

Inventory of the

**DeKalb Business and
Professional Women's Club**
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 99

INTRODUCTION

Mary Anderson, President, donated the DeKalb Business and Professional Women's Club Records to the Regional History Center on October 10, 1980.

Property rights in the collection belong to 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: 2
Number of Containers: 2
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 99

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The DeKalb Business and Professional Women's Club Records comprehensively document the history of the organization from 1927 to 1970. Club histories (Box 1, Folder 28-29) and topical office files supply additional historic data through 1977. Meeting minutes (1927-1970), presidents' meeting notes (1949-1962), and treasurer's record books and reports (1946-1969) detail club programs, legislative endorsements, and contributions to local and national charities and other community organizations. Scrapbooks and yearbooks highlight club projects and agendas. Of particular interest is the correspondence urging support for appointing women to executive and government positions (1950-1957) and the group's efforts to stop "communistic practices" in the United States (1950's). The collection is of excellent quality for research on women and local history.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb Business and Professional Women's Club, sponsored by the Aurora and Batavia Clubs, received its charter in September 1927. The eighty-four charter members elected Cora Schoonmaker the first president; Mrs. E. L. Boardman, Mrs. Inez Nevins, Luella Custer, and Margaret Otis served as vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary, respectively. The adopted constitution and by-laws declared the organization's goals as elevating the standards for women in business, promoting the interests of business and professional women, bringing a spirit of cooperation to women of the working world, and extending women's professional opportunities through education. To achieve these objectives the group offered educational scholarships, supported legislative proposals beneficial to women (e.g., E.R.A.), scheduled meeting presentations and lectures detailing social problems and concerns, donated funds to numerous community charities and sponsored the organization of the Rochelle B.P.W. Club in 1968.

Several members of the DeKalb Club played prominent roles in achieving the organization's goals. Marguerite Mihm, the most active participant, served on the State Committee for the Celia M. Howard Fellowship Fund (1951-1952, 1960-1963), presided as Co-Chairman of the State Federation Membership Committee (1954-1955), and in the community, became Treasurer of the DeKalb Sanitary District (1963-1964) and the DeKalb Park District (1965-1966). Other members served in state and district positions including the Radio and Television Committee of the State Federation, the State Rules Committee, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the District, the State Federation Board, Secretary/Treasurer of the District, and the District Nominating Committee. In addition, at least one member appeared at a national, state, regional, or district meeting each year. Evelyn Merritt managed to attend an International Convention in Vienna in 1930.

Over the years, the DeKalb B.P.W. Club endorsed many issues of national importance. During the late 1950's the members supported resolutions and bills attacking communistic practices in the United States and some mailed magazines to universities in other countries to counteract communism. An Equal Pay Bill for women and men raised interest as early as 1946. Other measures endorsed included the Child Labor Amendment (1927), the Motor Driver License Act (1928, 1930), entering the United States in a World Court (1929), the March of Dimes Movement (1928), and the call for a Constitutional Convention (1944). The DeKalb B.P.W. Club supported and worked for any proposed legislation, charity, or scholarship which can insure the quality of women's lives in the DeKalb community, the state, the nation, and the world.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Business and Professional Women's Club
 DeKalb Business and Professional Women's Club
 Professions, Women
 Societies--DeKalb
 Women
 Women--Societies and clubs

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-9	Meeting Minutes, 1927-1970
	10	Presidents' Meeting Notes, 1949-1962
	11-13	Treasurer's Record Book, 1946-1969
	14	Treasurer's Reports, 1956-1969
	15	Awards and Certificates, (1969-1973)
	16	Celia M. Howard Fellowship Fund Information, 1950-1971
	17	Chairman and President Information, 1967-1973
	18	Club Charter Correspondence, 1952
	19	Children's Community Theatre, (1960-1971)
	20	Community Council of DeKalb, Constitution, 1960
	21	Contribution Records, 1948-1976
	22	DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, 1956-1960
	23	DeKalb Community Unit Schools, (1958-1960)
	24	Club Dinners Correspondence, 1954
	25	District Constitution, Correspondence, and Information, 1945-1973
	26	Family Service Agency Information, (1956-1961)
	27	The Golden Book of Memory, 1953, 1968
	28	Club History, 1927-1977
	29	Club Histories, 1946-1977
	30	Invitations, 1949-1968
	31	Legislation, (1946-1970)
	32	Margaret Wiltberger Scholarship Correspondence, 1950-1975
	33	Membership Correspondence, 1946-1952
	34-35	Membership Correspondence, 1953-1972
	36	National Business Woman's Week, 1949-1956
	37	Nike and Samothrace Clubs Information, 1967
	38	Organizing a New Club, 1966-1969
	39	Presidents' Reports, 1951-1973
	40	Proclamations, 1960, 1963
	41	Program Materials and Correspondence, 1950-1973
	42	Resolutions, 1951-1961
	43	Correspondence Concerning Womens' Appointments to Executive Positions, 1950-1957
	44	Youth Planning Council, 1952-1957
	45-48	Yearbooks, (1929-1973)
	49	Spirited Cooking Cookbook, May 1981

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
2	5 volumes	Scrapbooks, (1937-1973) Membership Pennant, 1961 (1)	