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# HISTORY OF THE CRESCENT CLUB OF ANTHONY, 1913-1983

By Hazel Milikien

Edited and abridged by Charles B. Stanford

## Preface

The history of the lower Mesilla Valley has been sparsely documented in the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC). The unincorporated town of Anthony on the New Mexico side has presented a particular frustration to researchers looking for primary sources.

In the January 2009 issue of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* Stacie Pritchett presented a history of the Women's Improvement Association, later renamed the W.I.A. Las Cruces Woman's Club. In this article I present the history of another woman's club operating in Anthony, written by one of the club members in 1983.

The Crescent Club was one of two women's clubs formed in the lower Mesilla Valley in 1913. The other club was named the Woman's Aladdin Club and formed in Canutillo, Texas. Both clubs worked together closely throughout the twentieth century and showed a strong affinity to New Mexico: despite coming into being on either side of the state line, both belonged to the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs

The records for these two organizations were donated to the RGHC in 2008, nearly doubling our primary sources on the lower Mesilla Valley, particularly concerning the area's social and cultural life. Of the two, the records for the Aladdin Club are currently much more comprehensive, comprising minutes from nearly the entire lifespan of the club as well as scrapbooks and yearbooks. Unfortunately the original minutes from the Crescent Club have not yet been located; but in 1983 the club historian at the time, Hazel Milikien, wrote a club history in which she stated: "it has been my purpose to choose every event recorded because it highlights the past and underscores certain actions and events." In 1962 Mrs. Horace Nesbitt had compiled a history of the Crescent Club but this is not in our records either.

Extending to 111 double-spaced typed pages, Hazel Milikien's complete history tracks the new mem-

bers, officers, meetings, programs and projects of the Crescent club by year. For the sake of brevity I have omitted most of this information, focusing on the club's major enterprises and preserving a few details. I have tried to follow Mrs. Milikien's lead by including details that help show the personality and character of the club and individual members, as much as space permits. I have also confined my editing to abridgement. Due to the workings of optical character recognition and spell-checking software, there are bound to be some discrepancies between the original and this abridgment, but I have tried to leave the original spelling, grammar and punctuation intact even with errors. In some cases the history refers to organizations or programs with acronyms without clarifying what they stand for. Researchers can read the entire history and the rest of the club records in the Caroline E. Stras Reading room on the Fourth Floor of NMSU's Branson Library.

Both of the Anthony-Canutillo clubs were heirs to the tradition of women's organization begun in earnest during Victorian times, and it is easy to speculate a Romantic Orientalist influence in their names. An enduring attraction to the exotic is in plain evidence throughout the Crescent Club's history. This included a curiosity towards world geography and culture, which overlapped into a desire to keep informed of current events worldwide. Meetings might include a report of someone's travel to a distant country or a program to educate members on the history and customs of a selected culture or region. Presentations by club members included such topics as "Women's Relation to International Affairs" or the United Nations. This interest in world events naturally is most evident before, during and after World War II. The club also took part in programs to send money to areas around the world judged to be in need: development in the Philippines or magazine subscriptions in Mexico, for example.

Along with their curiosity and philanthropic work towards other places and cultures, club members promoted their neighbors' assimilation to Anglo-American

culture and the English language during the first half of the twentieth century. Later on one of their members was recognized for her work on the local elementary school's bilingual program, showing one of the examples of the shifting of cultural attitudes that women's clubs all throughout New Mexico and the U.S. have negotiated, embracing some trends while resisting others.

Milikien closed her introduction to her history with these words: "If the Crescent Club of Today appreciates its heritage, then the Crescent Club of Tomorrow will fulfill its promise. With the challenging future which faces us, members of the Crescent Club may well gather inspiration, enthusiasm and courage from these women of Yesterday." Such optimism is bittersweet from a current perspective: the Crescent Club probably only lasted another ten years after those words were written, disbanding sometime around 1993.

Social, technological and economic changes over the last twenty years have reduced the number and size of women's clubs all throughout the U.S. The records left behind offer valuable historical resources which should be preserved and used. Besides their insight into social and cultural history they also show what people can accomplish, even with limited resources or political power, when they work together with dedication. I hope that this selection will bring more interest in them.

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## **HISTORY OF THE CRESCENT CLUB OF ANTHONY, 1913-1983**

There are no minutes available for the first few years of the Crescent Club following the organization in 1913 but some light can be shed on these early years and the scope of activities of the year 1916 when it was federated with the State of New Mexico Clubs and in 1917 when it became one of five clubs to form a county organization.

The organization of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs was completed in the year 1917 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The 1914-1916 president was Mrs. Rubert Asplund, Santa Fe, New Mexico. At this time it was reported that there were 45 clubs in the Federa-

tion with a total of 1663 members.

Resolutions adopted from the 1914 convention were: A Resolution of Peace; and advocating the establishment of the tuberculosis sanatorium; for the perpetuation of Forest Reserves; better housing regulations; equal suffrage and one favoring prohibition.

The president in 1917 was Mrs. C. E. Mason, Roswell, New Mexico. The Federation members adopted resolutions declaring unalterable loyalty to the United States and its government, in the present crisis of the National peril, and urged members to assist in their respective communities in suppressing any disloyalty or sedition in work or deed; urged that we as a state, should abolish the liquor traffic; resolved that the Federation endorse state-wide prohibition and the Federal Suffrage Amendment. In 1918, the meeting which would have been Eighth Annual Convention, was cancelled because of the influenza epidemic.

### **1918**

The first minutes I have of the meetings start in January, 1918 so this is where I shall begin this history of the Crescent Club. From these beginnings I have names and enrollment of the following members. Mrs. J. H. Blair, Miss S. Carpenter, Mrs. W. Brooks, Mrs. P. Coleman, Mrs. A. Goodloe, Mrs. J. B. Hughes, Mrs. R. Jackman, Mrs. H. E. Roberts, Mrs. W. H. Nesbitt, Mrs. F. I. McKamey; Mrs. T. A. White, Mrs. Johnnie Forsythe, Mrs. F. P. Armstrong, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Mobley, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Rawlings, Mrs. Edmundson, Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Hancock, and Mrs. W. F. Smith.

Our yearbooks list Mrs. W. H. Nesbitt, as president 1913-1915; Mrs. Pat Coleman, president in 1916; and Mrs. J. R. Livesay, president of 1917. This would indicate a membership of twenty-four, with Mrs. W. H. Cooper as secretary. Noteworthy actions at this meeting were a thank-you note for a barrel of fruit sent to an orphanage in Albuquerque, and a motion approved to donate \$2.00 to the Y. W. C. A. Judges were elected at the February meeting to judge essays of school children.

