a commitment of Club members to "build for the future by adding to the rich heritage of the first 50 years."<sup>1</sup>

President Jeanne Burt, having found photos of some of the Past Presidents in the Club files, proposed collecting photos of all the Past Presidents. Subsequently, as an "anniversary present to ourselves, we had the pictures of all the Past Presidents framed and hung in our clubhouse."<sup>2</sup> It was hoped to begin a tradition for all future Past Presidents to donate their framed pictures to the "Gallery."

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in 1975-76 totaled 434 which included 294 Actives, 23 Life, 34 Evening, 38 Juniors, 37 Nonresident, and 8 Honorary members. Two years later in 1977 the membership totaled 408 with 282 Actives, 22 Life, 37 Evening, 29 Junior, 32 Non-resident, and 6 Honorary members. Thirty-five new Actives, 21 new Juniors and 2 new Evening members joined the Club in 1979. Membership in the 1980's rose a bit, ending 1984 with 481 members, 36 of whom were nonresidents. That year, 25 new members joined.

### PHILANTHROPY

As we moved along in the 20th Century, the Club continued to raise funds through the annual Ways and Means Bridge. In 1979 a sum of \$4,063 was realized, enabling us to increase our number of beneficiaries to include the Larchmont Public Library and Meals on Wheels, a community project in which some of our members were active and concerned. Gifts and candy were prepared for patients at Harlem Valley Psychiatric Hospital in Wingdale (Cora Wilson's project) and decorative gifts were made for residents at the Ruth Taylor Geriatric Institute. Talented members provided musical programs for the residents of Sarah



Meeting Ended  
with a  
Light Touch

ABOVE: JO-ANN SIDDON'S,  
RITA KENNEDY, PAT  
HERBST AND CHARLOTTE  
BEST PERFORM A MUSICAL  
SKIT OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

(PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL  
BYRNE. *THE DAILY TIMES*,  
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975.)

# THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT PRESENTS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CLUB DAY, REVISITED ★ A ZANY REVIEW

WRITTEN, BORROWED, AND MISDIRECTED BY PATTY FLINCHNOT HERBST

MUSIC: SARAH LYNN, LILLY KADISON  
ARTISTIC CONSULTANT: HALLIE SETHUR  
COSTUMES: JEANNE BURT'S ATTIC  
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: JANE MOORE AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

CONSULTANT: VIRGINIA NICHOLS

.....AND STARRING.....

|                                                  |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| SHAKESPEARE MAIDEN.....                          | JUDY LEVINE                  |
| MRS. M. BITIOUS ( PRES. OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB).... | PATTY O'BRIEN                |
| MRS. RISE SMYTHE ( SEC'Y. OF WOMAN'S CLUB).....  | BETTY HARDESTY               |
| MRS. SMITH (TREASURER).....                      | IRMA VOLK                    |
| FLASHBACK GIRL .....                             | SUSIE PHILLIPS               |
| MRS. LOTTA NEWBLOOD (MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.....       | KAY HOLDING                  |
| DOOR LADY .....                                  | IRMA VOLK                    |
| MRS. MEMBERNEW .....                             | JOANNE SIDDON'S              |
| MRS. HEAVEN HELPER (PHILANTHROPY CHAIR) .....    | PAT HERBST                   |
| MRS. BERNHARDT BARRYMORE (DRAMA CHAIR) .....     | KAY HOLDING                  |
| TWO ACTORS IN A PLAY .....                       | LUCY KERSON, JUDY LEVINE     |
| SAMATHA (CHAIR OF COMM. TO UPDATE WOMAN'S CLUB). | PATTY O'BRIEN                |
| AGATHA .....                                     | CHARLOTTE BEST               |
| MRS. G. CLEFF (CHAIR OF MUSIC) .....             | RITA KENNEDY                 |
| MRS. ROBERT RULES (CHAIR. OF NOMINATING) .....   | FLUFF SPEISS                 |
| DOROTHY LATLEY (EDITOR OF LARCH TREE) .....      | PAT HERBST                   |
| MRS. GILBERT .....                               | RITA KENNEDY                 |
| MRS. BUTTERCUP SULLIVAN .....                    | IRMA VOLK                    |
| MR. ALMOST FORTI .....                           | KAY HOLDING                  |
| MRS. ALMOST FORTI .....                          | FLUFF SPEISS                 |
| THE JUNIOR CHORUS .....                          | JOANNE SIDDON'S, LUCY KERSON |
|                                                  | JUDY LEVINE, SUSIE PHILLIPS  |
| EVENING DEPARTMENT AND SUB DEB REPRESENTATIVE... | LUCY KERSON                  |

HA HA .....HO HO.....HEEE .....AAAAUGH! ...OOOOOOOOH ....YUK YUK YUK.  
DEDICATED TO E. KAZDIN, WHO ENCOURAGED US, THEN LEFT TOWN FAST.....



Neuman Nursing Home, St. Vincent's Hospital and other facilities. In 1983 the Philanthropy Department made 90 quilted lap robes for the patients at Ruth Taylor and had a Christmas party there for them, one of ten visits the committee made to the institution that year.

Net proceeds from the annual bridges continued to rise and in 1984, \$5,200 was allocated to Club philanthropies.

The Evening Department celebrated its 40th year with a benefit luncheon at the Larchmont Shore Club. The theme was "Big Red Ruby."

With the \$750 they raised at their annual bridge in October, they awarded two \$400 scholarships to two Mamaroneck High School seniors. The Juniors with their fund-raising successes also were able to award \$800 in scholarships. Juniors also participated in the "Look, Listen and Hear" program which tested nursery school children for their hearing and sight.

