

The Third Decade

1945 – 1955

The Post War Years

The Fabulous Fifties

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

A Gift to the Woman's Club

Presidents



MRS. LEON C. STOWELL
1946-1948



MRS. ROSS LEB. DAGGETT
1948-1950



MRS. FRANK W. WILMARTH
1950-1952



MRS. JOHN GRAY BYLER
1952-1954



MRS. PERRY CRANE
1954-1956

THE POST WAR YEARS

World War II was over, the veterans, men and women, were returning to families and homes, rationing had ended, nylons were reappearing, and there was a Christian Dior “New Look” for females. There were moves to suburbia, a “baby boom.” It was a time of adjustment and growth, not least for The Woman's Club of Larchmont.

Membership

The War Years had made extra demands on club members but there seemed to be no let-up in their activities and enthusiasm in the post war years. The Club continued its growth with 48 new Active members and one new Department welcomed in 1945-46. The “new” Department was the Sub-Deb Department, which had been formed in April 1944, but members were required to serve a two-year probationary period. It had proved to be a welcome addition to the evening groups, and working rules were drawn up for the Sub-Debs

patterned after the newly-revised rules of the Junior Department.

By 1951 the Club had full membership, 500 members, with a waiting list. In addition there were 94 Juniors, 74 Evening Department members and 100 Sub-Debs for a grand total of 776. In 1954, the total reached 800, which included all Sections. A new Section, the Activators, was established in 1953. Originated by President Marion Byler who was helped by Helen Thompson, the Activators were a group of 49 younger Active members, a cohesive group of women working together to become well acquainted with each other and the opportunities offered by the Club in general. Each Activator was expected to give at least 25 hours of work per year, 10 of which could be contributed by regular club work such as serving on committees, etc. As one of their projects, Activators prepared sewing and leather articles for Grasslands Hospital patients to complete in occupational therapy.



THE NEW SUB-DEB DEPARTMENT WAS FORMED IN 1944 BUT MEMBERS WERE REQUIRED TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD. THE STAFF PHOTO AT LEFT APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PAPER IN APRIL 1944.

THE NEW SUB-DEB SECTION OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT OPENED MONDAY WITH A MEMBERSHIP TEA. LEFT TO RIGHT ARE MRS. JOHN W. SHARBOUGH, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE JUNIOR SECTION; MRS. MARIE WEISZ, JUNIOR ADVISOR TO THE SUB-DEBS, AND MRS. ARTHUR M. BROWN, RETIRING CHAIRMAN OF THE JUNIOR SECTION.

PHILANTHROPY

During the season 1945-46 the Club took on another philanthropic endeavor by adopting a ward in the County Home. Seventy elderly or disabled women were "adopted" by individual members who pledged themselves to send gifts for birthdays, Christmas and Easter with occasional cards or cheery notes. Members of the County Home committee made biweekly trips there to distribute homemade cookies and a special Christmas party was given with gifts for all.

The Children's Village committee continued its good work too, giving the boys at Rhinelander Cottage treats and extra comforts, remembering each boy with a

birthday cake and gifts, an Easter tie and handkerchief and 15 individually wrapped gifts apiece at Christmas.

Sub-Debs gave new ruffled curtains for the cottage and other Club members pitched in with a big radio, table

covers, books and games.

By 1950 the Philanthropic Committee had renovated the dormitories at Rhinelander Cottage into roomettes with new furnishings. Parties and monthly visits to the County Home continued, and the Jennie Clarkson Home was visited monthly with sewing and mending for the girls – a welcome service. A trained worker supervised an eight-to-ten weeks' summer program provided by the Club.

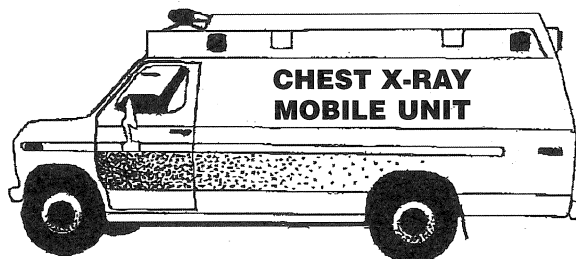
The Club's gifts to the usual philanthropic organizations amounted to \$2,908 in 1954. "The many hours of service donated by our members are probably worth as much, if not more than the financial gifts. Home Sewing groups, Social Service, Diversional Therapy, the Choral Group

and the newly formed Activators worked many hours to help hospital patients." (President Marion Byler's Annual Report, 1954)¹

The Club's philanthropic work was recognized by the Larchmont Men's Club, which presented the women with a plaque stating: "In recognition of Outstanding Community Service this Scroll is Awarded to The Woman's Club of Larchmont."