The year 1918 was filled with various war time projects and activities. Appeals were made for books for the Army and Navy boys. The club was urged to become a member of the Red Cross. Contests with Thrift Stamps as prizes and donations to the War Work Council Fund. A five dollar donation went to the General Federation War Victory Fund. All members signed a petition op-

posing the new postal zone law regarding periodicals. Delegates to the County Federation meeting to be held in Las Cruces were elected.

May 24, 1918, a motion carried to suspend meetings for the summer months.

### **1919**

There are no minutes available from September 20, 1918 to January 15, 1919 and an excerpt from these minutes indicates the reason for the lapse of time and I quote, "Much time has elapsed since our last meeting in September due to influenza and other causes".

An important action at the February meeting was the matter of giving support to encourage the passing of House Bill 227, "To establish a Child Welfare Service" for the state of New Mexico and House Bill 170 creating a "Girl's Welfare Board". A motion carried to send 'night letters' to the Governor, Senators and Representatives. The secretary was instructed to also write and request the Home Canning and Drying bulletin and War Gardening Bulletin for each lady in the club.

Governor Larrizolo replied with a letter that assured the club that he would do all he could for the passage of the Child Welfare Bill.

A program giving a Mazola demonstration netted the club \$9.35 which was given to the Visiting Nurse Fund. There was a concentrated study of "Americanization" and motion at the October meeting carried that "We join the Red Cross as a Club". A notation at the end of the September minutes reads, "Rain, Rain, Rain. Mud, Mud, Mud. Cool, Cool, Cool".

### **1921**

The 1919-1921 president of New Mexico Federated Clubs was Mrs. R. P. Donohoo of Tucumcari, who had a resolution adopted asked that a course in Americanism be required in all our schools; and endorsement of the teaching of sex education in secondary schools.

### **1925**

A report on illiteracy in New Mexico placed "the State on the 44th round of the ladder and one fourth reside in our County". The General Federation urged clubs to support the Harding Hughes Reservation Bill.

### **1926**

Better Homes Campaign was the focus at the beginning of the year 1926. The revision of the constitution and by-laws is still being discussed and on March 20th were presented and accepted as read. Also in March a motion carried to withdraw from the State Federation.

At the April program Mrs. Pat Coleman presented a program on "Modern Electrical Appliances for the Home" and "Some of the Newer Inventions, 'Radio'", making this newest of inventions very real and practical to her hearers. At the June meeting the question of withdrawing from the State Federation was again discussed and motion carried to retain membership.

Regulations and rules concerning the Harriett Donohoo fund was requested. A report from headquarters gave the information that the fund is available for girls from any college in the state. No limit to the amount which may be secured and is loaned without interest and the girls must be recommended by a teacher, a pastor or other reliable member of the community. The fund at this time was \$30.00 less than \$1,000.00.

It was at the December meeting, 1926 that a motion carried to adopt the daisy as the club flower; the colors, white and gold; the motto as read:

#### **Club Motto**

Count that day lost  
Whose low descending sun  
Views from thy hand  
No worthy action done.

### **1927**

"No August meeting with Mrs. Darbyshire on account of bad roads— impossible for cars to reach her home."

September 17 meeting. "Mrs. Pool and Mrs. Nesbitt were appointed to take Mrs. Spence into the adjoining room and initiate her."

### **1929**

It was in March of this year that Mrs. Young gave a report on work being done toward starting a library in cooperation with the Valley High School. The El Paso Library gave a donation of 156 volumes and the offer of assistance in planning the library. A committee to confer with Mr. Greer, principal of Valley High School, and the P. T. A. in regards to forming a library

and suggest a fee of fifty cents be paid by outsiders for membership and see that this fund be used for the remainder of the school year to pay the librarian. Also the school be asked to include in its next budget sufficient funds to pay a librarian.

The main order of business at the April meeting was discussion of the library and collecting books. It was moved that the secretary prepare a special page and keep track of the number of books furnished for the library.

The May meeting was an evening affair for the "benefit of husbands and a few guests". The affair was so delightful that a "men's night" may be an annual affair.

At the April meeting it was reported that 30 books were donated to the school library. Mrs. West of Oklahoma City promised a gift of books. This was a result of letters sent out in May explaining the need of books for the library.

### **1930**

Husband's Night was set for October 3rd. At the October 14th meeting Husband's Night was discontinued for the present time.

### **1931**

At the first meeting it was moved and carried that minister's wives be invited to join as courtesy members with no dues and no vote. Letters were to be sent to Senators and Representatives concerning funds for the "Circulating Library" for schools. The program was on "Aviation". Mesdames Brazzil and E. L. Absher were voted to membership. In February a discussion relating to limit of refreshments called for a reading of the constitution which said, "One course was to be served". A committee was appointed to revise the constitution. Social hour followed with ample "One Course" refreshments.

At the May meeting the revised constitution was accepted. On recent action relating to making minister's wives courtesy members was declared out of order by the parliamentarian. Mrs. Forest White suggested that it be incorporated in the by-laws. It was found necessary to submit same in writing a month before taking action. Voted down.

The July program was on "Safe Guarding Our Nation". In November a Petition for disarmament was

read and one copy to be sent to the World Court at Geneva, and one to the Senate of the United States. Mrs. Young reported a gift of books from her sister, Mrs. P. A. Sims, for the Valley High library and asked for a shower of books be brought to the December meeting. The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Joyce of Carlsbad for necessary information on organization of a Junior Club.

### **1932**

In January, Mrs. W. H. Nesbitt, sponsor for the Junior Club, gave a detailed report of this new organization. A motion passed to ask the Junior Club at the first of each year for a list of members who are retiring from this club so they can be given priority on the mailing list of the Senior organization. A program followed by debate on the subject "Should Capital Punishment be Abolished?" Mrs. Reaves the affirmative and Mrs. Milner the negative. Both speakers had prepared excellent papers.

April program: "April in American History". In May a Mother's Day Program. June program: "Points of Interest in New Mexico". July program: "Our Republican Nominee-Herbert Hoover". "The Democratic Nominee-Franklin Roosevelt." "Home Life of the Garners". Mrs. Coleman, being acquainted with the Garners, gave this talk. Mrs. Ezell brought out the peculiarities of Mrs. Garner who is opposed to Women's Suffrage and Modern Styles. The August program was on "Preserving Vegetables in Sand and Straw for Winter Use". The program in September was, "Origin of Woman's Clubs", written by Mrs. J. S. Parker and read by Mrs. G. D. Carter. October and November programs were devoted to Musical and Book Reviews. In December, Mrs. Smith gave a summary of the early history of the Crescent Club and presented Mrs. Nesbitt, who is our only charter member, a silver punch ladle.