A Philanthropic fund was established in memory of Mrs. William Streuli, who bequeathed \$1,000 to The Woman's Club. (1976-77)

#### PROGRAM

During 1976, the nation's Bicentennial year, Club members participated in many of the programs and events designed to help the community celebrate the country's 200th birthday. Two fund-raising events were held by the Club, a fashion show and an exhibit of members' family heirlooms and antiques. The proceeds from these events enabled the Club to make a financial donation to

the Historical Section of the Larchmont Library. A patriotic theme was carried over into the decorations for the annual bridge—red, white and blue. The Sub-Debs ushered at the showing of the movie, "1776."

In September, in honor of Constitution Day, there was a tree planting ceremony and the burying of a Time Capsule. The capsule contained a copy of The Woman's Club 1976 Yearbook (as well as other items). It was planned to open the Time Capsule in twenty-five years, in 2001.

In October a Community Fair was held in Flint Park. The Woman's Club staffed a booth serving cold cider. It was very popular and over 1500 cups of cider were dispensed.

## HERITAGE DAY

### WOMAN'S CLUB BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY  
YOUR FAMILY ANTIQUES,  
AMERICANA, MEMORABILIA,  
HEIRLOOMS, ETC., ETC.,

FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY OR EARLIER

### ORIENTA CLUBROOMS

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

2 - 4:30 P.M.

Prizes by popular vote

Refreshments

ADMISSION - \$2.00

Proceeds to the Historical Section of the Larchmont Public Library

Exhibits must be preregistered by Monday, January 26 and delivered to Orienta Clubrooms by 11:00 A.M. Friday morning, January 30th.



### SCENE AT THE FAIR

THE WOMAN'S CLUB CIDER BOOTH WAS THE SCENE OF MUCH ACTIVITY AS OUR MEMBERS DISPENSED 1,500 CUPS OF FREE CIDER TO THE THIRSTY VISITORS AT THE FLINT PARK BICENTENNIAL FAIR. TOP ROW: NANCY JONES WITH LAUREN, IRMA COOK, ELAINE MCHUGH, MARGE MANLEY; SECOND ROW: THEORA HAHN WITH RUTH GREEN, MARION SLATER WITH THE ALTON TOBEY EXHIBIT, DOT EARLY AND HALLIE SETHER; THIRD ROW: ANNETTE NOE, EILEEN BROWN, ATHENA PLOUMIS, NORMA PERCIASEPE, THREE HELGREN GENERATIONS—TERRY RAINALDI, KRISTEN AND SYRILDA; BOTTOM ROW: BERYL GOLDSMITH, NANCY GIBSON WITH BETTY GARRABRANT, SHIRLEY BOVARD, ATHENA PLOUMIS, CAROL SPOONER, JEANNE BURT.

In the 1977-78 club year, American Home Luncheons were held in October and April. The price was \$3. The Book and Author Luncheon included a raffle of prizes donated by members and raised about \$400 for the Philanthropies. Courses in Spanish, bridge, watercolor painting, toile painting, book discussion sessions, duplicate bridge were offered, along with the usual Department and Club Day programs. The Field Trips were well attended.

The Book and Author Luncheon in December, 1984, featured three authors, all women. Two of the authors, Anne Griffin and Regina Ryan, were daughters of Club members, Betty Griffin and Kay Ryan. (The third author was Joan Scobey, a resident of Scarsdale.) The mistress of ceremony was Larchmont resident, Marlene Shyer, herself an author.

Walter Kerr, drama critic for *The New York Times* and also a Larchmont resident, spoke at the September Club Day program in 1977. The next year, his wife, Jean Kerr, author of "Please Don't Eat the Daisies," was guest speaker at the



*THE DAILY TIMES*,  
APRIL 14, 1978.

PETER LYNN HAYES  
AND MARY HEALY  
PERFORMED TO AN  
OVERFLOW CROWD.

September meeting. Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy entertained an overflow crowd in April, 1978.

About this time, the American Home Department began serving lunch before both the October and April Club Days. The Ways and Means Bridge introduced a sandwich lunch which proved to be very popular.

Workshops were popular, too. Forty members, plus some husbands, signed up for a four-session cardiopulmonary resuscitation course and became qualified at the completion of the course.

The Past Presidents presented the Club with a beautiful engraved silver tray at the September

### *The Daily Times*, Friday, September 9, 1977

WALTER KERR, SUNDAY DRAMA CRITIC FOR *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE FALL SEASON'S FIRST MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, TO BE HELD AT 2 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPT. 16, AT THE LARCHMONT AVENUE CHURCH AUDITORIUM.

KERR, A LONG-TIME LARCHMONT RESIDENT, IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS ON FILMS AND THE THEATER, INCLUDING "PIECES OF EIGHT," "THIRTY PLAYS HATH SEPTEMBER," "THE SILENT CLOWNS" AND "HOW NOT TO WRITE A PLAY." HE IS A FORMER PROFESSOR OF DRAMA AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND IS THE DEAN OF AMERICAN THEATER CRITICS.

HIS WIFE, JEAN KERR, IS A WELL KNOWN PLAYWRIGHT AND THE AUTHOR OF BOOKS INCLUDING "PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES" AND "PENNY CANDY."

THE KERRS HAVE FIVE SONS AND A DAUGHTER.



1978 Club Day meeting. The Tea Table Committee had been in need of an additional tray and it was warmly accepted.

In January 1979, the Executive Board approved the design of a pin to be worn by each president during her term of office and then passed on to her successor at the latter's installation. The round, gold pin was appropriately engraved with a sprig of a larch tree.