Two committees which had operated through the war years ended their tasks. The Committee for the Sale of War Stamps and Bonds ended its service in November, 1945. (A survey of Club members in 1942-43 estimated that over 90% of Club members were purchasing bonds and stamps regularly. In recognition of this record, the U.S. Treasury Department presented the Club an award of merit.) The sending of cakes weekly for soldiers at Fort Slocum was discontinued in January 1946. The War Work Committee, however, continued. It assisted in the National Clothing Drive and the emergency food collection of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration by collecting 150 cans of food from members.

In the 1950-51 season the Club participated in two new projects. Club members staffed the Crusade for Freedom truck, which visited Larchmont for one day in the fall. Over 600 people signed the scrolls and money was collected. The Club joined the Larchmont Junior League in bringing a mobile Chest X-ray unit to Larchmont. Members canvassed local homes resulting in 2,000 X-rays being taken.



THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

PROGRAM

The programs of the Departments continued successfully to draw in members. One Club Day program in 1952 featured Her Royal Highness Princess Ileana of Romania, Archduchess of Austria, daughter of the world-famous Queen Marie and granddaughter of Queen Victoria of England. Then residing in a modest home in New England with her children and gratefully making a new life in a free environment, she spoke on the topic "I Live Again." Another Club Day speaker that year was John C. Caldwell, Special Consultant for the Department of the Army on Korean Problems. He spoke about "Lessons Learned in Korea."

In 1953-54, the American Home Department changed from serving box lunches to a luncheon of delicious sandwiches, dessert and coffee for 45c. One of the later American Home Luncheons served 180 members and guests. The Art Department continued with its successful annual Art Exhibit warmly anticipated by the community. The Civic Committee continued to investigate and sponsor local projects and the Drama Department presented original dramas. The Education Department featured a representative from the Motion Picture Council, the Literature Department held an old-fashioned spelling bee, the Music Department presented several programs featuring local and visiting musicians, and the International Relations Department held a series of programs – all dealing with world problems and situations. Their theme? "For all our dreams of nobler things, Will meet the same old fate, Unless we turn to fellowship, And do away with hate."

BLACK BOOKS

One new project meant especially to benefit the

Club itself was the compiling of thirty-three black notebooks setting forth all necessary information intended to assist new officers and committee chairmen in organizing and executing their duties in accordance with the laws, objectives and precedents of the Club. The President's notebook contained duplicates of the personnel, duties and annual reports of every office and committee. These books, the property of The Woman's Club, were to be kept up to date and passed on to succeeding officers and chairman. (The "Black Books" were last updated in 1989 and are scheduled to be done again in 2000.)



THE LARCH TREE

The Larch Tree's cover was redesigned to feature the new Club seal. In accordance with the Editor's request, the Club conducted a contest for an official seal. Gertrude Holbrook, the Advertising Manager, executed the winning design. The maga-

zine continued to inform members of the various Club activities plus featuring articles of interest. The magazine was doing well with no expense to the Club, thanks to the work of the Editor and Business Manager and the Advertising Manager in soliciting advertisers in the community.

The cover of the 1953-54 Yearbook also featured the new seal selected by the Executive Board. "When Alma Kitchell became editor of *The Larch Tree* in 1952, the Club membership numbered almost 800, of whom one hundred were Sub-Debs. *The Larch Tree* had expanded in some issues to

thirty-six pages. A new column adorned the magazine: thumbnail sketches of new members. It quickly became part of the magazine's structure. Special issues featuring and, in large part written by members of

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

the separate sections of the Club, were devoted to the Evening Department, the Juniors, the Sub-Debs, the Activators, the Past Presidents and the Activator Alumnae."²



A MONTHLY COLUMN, DURING THE FIFTIES.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

One of the highlights of the decade was the celebration of the Club's 25th anniversary in 1950. President Dorothy Daggett (1948-50) wrote in her annual report:

"This 25th year of The Woman's Club of Larchmont has been a memorable one. We can recall our Silver Jubilee with both pride and pleasure. The Founders of our organization must feel that their efforts were justified. We owe a great tribute to their wisdom, courage and pleasure . . . This report would be incomplete without the acknowledgment of the gifts received in honor of our 25th anniversary. We

are proud of our new American flag, presented to the Club by Mrs. William A. Shelton; of the beautiful silver candelabrum given in memory of Mrs. David Sands by her daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Humphrey; and of the matching candelabrum presented to the Club by the Past Presidents in memory of Miss Emily Earle Lindsley."³

The celebration was held February 18, 1950, in the Garden Room of the Chatsworth Avenue School. There were refreshments and a presentation of an original comedy written by Mrs. William Moran.