### **1933**

The August program was a resume of "The Life of the First Lady of the Land". A motion was made and carried to secure N. R. A. literature to be studied.

In September, the program: "Our County Schools and their Needs and Aim". The Junior Club chose for their name "The Kwatakas". The program for October was by members responding to roll call by telling of the most ridiculous moment of her life, and

Mrs. Crouch gave an Irish reading. Mrs. Wycliff Edwards rendered two solos. Her accompanist was Mrs. Ruby Dalquist. In December a motion carried that the telephone committee be eliminated and the hostess be responsible for reminding club members. A motion carried that no time limit be set for speeches or papers. The program was "Women of the New Testament".

### 1934

The February meeting roll call was answered with current events. The program was talk and drill in Parliamentary Law. Mrs. Smith, Reaves, Kilgore, Hardy, Newsom and Roberson paid tribute to Mrs. Mary Spence as neighbor, friend, club member, member of the D.A.R. and as a beautiful christian character. The service was concluded with a moment of silent prayer.

In March, Mrs. Young, Smith and Bennet were appointed to investigate the care of the books loaned by the club to the high school library. The program was a comprehensive sketch of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, at this time.

In April, a motion passed to endorse the following Resolution introduced by Mrs. Brosseau:

*Whereas, it is the desire and purpose of the American people to train and educate the youth of the land in the principles of love and loyalty for their country and,*

*Whereas, to accomplish this, it has been deemed wise to have them read and write the English language and to speak the English language while on the school grounds,*

*Whereas, the youth of our land look to older heads for example, particularly the faculty and members of the Boards of Education,*

*Therefore, Be it Resolved, That all members of School Boards be required to read English language at the Board meetings.*

*Be it further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be given to the legislative committees of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs and New Mexico Congress of Parents and Teachers with the request that they support such a measure if and when presented to the legislature of the State.*

*This resolution has been endorsed by the Central School P.T.A., Aladdin Women's Club, Dona Ana Co. Federation of Women's Clubs.*

Motion carried to take more interest in school elections and policies and to work to that end next year.

Program: "Art of New Mexico".

May roll call responded to with current events. The library committee made their report, saying that Mr. Greer suggested some kind of written agreement be drawn up setting forth the desires of the club in regard to the upkeep etc. of the library.

Roll call answered at the June meeting with current events. Mrs. Young reported on books at the school library. The librarian suggested that the club members check the books if we desire to do so. The written agreement:

Anthony, New Mexico  
June 4, 1934

To Whom it may Concern:

This is to certify that the following agreement was entered into by the "Crescent Club" of Anthony, N. M. and the principal of Anthony Union High School, concerning of books that the "Crescent Club" placed in the high school library.

First—that anyone in the community, upon the payment of fifty cents (\$.50) library fee, the fee to be paid annually, would have the privilege of checking books out of the high school library.

Second, that the "Crescent Club" reserve the right of withdrawing books placed in the high school at any time the club might so desire.

J. B. Greer

Prin. Anthony Union High School

### 1935

In April the ladies went literary and short stories were presented under non-de-Plumes and the club as a whole voted to ascertain which was best.

1. "Saga of the Pioneer" by Irene Levine was judged the best—non-de-Plume of Mrs. Smith. 2. "A Retreat" by Anomy. 3. "Golden Locket" by Polly Hopkins. 4. "The Bravest Woman that Ever Lived" by Dusty.

The real names of the last three were not revealed.

### 1936

At January meeting the Penny Art Fund is men-

tioned for the first time. A suggestion was made that the club start a "Loan closet" and a committee was appointed to study the matter. The A & M college students presented a musical program.

The month of February found the members active in new projects. The Loan Closet committee did not have a report ready as they were trying to secure same through the W. P. A. The Will Rogers memorial fund was discussed. Literature pertaining to International Relations had been received. Rev. Harold Wright, pastor of the Modern Liberal Church of El Paso, gave a talk on the life of Lincoln.

The March meeting found the club interested in highway safety and beautification. Mrs. King, member of Federal Housing Committee of Dallas, spoke about Home Loans. In April, Home Financing and Americanization were subjects of study. The 11th Annual Convention of Federated Clubs IV District was held in Silver City. A motion carried that the ladies of Anthony Methodist Church be asked to serve luncheon for the County Semi-Annual meeting to be held in May with Crescent Club as hostess, that the ladies of La Mesa Methodist Church be asked to serve luncheon if the Anthony ladies decline.

At the May meeting a report is mentioned pertaining to the Methodist ladies serving the luncheon on May 27th. No mention was ever made as to which church ladies served the luncheon.

The September and October meetings centered on Highway Safety. A motion carried to contact Mr. Clark to see if he favors a talk on Highway Safety in the Valley High School. In November, Mrs. A. F. Quesenberry from El Paso, talked on the Texas Centennial. In December, a motion carried "to amend our constitution thereby increasing our membership limit to 27 and meeting only 9 months in the year, disbanding for June, July, and August. This would allow for three hostesses for each month".

### **1937**

In February a resolution regarding compensation to Elizabeth Garrett, blind musician from the State of New Mexico, for her State Song was discussed. At the request of the Roswell Woman's Club, this resolution was endorsed and same sent to the Legislators. It was later announced that the bill was passed.

At the March meeting a motion carried to change

the day of the meeting from the second Tuesday to the second Thursday to become effective in April. For the program women came dressed in costume of a country represented and told of that country's habits, customs and other interesting things. Countries represented were England, Mexico, Japan, Italy, Holland, Africa and the American Indians.

In October, excited talk of Rural Electrification of the Valley and the possibility of power development. In December, it was decided to give ten minutes at each meeting to the study of Parliamentary Law.

### **1938**

The Crescent Club was asked to sponsor a Junior Club in this vicinity, the Las Jovencitas. In October, a motion carried to sponsor this club.

### **1939**

The first program of the year was on "Cotton Our Chief Basic Commodity", written by W. R. Squires. Mrs. Eyler and Mrs. Young were appointed to secure information from hosiery companies about the matter of making a better looking cotton hose.

In February, Mrs. Eyler reported on the different prices and grade of cotton hose that could be purchased from a Las Cruces store. A motion carried that all club members wear to the next meeting, dresses, hose and underwear of cotton.

The program was "Women's Relation to International Affairs". A telephone committee was appointed.

The March roll call was answered with current events. Dr. Edwards of State College spoke about "World Conditions". Mrs. Quesenberry of El Paso gave a talk on fashions and the advancement of the use of cotton. She was asked to write some articles on the same subject.

### **1940**

March found the ladies involved in legislative affairs. A letter was written to the Congressmen urging them to support a bill for "Aid for Adult Education". For the program, Mrs. Rachel, professor at State College, sang a number of songs. Mrs. Fred Daniels of Las Cruces was her accompanist.

