

ASHLAND CLUBS HAVE DONE MUCH TO AID ASHLAND IN GROWTH

(By Edith Mac Cracken, President Ashland Civic Club.)

In writing this brief resume of the history of the women's Civic Improvement club it naturally divides into two parts with an interval of 15 months between when its ceased to function in any way but as a Patriotic Endeavor helping in every way in its power to do its bit toward winning the war, making strenuous endeavors to earn all the money possible and to spend it freely for that cause. To that end a permanent Salvage Shop was established and maintained for months in the building where the Tidings is now printed. It was a time when everyone was eager to give what they would help the cause and when the women asked for clothing, household furniture and any other articles which were not doing their owners any good, but which were usable and salable. Then came a wonderful response not only articles of utility were given but odds and ends of broken jewelry and silver ware which were disposed of for the value of the metal. Tin foil was collected, \$25 worth was sold. The following report tells of the success of this project:

We, your committee, appointed June 11th, 1918 to work on the Salvage of Waste for the benefit of the Red Cross, beg leave to submit the following report:

The Salvage department was opened July 31st 1918 and closed May 17th, 1919.

There has been taken in during that time \$1446.20. The expenses were \$64.60, we have paid by check to the local Red

Cross and Canteen \$1300. To Belgian Relief \$10 leaving \$71.60 to the credit of the Salvage Dept. now that the long hard routine and discipline of war times is over and there seem to be no further need of our work along these lines and that the Women's Civic Improvement Club needs our energy and work for the things essential before the War we beg to be discharged from further continuance of this work. Etta B. Lampin, Chairman.

Mary L. Whitney
Edith Mac Cracken.

Extracts from the secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Whitney's report for the year 1917 are as follows: "That the year has not been barren of results more or less worthy of note is a great satisfaction."

"During the month of Nov. 15 Christmas boxes were put up and sent to U. S. Soldiers and Sailors. Ten boxes of apples were distributed to soldiers at depot.

December the club pledged its loyalty to the government and contracted to serve meals to drafted men who would pass through Ashland on way to different cantonments. The government agreeing to pay 60 cents per meal for same.

In May meals were served to 1665 men. In June 433 July 955, Aug. 120, making a total of \$3173. During this year \$2189.18 was earned. Expenses were 1846.17 leaving a balance of \$343.01. From this amount there was given Christmas package to U. S. Soldiers and Sailors \$33.90, Apples distributed at depot \$9.00. Beautifying depot grounds, \$5.00. Patriotic War Fund, \$300.00. Normal School

campaign, \$100.00 Chautauqua Club, \$35.00. W. T. C. U., \$5.00 Chautauqua Park, \$12.80, making a total of \$500.75.

The emberships of the club at this time was only 59, but many who were not members gave generously of their services, responding gladly to the call when help was needed.

It may seem odd to write of this work first which strictly speaking neither figures in our constitution nor By-Laws first but when we were called upon to do it, it took precedence of all others and when we look back to it, an added thrill is at our meetings, when we salute our beautiful starry banner.

And now after starting in the middle of our story to go away back to the thought behind the founding of the Women's Civic Improvement Club in 1907. One woman had been bothered in her mind for some time about the lack of civic pride in Ashland. There were so many heaps of tin cans, so many mounds of discarded rubbish so many weedy lots, so many littered premises, so many broken fences, so many old barns, troughs and hitching posts. God had made this a beautiful place if one could only keep ones eyes on his handwork. They might stumble into that mud hole down yonder or bump into the horse trough in the plaza. Could not something be done, to whom should she go to? The mayor? To the council? "No." They had all been tried. To whom then? Why to the woman? Lou Reeder hastened to Mrs. Lou Reeder hastened to Mrs. Otto Winters and they called in C. H. Vaupel over the improvement club was on its way to being formed. The first meeting was held in the old Commercial Club rooms upstairs in what is now the Kearns' Bldg. April 14th 1907. Mrs. C. B. Watson, Mrs. C. H. Vaupel, Mrs. E. V. Carter and Mrs. Warren were appointed to meet with Mrs. Eggleston Secretary of Commercial Club and to draw up Constitution and By-Laws. Mrs. J. F. Meikle was elected Pres. Mrs. Warren, Secretary and Mrs. C. B. Watson Treasurer. It was at this meeting that the idea of our City Park, as it now is, was projected. As the years went on more and

more results were obtained. Through the Civic Club five flat iron corners of land were purchased and parked. The first one being in front of where the library now is. A cement sidewalk was laid around it lawn and shade trees planted and a fountain placed in center, all costing \$170. \$1100 was spent for another piece of ground near the High School and later one at North main and Mechanic, one near Methodist Church and one corner of Boulevard and Ashland streets were bought. Many old barns were torn down and vacant lots cleaned up. Partly through efforts of the club the Boulevard was laid out with the parking through, the center and trees were planted. By giving of their money \$220 for books and \$50 for labor and influencing aid, the library became a Public one and eligible for help from the campaign foundation which erected the present building. The beautiful picture of Crater Lake which hangs on its walls was also purchased and given by the Club in fact all the pictures at the library with the exception of two have been the gifts of the club.

The ladies beautified the grounds near the S. P. Depot, planting a lawn and rose bushes. Their Civic Pride being so strong that they were willing to pay for the privilege of doing the same.

The Sanitary Committee received permission to have a conveyance at Club's Expense, go over the city occasionally and gather up the rubbish lying around loose.

Appointed the first clean up Day in 1913. All these things and many others both large and small but all of them necessary and important were undertaken and put over by this group of energetic women who not only earned the money by their skill and hard work to accomplish these improvements but by their tact and persistence overcame all prejudices and indifference.

In 1916, the club was incorporated under the laws of Oregon.

The following served as Presidents during this time, each one giving fully of her time and

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