After fourteen years, the annual Book Passing and Installation of Officers luncheon was resumed (1984). The book passing had originally been held at a tea, an invitational affair at the President's home. The annual luncheon was called the "Presidents' Luncheon" and presidents of all Westchester County women's clubs were invited. The affair became unwieldy, chiefly because of the crowding of the "President's Table" and was dispensed with.

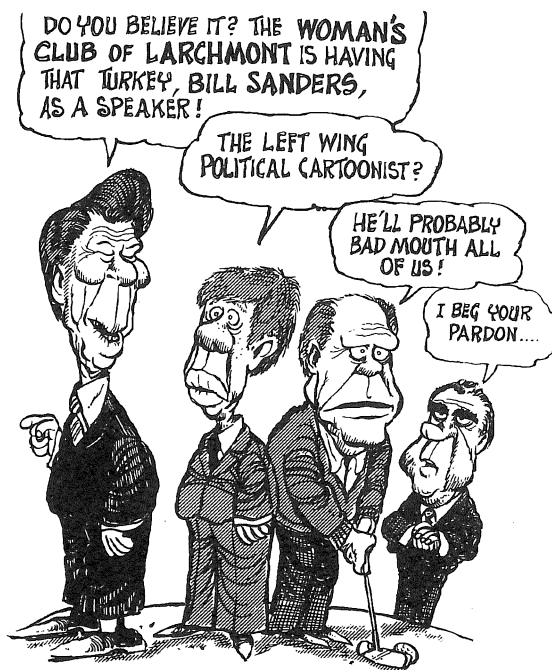
The Luncheon, held once again at the Larchmont Shore Club was well attended and ended the Club year with the installation of the new President, Terry Gentile, and two new Officers and three Directors.

In the spring of 1984 the Executive Board voted to approve a proposal that a history of The Woman's Club's first 60 years be compiled and published, with each Club member receiving a copy at the 60th year anniversary celebration in February 1985. The book would consist of an "annual report of each President's administration, with generous additions of pictures, newspaper articles and other memorabilia, giving each member a very clear picture of the Club at every phase of its history."<sup>3</sup>

An appeal for contributions was made to the membership and Jeanne Burt, Mel Hardy, Ruth Rhoades and Ann Zulch began their work on the book *The First Sixty Years—1925-1985*.

### News Flash!

*Bill Sanders  
of the  
Milwaukee  
Journal  
here for  
Club Day  
September 18  
Friday 1:30  
A rare and  
provocative  
treat.*



(1981)

## ANOTHER MOVING EXPERIENCE



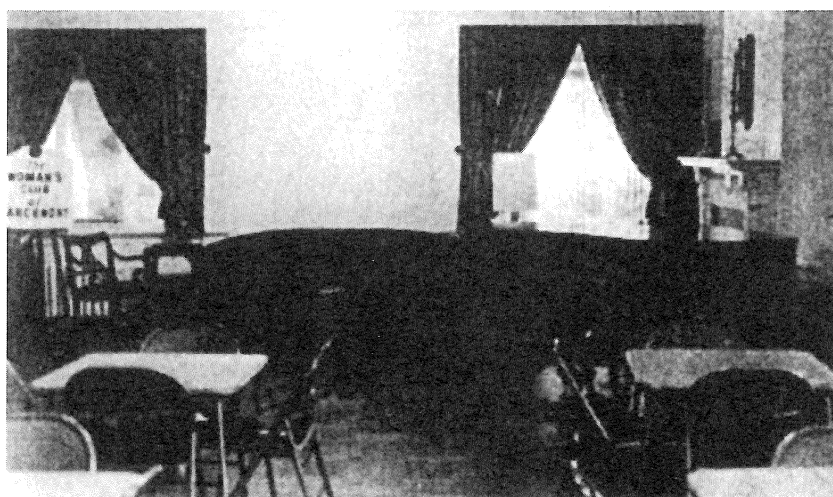
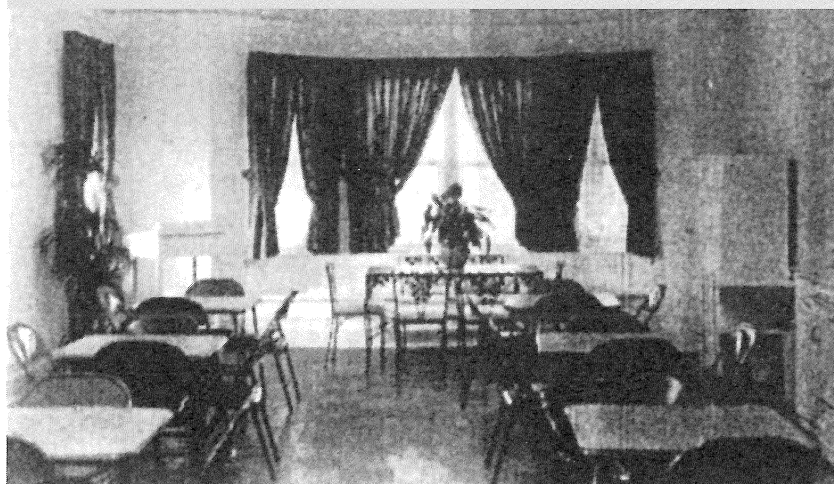
### CLUBROOMS