The County Federation was scheduled to meet in Anthony with the Crescent Club as hostess. A motion carried to ask the Methodist Church for permission to meet there and ask the women of that church to serve

the noon luncheon. Mrs. Shannon of Las Cruces, a prominent New Mexico artist, gave a talk on art and had a display of paintings.

### **1941**

The subject for consideration this first meeting of the year was the New Mexico State Library Extension Service. A motion carried to endorse the new bill for the establishment of a State Library Commission and a letter be sent to the State Senator, Mr. Pete Pettit and the State Representative Mrs. Eylae. The program was given by Judge Coldwell on the subject of "Women's Rights in the South".

In March, the roll call was answered with current events. Twenty-seven cents was sent to the Penny Art Fund. A motion carried that \$1.00 be sent to the Spanish edition of Readers Digest for one year subscription and the magazine be sent to some person in Mexico.

It was in May this year that delegates to the County Federation meeting in Las Cruces were instructed to vote to discontinue the County Federation Meetings. Miss Rishaberger gave a reading "White Cliffs" by Olive Duke Miller. Quote, "The Baptist minister of the colored church of Vado and an assistant played and sang several favorite hymns".

### **January 1942-May 1943**

The Crescent Club is urged to take up some kind of defense program. Taxes, Inflation and price control was the subject of the February program led by Mrs. F. J. Rigney. Mrs. O. C. Reed gave a talk on "Nutrition and Conservation of Food".

The major order of business in September was the forming of a surgical dressing class of the club members. A motion passed and plans made to take the regular day to meet at 12:30 in the Anthony Coffee Shop for lunch then go to the Red Cross room to make surgical dressings. Mrs. Gladys Denny of State College spoke on Agricultural Commodities in the State of New Mexico.

In October, the names elected for membership were Mrs. F. J. Smith, Mrs. Carl Brandstrom and Mrs. N. P. Simonson. Previous plans to make surgical dressings were carried out. Notable action in November was the donation of \$5.00 for the filling of soldiers Kit Bags. The Christmas Party was planned and the gift exchange not to exceed 10¢. A motion carried that each member donate 50¢ for patients of the T. B. Sanatorium at Socorro

for their Christmas treat. In December, this action was rescinded and a new motion carried that the club send \$5.00 to the T. B. Sanatorium.

The January and February activity was to meet at the Anthony Coffee Shop for lunch and then to the Red Cross room to make surgical bandages. The War Production Board appealed to the Club women to keep up the drive for salvage.

### **September 1943-May 1944**

This September 1943 a momentous action was a letter from the State President asking that the Crescent Club members buy War Bonds in the name of the Club which will be added to other State Clubs bond sales with the purpose of naming or buying a BOMBER. In October, a bulletin in regard to bond buying to the Crescent Club members reported \$4,825.00 which will be given credit toward the New Mexico Quota. Mrs. Glen Harvey and Mrs. John Harlacker were elected to membership.

At the January 1944 meeting there were not enough members present to transact business, however, those present discussed having the meetings in the homes again instead of the Anthony Coffee Shop. In February a motion passed to meet in the homes for the remainder of the year. They would meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of each at 1 :00 o'clock for Red Cross work. Mrs. Eyley read a paper on the "Life of Winston Churchill."

The roll call in March was responded to with current events. Mrs. Young gave the report on the Red Cross Project. Eleven members met on the first Tuesday in the Red Cross Room and made 465 dressings and the club now has credit for 28 ½ hours.

A message was received from Mrs. Whitehurst, State President of Federated Women's Clubs, advocating silent meditation, Red Cross work and home canning and urged that more be done in War work. A motion carried to sent \$10.00 to the Red Cross. At the next workday for Red Cross 350 surgical bandages were made.

### **September 1944-May 1945**

The first project was interest in "Conservation of Natural Resources" with the promotion of tree planting, forestry education, and the protection of our forests. Gummed stamps "Prevent Forest Fires" were passed out with instruction to use them inside letters. Re-forestation was the project of the New Mexico Federation as a "living memorial" to the young man whose

life was lost in the fire of 1940 when Little Monjeau Mountain near Ruidoso was burned over.

The promoting of youth organizations was given much attention. A committee was appointed to gather material concerning a "Teen Canteen" in the community. It was agreed that the Club would assist in every way they could with other youth organizations in the community.

The promotion of bond sales was a matter for decision in October. The bond sales would go for the purchase of "Navy Aircraft" to outfit task force carriers with planes for offense. Support for the current War Fund drive was given consideration. Money was contributed for a fund for the promotion of Women's Legal Rights at the State Legislature. The club agreed to support two newly organized Girl Scout troops. For the December charity program a motion carried that a donation of a box of oranges be sent to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Las Cruces, N.M.

A letter was read from the National War Fund giving information concerning relief work done by that organization at Christmas among the Chinese and War Refugees.

The study emphasis for 1945 was on "American Affairs" as related to other countries. Friendly relations with the countries of South America and Mexico was stressed. A card of condolence was sent to Mrs. A. P. Barry whose son is reported missing in the European War zone. The Club was asked to assist in every way possible the National Clothing Collection for war ravaged countries. Mrs. Kohnle offered to see that the clothing would be delivered to headquarters in El Paso. The motion carried to renew the Spanish Reader's Digest to South America. During the tea hour at the April meeting a telephone call from a neighbor, Mrs. Mary Conover, brought the news of the death of President Roosevelt of a cerebral hemorrhage at Warm Springs, Georgia.

The Teen Canteen was now functioning and the Crescent Club signed an agreement to chaperon the group when needed. A report in May was given that 475 pounds of clothing was collected for war torn Europe.

#### **September 1945-May 1946**

The new Club year began with reports of the continuing war relief work being done. They were commended for the clothing drive and the Japanese Camp and Hospital chairman requested a committee be ap-

pointed to assist her in the collection of gifts and equipment for hospitalized soldiers and overseas soldiers.

In October the busy group found time to work with the New Mexico Library Association. A committee was elected to plan and give a party for the Japanese Camp and hospitalized soldiers. A donation was given for Christmas gifts for hospitalized veterans at William Beaumont Hospital. The program of vital interest was on the study of the Atomic Bomb.

In January 1946 found the women right back at the continuous task of collecting clothing and bedding for war victims. For one of the programs Mrs. E. J. Deymek talked informally of her experience as a prisoner in the Japanese Camp at Santo Tomas. Support of the Red Cross was continued with cash donations. Fellowship and Scholarship with South American countries was emphasized. The Reader's Digest subscription to South America was renewed.

