

Inventory of the

**Jolly Neighbors Club**  
Prophetstown, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 112**

## INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Leroy Gibson, Prophetstown, Illinois donated the Jolly Neighbors Club Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on September 22, 1980.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: .75  
Number of containers: 2 + 2 volumes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 112

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Jolly Neighbors Club Records document the establishment and history of a local woman's social organization formed to alleviate the isolation of rural life. A nearly complete set of minute books (1915-1980) details the business and social activities of each club meeting. Several program calendars and a program book supplement the minute books with lists of hostesses and activities for each meeting. Three scrapbooks contain photographs and newspaper announcements documenting picnics, card parties, and other social functions sponsored by the organization. Researchers should note that a club history and by-laws highlight the founding and purpose of the Jolly Neighbors Club. In addition, literature collected from the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs contains information on the statewide activities of woman's clubs in Illinois.

The Regional History Center holds several other collections related to Illinois woman's organizations such as the American Association for University Women's Club Records (RC 56), the DeKalb Women's Club Records (RC 211), and the Rockford League of Women Voters (RC 178). Researchers interested in rural women's history should see the Woodbury-Forsythe Diaries (RC 8).

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Jolly Neighbors Club was organized on May 20, 1915 by eight women from Prophetstown, Illinois. Mrs. Harry Lawrence, Mrs. H.B. Lyon, and Mrs. Arthur Glass served as president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, respectively. The club formed to fulfill a need of local women to gather socially and partially lessen the loneliness characteristic of rural life. The group held their meetings in members' homes or at the Prairie View School House. Meetings usually began with a treasurer's report followed by an entertainment program such as demonstrations of cooking, recipe exchanges, interior decorating, antique collecting, or health presentations. In 1918, the Jolly Neighbors approved a constitution and by-laws complete with

the club's motto, "If you want a friend, be one." The group joined the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1927, but ended its federation affiliation when membership declined in later years.

During its sixty-five year history, the Jolly Neighbors Club sponsored various social activities such as picnics, ice cream socials, card parties, and lectures. The club also participated in community affairs, particularly with donations to the local orphanage and soldier's home. Unfortunately, interest in the organization declined so low in the 1970's that the club disbanded in May 1980.

### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Farm Life  
 Farm Life, Societies  
 Jolly Neighbors Club  
 Prophetstown  
 Rural Women  
 Women's Organization

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Club History, 1957
	2	Constitution and By-laws, n.d.
	3-13	Minute Books, (1915-1968)
2	1	Minute Book, (1976-1980)
	2	Correspondence, (1931-1978)
	3	Program Calendar Announcements, (1927-1979)
	4	Program Book, 1950-1951
	5	Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs Literature, (1926-1952)
	6	Scrapbook, 1932-1934
Oversize	2 volumes	Scrapbooks, (1937-1940)