

the past three years has raised over \$700 for the Cushman Home. Some of the Clubs also help entertain at the Academy Lodge in Poynette which is a nursing home. We're indeed fortunate to have so many interested in helping others -- which is what makes life so worthwhile.

Center Chairmen have included: Mrs. Lewis Rupp, 1947 - 1948; Mrs. Walter Vogts, 1948 - 1949; Mrs. Duane Dunn, 1949 - 1950; Mrs. Melvin Risgaard, 1950 - 1952; Mrs. Lloyd Trenary, 1952 - 1953; Mrs. Robert Thompson, 1953 - 1954; Mrs. Vernon Hutchinson, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Paul Rouse, 1956 - 1957; Mrs. George Brauer, 1957 - 1959; Mrs. Roger Hebel, 1959 - 1961; Mrs. Harland Bartells, 1961 - 1963; Mrs. Harold Walker, 1963 - 1966; and Mrs. Glenn Morse, 1966 - 1969.

Serving as County officers from Poynette Center have been Mrs. Melvin Risgaard, the first Secretary, 1938 - 1939, Vice President, 1952 - 1953, & 1960 - 1963; Mrs. Edward Waugh, President, 1947 - 1949; Mrs. James Schmidt, Secretary, 1951 - 1953; Mrs. Lloyd Trenary, Secretary, 1959 - 1961; and Mrs. Donalyn Unke, President, 1964 - 1967.

WISCONSIN DELLS CENTER

Newport Homemakers organized in 1932. There were eight members at the first meeting and thirteen by the third and there are still seven charter members. Early meetings included entertainment, lunch and lessons. Lessons were on food and clothing. It was the only club in the area until 1950 when Pleasant Hour was organized. By March 1950 so much interest had been aroused, four more clubs were organized. The Twilight Club was the first to meet in the evening and now has become the Three T's (teach, talk and tea) and Fireside also became an evening club. The Dells Neighbors and Dutiful Daisies also were organized then. An additional one has since disbanded.

In 1952 a second Newport Club, the "Friendly Circle" was begun but has also disbanded. In 1962 Newport Neighbors was organized.

The "Eight Belles" began in 1966 and the Center now has 8 clubs and 113 members.

Past Center Chairmen are: Mrs. Robert Dougherty, 1949 - 1950; Mrs. Roy Cornwall, 1950 - 1952; Mrs. Louis Johnson, 1952 - 1954; Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Robert Fenske, 1956 - 1957 & 1959 - 1961; Mrs. George Gray, 1957 - 1959; Mrs. Tom Crist, Jr., 1961 - 1964; Mrs. Adelbert Everson, 1964 - 1967; and Mrs. Otto Christopherson, 1967 - 1970.

We have had two county officers: Mrs. Louis Johnson, County President, 1955 - 1957; and Mrs. Robert Fenske, County Secretary, 1962 - 1964.

Friendly Neighbors was organized in 1946. One of the early members was an Australian bride, Mrs. James Schultz and she told many things about their way of life.

The TNT's (Thursday Night Toilers) organized in 1959. A member of special interest was Mrs. Richard Naber of South America. She spoke very little English. Homemaking activities introduced her to many new things in our way of living.

Other Extension Homemaker clubs include the Kitty Kapers, Social Belles, Gay Twenties, Modernettes, Jolly 18, and a newly organized club, the Mopettes.

Homemakers from the Portage Center who have served as officers include: Mrs. Ralph Dalton, Secretary, 1944 - 1946; Mrs. Ben Balliet, Treasurer, 1952 - 1954; Mrs. Kermit Cawley, Treasurer, 1956 - 1958; Mrs. Rudy Schmidt, President, 1959 - 1961; Mrs. Russell Pate, Secretary, 1964 - 1967.