Although the clubrooms at the Orienta Beach Club offered a great deal of space and convenience for Club activities, the situation in 1983-84 was becoming difficult. In addition to the unwelcome intrusion of four-footed and masked creatures (raccoons), the heating conditions had become inadequate. Members arriving at the clubhouse for meetings frequently were met by unhealthy soot blow-back. The need to replace a burner plus the

escalating cost of fuel meant a substantial increase in the monthly rent. The Board decided to search for other quarters. The search was successful and in April 1984, the Executive Board and the members attending the business meeting voted to approve the negotiation of a lease for rental of a large meeting room at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on the Boston Post Road in Larchmont. After the lease was signed, the Club prepared to move. Thanks to the hard work and diligence of a

few members, September 1984 saw the Club settled into a bright, clean, tastefully decorated and comfortable club room. Furniture from the Orienta clubhouse had been utilized, other items bought or donated—the drapes came from a bank which was redecorating—pictures were hung and members settled in. The V.F.W. was “home” to The Woman’s Club until July 1997.

CLUBROOM AT V.F.W.



One new addition to the V.F.W. clubroom was the hanging of the original Woman’s Club banner. The worn, slightly tattered banner dating from the early years of the Club, had been encased in a glassed-in frame and hung on the wall. The 60th Anniversary Committee had arranged for a new banner identical to the original one to be made. It is the one used now at every Club Day meeting.



## THE LARCH TREE

Louise Dahne concluded ten years as editor of *The Larch Tree* and was succeeded by Mrs. Patty Herbst in 1975. Mrs. Herbst served for a year and was in turn succeeded by Mrs. Wendell Sether in 1976. Hallie Sether served as editor until 1994, seventeen years.

In her first editorial for *The Larch Tree*, Mrs. Sether wrote:

### "*The Larch Tree and Me*"

"Swinging from Louise Dahne's dignified and philosophical treatment to Patty Herbst's light and amusing approach, *The Larch Tree* will probably settle into a middle position this year. I have neither Louise's perception nor Patty's sense of humor. I hope to put out a magazine that is both lively and informative with the help of our excellent staff, some old-timers, some brand new. I especially welcome my two assistants, Scat Winter and Diana MacDonnell, *Larch Tree* editor in 1963 to 1965.

"We feel our responsibilities are to the Club, to report its activities as fully and interestingly as possible, and to our members, to appeal to their wide range of interests. We will try to bring you stories both by and about our members, cultural comments, book

and theatre reviews, travel, and news of our nonresident group. We very much want to hear from you, our readers. Bits of gossip for Kay Ryan's *Guess What!* original offerings, letters-to-the-editor whether complaints or kudos, are all most welcome. (However we do reserve the right to cut, edit or streamline when necessary.)

"Our other great responsibility is obviously to our advertisers. It is they who make this magazine possible. Let them know you've seen their ads. To facilitate this, we are trying something new. Tear out the "thank you" coupons inside the binding and include them with your bill payment or cash purchases. And please make a special effort when you have a transaction with an advertiser whose business is more apt to be yearly than weekly. They all will appreciate hearing from you.

"And so will we.

H.F.S."<sup>4</sup>

Hallie introduced the Club members to "Aunt Tree," a feature she developed to promote the businesses of the advertisers.

For All Your Book Needs  
**Anderson's Book Shop**

96-98 Chatsworth Avenue

Larchmont, N. Y.

Thank you  
for  
Advertising  
in the  
*Larch Tree*



## Looking Back: The Way We Were

*This program was presented at the January 1975 Club Day as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration.*

### BACKSTAGE AT 50

It's showtime: Everything is set – script, director, music, actors, costumes, scenery, light – Curtain. With fingers crossed and hearts pounding, we are ready! You, the audience, are about to watch a series of vignettes depicting the history of your Club. It will take one hour and the actors will glide smoothly from scene to scene. Props will be in order and the curtain will open to a precise opening and close on cue with a seeming effortlessness. When the program is finished, it is hoped that you will be pleased – BUT, some of the best went on behind the scenes—things that you will never see.

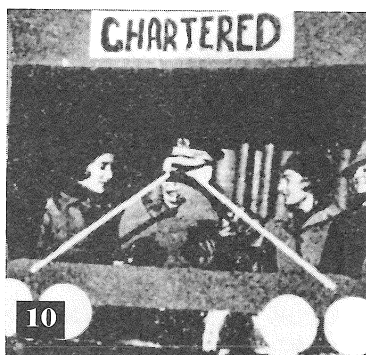
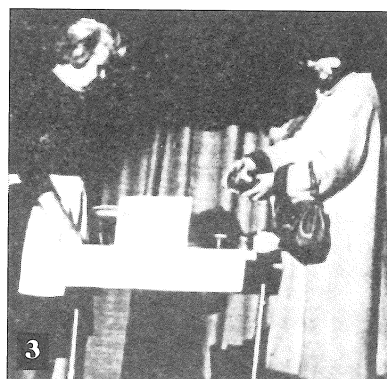
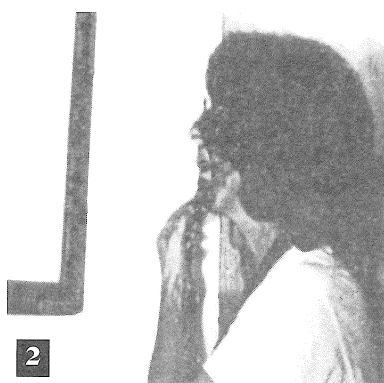
That curtain which opened so effortlessly! Lucille MacCallum had rags tied on the ropes to guide her in positioning the curtain. It looked like the committee boat during race week. During one rehearsal the rags slipped and you can imagine what happened to that “precise” opening. Also, Lucille had written down key words to cue her in opening and closing the curtain. Things became complicated when some of our narrators, in an effort to refine their scripts, made unannounced changes. Lucille was seen frantically listening for familiar cues.

