CHAPTER XVI

Organizations

The American Legion Robert E. Burns Post No. 165


The first meeting was held in Schroeder Hall and the Charter was obtained through the efforts of our first Commander, Newman E. Nash, who was elected to that office on March 4, 1920.

The first Post Officers were as follows;

Commander       Newman E. Nash
Adjutant         Arthur Wilsman
Treasurer        Norman Allie
Master of Arms   George W. Bacon
Color Sgt.       Melvin Peronto
Chaplain         Malcolm Tidmarsh
Directors        Bert Larkin
                 L. B. Clarke
                 Ben Wolfe

On May 30, 1920, and every year thereafter, the American Legion has had complete charge of the Memorial Day exercises. This was formerly handled by the G. A. R. Veterans.

It was not until Jan. 18, 1921 that we received our Post Colors and standard, and on March 12th. our rifles were received from the U. S. Arsenal at Rock Island Illinois. These rifles are used by the drill team at funerals and Memorial Day exercises.

In the year 1921 the bodies of many of our buddies who died over there were brought here for burial from the French cemeteries.

The following is a list of Two Rivers men killed during World War I: Charles Allie, Harry Bartz, Charles Bugler, William Allen, George Simonis, Robert E. Burns, Isadore
Lesperance, Anton Polcar, Eugene Dupras, August Wisen and Adolph Wondrash.

On July 4, 1922 the Post had its first Independence Day Celebration which was a decided success.

In Nov. 1922 a move was made to organize a drill team, but it was not until Feb., 1927, that uniforms were purchased and real drilling started under the command of Arthur J. Wilsman. In Aug., 1928, our drill team was appointed Honor Guard for President Calvin Coolidge at the Wausau convention, and it has attended practically every State convention since then.

In June, 1928, a drive was made to raise money for trees along the highway between Two Rivers and Manitowoc. Approximately $3,000 was contributed and Christ Hansen, local florist, with the assistance of members of the Post, set out a thousand elm trees and named it Memorial Drive.

In April of 1930 the Post took over the job of signing up boys for the Citizens Military Training Corp. On April 24, 1930, the American Legion Post undertook the task of making a community survey which was sponsored by the State Department. This was one of the biggest pieces of community work the Post and State Dept. ever attempted. The Post received a second place award for this work from the state organization.

On April 28, 1931, the American Legion Post held its meeting in the J. E. Hamilton Community House, this meeting was attended by the Legion Posts of Manitowoc, Reeds-ville, Kiel, and Valders. Also, several noted speakers were in attendance, including State Commander Col. Roy Farrand. Through the courtesy of Mr. J. E. Hamilton, donor of the building, the Robert E. Burns Post has been given permission to hold all meetings, and have rooms and equipment in the Hamilton Community House. An honorary American Legion guest card, with the Legion emblem, was presented to Mr. Hamilton on the night of the open house. This is the only one of its kind in the state.

In Nov. 1932, the Legion sanctioned the lake shore drive project, which is now one of the prettiest drives any where along the lake shore. A committee appeared before the county highway comm., and requested them to provide for the care of the elm trees along Memorial Drive.

On Oct. 3, 1933, the gavel, which is still being used at our Post meetings, was presented to the Legion Post by Past
Commander Frank J. Anderley, the wood for the gavel was received from the trenches of France and Belgium and manufactured by the Hamilton Manufacturing Company.

On Nov. 10, 1933, the Two Rivers Reporter was taken over by the Legion for the armistice Day Edition, this project has been going on every year since then, the edition of the paper carries messages from State and Local Post Officers, as well as ads from local business places, backing the American Legion in its project.

In November of 1933 a Manitowoc County Council of the American Legion was formed, the first County Commander being Frank J. Anderley of the local Post.

The Post has always been colorful in many of its projects, as per this excerpt from the Chronicle of Dec. 24, 1924, “Membership drives of the American Legion are colorful events, this year the members of the losing team had to clean up the city streets.”

