Edited and Managed by Progressive Women

WOMAN'S ENTERPRISE

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THE WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

By Mildred M. Waterman, Secretary

A building owned exclusively by women and women's clubs and used exclusively for women's activities, is the boast of but few places in Louisiana. That Baton Rouge is one is a matter of pride with the women of the capital city.

Long years ago, it is said, a big business man brought a ways and means discussion to a head by declaring that "the best way to do a thing is to do it." In 1918, the American doughboy phrased the idea in his own way when he gave the world the now famous battle cry, "Let's go!"

So many things have happened, so many things have changed, since the beginning of the world war that 1912 seems like "way back yonder." So way back yonder a few Baton Rouge women had the prophetic vision, and most of them are today a part of the realization, of a woman's clubhouse that hasn't it's equal in the state.

A reasonably careful inquiry indicates that the Library Association first tried in Baton Rouge to create a headquarters for women's activities. They put forth a plan for a library building spacious enough to take care also of the other organizations of women. A few women were actively interested, and a few men gave them encouragement, but the movement came to nothing tangible.

The idea, however, persisted, as sound ideas will; and later the Civic Association discussed and worked toward the end in view. Results, however, still were not apparent.

Later the Housewives League caught up the idea. The vision that had seemed vain revived with new hope, for the Housewives League, successful in many practical ways, felt very confident of final success.

During these years, women the world over had learned that they could do much that they had not formerly dreamed of. In war work they had learned new lessons of cooperation. And so, it was perfectly natural, after Baton Rouge's war record of women's activities, that the Association of City Clubs should come into existence as a clearing house of women's ideas for the coordination of women's activities, and it was equally natural that the question of a club house should be among the first questions for the Association of City Clubs to solve.

War work had impressed on woman's mind (if, indeed, the feminine mind did not already know it) that, "the best way to do a thing is to do it," and they had caught the fine, strong spirit of the doughboy's "Let's go!."

Therefore, "We are going to have a club house," said one of the women through the Association. "Where?" and "How" a few asked skeptically. The Housewives League representatives gave the answer in part, by telling of various properties they had considered, including the unused First Christian Church, which was to be had for $9,500.00.

"Let's go!" exclaimed the women (though the minutes do not set it forth in this form.) So Mrs. C. H. Stumberg, president of the Association of City Clubs appointed a finance committee. The Housewives League put up the option money, and later stock in an equal amount. A month later, the woman owners of 350 shares of paid up stock at $10.00 a share met and adopted the charter of Woman's Club, Inc. took over the property , paid the first installment of $3500, signed mortgage notes for the balance at one, two and three years, and gave the women's organizations of Baton Rouge a home that is a joy and pride; and "Darned if they didn't do it themselves," said one of the originally scoffing men, "except for letting a man lawyer draw their charter and a negro man cut the grass as soon as they got possession."

Stock in the corporation can be held only by women who are members of an organization belonging to the Association of City Clubs or by such clubs. Each stockholder has one vote, irrespective of the number of shares held. Member clubs are represented by their presidents at meetiings of the corporation stock holders.

The management of the club house and of the club is vested in a board of managers of not more than twenty-five, with overlapping two-year terms. At organization, the club for an initial board of fifteen, eight to serve for two years and seven for one year. The first board consists of the following:

Mrs. J. A. Tucker, President; Mrs. L. U. Babin, First Vice-President; Mrs. W. Carruth Jones, Second Vice-President; Mrs. A. R. Albritton, Treasurer; Mrs. G. A. Waterman, Secretary; Mmes. Elmo Badley, C. E. Coates, Hypolite Cohn, Anthony Doherty, J. St. Clair Favrot, George Foos, W. S. Holmes, Joe Ramires, C. H. Rice.

As part of the financing of the purchase, the board of managers set aside all money received from sale of stock as a fund for the retirement of the mortgage notes as they fall due annually. This fund is placed at interest to partially offset the interest on the notes. Several hundred dollars is already avaliable against the note that comes due nearly a year hence.

All other revenues go into the general fund, which may of course be diverted in part to the retirement of mortgage notes. This fund includes dues of $1.00 a year on individual members, and the board of managers is vested by the by-laws with authority to fix charges for the use of the club house for the purposes other than the regular meetings of the organizations composing the Association of City Clubs. These have the free use of the club house for their business meetings Any gatherings for which admission is charged will contribute to the general fund.

Plans have been made for slight interior alterations of a general character, and special arrangements will be made to accommodate The Little Theatre Guild in a way that it will make it one of the best equipped clubs of its kind in this part of the country. The architecture of the building is such that the tower is the only distinctively church feature. This can be easily changed without hurting the harmony of the building. The completion of the improvements referred to, before the annual convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, which will be held in the club house in November, is one of the definite marks that the club members have fixed for themselves in the line of immediate accomplishment. These plans, and the program for furnishings, of course call for money. The dues will be supplemented in the general fund by the proceeds of various entertainments given by the club itself, as well as fees for the use of the club by other organizations when used for profit.