Then there was Syrilda Helgren's ballerina costume. It wouldn't zip up the back. Everyone panicked for a moment. Having a marvelous sense of humor, she suggested that “look what 50 years did” be written into the script. It was, and she gave the audience a full back view.

Joan Thompson, our wardrobe gal, had found an old (very old) raccoon coat for one of the scenes. Virginia Nichols at first viewed it with horror, but after trying it on and seeing that it looked so outrageously awful (with tears of laughter) insisted on wearing it.

Props presented some minor problems. Trees for foliage. Fortunately it was a January program. When we bought our Christmas tree we were told that we could have any that were left after December 25th. You know whose husband was at the abandoned lot early on the 26th. I'm sure passing motorists thought that there was a poor needy soul. December 24th at midnight is supposed to be bargain time – but the 26th?

The trees gave the stage crew all kinds of trouble. At one rehearsal, due to the unusual noise backstage, we were told to “hush up.” It was a tempting thought to have the curtain opened revealing me flat on my back with Harriet Tuck struggling to remove a tree from my prostrate form. One scene called for a bus. First stop was Korvettes to cajole a bicycle carton (to make a cutout) from one of the salesmen. After some persuasion a couple of rules were bent and he said OK but that I'd have to go through security as there was a high risk of people stuffing merchandise in odd cartons. Frustration was making it through security to the truck loading platform; finding that the carton wouldn't fit in the car; final-



ly tying it to the roof and driving home at a snail's pace fearful that if the cord broke there would be a major accident.

It was quite remarkable. Everyone stayed off

collision course; adjusted to the dark, crowded stage; and managed to maneuver gingerly around the ever-changing scenery and cast.

*Connie Wegman*

**PHOTOS ON OPPOSITE PAGE.**

*Courtesy of Eleanor Smith*

**1. THE ANDREW SISTERS**

RITA KENNEDY, BETTY HARDESTY, ATHENA PLOUMIS, SINGING SONG FROM "THE MIKADO"

**2. A LITTLE DAB WILL DO YA**

FLUFF SPIESS CHECKING MAKEUP

**3. TWO HONEY BUNS**

AGNES SHIELDS, CAROL SPOONER, SCENE FROM WOMEN'S EXCHANGE

**4. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?**

SYRILDA HELGREN AS SYRILDA CARRABINE

**5. THREE STARS ARE BORN**

PEG BURCHELL, EDITH BOLLENGIER, RUTH RHOADES, SCRIPT READING

**6. PENNINGTON RETURNS**

WINK MORROW-CHARLESTON DANCER

**7. PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

HENRY SHIELDS-COLD HUSBAND AT LARCHMONT STATION

**8. TWO FUGITIVES FROM A BARGAIN SALE**

BETTY HARDESTY, KAY HOLDING SHOWING ACTIVATOR PULL-APART DOLLS

**9. Groucho, Chico, Harpo**

FLUFF SPIESS, PATTY HERBST, SYRILDA HELGREN, THREE CLOWNS-CIRCUS WAYS AND MEANS

**10. BUS STOP**

ANNE BAILEY, HENRY SHIELDS, KAY HOLDING, JOAN PANNO. THE MAROONED BUS - ART DEPARTMENT FIELD TRIP

**11. "SCORCHY" THOMPSON AT WORK**

JOAN THOMPSON PRESSING COSTUMES

**12. HELEN HOKINSON, WHERE ARE YOU?**

EILEEN WATTS, GINNY NICHOLS, CLUB DAY.

*One of our past Presidents describes her experience with having a photo made for the Club.*

**WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS?**

Almost seven years ago, I was installed as president of The Woman's Club of Larchmont. My purpose here is not to discuss that office but to describe one aspect of it which I had not taken into consideration before accepting the job.

When taking office, I remember setting some goals for my term, ranging from finding a solution to the heating problems in the Club's Orienta meeting room to hanging symmetrically

the pictures of the Club's past presidents. During the ceremonies, at which a lovely picture of Phyllis Young, outgoing president, was presented, I couldn't help noticing that all the hung presidents were woefully crooked.

Soon after the Annual Tea, armed with hooks and hammer, Charlie Hardy and I arrived at the clubrooms to line up those past leaders in tidy rows. By the time our task was completed we felt that we had known

all of the twenty-nine women in the photographs. In fact, Charlie swore that one of the early presi-



dents had been his third-grade teacher, of whom he remembered being terrified. Curious about the origin of this collection of photographs, I learned that during her presidency from 1974-1976, Jeanne Burt had found a few pictures of the early presidents in the club's files. She then wrote to all the other past-presidents asking for photographs and most responded. A few pictures were clipped from *The Larch Tree*.

In conjunction with the celebration of the club's fiftieth anniversary, the Executive Board approved the framing (cost \$45.00) and hanging of the first twenty-five presidents of The Woman's Club of Larchmont, to be unveiled at the Annual Tea in May, 1975.

An additional picture had been forthcoming every two years thereafter. So, here was I, belatedly noticing that as spring is followed by summer, a president becomes a *past* president who must be photographed and hung, straight or crooked. My big objection to this was not just the being photographed, but the distinct probability that I would be forced to see the result.

Time passed. Terry Gentile, my successor in office, pointed occasionally to the wall space which had been reserved for my face near the presidential line-up and said, "Your picture is late."

