

Club History



WE AND OUR NEIGHBORS

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Our Past 89 Years

All of the charter members were neighbors and friends, living in the district. All owned farms or ranches and were raising families, yet they found time to meet once a month to keep up with the times, improve themselves culturally, and assist each other when needed.

They were very far seeing and progressive women, and they were very courageous in attempting to establish a Club House, on the membership of about 30 members.

On June 1892, Mrs. Cilker had invited the ladies of the community to meet at her home and enjoy a social afternoon. Fifteen guests were present. Mrs. Schofield addressed the ladies upon the subject of forming a Social Society in the neighborhood. They were all in favor of this and selected Mrs. Schofield as President, a position which she held for 25 years.

At each meeting one of the members would offer her home for the next meeting and volunteer to be hostess. Many elaborate luncheons and desserts were served.

The meetings were on the third Saturday of each month, and the dues were to be \$1.00 per year.

The November 1892 meeting was Potluck Ham Supper and was held at the Union School House for all members, their families and friends of the Union District. All expenses for the social evening were paid for by the members at a cost of \$4.00. This was the first of their annual November meetings, these November meetings were held each year until the 1960s.

In December 1892, they assisted Miss Van Meter, the teacher of the Union School, with a Christmas Party for the children, their families, friends, and neighbors. Refreshments and bags of candy and nuts were served by the Society. This was the beginning of the "Mothers Club for the Union School".

The next year they adopted a plan for entertainment for their meetings and I quote from the minutes "August 1893. Let us select anything original, poetry or prose. We are supposed to be interested in subjects from which we can get

amusement or instruction so it will not be easy to select an uninteresting subject, and the chief good, of a practice like this will introduce for a short time at least some subject of conversation more profitable than entirely personal matters or the price of prunes ..." The community at this time was farm land and everyone had a prune orchard.

The Club introduced the first lending library in the district, they subscribed to magazines: *Household*, *Cosmopolitan*, *McClures*, and *Munsy*. A librarian was appointed and the magazines were circulated to all members. This was continued for about ten years, this was in 1895.

They helped a poor woman in 1897 by donating a quilt they had made. The next year they were in a quandary as how to help her, whether to buy her a sewing machine or not. But she decided to buy a cow instead, so the Society made the final payment of \$10.00 for her cow.

During the Spanish American War, the members donated sheets, pillow cases, eggs, fruit, and books to the Veterans Hospital in San Francisco.

Two wagon loads of materials and supplies were donated and sent to the relief of victims of the San Francisco Fire and Earthquake of April 1906.

At the December 1909 meeting, the question of a Club House was again brought up. Mrs. Schofield had brought this subject up several times before. Mrs. Schofield had brought this subject up several times before, the first time being in 1896.

Mrs. Sophia La Montagne donated the land and Mrs. Schofield furnished the money to build the Club House; the cost was \$2,650. The Club House was accepted formally at a community party on May 27, 1910. Now, furnishing and maintaining the Club House was the concern of the members. The piano was purchased for \$300 in September 1910.

Entertainment, dances, and card parties were given to complete the furnishing of the Club House; admissions were 25¢.

Our Past 89 Years (continued)

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During the First World War, benefits and dances were given for the Red Cross and Card Parties and Raffles were held for the Belgium relief.

We joined the California Federation of Women's Clubs on April 21, 1921. In this year, we also had electricity installed in the Club House. (Before this time we had been using carbide lights).

On our 50th Anniversary, the friends and neighbors of the Union District were invited for supper and entertainment. Rents for the Club House were increased to \$1.25 for members, all others to pay \$6.00.

At the April 21, 1923 meeting Ruby Howes signed the roll for membership. (Ruby had now been a member for 58 years.)

Bed jackets and socks were made for the veterans hospital in Palo Alto for Christmas of 1924.

In 1930, dues were raised to \$3.00. Insurance for the Club House was not \$28.00 and taxes were \$24.79. Our first gas stove was installed at a cost of \$44.00 for the stove and \$2.00 for installation.

Termites were discovered in 1933; this was repaired and the Club House was painted for the sum of \$164.20.

In 1936, the stage was remodeled and materials purchased for stage curtains. (Those just disposed of.)

The Club entertained the California Federation of Women's Clubs on Friday, October 25, 1940.

In 1944, religious training classes were given in the Club House for the pupils of Union School, and the Girl Scouts were given permission to use it for their meetings.

A branch of the Santa Clara County Library was established in the Club House in 1950. Arone Howe was librarian. The library continued until 1960 when it had to move because of lack of space.

We adopted a war orphan in 1952. Bundles of clothes were collected for the Korean relief.

We have gone through five wars and the earthquake, doing our part as we were able or requested. Keeping the Club House in good condition. It has been used in many ways. We have weddings, wedding receptions, family parties, organization meetings, various church groups have held services while waiting for their church to be built.

We have sponsored the Boy Scouts for over 20 years. They have used it as a meeting place and for Girl Scouts

Meetings, various classes and graduation exercises have been held.

We still have our meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month and our entertainment is still educational and inspiring, and we help where ever we are able.

The Club House is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior.

There are still a few members of this organization who are descendants from our charter members: Arone Howe is the granddaughter of Mrs. Francis. Mrs. Hazel Smith is the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Cilker. Miss Ruby Howes is the granddaughter of Mrs. E. J. Howes. Miss Bernice Arnerich and Mrs. Genevieve Jordan are granddaughters of Mrs. La Montagne.