Other areas of interest were Women's Rights, Boys Ranch and a committee was appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws during the summer and have it ready by September.

#### **September 1946-May 1947**

The condition of local roads was the focus of attention this year. A letter was sent to the New Mexico Governor requesting that a commissioner from this district be appointed. A favorable reply was received assuring them of his interest in the matter of improving community roads.

The building of a Chapel at Boys Ranch received support from each member giving \$2.00 in memory of someone and the sum of \$54.00 was contributed. A \$5.00 donation was made to the Boy Scouts and \$5.00 to the Infantile Paralysis Fund. The library fund was boosted with a matching fund from the State Library Commission that increased the budget of fourteen small town libraries from \$400.00 to \$1,000.00 each enabling them to serve their communities more effectively.

This year the Crescent Club and Aladdin Club cooperated in sponsoring an Art Exhibit and all Valley artists were invited to participate.

#### **September 1947-May 1948**

September brought a serious concern for the Country and Crescent Club. The threat of communism was a subject of grave concern and study. Mr. Stuart



gave a talk on "The Threat of Communism". Father Lee of Anthony told of communism relating some of his experiences in his native country of Lithuania. This month of January a luncheon was planned with husbands to be honored guests.

Mr. Clegg, Superintendent of Schools, gave a talk on concerning the problems of both local and state schools. Mrs. John Berry gave a talk on conditions of "The World Today" stressing the woman's part in peace plans.

### **September 1948-May 1949**

In January, the matter of the improvement of the highways was given more attention. It was reported that some headway was being made with the Texas Highway Department officials. The Anthony and Las Cruces highways were well marked and Mr. Bayless, Texas highway engineer, said that if it was signs they wanted on the highway he would get them. The Texas Governor, Beauford Jester, sent a letter to the Club concerning the improvement of the Texas highways. In March, Mrs. Ann Hanks gave a program on "Atomic Power". Ten dollars was contributed toward sending a Junior High School girl to Girls State and \$5.00 was sent to the Red Cross fund.

### **September 1949-May 1950**

In November came a request from the Anthony Fire Department for a donation to help finance fire fighting equipment. Funds were still being sought to complete the Chapel at Boys Ranch.

The reception for teachers of the Gadsden schools was held in January. Mr. Rex Bell thanked the Club for its expression of friendliness towards the teachers. Gifts and donations for War Veterans were considered. The Crescent Club was asked to appoint a representative to work on the Hoover Commission.

March of 1950, Mrs. Nesbitt reminded the Club that they still have an \$18.75 Liberty Bond purchased in 1942 and some consideration was given to what was best to use it for or to keep it awhile longer.

### **September 1950-May 1951**

"Cancer Control" programs were given this year as much attention was being given to studies and education of the public to this dread disease. All clubs were urged to organize the youth of the communities having

as their theme "Building Freedom's Future with Youth". The Crescent Club voted not to take up the project, that through the Boy and Girl Scout organizations, 4H Clubs, Young Peoples organizations in the churches, that the project was pretty well covered in this community.

Discussion of importance at the January 1951 meeting centered around the library which is being set up in Anthony. Volunteers were asked to serve as librarians three hours every two months. A collection of 10¢ was given by each member present to buy Crested Wheat Seed to plant on the Tres Agua area which lies west of Taos, N.M. Through a survey of the Federation it was determined that if each member gave 10¢, enough seed could be purchased to plant 500 acres.

### **September 1951-May 1952**

The Club's support of the C. A. R. E. Program and Civil Defense Program were sought this year. The Indian Welfare Committee requested help with the provision of "Cleanliness Kits" for the boys and girls. A letter was received asking cooperation with the March of Dimes. The Red Cross continued to solicit aid.

At the April meeting 1952, a motion carried to increase the membership to 28. The secretary, who had previously been exempt from paying dues, would be allowed to do so now but would be exempt from being hostess. The program in April was given by Virgil Hicks, assistant professor of Radio at Texas Western College, who gave a talk on "Educational Broadcasting by F M Radio".

### **September 1952-May 1953**

The first action of the year in September was to give aid to the Home for the Aged in Las Vegas, N.M. Items sent were clothing, Christmas cards, stamps, soap and various other needs. "The Meadows Home for the Aged" became an ongoing project. The reception for the teachers was planned to be held at the Aladdin Club.

Other activities and programs were the purchase of woolen materials to send to the Civilian Refugees in Korea. Conservation continued to be stressed and programs were presented on "Banking, Securities and Investments". Life Insurance and Legislature matters were areas of interest. Mrs. J. T. Bradshaw gave a program on the subject concerning the activities of the "United Nations."

### **September 1953-May 1954**

The theme this year 1953 and 1954 was focused on history and carried a challenge to each member toward preserving our famous landmarks. A donation of \$5.00 was contributed toward the restoration of Constitution Hall. A bank had just opened in Anthony and a motion passed that the club funds be moved to the First National Bank of Anthony.

The War Bond is now 14 years old and after discussion of what to do with it a motion carried to have the president and treasurer consult the bank to ascertain the amount of accrued interest. An outstanding program was presented on Indian Art and Music.

In May, the Crescent Club and Book Club decided to meet together the coming year.

### **September 1956-May 1957**

A motion carried that the Club would adopt a boy from Boys Ranch for the year to send gifts, clothes and write him letters as a moral uplift. Members were asked to donate \$1.00 each for the swimming pool fund at the Boys Ranch. In December the name, age and size of clothing for the adopted boy at Boys Ranch was received, and items for Rudy Simola, their own special boy, were gathered for his Christmas gifts. Gifts were also sent to the Meadows Home in Las Vegas. For a program, Mr. Fred Hervey of El Paso showed pictures of his World tour.

The January 1957 meeting got off to a good start with a program by Mrs. Ezell who reviewed the book, "Educating Women for a Changing World". A coffee in honor of the Aladdin Club was planned for the near future and Mrs. Lexie Graves was appointed to see that there would be plenty of china and silver to accommodate the number expected to attend.

At the February meeting Mrs. Clarence Johnson spoke on the subject, "What the Constitution and Bill of Rights means to Us." At the March meeting Mrs. E. N. Crossett gave a program on "Our Heritage in Religious Art and Architecture". In April, it was voted to have a "Friendship Day" and invite guests. Clothing and \$5.00 for shoes was sent to Rudy Simola at the Boys Ranch.

### **September 1957-May 1958**

The Club continued this year to promote and

study of previous projects already underway. One outstanding program was given by Mrs. L. A. Burns on "The United Nations from her observations as she understood it", Mrs. Harriet McGuire reviewed the subject of "Conservation" as to what is being done today and future plans for this project. Mrs. Billy Couson, representative from the Standard Oil Products, told of products which are made from crude oil. A follow up program Highway Safety was brought by Mr. Lawson, Texas Highway Patrol Department.