Another colorful part of the Post is the “Clown Drill Team” which was started about 3 yrs. ago, this team takes part in about a dozen parades during the summer months, and has been well received where ever they have appeared.

The American Legion has always sponsored Memorial Day Programs. On June 2, 1941, the Two Rivers Reporter stated that the city of Two Rivers honored Edwin R. Mueller for his services of 50 consecutive yrs. as Marshall of the holiday parades, and also honored Hubert Schroeder, ex-service man, who has been Asst. Marshall for 25 yrs. With the retirement of Marshall Mueller, Post Member Ade Walters served as Marshall for 20 yrs. and he was succeeded by his son Richard Walters who still serves as Marshall to this day. This year as in the past we will again sponsor Memorial Day Services by placing American Flags on the graves of all deceased service men, followed by a Parade and Memorial Services at Pioneer Rest Cemetery.

In 1936 the first Sons of the American Legion Squadron was formed, headed by Legionaire Ned Slocum. During W. W. II the corp was disbanded because most of the members entered the Military Service of their country. The corp was reorganized in 1962 and has been very active to the present date, they participate in numerous parades during the summer, and also participate in Flag Raising ceremonies, and also provide buglers when a need for funeral services for deceased Veterans and for Service Men who have been killed in action
during the Viet Nam War arises.

On July 26, 1937, the first Snow Festival was held in Two Rivers, sponsored by the American Legion. It was highlighted by a parade, a snow ball fight, and the crowning of the first Snow Queen and her court. The first Snow Queen was Miss Loretta Flentja, who is now Mrs. Roger Wilsman. The following year a $35,000 giant balloon parade was featured. It was viewed by over 25,000 people. On Feb. 13, 1940, the post sponsored the first Golden Gloves program in Two Rivers, under the chairmanship of Walter Johnson. The golden gloves entry listed 45 boxers.

In 1939 the Post sponsored its first Badger Boys State Candidate. The chairman was Larry Huck. This project is still being sponsored by the Post.

This event is held annually on the campus of Ripon College. The Robert Burns Post continues to this day to send boys to this fine governmental training event.

In March of 1928, Peter J. Beitzel was appointed Poppy Day Sales Chairman, and holds this position to date. The money derived from the sales of the Poppies is used by the Service Fund for relief and welfare of Disabled Veterans, those out of work, and the families of deceased Veterans. The Poppies are made by Veterans Domiciled in Veteran Hospitals.

A Boy Scout Charter was granted to the Post on Dec. 31, 1946 designating our troop as troop #22. John Mezera was the Chairman and James Johnson was the Scout Master.

In 1961 the Post sponsored its first ice skating tourney in Two Rivers, this project is put on for all the students in Two Rivers from first grade through the 12th. grade. The individual winners are awarded ribbons, and the school that has the most winners is awarded a trophy.

One of the principal programs of the Nat. American Legion is the Oratorical contest, this contest gives the students experience in public speaking. Post #165 has participated in this program off and on since 1943, whenever there are any local students who qualify and are willing to participate.

The Post holds regular monthly meetings on the first Wed. of the month, and twice a year, in November and February we have a joint meeting with the American Legion Auxiliary.

One of the saddest duties of the Post Firing Squad is to participate in Military funerals for ex-service men, whether they are Legionnaires or not; Mr. Lorenz Luech has been the official bugler for the American Legion for over 40 yrs. Re-
recently he retired from this position and the task has been taken over by the buglers from the Drum and Bugle Corp. From time to time the next of kin of the deceased veteran donates the burial flag to the American Legion and the Post in turn donates them to schools and factories in the next of kins name.

A fun branch of the American Legion is the 40 et 8. This is a county wide unit in Manitowoc County and is known as Voiture #1130. This organization sponsors a Nurses Training candidate, a badger boy every year, and other beneficial work. Post #165 has about a dozen members in the Voiture.

This year (1968-69) is the 50th Anniversary of the American Legion. Post #165 of Two Rivers is proud of the fact that we have 11 members who have been Legionaires for all of the 50 yrs.