"A snapshot," I thought, "At home where I'd be relaxed, might do." But roll after roll of film taken with the family camera and a kind friend with a professional camera produced nothing as good as the picture on my passport. And Terry said, "Your picture is late."

Feeling like an aged high school senior, I went to one photographer then to another. There were proofs; a choice was made. On the pick-up day, the photographer handed me seven 8 x 10 pictures in

large folders. "Seven pictures of me?" I gasped. "Our special holiday package," she explained. "Enjoy."

At home I placed one picture in a black frame. I distributed the other six around the house, my husband's desk, his pillow, his mirror, his closet, his place at the table, his car. Then I went to the clubroom where I hung myself in the spot provided.

When I returned home, not a word was said, not a picture was to be seen. "Good," I conjectured, looking in on Charlie cozy in front of the fire. "He burned them." Hours later, the doorbell rang. On the way to answer, I discovered my six photos, nicely hung, one each facing outward from the six front windows of the house. "Willow Avenue's presidential line-up," pronounced Charlie. "Very brief line-up," I answered. The photos were soon relocated with surprised siblings and children.

And now, frequently at the clubroom, I see my picture. I don't like it much but I don't hate it either. What I feel is pride in having been part of a group of women whom I admired so much that I dared to try to be like them. I look at the pictures of the early presidents and wish I could have known more about them and the club during their time in office. A look at the pictures of the presidents I did know refreshes my memories of them and the time and things that we shared.

That all members would get a sense of the Club's past history was Jeanne Burt's hope when she proposed this project. I hope, too, that they enjoy some wonderful memories triggered by one or another of the pictures. I know now that that's what photographs are all about.

*Mel Hardy*  
(President, 1982-1984)



*For many years as one of its philanthropic activities, the Club sent holiday gifts to the patients in the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale, a project begun by Cora Wilson.*

*When she died in 1982, this article appeared in the local paper.*

CORA WILSON AT A 1977 LUNCHEON AT WINGDALE.



### “Larchmont's ‘Angel of Wingdale’ Dies”

“Cora Wilson of Larchmont, known for 47 years as the Angel of Wingdale, died Tuesday at New Rochelle Hospital Medical Center. Mrs. Wilson, 89, was taken to the hospital Sunday from the Woodland Nursing Home in New Rochelle.

“Mrs. Wilson earned her halo by coordinating a campaign every Christmas to give holiday gifts to patients at the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale. By 1960, her drive had provided more than 100,000 gifts for hospital patients.

“‘I tried to put into words something about Cora Wilson, but it's hard,’ said Darleen Walsh, director of volunteer services at the hospital. ‘When I think of Cora Wilson I think of the Angel of Wingdale, that's how she's known to the patients and the staff. Her Christmas tradition has touched thousands,’ Ms. Walsh added this morning. ‘Her efforts will be sorely missed. Her courage and her humor will be remembered for many years to come.’

“In 1981, Mrs. Wilson received a letter from Dr. Y.A. Haveliwals, then director of the hospital. He wrote, ‘I am aware that you and the members of your foundation have devoted a great deal of time to this project during one of the busiest seasons of the calendar year! Cora, you are amazing in that you demonstrate unlimited energy and spir-

it in order to bring pleasure to each one of our patients at Harlem Valley.’

“Over the years, either from her home on Forest Avenue or the former Republican campaign headquarters at 128 Chatsworth Avenue, Larchmont, Mrs. Wilson, assisted by community volunteers, wrapped and sorted the thousands of packages that were donated by individuals and community organizations. Each year, her familiar plea for donations appeared in *The Daily Times*.

“She first got the idea on Christmas Day, 1934, when she and her husband visited their son, William, who had recently been admitted as a patient. He died of cancer in 1961.

“‘We stood there with all these pathetic people and tried to sing carols,’ she later recalled. Mrs. Wilson was so moved she went to the gift shop with \$20 of her own and 50 cents of her husband's to buy a gift for each patient. By the time she was finished, the bus fare home had been spent.

“The first year of her drive she collected and sent 35 boxes of candy, cookies and cigarettes. At the end of five years, 500 packages were turned out. In 1959 when she added patients at the Wassaic State School for mentally retarded children to her gift list, Mrs. Wilson said she was sending and wrapping close to 10,000 gifts.

*From the local paper  
dated Saturday,  
March 21, 1964.*

EASTER CORA WILSON  
PROJECT FOR WINGDALE IS  
UNDER WAY AT THE HOME OF  
MRS. ALFRED MOCCIA, 23  
DANTE ST., LARCHMONT.  
SHOWN AT WORK WITH MRS.  
MOCCIA, CENTER, ARE MRS.  
WILLIAM GALIONE OF  
HARRISON, LEFT, CO-CHAIR-  
MAN WITH MRS. MOCCIA,  
AND MRS. JOHN GALIONE OF  
LARCHMONT. VOLUNTEERS  
ASSISTING MRS. WILSON IN  
PROVIDING 4,000 GIFT PACK-



AGES FOR PATIENTS AT THE HARLEM VALLEY STATE HOSPITAL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVATOR ALUMNAE  
OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT. RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO LEAVE DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER PACK-  
AGES AT THE MOCCIA HOME. (STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BYRNE.)

"Mrs. Wilson's project spanned the tenure of  
14 hospital administrators, including one who dis-  
approved of it. Undaunted, she smuggled packages  
in with doctors and staff members. 'I dressed up  
in a white cap and apron and they hid me in a  
great big pushcart,' she recalled earlier this year.