### **September 1958-May 1959**

Due to the cold weather there was no meeting in September. The business of the new Club year began in October with programs and projects as outlined in the yearbook. Legislative matters and bills being considered were stressed including the General election, absentee voting and Bill Boards on the Highways. The E. S. O. Program was discussed. Giving to CARE for underdeveloped areas around the world and the announcement that the New Mexico Federated Clubs chose the Phillipines for special consideration.

In November, the Club had a bake sale in Anthony that netted \$31.75. A motion carried that members who did not help with the Bake Sale donate one dollar each and \$16.00 was collected. Mrs. E. N. Crossett, State President, urged clubs to take part in the Bake Sales to raise funds for the Indian Women's project and announced that a cash award for the best poster advertising the Bake Sale would be given.

All Clubs were urged to support Legislative Bill #67 concerning Testamentary Disposal of Community Property as this Bill is endorsed by New Mexico Federation of Clubs. The need for a new State Library was discussed as the present one is not suitable. Mrs. Gary gave a book review on "The Ugly American". Mrs. Ezell led a discussion on educating women for a changing world.

In May, an organization was formed at the Gadsden High School called "The Anthony Community Council" and Mr. Marvin Coester was elected as the president. Mrs. Crossett told of "behind the scenes for the Hill Billy Band". Mrs. Crossett also reported that one group of Indian women wanted to form a woman's club organization.

Mrs. Simms spoke about the club's efforts to secure a doctor for Anthony and reported that she had

secured the names of about 40 doctors in 5 midwest states, including Illinois, that may be interested in this area.

### **September 1959-May 1960**

Mrs. E. J. Chastain began her year of leadership with reports from chairmen of on-going projects. Mrs. Nesbitt reported that no doctor would consider coming to Anthony unless a hospital is provided. Mrs. Hole reported that Mrs. Huber knew of a young doctor who is graduating this year and is interested in moving to the Valley with his parents. Mrs. Hole reported that Dr. Morton has offered his facilities to this new doctor.

Mrs. Hole reported that the District IV Convention slogan is "Go Forth in Beauty". A Spring sewing contest will be sponsored by Vogue and wearing the Indian women squaw dress is being stressed.

Mrs. Bradshaw asked about the U. S. Savings Bond owned by the Club.

In January, there was joint meeting with the Aladdin Club with a program on Indian Affairs. The month of February concentrated on community affairs. Dr. Jauncy from the Christian Church gave an enlightening talk on how women could influence progress and betterment in all areas of community life. Problems of the aged and ageing were discussed.

At the April meeting a motion carried to change the By-laws to meet in public places instead of in the homes (in a private dining room in a restaurant). To change meeting time to 12:30 noon. A motion passed to have no hostesses and raise dues to \$4.00 per year. A motion passed to leave the place of meeting to the program committee.

### **September 1960-May 1961**

La Posta Restaurant, Mesilla, N.M. was the meeting place in September, 1960.

Mrs. Chastain began her second year in leadership with a special recognition honoring Mrs. Horace Nesbitt as the only Charter member who was affectionately called "Sister". The yearbooks which, carried her picture inside the front cover, were dedicated to her. The Indian Woman Project was continued which will now be called "Pearl Crossett Project", in honor of Pearl Crossett.

"Tell and Sell" is District IV membership slogan

this year. Also District IV offered a resolution urging individual members to support organizations that suppress immoral, obscene literature in the mail, on the newsstands and the sale by private purveyors.

### **September 1962-May 1963**

An outstanding program was a presentation of flags by General Milton, former president of New Mexico State University, who told the story of 29 flags that led up to our present day "Stars and Stripes". The flags shown were made by Mrs. Milton in the mid 30's when war clouds were gathering and noted that he had the privilege in arranging the flag after the admission of the 40th and 50th states. He reminded the audience that they are here by sacrifice and that "The Story of the Flag" cannot be told too often.

The club was urged to support house bill #12 regarding safety belts for all new cars. The question of the Liberty Bond owned by the club was brought up again and no one knew anything about it.

Another outstanding program was by Mr. O'Neal on "The History of Cotton" from the seed to the finished product. Mr. O'Neal pointed out that the synthetic industry is blending their product with cotton not entirely for comfort but in order to lower the price of the finished material. This was especially interesting to the Mesilla Valley where a variety of Acala 1517 is grown that is not found anywhere else. The Eastern mills are set up to handle this long staple cotton of this area, and if the farmers do not produce the cotton to hold the market the mills will shift to synthetics. The valley average of cotton and cotton seed products for the past eleven years in this area is 59 million dollars.

### **1963-1964**

A study on conservation was a "Show Me Trip" to Little Monjeau Mountain and the ski area near Ruidoso. In the Spring of 1940 a destructive fire burned over this area that claimed the life of a young civilian Conservation Corps fire-fighter and set a group of determined New Mexico women in action, resulting in a re-forestation project as a "living memorial" to the young man whose life was lost. That was more than 20 years ago; and, as it turned out, the "living memorial" became just the first of a series of conservation projects organized and pressed to completion by the New Mexico Federation of Woman's Clubs. Mrs. E. N. Crossett was chair-

man of the Region IV Conservation Department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Crescent Club received a Certificate of Achievement in Forest Conservation from the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs this year. Other awards received were two awards from CARE for 100 per cent membership participation and for giving more to CARE than any other club in the state, according to membership, and a Community Achievement award.

One meeting was luncheon at the Chinese Moon Garden Restaurant in El Paso and a program International Affairs with a study of "Oriental Customs". Continuing this theme a tour of the International Museum was made and then to see the new Jewish Synagogue under arrangements made by Mrs. J. B. Brown.

#### **1964-1965**

The same type of programs were continued this year with emphasis toward places of interest in the surrounding area. Conservation was stressed, not only of our forests but of New Mexico's traditions and customs. Other programs explored were diversified farming and agriculture, the arts, our national resources and National security. The motto this year was: "The More We Go-The More We Grow".

Mr. John Paul Taylor, a recognized authority on the history, traditions and customs of New Mexico-particularly of Old Mesilla-was guest speaker at La Posta and then a tour of his home, built more than 100 years ago.

The outstanding program of the year was "Operation Understanding". The purpose of this program was to get a general orientation and to observe Missile firings. Briefing started at Ft. Bliss at 8:00 a.m. on January 13th 1965 and continued until noon. These included: Army Air Defense and the role of the Air Defense School; Basic Missile concepts; Nike scheme of Operation; Nike Ajax Round; Nike Hercules Round; Hawk System; Nike Zeus and X; Mauler and Redeye; Demonstration film; Missile Display; then travel to McGregor GM Range to observe firings. A reception was held in the evening given by Com. General Stayton and his Lady.