On Feb. 1, 1969, all of the charter members, and the 50 yr. members of all American Legion Post in Manitowoc County were honored at a banquet at Fox Hills Country Club in Mishicot, Wis. Among the dignitaries who were present at the banquet was Commander Casey Jones, Commander of the American Legion, Dept. of Wisconsin.

The following members have been members of the Robert E. Burns Post #165 American Legion for 50 yrs.

Peter J. Beitzel
Heber Clayton
August Fanslau
Bert Larkin
John Mezera
Ben F. Wolf

L. B. Clarke
Edward Colanchick
Will Kiel
Edward P. Hamilton
Joe Vanderbloemen

Rotary International

Two Rivers Rotary was chartered in 1923 and sponsored by the Manitowoc Rotary Club. Careful selection of the charter members of whom only one now remains living, Ed Meckleberg, made the Two Rivers Rotary Club a dedicated group of men aiming to make a better community for their fellow man.

One of the first service projects was launched in an early Rotary meeting when J. E. Hamilton asked Fred Bishop, Supt. of Schools, what it would cost to construct a swimming pool in the space reserved for one in the basement of the new Washington High School building that was being finished at the time. Mr. Bishop had the figures at his command and he
told Mr. Hamilton the approximate amount, around $25,000, and Mr. Hamilton said he should go ahead and complete the pool.

When the pool was finished and ready to be dedicated as the J. E. Hamilton Pool, Mr. Hamilton stated in his address that "If the life of one Two Rivers boy or girl would be saved through learning to swim in this pool, I would feel well repaid for my sacrifice in making this pool a possibility." Here was a noble gesture of "Service Above Self" which is the motto every Rotarian subscribes to when he joins a Rotary Club. The club has made it possible, through their Rotary Loan Fund, for many Two Rivers young people to go on to college and further their education, and have not had any but the finest experiences in the repayment of these loans so that others may be helped.

Two Rivers Rotary has had the honor of an outstanding District Governor in Howell Evans, who in 1938 set a very fine example by making not less than three calls on every club in the District which, at that time included all of Wisconsin (39 clubs in all) with 1828 members total, Princeton and Mount Horeb clubs being added during his term as Governor. When his year was finished the District had increased in membership by 126. Howell’s listing in “Who’s Who” 1952 Edition honored him for his accomplishments and success in leading others to serve.

Earl Kromer was placed in charge of the High School group to plan and carry out with Howell Evans the purposes laid out for their activities, which was done with a gypsy tour the following summer when two truckloads of Two Rivers boys were taken into the Kentucky Mammoth Cave country and did some sight-seeing along the way, camping out and making meals in order to cut expenses. This trip was one of the highlights of the Boys’ Work activities and many of them still talk about the wonderful time they had on that trip.

Earl Kromer accepted the nomination of the Two Rivers Rotary Club for District Governor during the 1967-68 Rotary year, which was approved by the committee selecting the District Governor. Now Two Rivers had the single honor of providing two District Governors from their club. During Mr. Kromer’s term there were two more clubs brought into the District, namely Racine West, and Plymouth.

Some very fine Rotary leaders have developed through their being exalted to the Presidency of Two Rivers Rotary. They
have aimed for Leadership and Service to the Community, promoting for the local Hospital by appropriating for rooms to be furnished by the Club, assisting the Holy Family Hospital, Manitowoc, by raising funds for Cobalt X-Ray equipment. The City Manager and Superintendent of Schools have been sought as Rotary Club members and have contributed much in the service which they gave to the community.

During the past year Two Rivers Rotary won the coveted award for showing the greatest growth (in percentage) of any of the clubs in our District, the award being presented to our club at the District Conference in the spring of 1968 at Sheboygan at the Executive Inn the week-end preceding Palm Sunday.