Center Chairmen have been Mrs. John Cummings, 1940 - 1941; Mrs. Clifford Harris, 1941 - 1942; Mrs. Hollis Mountford, 1943 - 1945 & 1949 - 1950; Mrs. Otis Palmer, Area No. 1 Portage, 1945 - 1946; Mrs. George Gray, Area No. 2, Portage 1945 - 1946; Mrs. Ralph Dalton, 1946 - 1947; Mrs. Gordon Parks, 1947 - 1948; Mrs. Donald Packard, 1948 - 1949; Mrs. Robert Wilcox, 1950 - 1952; Mrs. Raymond Christenson, 1952 - 1954, and 1961 - 1964; Mrs. Kermit Cawley, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Ben Lofstedt, 1956 - 1957; Mrs. Rudy Schmidt, 1957 - 1959; Mrs. Russell Pate, 1959 - 1961; Mrs. Edward Schroeder, 1964 - 1967; and Mrs. Dale Lambert, 1967 - 1970.

POYNETTE CENTER

Poynette Center organized about 1948, originally being a part of the Arlington and Portage Centers. A few of the present eight clubs had their beginnings long before Homemaker Clubs were formed--having been known as Mother's Clubs, or Neighborhood groups, sometimes holding all day sessions with a pot-luck dinner at noon for the entire families. In the first few years, cooking and sewing topics were alternated. The ladies studied nutrition by knowing and keeping charts of the amounts of minerals they got through their daily menus. School lunch programs were initiated with Clubs raising money through bake sales, and home talent shows. During World War II a great deal of Red Cross sewing was done in this area, making of quilts, foot socks, mittens, sweaters, and other items of clothing, besides making bandages. At one time the Red Cross headquarters were moved from Portage to Poynette because of the great amount of work being done here.

The Dekorra Homemakers did much to restore the Dekorra Town Park at the site of the Old Town Well in what was known as Dekorra Village. The old well is very much a part of Dekorra's history, and although not usable, is still there.

Lowville Center have made it their duty to assist at the Homes in Wyocena not just once a year, but every month. Each December they helped sponsor a bake sale and bazaar at the Cushman Home which over

PARDEEVILLE CENTER

Several of the homemaker clubs in the Pardeeville Center participated in the Extension Homemaker projects in the very early years before a county program was organized. The initial clubs were Marcellon, Pleasure Hill and Pumpkin Hollow.

The first few Center Chairmen were Mrs. Ceph Curtis, 1947 - 1949; Mrs. William Heinze, Jr., 1949 - 1950; Mrs. Melvin Pulver, 1950 - 1951, and Mrs. Donald Andrews, 1951 - 1952.

During the year 1952 and 1953, North Scott, YCNA and Springvale joined the center. During these years Center Chairmen included Mrs. Victor Bisbee, 1952 - 1953; Mrs. Charles McLaughlin, 1954 - 1955; Mrs. Claire Turner, 1955 - 1956; Mrs. Kenneth Kohler, 1956 - 1959.

As the years progressed, Riverside, Willing Workers and the So and Sews joined the center. Our newest clubs include the Castle Builders, and the Hope and Friendliness. This brings the total of clubs for the center to eleven.

Other center chairmen have included: Mrs. Glen Cutsforth, 1960 - 1962; Mrs. Gene Akey, 1962 - 1964; Mrs. Howard Barden, 1964 - 1966; Mrs. William Bangs, 1966 - 1967; and Mrs. Ralph Pulver, 1967 - 1969.

County officers include Mrs. Melvin Pulver, County Chairmen, 1939 - 1940; President, 1951 - 1953; Mrs. Glen Cutsforth, President, 1961 - 1964.

Pardeeville Center has the honor of having had one of its members a president on the State Level. Mrs. Melvin Pulver served the Wisconsin Extension Homemakers Council as its treasurer in 1955 and 1957 and State President 1957 - 1959.

PORTAGE CENTER

There are 13 clubs in the center with a total of 140 members. Most of the club members are from the city of Portage.

One of the first clubs to organize was the Fort Winnebago Club. It was organized in the 1930's before a county organization, as we have it now, was complete. Mrs. Ralph Dalton and Mrs. George Wilcox are charter members of this early group.