"In 1961, Mrs. Wilson was ill with pneumonia at  
United Hospital and unable to assume her  
Christmas duties. Three local women took over that  
year. She was also hospitalized in 1975, when Evelyn  
Moccia, who later became the right-hand organizer  
and chairman of the project, helped with the drive.  
As she got older and her health began to fail, Mrs.  
Wilson was aided in her work by The Woman's Club  
of Larchmont, and in 1975 its Philanthropy Depart-  
ment assumed responsibility for the project.

"Trucks from the Harlem Valley hospital  
usually made three stops to pick up the gifts – at  
Mrs. Wilson's home, at Mrs. Moccia's home, and at

the Orienta clubrooms of The Woman's Club of  
Larchmont.

"Since 1960, Mrs. Wilson started every year  
with a thank you to everyone who helped her, often  
remarking that she was sorry she could not personal-  
ly contact all who assisted. In a 1980 letter to this  
paper, Mrs. Wilson gave her traditional thanks to  
those too numerous to name and added, 'One who  
must be mentioned is Mrs. Alfred (Evelyn) Moccia,  
the one who really does most of the work.'

"... Mrs. Wilson was born Cora I. Tompkins in  
White Plains on Dec. 23, 1892, to George Benjamin  
Tompkins and Lisetta Horton. She is a direct  
descendant of Daniel D. Tompkins, the first elected  
governor of New York and a vice president of the  
United States under James Monroe. Mrs. Wilson was  
a member of St. Thomas' Church in Mamaroneck ...  
Mrs. Wilson is survived by a son, Donald, of Lovely  
Valley Nursing Home in Pawling..."





*The column "Ask Aunt Tree" began to appear in The Larch Tree to promote the advertisers' businesses when Hallie Sether was editor.*

**Dear Aunt Tree:**

My sister and I inherited some money and we've decided to go to Europe together-- hopefully someplace where the dollar will still buy a cuppa coffee. I can't wait! I want to go right now before I spend my money, but my sister is the type who has to read all the brochures and chart everything from the probability of rain and the celebrity circuit to what fresh fruit is in season. How can we work this out?



HELEN BONARDI,  
TRAVEL AGENT.

*Bitten-by-the-Travel-Bug*

**Dear B.b.t.T.B.:**

Let your sister bank your money temporarily because planning ahead is by far the most economical way to travel according to club member Helen Bonardi of Better Travel. This is the only way to keep travel costs down. There are supersavers, cheaper fares, group travel, but all must be applied for well in advance. Better Travel is a "gold plated" agency that carries a lot of clout with its large buying power and is dedicated to promoting the most economical trip. If either you or your sister is interested in a fantastic cooking experience, consider the accompanying ad - the dollar still has value in Italy. (*The Larch Tree*, January 1979)

**Dear Aunt Tree:**

My husband has just returned from 13 years in the African jungle studying pygmy medicine men. He hopes to introduce their arts to this country and is testing their effects on me. The problem is - the drums give me a headache, the fungus salves make

me break out and his potions give me indigestion. Any suggestions? I do want to help him.

*Walking Lab*

**Dear Lab:**

Why don't you discuss your situation with the brothers Sussman at Hughes Pharmacy - a 74-year-old establishment which they have operated for 14 years. Talk to their expert cosmetician, Judy, about your skin problem. Hughes offers a bit of the old, in courtesy and service, and a bit of the new in their modern drug department. (*The Larch Tree*, December 1976)

**Dear Aunt Tree:**

Our daughter is being married at home to a French artist and already I have mother-in-law troubles. He complains that our house is so "ugh-American!-no subtlety in the colors." My daughter wants me to redecorate. Am I really expected to go that far to insure a happy marriage?

*Primary Colored*

**Dear Primary:**

No. Invite your future son-in-law to assist you in choosing the flowers for the wedding. I have attended weddings where the flowers and gowns were chosen from a Cezanne or Seurat painting.

Stop in at Grant's Greenhouse. It is much more than just a greenhouse - they do bride's and wedding bouquets, arrangements, centerpieces, corsages - everything for the wedding. You'll probably run into Norma Perciasepe working with Lorraine Roxbury, the present owner. Norma, *Larch Tree's* ad manager, grew up in Grant's as her family used to own the florist/nursery. (*The Larch Tree*, January 1979)



*Through the years many Club members have participated in and enjoyed the  
Book Discussions led by Muriel Riano. In April 1976,  
The Larch Tree printed the comments of participants in two of the sessions.*

**Comments by the Book Discussion Group**

First, a word about our group: we are not intellectual eggheads. We are a small group of reasonably intelligent women trying to enlarge our horizons by reading books we would not otherwise choose. Muriel Riano makes the choices for us, with suggestions, mutterings and occasional rebellions from the group. She looks for books with some philosophical insight to make them worth discussing. We enjoy comparing our impressions and points of view. Give us a try.

***The Plague* by Albert Camus**

One hundred percent enjoyed it.

*The Plague* is probably the outstanding example of existentialist writing. It concerns the reactions in an Algerian city when it is swept by bubonic plague and quarantined from the outside world.

**Lucille:** "I expected it to be depressing, but it wasn't at all!"

**Muriel:** "It's about how people deal with isolation and imprisonment."

**Mel:** "... and the ills of the world. Isn't he using the plague as a symbol of war and the German occupation of France?"

**Shirley:** "Oh, I thought it was about sin and saintliness."

**Hallie:** "Well, he divides the world into pestilence-causes and their victims, but maybe you can find saintliness by being a healer."