**History of Two Rivers Lodge No. 200, Free And Accepted Masons**

Two Rivers Lodge No. 200 Free and Accepted Masons held its first meeting on July 18, 1874, working under a special dispensation granted by H. G. Fischbein who was the secretary at the time. A charter was granted on June 9, 1875 by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin at its annual meeting in Milwaukee. The three principal officers P. C. Cottrell - Grand Master, Ira S. Bird - Grand Senior Warden and Henry Turner - Grand Junior Warden appointed the following officers to conduct the affairs and business of the new Two Rivers Lodge No. 200, F. & A. M. in the grant. A. J. Patchen - Worshipful Master, Adelkrt Hudson - Senior Warden and Edgar H. Young - Junior Warden.

The lodge meetings were held on the upper floor of a wood frame building owned by Mann Brothers Company and partially used as a storehouse for their department store. The building was located on the northwest corner of Washington and 15th Street directly west of the company department store. The building also housed the Chronicle, the local weekly newspaper owned and edited by W. F. Nash. The Masonic fraternity held meetings in these quarters until 1896. The Decker building erected in 1892 also known as the bank building was later remodeled for lodge purposes and was occupied by the Masonic lodge until February, 1935.

The present quarters and property at 1404 - 25th Street, the homestead of Past Master J. E. Hamilton, 1888-89, was purchased from him and remodeled to provide a spacious lodge
room on the upper floor for use by Two Rivers Lodge No. 200 F. & A.M., Barney G. Lyman Chapter No. 116 R. A. M., and the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter No. 229. The first floor and basement of the building provides committee rooms, kitchen, lavatories and a spacious lounge and game room. The remodeled structure was occupied on February, 1935 and formally dedicated on June 29, 1935. The Tripoli Band, Patrol and Chanter from Tripoli Temple of Milwaukee came to Two Rivers in a special train to perform at the dedication.

A fire destroyed the interior of the temple rooms on December 25, 1940 and it was not possible to hold the installation of new officers on the 27th as planned. Arrangements were made to use the lodge rooms of Manitowoc Lodge No. 16 at Manitowoc where the new officers were installed in their respective offices on January 2, 1941.

The Two Rivers Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 66 offered the Masonic lodge the use of their lodge rooms for a meeting place until repairs and replacements had been made at the burned-out structure. This offer was gratefully accepted and used by all the occupants of the 25th Street Masonic building.

Inasmuch as the old charter was intact, but charred and smoked up, a duplicate was made by order of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin on receipt of the original which will be preserved for future reference if and when needed. The duplicate document countersigned by David O. Steve, Grand Master and George E. Hockinson, Grand Secretary, officers of Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Milwaukee was issued April 12, 1941, and hangs in the lodge rooms.

The first meeting was held in the rebuilt lodge rooms on October 2, 1941. It was decided to call a special meeting to re-dedicate the new rebuilt lodge facilities on November 8, 1941, at which time the building committee formally turned over the properties to the Master of the Lodge No. 200 F. and A. M.

The following organizations moved into the Masonic Temple at the same time and and at present Barney G. Lyman Chapter No. 116 R.A.M., Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 229 and Job's Daughters Bethel No. 58 use the properties.

Two Rivers Chapter No. 229, Order of the Eastern Star

On May 21, 1920, a new Chapter in the Order of the East-
ern Star was instituted. At that time, Worthy Grand Patron Earl F. Hensel, with Manitowoc Chapter #196 in charge of the initiatory work, laid the foundation for a new Chapter in Two Rivers. During the course of the evening, there were six members initiated into the new Chapter and there were seventy-five members present for the event.

On October 6th that same year, a charter was granted by the Grand Chapter to the Two Rivers Chapter #229, Order of the Eastern Star. The charter was signed by Ella Spring-Smith, Worthy Grand Matron; Earl F. Hensel, Worthy Grand Patron; and Helen Laflin, Grand Secretary.

On October 27, 1920, Martha B. Clark, Worthy Grand Matron, installed the first corps of officers. The first principal officers were Mrs. Edna Mecheberg, Worthy Matron; Dr. Emil Christensen, Worthy Patron; and Edna A. Smith, Associate Matron.