The Indian Hillbillies, Wigwams 14 and the Garrison Clubs are named from the early history of Portage. Garrison was named for the Garrison school in Fort Winnebago, which now stands at the Surgeons Quarters.

In 1948, Club 65 was organized and it was the 65th club in the county to organize, hence the name. It was one of the first evening groups.

Center Chairmen serving Keyeser Center have been: Mrs. Charlie Gullickson, Mrs. Irvin Hermanson, Mrs. Lewis Rupp, Mrs. Glen Meland, Mrs. Carl Kampen, Mrs. Ervin Thayer, Mrs. Gust Manthe, Mrs. Walter Paske and Mrs. Rodney Bussian.

The Center had their meetings at the Spring Prairie Church until it burned in 1956 and since then it has been the responsibility of the project leaders to attend at a convenient place and time.

Some of our long-time members have pictures and programs from the first Achievement Days and they tell of attending meetings before 1937 when "Specialists" came from the Madison Campus and conducted day-long meetings with valuable and welcome information.

Charter members (still active) are: Mrs. David Mickelson, Mrs. Martin Mickelson, Mrs. Alvin Baerwolf, Mrs. Marion Harris, Mrs. Clarence Lanzendorf, Mrs. Arthur Lanzendorf, Mrs. Walter Paske, Mrs. Gus Manthe, Mrs. Edwin Klahn, and Mrs. Robert Klahn.

LODI CENTER

There are eight clubs in the Lodi Center with an enrollment of 128 members.

The oldest club in the center is the Country Women's group that was believed to have been organized in 1912. Mrs. Elmer Buchanan and Mrs. Sadie Bock are Charter members of the group. Mrs. Bock was Vice President of the county in 1939 and the first Lodi Center Chairman in 1950.

Westpointers was the most recently organized club which started in 1960. The Peppy 69'ers organized in 1950 and their club name represents them being the 69th club to join the County Homemakers Extension. Oakwood club was organized in 1943. They remember some of the first lessons were on "setting in a patch" on overall legs with the sewing machine.

Pal club started as a mothers club in 1939. Was first called the Arlington Prairie Homemakers and changed their name to Pal in 1961. Wamby was organized in 1947. The name Wamby was an old Indian name taken from the name of the local country school that was in the process of dissolving at that time. Stitch and Chatter club was formed in 1939. The club met before this date but did not join the Extension until 1939. Gibraltar Club organized in 1949 and has only one member, Mrs. Charles Zeman, who is a charter member of this group.

Past Center Chairmen: Mrs. B. W. Bauer, 1942 - 1943; Mrs. Si Swalheim (also Vice President in 1946 - 1950); Mrs. Wayne Padley, 1950 - 1952 (also Vice President in 1939); Mrs. William Van Ness, 1952 - 1954; Mrs. Harold Ryan, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Howard Chrisler, 1956 - 1957; Mrs. Hilbert Steffenhagen, 1957 - 1959; Mrs. Joe Ryan Sr., 1959 - 1961; Mrs. Donalyn Unke, 1961 - 1964 (President of County 1964 - 1967); Mrs. Clarion Nelson, 1964 - 1967; Mrs. Dale Ness, 1967 - 1970. Mrs. Swalheim was also a past Center Chairmen in 1944 - 45.

Other county officers have included Mrs. Joe Currie, Treasurer, 1960 - 1963.

The first center meeting was held in the Otsego Town Hall in October, 1930. Miss Meloche was the first specialist in clothing, which was the project for the first two years. Meetings began at 10:00 a.m. and lasted until 4:00 p.m. A planned lunch was held at noon, each club bringing one part of the menu. Four meetings were held each year the the same two leaders attended all of the meetings and presented the lessons. By the time of the January meeting there were approximately 8 clubs.

Sometime during the years 1931 and 1932 Randolph and Cambria were included in the group and meetings were held at alternate places. The first Achievement Day was held in 1932 at the Portage Curling Rink.

In 1933 the first "foods" meeting were held, and in 1934 meetings were held in Fall River for the first time.