The first of the entertainments decided on have already proven very attractive to parents, as well as to the children for whom devised. Several of the club members are expert story tellers, and volunteered for "story telling hour" every Friday from 5 until 6 o'clock. These hours have proved profitable to the club as well as delightful to the many little patrons and a not inconsiderable unmber of grown-ups. The more pretentious entertainments that will follow from time to time may yeild more dollars for the general fund, but it is doubtful that any of them can prove more delightful to their patronage.

The club took over the club house June 22. In the short time since then, much work of organizing has been done, and not a little progress has been made along many line of permanent character. It is too early, however, to state fully the plans that are yet being worked out in the board and in committess, for some of them may have to be changed. But one very definite promise can be made. The pride that the members felt over the aquisition of their own club house will not be lowered. The will to do is more than half the victory. The members have shown that sort of will. The largeness of the opportunity for the club to be of real benefit to the community can not fail to keep that will alive; and in the achievement of the club the members are sure to have a source of pride greater then the pride of possession.

THE HOME OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

THE MUSIC CLUB

By Mrs. H. J. Feltus.

"Music is God's best gift to man, the only art of heaven,
Given to earth, the only art of earth we take to heaven.

Thirteen years ago Mrs. L. S. Sorley together with eleven co-workers: Mmes. Blain, Coates, Hearin, Heath, Feltus, Devall, Jones, Reed, and Misses Fffie Reymond and Alexia Sligh, organized the "Music Club." The object and purpose of this club was to awaken in the minds of musicians a zeal for a deeper and more thorough understanding of the study and appreciation of music, the language of feeling.

Under the auspices of this club Baton Rouge has been given the privilege and opportunity of hearing such eminent artists as Mischa Elman, Maude Powell, Cecil Fanning, etc.

That this club has proven a factor in the advancement of music is evidenced by its phenominal growth to a membership of two hundred, and the further fact that it is today recognized as one of the leading clubs of the state.

When first organized, with Mrs. S. L. Sorley as president, the meetings were held semi-monthly at the homes of the members, but the membership out grew this condition and the meetings have been held semi-monthly at tse Presbyterian Annex. In future, the meetings will be held at the "Woman's Club House," the home of the "Association of Clubs," of which Association the Music Club as an active member has played an important part in the purchase of the house. It is in this club house that the handsome Concert Grand Steinway piano, privately owned by the Music Club, is installed.

The programs as designed and rendered are beautifully finished and artistic in quality and tecnique.

An interesting feature of the club is the annual meeting, which is considered the musical event of the year.

The success of this club is largely due to the splendid and untiring efforts of the present president, Mrs. W. S. Holmes, who has served in this capacity for six years.

It is music that appeals to the heart and leads men by pleasant paths to the deepest things of God.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Baton Rouge is growing bigger. That's what we want. We would do all that women can do to help.

Baton Rouge is growing nosier. That's what we don't want. We will help again all we can if we can.

The noise nuisance is not being complained about by just a few. Not just a few realize that it is unnecessary to have so much noise when using an automobile or truck.

There are traffic ordinances in our town and their enforcement has been requested and steps taken by the authorities in that direction.

Automobile drivers should be warned and be made to remember the law if not the annoyance they may be causing other. Needless noises and the injury and sorrow automobiles bring upon those hurt by accident, many times caused by recklessness, careless and fast driving, should be thought of.

Auto drivers: why not use cut outs and care? You will fare better and co-drivers will co-operate with you. Memphis forbids a license to car drivers without cut outs; Chicago arrests people for driving without them.

Baton Rouge is not quite as big yet as some of these other places but just as soon as you, car drivers, whether for pleasure or for profit, take care not to make so much noise and do not run over people. Baton Rouge will be a city when life is safe, at least, so far as auto accidents are concerned.

The new home of the Eatmore Bakery is an up-to-date sanitary plant, all rat proof and modern in every detail. Mr. Paille has been located in Baton Rouge for ten years and his new establishment shows his progressiveness and ability in his line of business.

FOR HEALTH OF CHILDREN

"Do you want healthy children?" "Of course,' you say, "what a foolish question."

Do you know how Baton Rouge, the state capital, thinks in this matter?

First these facts: many Louisiana towns, more Louisiana parishes and a large majority of the cities all over our United States, have regular paid Health Supervisers for their schools. Baton Rouge has in the past spasmodically and most satisfactorily enjoyed this privilege, by courtesy of our local physicians, and the state and national authorities.

Now, the Parish School Board, aided and abetted by the Civic League, the League of Women Voters, the Reviewers Club, the Social Science Club, the Mariethia Johnson Pareilt Teacher's Club, as well as the City Association of Clubs is formulating a plan to be presented to the Health Supervision for our city schools. The question was thoroughly discussed and favorably reported at the July meeting of the board. The members of the committees most actively interested are: Mrs. L. U. Babin, Mrs. Royal Tucker, Mrs. C. H. Stumberg, Miss Daisey Badley, Mrs. D. W. Thomas, Mrs. Nora Doherty and Messrs. Paulsen, Duncan, Dixon, Gordon, Hatcher and Mrs. Albritton of the School Board.

If you are truly interested , wont you confer with them and help? Bring your schools, where your children live so large a part of their lives, up to the point of sanitation already achieved in your homes. It is vital —this question—you can't afford the costly epidemics "enjoyed" in past years.

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