

# CONGRATULATIONS VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1915-2015

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Abstracted from the minutes of the Vero Beach Woman's Club 1915-1941.

1915 February 11

- Fourteen woman met at Sleepy Eye Lodge to organize a Woman's Club
- Mrs. A. W. (Irene) Young was chosen as chairman
- Object of the club --- formation of a library and reading room in Vero

1915 February 16

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1915 March 2

- Annual dues of the club will be 50 cents
- Mr. Fred M. Crane offered his houseboat for a library - rejected
- Indian River Farms donated corner lot of Mohawk Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street (2<sup>nd</sup> St?)

1915 May 4

- Mrs. Young offered one of her enclosed porches to be used as a reading room until such time as the library building is in shape. (corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and 21<sup>st</sup> St.)

1915 June 1

- Due to the donation of books by Professor Myron E. Hard who had just died, it was approved to call the new library "Myron E. Hard Memorial Library."

1915 July 20

- It was approved to change the name of the club to "The Woman's Club."

1915 August 17

- President Young told of the needs of the local baker Mr. Henchel. The death of his child from diphtheria was the cause of his business falling off to such an extent that they needed help. The President was given authority to draw on the club fund to relieve the existing condition.

1915 September 17

- It was reported that all rooms and contents of Mr. Henchell's home and business have been thoroughly fumigated and sterilized. The members of the Woman's Club feel they have been the means of helping the family over a very serious time and possibly saved lives.

1915 October 26

- Mrs. John Atkin offered a room for the library books in her home and to hold the meetings. She offered her services librarian for \$5 a month.

1916 January 18

- Motion was made and carried that they place posters around town asking people to clean up.



Courtesy of the Cassens Collection from the Penobscot Maritime Museum

1916 May 16

- **Regular meeting of Woman's Club held at the new [Myron E. Hard Memorial] Library building**

Professor Myron E. Hard – educator and authority on mushrooms – died Nov 1914 a month after he arrived in the county- the library was originally named after him because of his large donation of books by his wife, who later became a member of the Woman's Club board.



Courtesy of the Bruce Smith Postcard Collection

- **Library Architect:** Duncan F Cameron – born ca 1845-55 in Kentucky of parents from Scotland – Civil Engineer/Farmer – He would ground shells from canal spoil banks to use in place of limestone.

1917 January 15

- It was approved that the Woman's Club raise one acre of cabbage. It was approved to ask some competent man and five ladies were appointed on the Committee. All ladies agreed to pay one dollar toward the expense of planting this acre. (Helped to pay off mortgage.)

1917 February 20

- Dr. Mary Mills Patrick of Constantinople, Turkey presented a talk about her work in the girl's school and the advancement of women in Turkey since the commencement of the war.

During the war years 1917-1918

- Mrs. Young organized the American Red Cross Auxiliary with 15 members.
- Different phases of war work were carried on.
- Canning project during war and later carried on by club.

1920 January 6

- Reported that mortgage had been lifted.
- Nine new bookshelves were added and window box seats were built under each window

1924

- Congressman Ruth Bryan Owen visited the Club and gave the club a print of the famous portrait of George Washington (CL)

1927

- New addition of auditorium and kitchen added and dedicated about 1927 (CL) They also purchased a refrigerator and later installed a hot water heater

1940 April 19

- The library contains 11,000 volumes. The library is open six days a week 2:30-5:30 PM (VBPJ)

1940 May

- Mrs. S. B. Taylor organized the Junior Woman's Club

1941 February 7

- "Bundles for Britain" committee is being formed under the sponsorship of the Vero Beach Woman's Club (VBPJ)

1942 April 24

- Twenty-Second annual meeting of the Florida Library Association was a three-day convention with a reception held by the Vero Beach Woman's Club (VBPJ)

1943 December 3

- Approximately 90 teen-agers turned out for the Thanksgiving dance sponsored by the Woman's Club and inaugurating a new series of programs. (VBPJ)

1957

- First President Mrs. A. W (Irene) Young died
- Fine Arts Department commissioned Ft Pierce artist A. E. Backus to do an early Florida landscape which hangs in the club house in honor of Mrs. Young, Miss Lane and Miss Mead.
- The Fine Arts Department also bought brass name plates for the Backus oil painting and the Mrs. Anna Brown sand painting.

1958

- Organized the Indian River County Library Association due to the cry for help from the Club. The club turned over all books and equipment to the new association and agreed to house in the library for free until the new library was built February 1962.



Courtesy of anonymous donor

### Projects adopted by the Club:

1. Beautification Day
2. Youth Center
3. Girl Scouts
4. Community Christmas Tree
5. Annual teacher reception
6. Public Health Nurse and welfare – asked the county to assume responsibility for county nurse's car – persuaded county to retain services of county health nurse Lila Bunkley
7. Pennies for pines
8. State Federation Clubhouse
9. Trees planted in our local forests
10. Crusade of Freedom
11. Bond sales
12. Senior and Junior Clubs
13. Kiwanis and other club luncheons
14. Library drives
15. Provided paid librarian
16. Red Cross
17. American Citizenship Department
18. Assisted in buying an American Flag which was to be presented to the class
19. Music Festival sponsored by Club
20. 1939 Contribution to Stephen Foster Memorial of \$825
21. Cleaner streets and sidewalks
22. Toilet for public use
23. Highway beautification one of the aims of club
24. T.B. ? Bond which Club buys each year
25. Contributions to endowment funds
26. Chamber of Commerce Member
27. Bundles for Britain sponsored
28. Support of School band
29. Sponsored truant officer in the city
30. Entertained school teacher each October
31. Upkeep of Club building each year
32. Junior Woman's Club
33. Fine Arts Department
34. Drove patients from Wabasso to Coral Gables for treatment during polio epidemic

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. Furnished reference material for school children until the schools were adequately funded.</li> <li>36. Organized teen dances</li> <li>37. Temporary meeting places for many new churches</li> <li>38. During WW II acted as an emergency U.S.O</li> <li>39. When the school floors needed scrubbing, club members volunteered</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40. Clothing closet for needy students</li> <li>41. Milk program for children and established a school lunch program</li> <li>42. Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets</li> <li>43. Haven for young girls</li> <li>44. Happy Canine Helpers provided dogs for the handicapped such seeing-eye dogs</li> </ul> |
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**Paintings / prints**

- 1. Anna Brown sand painting (won a prize at the NY world's fair)
- 2. Charles Lasar "Orange Girl"
- 3. A.E. Backus oil painting
- 4. Portrait of George Washington

**Furniture:**

- 1. Red captain's chair was given to the Club for safe keeping by the family of an Indian River boatman

**Sources:**

Unless otherwise noted all information came from the minutes of the Woman's Club.

CL – Charlotte Lockwood's notes on the "History of Vero Beach Woman's Club"

VBPJ – Vero Beach Press Journal

Further information can be obtained or researched in the vertical files of the Archive Center at the Indian River County Main Library.