A variety of lessons in 1935 included such things as Making of Hand Lotion and Cold Cream, Tangle Foot Fly Paper, and Wool Cleaner. Instead of holding an Achievement Day that year, an open meeting on "Stain Removal" was held. In 1936 Rug Braiding, Stain Removal, laundry problems and storage space were discussed.

This brought activities up to 1937 when the County Home Demonstration Clubs were set up with officers, constitution and By-Laws. Mrs. Herman Bahr was elected County Chairman at this time, however, she had been active in all of the meetings prior to this. She also served as Vice-President, 1956 - 1958.

From this time on the groups have grown, membership increased, and the Fall River Center for a period of time was included in the Columbus Center, 1946 - 1956. As of now, Fall River has their own center with six active clubs.

Center Chairmen throughout the years have been: Mrs. Carrie Freck, 1940 - 1941; Mrs. Herman Bahr, 1941 - 1942 & 1954 - 1956; Mrs. M.A. Lee, 1942 - 1943; Mrs. Richard Nimitz, 1943 - 1945; Mrs. C. H. Finger, 1945 - 1946; Mrs. Floyd Waterworth, 1956 - 1958; Mrs. Josephine Moore, 1958 - 1960; Mrs. Walter Fritz, 1960 - 1962; Mrs. Lawrence Robbins, 1962 - 1965; and Mrs. Wayne Moore, 1965 - 1968.

KEYESER CENTER

The Keyeser Center has five clubs with an enrollment of 66 members. Leeds and LaFollette have record books of the 1937 organizational meetings, but both clubs date from earlier years having study club work, mother's club or community work as their year's programs. Other clubs in this Center are: Sharpee, Leeds Center and Lazy Susans. This area has provided officers to the county organization, namely: President, Mrs. Irvin Hermanson, 1953 - 1954, and Secretary, 1950 - 1952; Mrs. Glen Meland, Secretary, 1957 - 1959; Mrs. Clifford Harris, Secretary, 1943 - 1944; and Mrs. Perry Sharpee, Treasurer, 1963 - 1966.

The other eleven clubs have each in their own way become special to their members, for each has contributed much to enrich the lives and homes of the membership.

The first projects or lessons had to do with sewing, making the home more attractive, preservation of foods, safety in the home. They were planned to teach the housewife how to do her work more easily, safer, and with rewarding satisfaction for herself and her family.

The present day homemaker is concerned with mental health, providing a home atmosphere where the family will be happy and satisfied. She is concerned about the social problems that beset her family outside of the home. She wants to know how to cope with them. The early diagnosis of cancer is being stressed so that a lasting cure can be effected. Regular examinations, the Pap test, films that stimulate interest and active participation in preventive programs against cancer have been part of the educational program.

Greater interest in other countries and how their people live is evident, since the lessons on Brazil, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, and more recently, Vietnam, have been popular and thoroughly enjoyed.

Just as there have been changes and progress in all other fields, so the life of the homemaker has changed. Her physical labors have been lightened with the use of electrical appliances, she lives in more modern houses, there is more time for intellectual, cultural, and social activities. She enjoys doing volunteer work at the hospitals, cheering the patients, making life more pleasant and bearable for those who are confined to the Long Term Care Units of our hospitals and Home for the Aged. She spends much time with her children, especially supporting and participating in the extra-curricular activities of the school. She has become a broader-minded, more diversified individual, thereby making her home a sanctuary wherein her family lives a healthier, happier life.

Center Chairman have included Mrs. Joseph Johnson, 1947 - 1950; Mrs. William Schoengrund, 1950 - 1951; Mrs. Herman Bahr, 1951 - 1953; Mrs. Otto Yohn, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Albert Holstein, 1956 - 1957; Mrs. Franklyn Priem, 1957 - 1958; Mrs. John Derr, 1958 - 1960; Mrs. DeForest Doland, 1960 - 1963; Mrs. Olin Selje, 1963 - 1966; Mrs. Lewis White, 1966 - 1969.