SILVER DECORATIONS AND WHITE FLOWERS DECORATED THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE CHATSWORTH AVENUE SCHOOL, LARCHMONT, LAST NIGHT FOR THE 25TH ANIVERSARY OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF AN ORIGINAL COMEDY, "QUICKSILVER" BY MRS. MABEL MORAN, ONE THE CLUB'S CHARTER MEMBERS. ABOUT 650 MEMBERS ATTENDED WITH HUSBANDS AND GUESTS. PICTURED ABOVE AT THE GALA REFRESHMENT TABLE ARE, LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. HENRY LAVERS AND MRS. HARRY C. GIBSON, FOUNDERS OF THE CLUB, MRS. ROSS LEB. DAGGETT, PRESIDENT, AND MRS. MORAN, WHOSE ONE-ACT SHOW DREW A WARM RESPONSE FROM THE AUDIENCE. (*THE LARCHMONT TIMES*, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1950.)

ANOTHER GIFT

In 1945 the Club received a special gift of a marble statue of a classical female figure. This statue, Conova's "Dancing Girl," came as a bequest from the estate of Emily Earle Lindsley, one of The Woman's Club's charter members and a long-time supporter of the Club. The statue was placed in the Larchmont Public Library in July 1945 since there was no clubhouse. It remained there until April 1970 when it was moved to the clubrooms at Orienta Beach Club. It was moved again in 1984 when the Club moved to the VFW Post in Larchmont and remained there until we left the building in 1997. It was then moved to the Larchmont Avenue Church where it can now be seen, appropriately, in the Lindsley Room. It is a lovely statue which was highly praised a few years ago by a gentleman who conducted an antiques course for the Club.



CONOVA'S
"DANCING GIRL,"
A BEQUEST FROM
THE ESTATE OF
EMILY EARLE
LINDSLEY.

HALL OF FAME

About this time the New York State Federation of Woman's Clubs established a "Hall of Fame" to celebrate its 50th year of existence. Grace Lewis Shea, a past president (1936-38), wrote to nominate Emily Earle Lindsley for the honor. She wrote:

"The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Incorporated, of Larchmont, Westchester County, New York, nominates for the Hall of Fame, Emily Earle Lindsley, portrait painter, art teacher, poet, civic leader, philanthropist, nature lover and founder and life deaconess of the Larchmont Avenue Presbyterian Church . . ."⁴

Known affectionately for years as Larchmont's "First Lady," Emily was born in New Rochelle, New York, on February 25, 1858, the daughter of a

Presbyterian minister who also taught at Bolton Pryory in Pelham Manor. She attended that school and, gifted with a talent for art, went on after graduation to attend the National Academy of Design in New York City. There she won the Hallgartner prize for figure-drawing nudes, also taking second place in competition with Frederick McMonnies who later became a noted sculptor. She continued to study with other artists and then went on to study in Italy as a pupil of Mario Ferrari. Upon her return to the United States, she opened her own studio in New York City and taught there and later also in Larchmont.

Emily was a charter member of The Woman's Club and took an active part in many of the departments, particularly in the field of civic and

world affairs. "She always asserted in her convincing way that women banded together in the cause of righteousness and justice could be of tremendous influence. She was one of the first and most enthusiastic supporters of woman's suffrage and never ceased her efforts to convince women of their responsibility and power in the shaping of a better world."⁵

Also one of the founders and first presidents of the Garden Club, Emily won many prizes for her horticultural and artistic exhibits. During World War I, Emily, then in her sixties, drove an ambulance for the Red Cross. In 1942 during World War II, she again volunteered at the age of

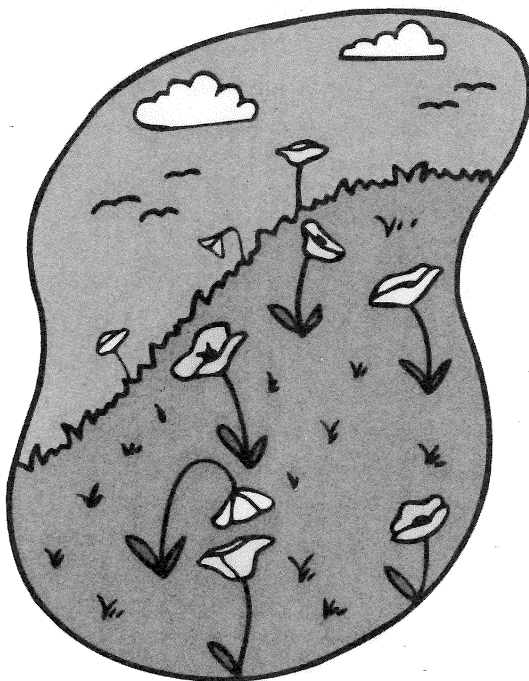


EMILY EARLE LINDSLEY

84 for the Motor Corps Service and was quite distressed when her application was rejected because of her age. A very talented and dedicated woman, she was beautiful with noble features and even in old age, alert and vigorous, completely untouched by personal vanity. She died at the age of 86 on October 18, 1944.