#### **September 1965-May 1966**

The program in October was presented by Mrs. Duitman of El Paso on "Meals for Millions" that told of the virtue of soy bean flour which could cheaply pro-

vide food for those who are hungry.

The March meeting 1966 was held at La Posta in Old Mesilla and enjoyed a program on the history of candle making and the many ways they are used. The program closed with the following poem:

Men are like candles  
They burn and are bright  
Men are like candles  
They look best at night.  
Men are like candles  
They sputter and spout  
When you most need them  
The darn things are out.

June 1966 the Federated Women's Clubs celebrated the Diamond Jubilee in Chicago.

#### **September 1966-May 1967**

Resolutions to be presented at the District IV meeting were drawn up for two things: 1<sup>st</sup>. Sale of guns – to prohibit such liberal sale; 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clubs should get behind the kind of T.V. programs being shown.

In May 1967 Mrs. Laney, District IV president, installed the officers for the Aladdin Club and Crescent Club at a joint meeting. At this meeting membership increase was stressed and said that the General Federation would like to see an increase from 11 million to 12 million members. She also recognized Mrs. Ezell as the oldest member in the State having joined in 1906.

#### **September 1967-May 1968**

Dear Club President:

Enclosed are six RESOLUTIONS on CONSERVATION to begin your club year. These are to MAKE . . . not BREAK.

1. Resolve to OBSERVE the areas of major concern in the alarmingly ever present problems in all facets of Conservation, and be aware of current legislation at all levels that needs the promotion and participation of all citizens.
2. Resolve to PRESERVE the beauty of the land, the heritage of the past and the clarity of all air and water for the future of all.
3. Resolve to RESERVE land for future use, wetlands for the preservation of waterfowl, refuges for natural habitats of wildlife and

forests, parks and recreation areas free from abuse and disasters.

4. Resolve to CONSERVE the local flora and fauna and aid in the promotion to curtail unnecessary wastes of water, soil and other natural resources.
5. Resolve to SERVE fellowman in any way, large and small, that the future for our children will be insured.
6. Resolve to DESERVE the legacy our forefathers strived to develop that modern technology and population has destroyed and put into extreme jeopardy.

A program on "Cotton and By-products" was given by Southwestern Irrigated Cotton Growers Association (SWIG) at Griggs Restaurant. The cooperation of every organization in Anthony resulted in a grand success and a resuscitator was ordered for the Anthony Ambulance.

It was reported that donations from clubs in New Mexico had resulted in the purchase of an organ, a spinet piano, and 100 hymnals for the Chapel at Boys Ranch. An Achievement Certificate for Community Projects was awarded to the Crescent Club from the New Mexico Federated Women's Clubs.

**September 1968-May 1969**

At the March meeting Mr. Harry Segapelli, principal at the Canutillo Schools, spoke on "Literacy or Illiteracy". Facts and figures of illiteracy in Texas stated that the high percentage was among the Latin Americans. He explained that one cause was lack of discipline or training in the homes. Also too many in classes for teachers to give individual training. The most important age is 3-5 when children are not being reached by the schools. His one suggestion of help was to re-organize the teaching system to reach these people and stop this illiteracy.

**THE CRESCENT CLUB OF ANTHONY**  
(Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs)

**RESOLUTION**

The Crescent Club of Anthony, a New Mexico

Federated Woman's Club, affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs, goes on record as being opposed to the suggestive immorality and obscenity being presented in programs over the T V networks and by the movie industry; also to immoral and obscene literature.

It is time that money and talent be used to elevate thought and character instead of for degradation.

**THE CRESCENT CLUB OF ANTHONY**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Elizabeth Keough, Secretary  
P.O. Box 606 – Anthony, N. Mex.  
88021

Dated October 10, 1969

Catholic Daughters of America  
COURT MOTHER CABRINI NO. 1422  
2407 North Mesa \* El Paso, Texas 79902  
Mrs. Flora Wagner  
State Chairman  
Women For Decency  
October 24, 1969.

Miss Louise E. Seymour and Members of the Crescent Club of Anthony:

I want to thank you, in the name of the Three Catholic Daughter Courts in El Paso, and the ten thousand members in the State of Texas, for the resolution and action, the Crescent Club of Anthony has taken.

The Resolution taken by the Crescent Club of Anthony, New Mexico, as members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, should have a strong effect, on T\_V networks, making them realize that decency is not only being clamored for, but demanded.

Obscene and pornographic material has become so terrible and so offesnive, that the general public have really become aware of the great need of restrictions and a real "Clean Up".

Thank each of you.

Sincerely,  
[signature]  
Flora Wagner  
State Chairman Women for Decency  
Catholic Daughter's of America

### **September 1975-May 1976**

General Hugh Milton, chairman of the bi-centennial program in Dona Ana Co., spoke about the bi-centennial theme. There are three phases.

1. Heritage, 1976, 2. Festival, 1976, 3. Horizons, 1976

Heritage—Bi-centennial program both on National and State level. General Milton gave a few anecdotes of the history of Dona Ana Co. He said the state of New Mexico had the most interesting program. Money and historical items have come from several sources. He made us aware of the projects going forward. Support has been wonderful from all areas.

Festival—July 4th, 1976. Sixty 6 horse drawn wagons will start from Washington, D. C. February 19 and will be in New Mexico from the 17 to the 22nd. They will then move on to Hatch, then to Truth or Consequences, Socorro, Santa Fe, then on to Oklahoma City where they will be joined by other wagons then all joining along the line of to Philadelphia.

Horizons—General Milton expects 10,000 at the dedication of Ft. Seldon rebuilding of old Forts and other historical sites. On July 4, 1976 bells will ring for two minutes.

The February meeting was held at Griggs Restaurant. The Crescent Club banner for the bicentennial parade theme “Fly the Flag” formed the background for the luncheon. Alleen Kelsay and Mary K. Vines will walk in the parade in Anthony on February 20th, carrying the banner with members following behind in cars.

### **September 1976-May 1977**

How can we get criminals off the streets so the law-abiding can walk in safety???

The answer is mandatory sentences without suspension, probation or parole for violent crimes.

The General Federation of Woman’s Clubs news is campaigning for justice for the citizen this year. They ask our support of Bill S. 2698 by Senator Kennedy and others and S. 2957 by Senator Byrd, which stress the need for mandatory minimum sentences without suspension or parole for violent crimes.

We have listened long enough to the philosophies of those who would do away with prisons and slums and would “rehabilitate” the criminal. This is a goal to be sought. But until this comes about we are

living in a very dangerous society, made so by rampant crime.

