

HISTORY OF CARY WOMAN'S CLUB

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

1935 to 1951

The Club was first organized in **1935**, with Presidents being Mrs. Addickes, 1935-36; Mrs. J.K. Coggin, 1937-39; Mrs. E.C. Sanderford, 1939-1940; Mrs. R.B. Williams, 1941-42; Mrs. E. C. Sanderford, 1943-44; Mrs. F.R. Yarborough, 1944-45; Mrs. T.C. Womble, 1945-46; Mrs. E.G. Padgett, 1947-48; and Mrs. Beth Stevens, 1949-50.

During the World War II years, there was a War Service Chairman. Activities included a Red Cross Sewing Room at which six club members worked from two to five each day making dozens of red, white and blue lap robes with *Cary Woman's Club* embroidered on each; and entertaining servicemen from Ft. Bragg in club women's homes on weekends. Captain Eddie V. Rickenbacker spoke at the State Convention in 1944.

There was but one school in Cary and for a two-year period Clubwoman Anna Neese kept the school library open during the summer to provide reading material for the Cary community since there was no other library. The Woman's Club purchased new books. A Drama club was organized. A Girl Scout troop was sponsored and leadership provided by club women. Ways and Means had a minstrel show, Tom Thumb wedding, and a bridge tournament. A teen club was also established. The club procured and furnished an adult center for education classes.

Pink dogwood was the club flower and pink and green the club colors. To pay for the yearbook, ads were sold. Mrs. J.K. Coggin served as District VIII President 1940-42; and Mrs. F.R. Yarborough served as District President 1946-48.

In 1951, the Cary Woman's Club and the Cary Junior Woman's Club implemented and dedicated the first Cary Public Library.

According to longtime Clubwoman, Daphne Ashworth, both the Cary Woman's Club and the Cary Garden Club were made up of the same members. The group was small (9-10 women) and meetings were held in the homes of members. In the mid-1950's the members decided to meet only as the Cary Garden Club, so the Cary Woman's Club was dormant for a few years. The Cary Junior Woman's Club continued to meet and complete GFWC service projects. As some Junior Woman's Club members reached the maximum age for Junior Clubwomen, they sponsored in 1963 the updating of the Charter for the Cary Woman's Club, so that they could continue as Clubwomen.

The Cary Woman's Club became active again in 1963 and in service to the Cary community.