The October 1944 issue of *The Larch Tree* went to press a few days before Miss Lindsley's death. In it appeared her final offering as a contributing editor. In spite of difficult last days, she had penned the following poem which will live in

the heart and memory of every Club member as a fitting epitaph for Emily Earle Lindsley.



As a Flower of the Field

*Flower of the field that springeth up
On slender stem, thy dainty cup
Is filled with nectar, sweet and clear
To give thy winged friends good cheer.*

*But the hot winds shall o'er thee pass
And lay thy beauty in the grass.
Thy day is done, yet through its span
Always the thought of others ran.*

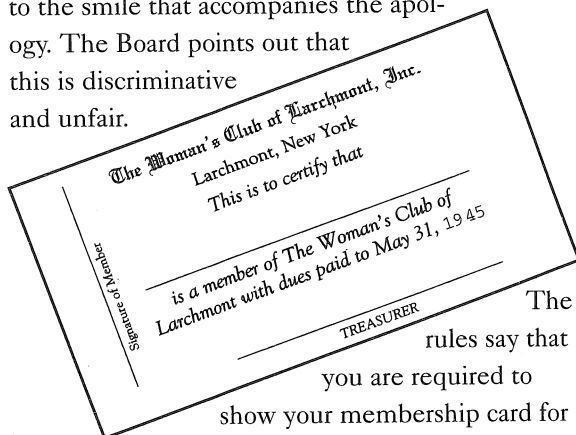
*Give thus, oh man, thy best to all—
And when the shades of evening fall,
Lie down to rest with quiet heart,
In God's great scheme thou hast thy part.*

Looking Back: The Way We Were

These articles appeared in The Larch Tree in 1944-45.

Where is Your Membership Card?

Why not look it up right now? Have you ever had that awful feeling that you forgot to turn off the electric iron before leaving the house; or to lock the rear door; or to check on your membership card? Of course you have; we all forget at times. But, says the Executive Board, you must not forget your membership card and your change purse at the same time. It seems that the Door Committee has been embarrassed by this double lapse many times, and has fallen prey to the smile that accompanies the apology. The Board points out that this is discriminative and unfair.



The rules say that you are required to show your membership card for admission. Failure to do so carries a fine of twenty-five cents for club meetings and ten cents for department meetings.



The committee this year has been instructed to welcome and return the smile that accompanies the card or the fee, but to remain adamant to the apology if both are missing. Sorry! We didn't make the rule, but our job is to enforce it. No tickee – no quarter – no can enter!

Door Committee

*Mrs. Walter C. Burbank,
Mrs. Arthur F. Durling,
Mrs. Arthur J. Mannix,
Mrs. Lawrence S. Scofield,
Mrs. Walter W. Brinckerhoff*



American Home

There have been so many requests for the recipe for the delicious dish which Mrs. Embury served at the Fall Luncheon, that we give it to you with pleasure.

- 1 large can tuna fish
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1 bag (25c size) potato chips

Empty tuna fish into colander and pour boiling water over it—let drain.

(continued on page 49)

Then put one layer fish into casserole, then one layer potato chips – repeat until casserole is filled – add milk to mushroom soup and pour over the filled casserole. Bake in moderate oven about one-half hour.

Don't forget our next meeting – December 7 at 11 a.m – when Mrs. Ruth Casa Emellas will speak on “Menu Planning.” Details in next *Larch Tree*.