County Officers have included Mrs. M. A. Lee, 1945 - 1947; Mrs. Joseph Johnson, President, 1949 - 1951; Mrs. Wm. Schoengrund, Treasurer, 1954 - 1956, President, 1957 - 1959; and Mrs. De Forest Doland, Vice-President, 1966 - 69.

FALL RIVER CENTER

The very first reports of Homemakers meeting held in this area were in 1929 and 1930. Mr. Hovde, the first County Agent, brought the idea of Home Demonstration Work to a group of ladies in the Englewood and Otsego locality. Mrs. Nellie Kedzie Jones and Miss Gladys Meloche, from the University Extension held open meetings. They gave demonstrations on home dyeing and trimming a hat.

Center Chairman have included Mrs. Herman Rohrbeck, 1942-1948; Mrs. O. Ruehl, 1948 - 1950; Mrs. Floyd Morgan 1950 - 1952; Mrs. Guy Hopkins, 1952 - 1954; Mrs. Harley Larson, 1954 - 1956; Mrs. Donald Koeppe, 1956 - 1958; Mrs. Roy Pritchard, 1958 - 1960; Mrs. Harris Neilson, 1960 - 1962; Mrs. Earl Breneman, 1962 - 1965; Mrs. Curtis Sanderson, 1965 - 1968.

County officers have included Mrs. Leo Link, Secretary, 1953 - 1955; Mrs. Guy Hopkins, Vice President, 1958 - 1960; Mrs. Ronald Senft, Treasurer, 1966 - 1970.

COLUMBUS CENTER

The year is 1968. The Columbus Center of Homemakers' Clubs numbers seventeen, with an approximate membership of two hundred sixteen. The names of the Clubs, chosen by the members, are interesting and indicate their special interests and objectives:

Busy Corner	F.S.O.	Sparkettes
Busy Lizzies	Hampden	Spin and Chin
Buzzin' Dozen	Happy Homemakers	The Petticoats
Columbus Round Robins	Learn and Do	Town and Country
Come Fifteen	Moon Glo	Young Marrieds
Dot Dash 12	South Columbus	

The Hampden Club is the oldest club, having been organized in either 1934 or 1935. Some of the charter members no longer belong to the Club, having moved away. At the beginning their meetings lasted all day for the members came from Madison, Rio and Columbus. A pot-luck dinner was served. As the membership area became smaller afternoon or evening meetings were held, with dessert and coffee becoming popular. The early records of this Club were lost in a fire in the home of one of the early members.

The membership of the F.S.O. Club represents the three school districts: Fairbanks, Sutton, and Oaklawn, now extinct; hence the origin of the name of the club.

Come Fifteen Club was the first Club to entertain the patients at St. Mary's Hospital at Columbus. Now that parties are planned regularly for the patients in the Long Term Care Unit of the hospital, the Club decided to change its project to sending cards to the residents of this unit. Each club member has a patients name and remembers this person on special days, holidays and birthdays with cards, visits or some appropriate form of remembrance.

The youngest club is the Young Marrieds, organized in September, 1966.

The Happy Homemakers Club is one of the older clubs having been organized about 1938 or thereabouts.

The South Columbus Club has nineteen members, this being the largest club in the Center. This club was organized in 1942 at the home of Mrs. Albert Holsten. Two of the charter members, Mrs. Albert Holsten and Mrs. Lewis Steidtmann, continue to be active in the club. Mrs. Arthur Weiner was the first president.

CALEDONIA - LEWISTON CENTER

The Forty Miners Club was organized as the 49th club in the county in 1949. Their original membership was 13, the total of the 4 and 9 in the year they organized.

The Durwards Glen Club joined the Homemakers organization in 1947. The club was named for a local historical site. Mrs. Neil Jensen present Center Chairman is a member of this club.