The meetings were first held above the Bank of Two Rivers; later to be held at the Masonic Temple at 1404 - 25th Street starting in February, 1935. On December 25, 1940, the Masonic Temple was destroyed by fire and the meetings were held at the Odd Fellows hall until the fall of 1941, when the Masonic Temple was restored.

The present officers are: Helen Ward, Worthy Matron, Chester Wiltgen, Worthy Patron, and Elizabeth Wachtel, Secretary.

Two Rivers Lions Club

June 17, 1917, is the birthdate of LIONISM! This new idea of a local civic club dedicated to the aid of the visually handicapped and civic betterment spread rapidly. In less than 5 years the idea caught on locally with Manitowoc being the nearest city with a Club.

The Manitowoc Lions wasted no time in getting civic-minded citizens of Two Rivers to also organize a local Lions Club. The first few months of 1923 were fruitful when 27 local citizens agreed to form such an organization. March 23, 1923, was the eventful date when a Charter was granted the local group by the Lions International.

The first meeting of the Two Rivers Lions Club was held March 28, 1923 at the Hotel Hamilton with Lion Otto Berndt their first Chairman. This organization meeting under the gavel of Chairman Lion Berndt resulted in the election of the
following officers:

PRESIDENT - Lion Frank Kracha
SECRETARY - Lion William A. Martin
TREASURER - Lion Walter Svettinger

Charter Night was held June 5, 1923, and a gala event it was. In addition to the Manitowoc Lions, there were Lions from Sheboygan, Appleton, and Green Bay in numbers. The speaker of the evening was the Dist. Governor, Rev. (Doc) Holmes and the Toastmaster the local Dr. Christensen.

In the years that followed Lionism spread into other lands and now 125 foreign countries or territories boast of having Lions Clubs. There are 21,000 Lions Clubs in the world; with 817,275 members. Wisconsin has 885 clubs with 13,114 members. The Two Rivers Lions Club is proud to share in the honor of being a part of the largest and most active group of civic Clubs in the world.

Local Major Projects

Lions Major Activity - Help The Blind
1. Aid to visually handicapped; gifts and grants of special equipment or free rental thereof.
2. Glasses for needy children
3. Scholarships
4. Exchange Students aid
5. Recognition of Local National Honor Society by Annual Dinner, program
6. Gifts to Local Recreation department for summer programs and boys' and girls' activities.
7. Donated scoreboard to local Rec. department.
8. Furnish free the use of the medical equipment kept at the local Fire station-Hospital Beds-Crutches-Walkers.
9. Donated inter-com system to Park Lawn home.
10. Donated TV set to Shady Lane
11. Donated bed to Shady Lane
12. Donated patient lifter to local hospital
13. Donated ice pellet machine to local hospital
14. Purchase and maintain traffic safety signs in local area.
15. Financed publication of local attempts for civic improvements such as the College Hill project.
16. Donated large sums to the Blind Camp, Rosholt, Wis.
17. Finance free vacations at the Wisconsin Blind Camp for local visually handicapped boys and girls.
18. We did equip the downstairs lounge at the new hospital at Two Rivers.
19. Cooperate with other local civic and similar clubs in any movement that is for civic betterment.
20. ALL PROJECT FUNDS derived from Snow Festival and other projects were used in the above Lions undertakings. We celebrated our 45th Anniversary on March 20, 1968, at Fox Hills at Mishicot, Wis.

The club today claims a total of 85 members and still has 2 charter members, August Fanslaw and William Beduhn. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Elks Club.

**Two Rivers Woman’s Club**

It was in the fall of 1914 that Lucy Conant, civic and social leader in the City of Two Rivers, brought together a group of similarly interested women to organize a new club. Mrs. Samson presided as Chairman of that first meeting on Nov. 9, 1914, and following is an excerpt from that record: “The first meeting of this organization was held at the home of Miss Farrel, and called to order by Mrs. Samson, who suggested that a formal organization be inaugurated.”