Josephine Cunningham, Chairman



Annual Reports 1948-1949 Department Day Luncheon Committee

November 5, 1948

41 box lunches sold

89 persons served cake and coffee

December 3, 1948

37 box lunches sold

78 persons served cake and coffee

February 4, 1949

34 box lunches sold

78 persons served cake and coffee

March 4, 1949

44 box lunches sold

92 persons served cake and coffee.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis N. Wright



February 1945 The Woman's Exchange Stands By

February has the greatest number of holidays in the year and even in wartime we must cling to our traditions and make each of them more than just another day. With rationing it would be something

of a problem were we not fortunate to have The Woman's Exchange. Here we can still find party foods for the children's Valentine celebration. Lincoln's and Washington's birthday dinners can be stretched to include a few friends by taking advantage of the delicious additions available. Chicken pies are a treat made the Exchange way and, if augmented with our coleslaw or our famous vegetable salad, your entree course will be complete and satisfying. Order a cake or pie to make your guests exclaim that you are a clever and amazing hostess. Even if you are not a Bostonian, you will enjoy a Saturday night meal of baked beans made by an expert, or fish cakes that will literally melt in your mouth. Make them a week-end habit.

The Exchange is open daily, except Mondays, from 9:30 until 3:30 and telephone orders are accepted every day except Saturday. Coleslaw is always on hand, vegetable salad on order and meatloaf, too, when possible.

Help yourself while helping the Exchange, serve a chef's dinner without (ration) points, without fuss or bother, but with that lift that recalls happier days.

Grace Lewis Shea

MARVELOUS SANDWICHES

and

HORS D'OEUVRES

for your

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

PLUM PUDDINGS and FRUIT CAKES
THE VERY BEST

OUR CHICKEN PIES are famous throughout Westchester County

**The Woman's Exchange
of Larchmont**

158 Larchmont Avenue

SOME OF THE CLUB PROGRAMS FOR 1945-55 WERE . . .

Sept. 21, 1945	Are Ladies Women? -Maxime Vollmer	Oct. 27, 1953	The World is My Beat -Marguerite Higgins, war correspondent, <i>New York Herald Tribune</i>
Nov. 9, 1945	A General's Wife Looks at War -Mrs. Mark W. Clark		
May 9, 1946	How to Stay Alive as Long as You Live -Bonaro W. Overstreet	Nov. 18, 1955	The Monster in Your Home -Robert Shaw, writer, producer, director
Oct. 20, 1950	Talking Through Your Hat -Mary Kelly (one of the 12 "Best Hatted Women in the U.S.")		
Nov. 17, 1950	Books in the News -Orville Prescott (one of the outstanding critics of the time, <i>New York Daily Book Critic</i>)	EVENING DEPARTMENT	
Nov. 21, 1950	It Could Only Happen to Me -Edward Everett Horton (Master comedian, Men's Night program)	Oct. 15, 1945	From Hoopskirt to Bustle (Story and display of Early American fashion prints)
Nov. 14, 1952	Changing Styles in American Humor -Bennett Cerf (Men's Night program)	Nov. 16, 1953	Arrangements with Imagination for the Holidays -Mrs. Richard Land and Mrs. Howard Shireffs
Jan. 16, 1953	Under Cover for the F.B.I. -Angela Calomiris, author of "Red Masquerade"	Oct. 17, 1955	Art Through the Ages -Dr. Helen Halley, anthropologist (with Greek Chorus and Dancers)
Feb. 20, 1953	How to Live on 24 Hours a Day -Margaret Johnstone	JUNIOR DEPARTMENT	
Oct. 16, 1953	Impersonations from Fact and Fiction -Hal Holbrook and Lee Firestone, actors	Oct. 5, 1953	Fall Trends in Hair Styling -Jeannette Rabasco, Harper Method Beauty Salon
		Mar. 1, 1954	Trying to Understand the Woman Offender From the Moment of Her Arrest Until She Leaves the Reformatory -Ruth Weinberg



March 1945 Camp and Hospital Service is a Morale Builder



LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. C.W. ABBOTT, MRS. JOHN H. BAIRD; SEATED: MRS. WALTER BURBANK.

Mrs. Walter C. Burbank, chairman of Camp and Hospital Service of the Larchmont Branch, American Red Cross, is a charter member of The Woman's Club of Larchmont and her committee lists many familiar names belonging to that organization.

Mrs. John H. Baird, vice chairman; Mrs. Julian U. Cargill, secretary; Mrs. C.W. Abbott, in charge of the store at 107A Post Road; Mrs. Walter W. Brinkerhoff, recreation chairman. and Mrs. Fenimore C. Goode, another charter member, are all club members. Other members representing local organizations are Mrs. C. Benjamin Brush, the Larchmont Branch, American Red Cross;

Mrs. Sterling Sherwood, Larchmont Avenue Church; Mrs. Samuel B. Moore, St. John's Church; Mrs. Frank A. Neal, The Daughters of the American Revolution; and Mrs. Cargill, The Woman's Club, itself.