The Caledonia Club was the first one organized in Caledonia. When a roadside park was formed at the Fox Glen Store by the relocation of Highway 33 they took interest in it and planted many of the perennial flowers and shrubs at that time. Mrs. John Owen, a member of this club, was one of the first Center Chairman in the county, 1942-43. Mrs. Fred Baertsch, Past Center Chairman and Mrs. Val Mueller, Present County Secretary are members of this club.

The Idle Hour Club was organized about 1937. They still have four charter members. Mrs. Hollis Mountford and Mrs. James Taylor have been Center Chairman and Mrs. Taylor has also been County Vice President.

The Levee Club was organized in 1949 at the first meeting Miss Lonergan presented the lesson on the "Minute and a Half Patch" which was probably the most used lesson most members have had. Past Center Chairman from this club have been Mrs. James Brickwell and Mrs. Floyd Weyh. Mrs. Charles Stanford will be the new Center Chairman next year 1969.

The Lewiston Club is one of the older clubs in the center. Each spring this club and the Levee club have a joint meeting at the town hall. A Past Center Chairman from this club is Mrs. Paul Weber.

The Caledonia Circle Club has a big family Christmas party each year. Past Center Chairman from this club are Mrs. Orlando Phelps and Mrs. Ronald Ramsay. Mrs. Phelps was also County Secretary and Mrs. Roy McLeish was the first treasurer of the County Homemakers 1948 - 50.

CAMBRIA CENTER

There are nine clubs in the Cambria Center. The Rosedale club was organized in 1927. Woodside and Prairie clubs followed in 1930. Woodside has seven charter members and Prairie two. Back in that year ten clubs from the surrounding area and towns held their leader training meetings in the Cambria First Presbyterian Church. Later center meetings were held in homes.

Among the early lessons were those on Corrective Foods, Good Grooming, Washing of Sweaters and Woolens by Glue Method, Care of Furniture, Braiding Rugs, Garment Making, and Bread Baking, and other special interest lessons. Red Cross Home Nursing Course was given.

The Prairie Club had a history of their club from 1930 - 1949 published. The Rosedale Club celebrated their 40th Anniversary on April 15, 1967 at the Rosedale Church parlor which was enjoyed by members and guests.

"Home Demonstration" projects were taught in the early years of 1930 - 1935 by Cooperative Extension Specialists from the University of Wisconsin. At that time there was no organized county program.

Any interested group of women, with a membership of 15 or more, could send leaders to the several leader training meetings conducted in designated places in Columbia County by the specialists. Many of the early groups that took advantage of these meetings were organized as Mothers Clubs, Neighborhood Clubs, Home and Study Clubs, as well as Groups of Homemakers. Leaders from these clubs attended the leader training meetings which often started at 10:00 a.m. and lasted until 4:00 p.m. Planned pot lucks or sack lunches were enjoyed at noon.

Clubs were allowed choices of subject matter. The projects selected were in the fields of clothing, food and nutrition, or home management. Projects selected could not be a combination of any of these areas in one year, but had to all be within the same emphasis.

On September 17, 1938, at the Court House in Portage, the beginning of the first "Home Demonstration" organization was made. Mr. Hovde, County Agricultural Agent was in attendance at the meeting and offered his guidance and assistance. Mrs. Herman Bahr was elected the first County "Chairman" and Mrs. Melvin Risgaard, Secretary.

There were, at this time two centers, the Randolph-Fall River area and the Portage-Poynette area. Each had a chairman.

The first "Home Demonstration" Agent was Stasia Lonergan who came to Columbia County in 1942. She served until December 1956. Mrs. Margaret Patchett was the second agent, starting in January 1957 and working only on a part time basis until October 1957, when Patricia Nelson (Mrs. Donald Banks) assumed the position of full time Home Economics Agent until December 1959. Mrs. Patchett returned to the position in January 1960 and has served since then.

The term "Home Demonstration" as it applied to the agents has been dropped in favor of Home Economics; and as it applied to clubs which are now called Extension Homemaker Clubs.

There are now 92 homemaker clubs in the county with a membership of 1209.

Lois White

Through The Years

With Columbia County Extension Homemakers

1930 - 1968