Our courts are slow and the criminal knows he will go free.

Write your senators this year to try to bring about a change in our protection for the average citizen. Let’s make our streets safe for walking on them.

The November meeting was in the Anthony Methodist Church. It was announced that Swine Flu shots were being given at the Catholic Center. Members were asked to boycott products on T.V. depicting violence.

The program in January 1977 was on T.I.P. (Turn in Pushers). This was presented by Betty Boone, coordinator of the drug awareness program in this area, to educate the public as to the seriousness of the drug pushers and our children. Also, Jeannie Rigney who is home on vacation from her work with the Salvation Army gave a talk on Korea where she is stationed. She wore a costume of native dress.

At the February meeting held in the Palms Motel in Las Cruces, Hazel Milikien told of the progress of the Community Improvement program of improvement on the Pioneer Cemetery. Alleen Kelsay, Mary Kay Vines and Hazel Milikien were at the planting of six arborvitae trees at the cemetery.

### **September 1977-May 1978**

The Palms Motel was the meeting place in April for lunch and business, then to the Tashiro residence and tea garden in Old Mesilla. Mrs. Tashiro gave a tour of her home and a display of dolls she makes. Then a tour through the Tea Garden and Pagodo where their religious meetings are held. Tea and small cakes were served.

### **September 1979-May 1980**

February at the Plantation Manor was a fun Fashion Show with members modeling clothes from a paper bag that was purchased for fifty cents. Proceeds from the Fashion Show went to the Cancel Cancer fund. At Dos Lagos Club in March, Collin Cahoon gave visual and oral report of his trip to Italy. Collin was a member of the Honor Band of the United States. Ina Frost and Louise Moulder, energy conservation committee, gave out leaflets and requested that all members participate in conserving energy. Anna Laura West announced that

the State Federation wants to publish cookbook and asked for recipes from each member.

Griggs Restaurant, El Paso was the meeting place in May. Miss Kathy Patrick, Miss New Mexico, needed some assistance for the pageant. Miss U. S. A. contest. A \$50.00 contribution was made for this need.

### **September 1980-May 1981**

The secretary inquired if old minutes of the club need be kept more than three years. The minutes must be kept permanently. It is from the well recorded minutes that a historian can write a comprehensive and accurate account of the past for posterity.

### **September 1982-May 1983**

A joint meeting with the Aladdin Club was held November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Anthony Methodist Church to hear State president, Mrs. Margaret Biava, speak about G. F. W. C. matters. With slides and commentary she gave an overview of New Mexico Federated Women's Clubs and General Federated Women's Clubs. The slide presentation of the National Convention in Bismarck, North Dakota on the history and projects of the Federation was truly a tribute to women to their valor fortitude, courage and skill in politics. The year 1983 marks the 70th anniversary of the Crescent Club. The Women of the Crescent Club were ever aware of the needs of the time and ready to do what lies clearly at hand. Modern invention has banished the spinning wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman of today a different woman from her grandmother. This was said by Susan B. Anthony, American suffragist and reformer.

April 14, 1983 was designated "Pearl Crossett Day".

Pearl Colbaugh Crossett was born in Sterling City, Texas and moved to New Mexico in 1902 where her family settled on a ranch near Corona. Pearl received her B. A. degree from the University of Arizona and did graduate work at Texas Western University. She taught school for twenty years and was principal of the Anthony Elementary School when she quit teaching in 1947 to devote more time to other interests.

An active member of the community, Pearl is a member of Pi Lambda Theta, a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and served as state president of this organization in 1951-1953. Social Director of their local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi; and an active member of the An-

thony United Methodist Church. She is past president of both the Anthony Women's Crescent Club and Woman's Aladdin Club. She served as state president of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs from 1958-1960. As state president she chose for her theme "The Indian Woman", and organized an Indian Woman's Club. The club did not progress and was soon dropped. It was during her term that National General Federation of Women's Clubs and New Mexico Federated Women's Clubs sponsored the CARE program and raised \$5,000.00 to help women in foreign countries and purchased sewing machines for them.

May 12, 1983, was designated "Anna Laura West Day".

Anna Laura Davis West was born in Stamford, Texas. As a young woman in 1931 came to El Paso to visit a friend. A few months later she returned seeking employment and has remained in this vicinity . . . She stood in line with 150 other job seekers and was chosen by the Laws Sanitarium to work as 'salad girl' and soon advanced to a more responsible position.

From 1936 to 1950 she owned and operated two cleaning establishments, the A & A Cleaners in Canutillo and A & A Cleaners at 714 N. Stanton Street in El Paso. In 1943, she married Albert F. West and they moved to Anthony, Texas in 1972.

An active member of the community she served as Volunteer Teacher's Aide in the Anthony, Texas Elementary School and served on the committee for the bilingual program. She is an active member of Eastern Star. She is a volunteer with Boy Scout Troop 160 and secretary-treasurer of the Scout Committee. An active member in the Anthony United Methodist Church where she is chairwoman of the Arrangements for the Lion's Club dinners. She was a member and past president of the Woman's Progressive Club of El Paso where she had as her project the furnishing of a room at Providence Hospital and sponsored a scholarship for a Texas Western (now University of Texas, El Paso) student. She is an active member of the Aladdin Club since 1961 where she served three different terms as president. She is a member of the Anthony Women's Crescent Club and served as president of District IV New Mexico Federated Women's Clubs, 1978-1980. For her District Project she chose "Cancel Cancer" and her emphasis was on enlargement of membership. Her theme was "Uniquely United." Let us become uniquely united to

bring about a better understanding that will help us to set higher goals to reach in 1978-1980.

She is on the 1982-1983 District IV Convention nominating committee. She hosted the District IV conventions in El Paso 1978 and in Carrizozo in 1979. She wants to give special thanks to Ruby Gothard who was her pilot and number one stand-by. The State project during her term was Cancel Cancer, Free, Home Energy Check, Hands Up, Community Improvement, and Family Emphasis.

Mrs. Alleen Kelsay was chosen "Woman of the Year" by Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. Mrs. Agnes Bickley had secured all the past minutes and Scrap Books that were in the possession of Miss Seymour at the time of

her death. These would be turned over to Mrs. Hazel Milikien, Crescent Club historian.

This year 1983, is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Crescent Club.

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*Hazel Milikien served as treasurer, vice president and president of the Crescent Club of Anthony before being appointed historian in 1982. She is fondly remembered by Julia McMillie, who donated the Crescent Club and Woman's Aladdin Club records to the Rio Grande Historical Collections.*

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*Charles B. Stanford joined the NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections Department in January 2007 after working as a project archivist in Pittsburgh, where he received his M.L.I.S. in August 2006.*