The duties of Camp and Hospital are morale building by means of providing comforts, otherwise unobtainable, in the camps. No request is too large or too small. They run the gamut from mouth organ to pipe organ, from ashtray to billiard table. Regardless of how unusual the request may be, it is no sooner expressed than these efficient workers produce it with no more apparent difficulty than lifting the proverbial rabbit from the top hat. At present they are busy collecting musical instruments needed in the formation of a band at Fort Slocum.

Nathalie M. Bennett



This poem was written by Club member Nathalie Thurston Shelton for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Club. She later added 14 more lines for the thirty-fifth anniversary. (See "Looking Back: The Way We Were" for the Fourth Decade.)

In Celebration

*In January twenty-five, a brave, courageous few
Essayed to plough through snow and ice to plan for
something new.*

*A Woman's Club in Larchmont: Oh could it ever
be? And who would take the leadership? How much
would be the fee?*

*At last they voted 'try it' — a plan was then laid
out; And each one told her group of friends what it
was all about.*

*Enthusiasm gathered like a snowball down a hill:
Although there were misgivings too, they started
with a will.*

Another meeting then was called, the Charter Members signed. Committees were appointed and the course was then defined.

You know the rest—as acorns grow to oaks that reach and tower; While sending down their roots to find the source of strength and power.

We walk together, plan and sing, our minds thus are inspired; With knowledge true of worldwide news, our spirits too are fired.

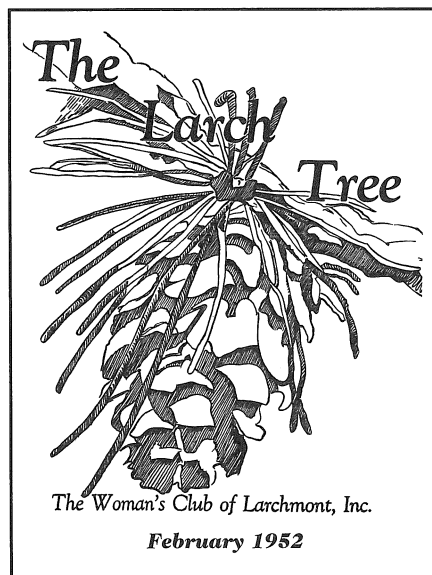
On this, our birthday, twenty-fifth, such gratitude we feel; For all the privileges we have, it kindles us with zeal—

To make our Club still finer and reach out far and wide; With ever widening sympathies just like the ocean tide.



February 1952

This issue, alluding to the birthdays of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, borrowed the styles of each and presented the following article:



With apologies to Lincoln

One score and seven years ago, twelve ladies brought forth upon this Village a Woman's Club, conceived in earnestness and dedicated to the proposition that women banded together in the pursuit of good works and culture can be a force in the community.

We are now entering our 28th year (with a total membership close to eight hundred) demonstrating that an organization so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

With apologies to Washington

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all clubs are recommended by policy, humanity and interest. We are now allied with the Westchester County Federation, the Ninth District, the New York State Federation and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The great rule of conduct for us is, in extending our cultural relations to have them with as little partisan connection as possible



February 1952

I KNEW
LARCHMONT WHEN
by Mabel M. Moran

The village extended from the unpaved and dusty Post Road to Long Island Sound and no further—

The small mule-drawn car traveled to the railroad station, then labeled “Larchmont Manor,” through wooded country full of bird song and goats. When the trolley car replaced the mule-drawn vehicle, there was a minor political upheaval; “rock-bound” conservatives objecting to the newfangled contraption spoiling the quiet of the village.

Selecting a motorman was a diplomatic act, no newcomer must add insult to injury. His name was Al, a kindly soul, who often stopped the car to wipe childish noses or tie shoelaces of the school-bound small fry.

Al was friendly and democratic; he’d grown up in Larchmont and knew old residents by their first names. Outraged men of distinction were greeted by “Morning, Harvey,” “Nice day, Wesley,” and so on down the list of men whose coachmen were absent of a morning.

In time those stuffy individuals became used to Al’s good fellowship, accepting his salutation as an accolade.

Larchmont was known as a summer resort, with few homes equipped with heating plants, and often called “Little Newport;” this was several years before the turn of the century, in a period known as the age of innocence. The year was 1896 and William McKinley was President. Not long after his second inauguration in 1900 he was assassinated by the anarchist, Leon Czolgosz. Residents of the Village were urged by their pastors to gather in Manor Park during the time of the funeral where they stood in reverent silence, bareheaded and solemn—all but a few children who were chased from the spot because

they chanted an unpleasant topical song calling the murderer “Soiled guts.” Naturally their parents were ostracized from our polite society.