**Shirley:** "But he suggests that the character who spent his life counting beans might be a saint. Is that existentialism—freedom from responsibility?"

**Kay:** "That was his crutch. You can survive anything if you have something to lean on."

***Sons and Lovers***

by D.H. Lawrence

Sixty-five percent loved it, thirty-five percent thought the second half was a letdown.

This is the story of a dominant, unsatisfied wife and mother and the struggle of her son, Paul, for sexual independence.

**Lucille:** "*Sons and Lovers* illustrates the favorite theme at the turn of the century. Working class wives with a little education despised the animal spirits, the wildness of their husbands and brought their sons up in their own ladylike image."

**Muriel:** "The mother was living vicariously through her son. She pulled out all stops to keep him in her power. She just ate him up!"

**Mel:** "I think it was unconscious. I know worse mothers today."

**Shirley:** "Miriam wanted a Christ. Even when she gave in, she never really wanted Paul in a physical sense."

**Mel:** "Sex with clenched teeth! Ha!"

**Muriel:** "Sexuality is typical of Lawrence books."

**Mel:** "I thought the book was about the husband's alcoholism."

**Muriel:** "That's not justified. She made a good home."

**Shirley:** "Her unrealistic attitude destroyed him. The book has such beautiful sensitive writing, why do we have to analyze it?"

**Hallie:** "I didn't. I felt sorry for him—the wife drove him to it!"

Participants were: Shirley Bovard, Mel Hardy, Lucille MacCullum, Hallie Sether, Muriel Riano, Kay Ryan.

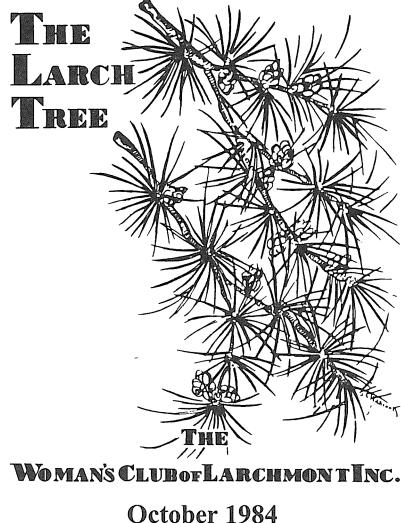
## EDITORIAL OCTOBER 1984

Summertime and the livin' is supposed to be easy. Some of us swim, some travel and many of us put Woman's Club concerns on a back burner. But for a dedicated few this summer, especially, has meant work – labors of love, of course.

In June we vacated the Orienta clubrooms. Anyone who has ever moved (and who hasn't?) knows what a chore it is. Terry (Gentile), Mel (Hardy), Annette Noe, Emily Capograsso and Evelyn McGowan, the new house chairman, helped pack and transport. Margaret Foley and Jeanne Burt's committee, Gloria Chalif and Betty Garrabrant, assisted with settling into our new room at the V.F.W. Because storage space is limited, special properties were stored with the appropriate department heads. Under Gloria's supervision, furniture was arranged and rearranged, some pieces reupholstered and new accessories acquired. New drapes and blinds were donated through Jeanne's daughter, Marjorie, and fitted for our use by Gloria's decorating service. But where to hide our 72 folding chairs is a challenge to even Gloria's imagination.

Now we have a large airy comfortable room, freshly painted, and floors polished by the V.F.W.

**What to  
do with  
72 folding  
chairs?**



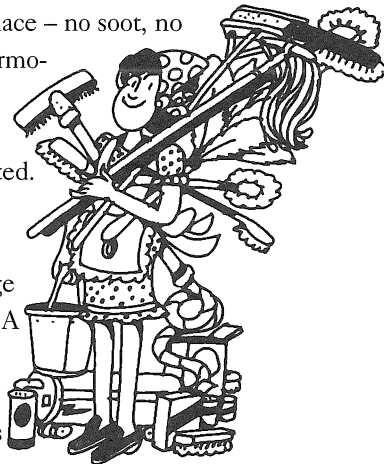
Marie Gerety's son has built a great storage closet. There is a kitchen, lavatory, pay phone in the hall, plenty of parking. Through Terry's negotiations, a ramp is being built for those who are troubled by stairs.

I am happy that the Club has used many of our advertisers: Sparkle Cleaners, Collins Moving, Vogue and Village Paints as well as Gloria's decorating services. More will be used when possible.

The caretaker family who lives upstairs is responsible for cleaning and has been very cooperative. Because the V.F.W. building is their home, we will not have a key but must ring the bell. The phone number is in the Yearbook.

I think you will all be pleasantly surprised by our new meeting place – no soot, no temperamental thermostat, no raccoon urine, and certainly more centrally located.

Remember, it isn't finished yet. Gloria may rearrange furniture yet again. A rug may be purchased. The folding chair problem is yet to be solved.



Much of the credit goes to Terry and Mel on whom the greatest burden has fallen. They have painted, scrubbed and scrounged, sorted and stored all summer long. All of our dedicated workers deserve a rousing hand.

*Hallie Sether,  
Editor*

## DAY OF TRIBUTE



REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HONORED AT LAST FRIDAY'S MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT INCLUDE, FROM LEFT, MRS. JOHN D. BRADLEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NEWCOMERS CLUB; MRS. JOSEPH CHARLA, CHAIRMAN OF THE LARCHMONT CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; AND MRS. WILLIAM F. YOUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE LARCHMONT AVENUE CHURCH. MRS. HAROLD H. RHOADES, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, SERVES TEA AND COFFEE. (*THE DAILY TIMES*, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975.)