



Charter members

Seventeen of the charter members of the Raeford Woman's Club pose for a photograph during the club's 40th Anniversary in 1964. The club had 81 original members when it was organized in 1924, and 18 of those attended the 1964 event. Charter members shown here are: Front row: Mrs. Julian Johnson, Mrs. Luke Bethune, Mrs. H.A. Cameron, Mrs. L.B. Brandon, Mrs. Doug McLeod, Mrs. Graham McLeod. Second Row: Mrs.

John K. McNeill Sr., Mrs. Clyde Upchurch, Miss Mayme McKeithan, Mrs. A.K. Stevens, Mrs. John McGougan, Mrs. H.C. McLaughlin. Third Row: Mrs. H.W.B. Whitley, Mrs. R.L. Murray, Mrs. W.E. Freeman, Mrs. Kate Blue Covington, Mrs. Ryan McBryde.

A vital community force

Raeford Woman's Club celebrates 60 years

On Friday night members of the Raeford Woman's Club will gather in the Fellowship Hall of the Raeford Presbyterian Church to celebrate 60 years of serving the Hoke County community.

In addition to usual festivities of an annual gathering, the highlight of the evening is expected to be the keynote address from Mrs. Jo Sinclair Northrop.

Mrs. Northrop is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a freelance writer. Her work has appeared in such publications as: *The Washington Post*, *The New York Post*, *The Miami Herald*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Food and Wine*, *Country Living*, *Country Magazine* and others. She is also a contributing editor of *Country Living*.

On Saturday, members of the Woman's Club will honor Mrs. Northrop at a coffee hour at the Hoke County Library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

There will be a Dutch luncheon for friends and relatives of Mrs. Northrop at 12:15 p.m. Saturday at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant.

The Woman's Club formed 60 years ago as an offshoot of the Mother's Club, which dates to 1918 and was Raeford's woman's organization.

In 1922, women in the community felt there was a need for more attention to be paid to the arts, and the Music and Literature clubs were formed.

During 1924, the three clubs merged and formed the Raeford Woman's Club. The club was admitted to the state federation that same year.

Mrs. H.A. Cameron, who had lead the Mother's Club, was named the first president and served until 1925. The original roll showed 81 charter members.

Under the constitution adopted by the club, members were pledged to "the intellectual, philanthropic, social, civic and domestic betterment of our town and community."

As part of the first organization, club members organized in five departments: Education, Arts, Garden, Home Life and Public Affairs. The Music Club retained a separate identity, but remained close in spirit to the Woman's Club.

In its first 10 years, the club took on projects planting trees and shrubs at the Raeford Cemetery, the schools and on Main Street.

Decorating Main Street for Christmas was also an annual project of the club.

Woman's Club members also raised funds by preparing meals for Raeford Kiwanis Club during the early years.

In 1926, the club's education department held a public meeting in the Raeford Kiwanis Hall. Mrs. Leonard Tufts of Southern Pines spoke on "Women Writers in the South." That year Mrs. W.L. Poole served as president.

Mrs. Poole was succeeded by Mrs. T.B. Upchurch, who served until 1929 and Mrs. P.P. McCain, who was president until 1930.

The literary department held a program the same year entitled "Popular Philosophers."

In the early years, the large annual meetings were held in the fall and most in the Bluemont Hotel. The meetings started to honor teachers.

During the 1930 meeting, the state attorney general was the guest speaker at a "Get Together Dinner." That year Mrs. J.C. Thomas took over as president and served until 1932.

Cotton Week was observed annually during the 1930's. Members wore cotton dresses, and awards were given for the prettiest.

In addition to cooking for Kiwanis, club members also operated a cannery, which provided canned goods for the schools during the 1930's.

Russia was the topic of study in 1934. The education department of the club sponsored four programs entitled: "Russia during the time of Peter The Great," "Russia prior to the World War," "Pre-



Pausing for coffee after 50 years

Members of the Woman's Club celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1924 attire. The members who took part in a skit depicting club's history from left to right are: Mrs. H.A. Cameron, Mrs. M.A. Maxwell, Mrs.

Catherine McLean, Mrs. J.H. Austin, Mrs. J.C. McLean and Mrs. J.M. Andrews.

sent Day Russia" and "Russian Literature and Music."

A sacred music concert was also held that year at the Raeford Presbyterian Church in observance of National Music Week. Mrs. C.E. Upchurch, who had served as president since 1932, turned over the club's gavel to Mrs. R.A. Matheson Jr. in 1934.

The garden department, which had through the early years been sponsoring an annual cleanup week and tree and shrub exchanges, changed its name to the Garden Club in 1936 and joined the State Garden Club. The Garden Club had become so large that it divided into four groups: the Garden Group, the Evergreen Group, Crape Myrtle Group and the Garden Lover's Group.

Mrs. R.L. Murray was president until 1937, when Mrs. H.A. Cameron served a second term to finish out the decade.

During the 1940's the club was lead by such presidents as Mrs. Younger Snead, Mrs. A.D. Gore, Mrs. Colon Scarborough, Mrs. A.K. Currie, Mrs. A.L. O'Briant and Mrs. T.B. Upchurch.

In 1941, Dr. Frederick Koch, who inaugurated the famous Carolina Players at the University of North Carolina, came to Raeford at the club's request and read Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" at the Hoke High auditorium.

Andy Griffith, who was at the University of North Carolina during the late 1940's, was the featured soloist for several selections of the Carolina Glee Club, who were performing here.

The fine arts department was established as the club entered the 1950's. It later changed its name to the Public Affairs Department.

Girl Scouting, civil defense, women's responsibilities in politics and the duties and responsibilities of city council were on the list of the club's topics during the 1950's.

During the decade, the club was lead by Mrs. T.B. Upchurch, Mrs. W.B. Heyward, Mrs. W.E. Willis, Mrs. Clyde Upchurch Jr., Mrs. C.A. Hostetler and Mrs. M.R. Smith.

The Raeford Woman's Club has been a vital force in the growth of Raeford and Hoke County.

The club has stimulated interests in public affairs, fine arts, education, literature, gardening and family life.

These same programs have continued through the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's.

In 1963 the club worked with other organizations in the county to open the doors on the Raeford Civic Center.

A former project of the club, which became a welcomed annual event in the community, was the Horse Show.

There were 17 charter members present, when the club celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1964.

During the last two decades the club presidents were: Mrs. J.L. Warner, Mrs. Bobby Carter, Mrs. Robert Gatlin, Mrs. J.M. Andrews, Mrs. N.L. McFadyen, Mrs. Samuel Homewood, Mrs. John Balfour, Mrs. Hubert Cameron, Mrs. R.G. Townsend Jr., Mrs. Crawford Thomas Jr., Mrs. Alfred K. Leach, Mrs. Clyde Knox, Mrs. Clayton Buoyer and Mrs. Jack Pope.