Larchmont was pleased at the succession of Vice President Theodore Roosevelt to office since he was a neighbor from Oyster Bay across Long Island Sound.

I knew Larchmont when the “horseless carriage” came into being and we were proud of the man in our midst who owned one, although it was said in the Literary Digest of 1899 that such a luxury was only for the wealthy and would never be as popular as the bicycle.

When John Jacob Astor was visiting a friend in the Village, he went so far as to prophesy that we might soon see a flying machine.

Our people considered themselves unusually literary; we had a reading society where the men joined their wives in reading aloud from the latest novels (as they lubricated nervous throats.) We called ourselves “Larchmont’s Literary Coterie” and were not only smug, but also snobbish.

“David Harum” and “Eben Holden” were new and popular. Reviewers called these books a form of “B’gosh Fiction,” but the masculine members of our coterie enjoyed them more than the romantic “To Have and To Hold,” “Janice Meredith,” “Richard Carvel” or “When Knighthood Was in Flower,”—also current novels.

I knew Larchmont when we boasted a “Theatre Group,” and long after we closed our summer homes, we attended first nights in pleasant companionship and enjoyed such fine plays as the “Sunken Bell” with Sothern and Virginia Harned; “Mistress Nell” with Henrietta Crossman; Blanche Bates in “Madame Butterfly;” William Gillette in “Sherlock Holmes;” Richard Mansfield in “Jekyll and Hyde” and “Beau Brummell”—and the famous “Floradora.” A Larchmont maiden appeared in the latter production, which reminds me that our Village was the mecca of many theatrical folk: celebrities such as

Kate Cluxton, heroine of "The Two Orphans;" the entire Barrymore family had a home near the Bevan house; John Drew and his mother, whose memorial window lends color to St. John's Episcopal Church in Fountain Square; the Barrymore family, Maurice, his wife and their three children. Also, Minnie Fisk; Laurette Taylor; Elsie Janis; Charles Dillingham, the producer, and Blanche Ring. Mary Pickford had a home near the shore where she resided with her husband Owen Moore who was succeeded by Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. During the courting period between America's sweetheart and Douglas, there was an amusing episode. Fairbanks was about to star in one of his acrobatic dramas where he lassoed his enemies and made them bite the dust in the manner of modern radio. Needing practice with the rope, the actor rehearsed at dawn in the waterfront park, throwing his lariat over bushes and tall weeds until a happy moment when he spied a moving target. To his dismay it proved to be a hairless Mexican Chihuahua. The rat-sized dog belonged to a resident who doted on the shivering little beast and spoke her mind about the atrocity in no uncertain terms. Only his charm and good looks saved Douglas Fairbanks from the one prison cell in the local jail.

I knew Larchmont when the Fire Department was wholly volunteer, and because most of the members ran to evening fires in dinner jackets,

the New York papers called it the "Millionaire Fire Department." We were more elegant and formal in those days.

Several smart residents drove four-in-hands, while others went to the station driving tandem in preference to the usual spanking team with pole-chains.

How we existed without comic books, radio or TV can only be explained by our addiction to conversation which was an art at the turn of the century.

I knew Larchmont when the question of sidewalks nearly split the Village in two, politically. The approach to our homes was by way of crooked and often muddy paths. Roots of trees made walking hazardous as they sprawled like huge snakes between the roadbed and lawns, causing Trustees of the Village to consider a motion to install paved sidewalks. Arguments pro and con filled the

air for months, growing hotter

with each meeting of the Board, and might still be waging were it not for an impassioned speech by a very unpopular citizen who announced pontifically that were the village fathers to vote for the so-called "improvement" which would ruin the bucolic aspect of the Village, he, personally would sell his property and move away! The motion was carried unanimously.

I remember the pleasant and sporty nine-hole golf course just off Monroe Avenue, and spreading over what is now Flint Park. A small club house



where wives entertained as their husbands played vigorous games in salty air, was the center of much controversy and matchmaking. It has survived its somewhat inutile—but oh, how pleasant!—past to become a private residence on Monroe not far from the Post Road.

I knew the Larchmont Yacht Club ten years after its incorporation (in 1887). Both my father and husband were members, therefore it was my privilege to be present on “Lady’s Day,” which occurred once a year. This social event in “Little Newport” was given much space in the newspapers. The rotogravure sections of all great New York Sunday editions devoted a full page to it. Women wore trailing befrilled, beribboned gowns, white gloves, “picture hats” perched on enormous pompadours and carried parasols. A Royal British garden party was never more dressy.

