



WEST SIDE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, BELOIT, Wi., 1895-1995

Accession # 1995.72.1

Size: 4.5 linear feet

Condition: Good

Donated to the BHS: Unknown

Donor: Irene Scott

Dates Accepted by Collection Committee: Unknown

Processed by Original Order

Processed to Folder Level

Ownership: Beloit Historical Society

Prepared by Leith A Rohr, Project Archivist, Beloit Historical Society

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History

On January 15, 1895 a group of 12 women met with Mrs Porter Cole and Miss Belle Foster for the purpose of organizing a literary club to promote and elevate the interests of women. The first members were neighbors of Mrs Cole and they elected Mrs Myra Grinnell as President, Miss Carrie Whitcomb as Vice President, and Mrs E.C. Stone as Secretary Treasurer. The meeting was held in the home on the corner of what is now known as Highland and Bluff, but at the time was called Farm Street. The first Club was called the West Side Twenty Club because they limited their membership to twenty members. The second year after organization they changed it to West Side Fortnightly Club. The first meetings consisted of heavy study of opera, music and fine arts that lasted from four to five hours. Later more social activities were introduced into the Club proceedings.. In 1902 the Club joined the Federation, and in 1911 it was decided to include East Side women to enlarge the Club.

Scope of Collection

The 100 years of the West Side Fortnightly Club are very well documented through their History Scrapbooks, Secretary Meeting Minutes books, and their club yearbooks. The yearbook programs are only missing the first year of the club's existence.

Description

- History of the West Side Fortnightly Club,, 1895-1995
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Correspondence, 1931, 1963, 1976-1978
- Newspaper Articles, Anniversary Celebrations, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, and 100th
- WSF Club- Centennial Pledge, 1936; Songs; "Golden Memories of Yesteryear", a pageant written and directed by Mrs H. Smith, January, 17, 1935; "Egg Day", a story about Florence Lakes

- Awards - "Citation of Achievement Award" recognized by the Federation of Women's Clubs and Sears and Roebuck and Company for working to improve the Quality of Community Life, 1978-1980; West Side Fortnightly 85th Anniversary Award by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, 1980
- Beloit Daily News articles of Club Anniversarie, 40th, 50th, 60th and 100th
- Photo Album, 1895-1966, (1995.72.5) - Photograph of founder Mrs L.P. Cole, 1885; photographs of charter members with some information; additional photos entered in PastPerfect, Print, Photographic - 1995.72.2-1995.72.4, 1995.72.10-1995.72.12
- 11 Secretary's Meeting Minutes Notebooks, 1895 - 1949, 1979-1994, (Poor to fair condition)
- 1 History Scrapbook, 1895-1995, History of Club, Sesquicentennial Yearbook 1986-1987, Awards, Newspaper clippings, Constitution, Photographs (identified), Spring Luncheon, Yearbooks, 100th Anniversary articles
- 3 Scrapbooks (Poor to good condition) numbered #'s 4, 5, 6:
 #4 (1995.72.6) (Poor condition) - Yearbooks, 1968 - 1974, Skit on the Constitution by Ida Galos, photographs (identified), Newspaper clippings, "The Sweet Goodbye to Winter" by Fern Plumb, Awards, Club History written by Ida Galos for the 75th Anniversary, Tributes to various members, List of Club Presidents from 1944-1970, List of years present members joined the Club, Recipes, and Obituaries
 #5 (1995.72.1) (Fair condition) - 1974 -1978, List of current members with the dates they joined the Club, Yearbooks, Newspaper clippings about members, Constitution, Photographs (identified)
 #6 (1995.72.8) (Good condition) - 1978 - 1984, List of current members with the dates they joined the Club, Yearbooks, Newspaper clippings, Photographs (identified), Awards, color negatives in envelope
- 1st Year Book, 1898-1899, was typed by a daughter of a member, for 50 cents. This yearbook is not in the collection
- 2nd Year Book, 1899-1900, was handwritten by Miss Porter for \$3.00
- Yearbooks, 1900 - 1995

Container List

Box 1

Folder

- 1 History, 1895-1995
- 2 Constitution and Bylaws, 1937, 1979
- 3 Correspondence, 1931, 1963, 1976-1978
- 4 Club Pledge, Songs, Pageant - "Golden Memories of YesterYears, 1935", Short Story - "Egg Day" about member Florence Lakes
- 5 85th Anniversary Recognition Award, 1980; Citation of Achievement, 1978-1980
- 6 Newspaper Articles, Anniversaries, 40th, 50th, 60th, & 100th
- 7 History, Photo Album, photos of the founder and Charter members with notations
- 8 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1895-1898, (poor condition)
- 9 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1898-1903
- 10 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1904-1908

- 11 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1908-1913
- 12 West Side Fortnightly Club, 1895-1995

Box 2

Folder

- 1 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1913-1918
- 2 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1918-1920
- 3 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1920-1922
- 4 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1922-1924
- 5 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1924-1938
- 6 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1939-1945
- 7 Secretary Meeting Minutes, 1979-1980, 1986-1987, 1988-1994

Box 3

Folder

- 1 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1899-1900, (2nd Program book)
- 2 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1900-1910
- 3 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1910-1919
- 4 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1920-1930
- 5 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1930-1940
- 6 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1940-1950
- 7 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1950-1960

Box 4

Folder

- 1 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1960-1970
- 2 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1970-1980
- 3 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1980-1990
- 4 West Side Fortnightly Club Yearbooks, 1990-1995

Box 5

- 1 History Scrapbook, 1986-1995

Box 6

- 1 # 4 - History Scrapbook, 1968-1973
- 2 # 5 - History Scrapbook, 1974-1978
- 3 # 6 - History Scrapbook, 1978-1984