Yacht owners let their craft lie at anchor for the day. They had “dressed ship” for our benefit, making the harbor gay with color, but the women were more interested in each others’ costumes; their small waists that “could easily be clasped with two hands,” and high, wired collars. This was the “Gibson Girl” period.

Glumly the sailors retired to that remote corner of the veranda known as the “port of the rocking-chair-fleet.” No women, then, as now, should sit in this sacred spot. When the sundown gun was

fired, “Lady’s Day” went into history for another year, and no yachtsman guessed that it was part of the “Gay Nineties” so oft to be quoted.

Most of them are gone now, the old salts who hated having women around for one day a year. Father Time gave them exclusive rights to be several feet underground.

They cannot know that now women may spend whatever hours they wish in the clubhouse or swimming pool—that they sail their own boats, or, if capable, are welcome to crew for their men-folk. That they stride about the Club grounds in slickers, slacks or shorts, or even “briefs and bras” or shirttails billowing in the breeze, they carry their own sails in bags on their backs and flick cigarette ashes toward the “rocking-chair fleet” along with vulpine glances. They bring their numerous offspring along and many a hardened sailor finds himself baby-sitting—willy nilly.

Should such news reach the old-timers, they would, if you will pardon the expression, turn in their graves.

Memories of Larchmont in by-gone days may be of small interest to the present generation, or newcomers, but to those who “Knew Larchmont When,” may it bring back affectionate recollections.



OPPOSITE PAGE: SOUVENIR PROGRAM FROM LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB RACE WEEK, 1908.

A NOTICE POSTED IN THE LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB CLUBHOUSE DURING THE EARLY 1900S.

PHOTO FROM "THE LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB, A HISTORY, 1880-1990" BY C. STANLEY OGILVY.

April 1955

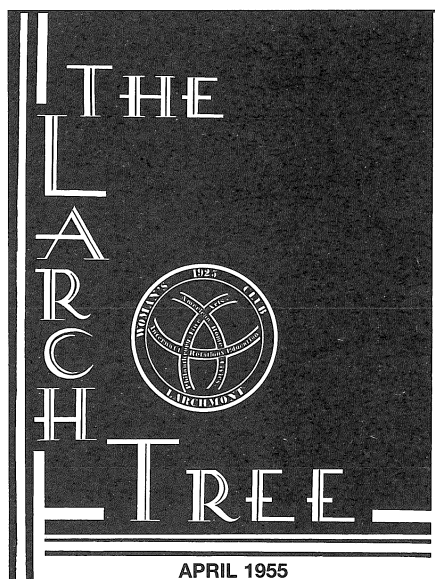
ANNUAL ART SHOW

APRIL 13, 14, 15

We are proud to herald the approach of the Annual Art Show, a glittering event sponsored by the Larchmont Woman's Club and applauded by all as a noteworthy contribution to the community.

The Show, held in the Chatsworth School Gymnasium, opens Tuesday, April 13, with a reception that night from 8 to 10 o'clock. The event will continue through April 14th and 15th, and is expected to exceed last year's attendance record of over 1000. More than 300 invitations have been sent out, and a large committee has been assisting Mrs. Kurt Offenberger, Art Department Chairman, and Mrs. Carl Nagel, Art Show Chairman, in their involved preparations for a show that can compete with or even surpass its own illustrious success of past years.

Again this year the husband of one of our mem-



bers, Mr. Righton Swicegood, is in charge of hanging. Sinister though this distinction may sound, Mr. Swicegood's services earn him our eternal gratitude. Architect and artist, Mr. Swicegood is a member of A.I.A. and is with Amos Parrish Company in New York, specialists in store design.

Grace Huntley Pugh of Mamaroneck received the first prize award for her painting "Jake's Boat Yard."

The judges for this event were Suzanne F. Porges, Director of the Kew Forest Art Association

as well as an instructor in painting; Ruth Nickerson, a member of the National Sculpture Society and the National Academy of Design; Hy Klebanow, a modern painter who was art director at his own studio, specializing in creative advertising; and Ernest Thorne Thompson, Art Director of the Department of Fine Arts at the College of New Rochelle.



The Daily Times, Mamaroneck, NY, Thursday, April 14, 1955



MRS. CARL NAGEL, (FAR RIGHT) CHAIRMAN OF THE ART SHOW, WITH JUDGES AT THE RECEPTION. JUDGES LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: HY KLEBANOW OF MOUNT VERNON, MISS RUTH NICKERSON OF WHITE PLAINS, ERNEST THORNE THOMPSON OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW ROCHELLE AND MRS. SUZANNE PORGES OF FOREST HILLS, L.I.