By ballot, the group voted to call their club “Woman’s Club,” dues of $1.20 per year were established, Webster’s Dictionary was adopted as the authority, and Mrs. J. E. Hamilton offered the use of her library for reference.

In March, 1915, the Two Rivers Woman’s Club joined the National Federation of Woman’s Clubs, and later that year joined the State and City Federations. While the National and State affiliations have remained constant throughout the years, the City Federation was in and out of existence until 1947 when it was disbanded completely.

During the World War I years, the club launched into various war effort projects. In Feb. 1915, the first charity donation was given, $5.00 to the Relief Fund for suffering women and children in Belgium. The first fund raising project was a “Cotton Carnival”, which netted $33.00, also given to the Belgium Relief Fund. During the war years the Club “adopted” a war orphan in France, advancing about $18 every 6 months for his care, for a number of years.

In 1916, the group numbered 25 members, and programs were very ambitious. Not just one topic, but rather a collection of serious subjects. One typical Woman’s Club meeting included a paper on Dryden, a reading of an ode, a discussion of whether the English crown duly recognized and encouraged English literary figures, a talk on art, one on so-
ciology and to top it off, a book review. In one corner of the room was a “critic”, appointed to catch any mispronounced words, incorrect facts, or misquotes.

Considering the heavy fare, it was perhaps not surprising that by the 1917-18 season, members in attendance averaged less than ten . . . the Club was reorganized and recharged with new energetic members, many still active in the 1960’s.

During the years that Mrs. Conant was an active member, her great love of art was transferred to the Club and art was stressed as a study theme. In 1922, she moved away from the city but the Club instigated a Lucy Conant Memorial Fund which was used to foster and encourage art in the city schools. By 1928, the fund had grown to over $800. Unfortunately, during the Depression some of the money was lost in investments, and in 1949 after the City Federation was disbanded, about $465 was left. This money was used to purchase an electric kiln for the high school art department.

Woman’s Club began in the 1920’s their practice of collecting and repairing toys at Christmas for distribution to needy children. Strictly a Club enterprise at first, the fire dept. later assisted in the job.

In 1929, the Club helped to furnish a room at the Two Rivers hospital, with funds netted from a dance at the Opera House. Another method of fund raising for the Club’s charitable works was that of magazine subscriptions, which was continued for a number of years.

In program material, Woman’s Club strived for balanced diet of topics, in varied fields. For instance, each meeting in the 1923-24 year covered three areas of self-improvement or enlightenment. They consisted of one in the area of Home Economics, one on Art, one on Music. On other occasions the members researched and reported on local industries, world problems, new developments in drama and literature.

In the 1930s, the “papers” prepared by members took on a prophetic air . . . “Should the U.S. Recognize Soviet Russia”, and “The Orient - Tinder Box of Asia.”

The Club devoted much time to their Christmas charities . . . in 1930, 74 children received renovated toys . . . members would meet in basements to fix up old dolls. In 1931, the total of children receiving toys was 317. With the Depression, the need grew too great for any one group to provide, and the whole community made the toy project part of their holiday preparations.
Always vitally interested in the library, the Club Voted in 1930 to have a book review at every meeting and then to vote as to whether to give the book to the library. The Club kept constant interest in the schools, and on many occasions visited them . . . was entertained by the Hamilton kindergarten band and served a luncheon by the high school Domestic Science class.

Annual outings were held at Kangaroo Lake, with boating, good food, bridge and active games. In the 1930s, the Club was studying Alaska, and a group of members went to Milwaukee to hear an Alaskan priest lecture. They prevailed upon Fr. Hubbard to come to lecture in Two Rivers. He accepted, and the lecture was such a success, Woman’s Club together with the Vocational School Board sponsored a lecture series for the public . . . the price of a season ticket was $1.00.

In 1939, Woman’s Club invited the State Federation of Woman’s Clubs to have their convention in Two Rivers. It was also Two Rivers Woman’s Club’s 25th Anniversary. It was memorable . . . including a dinner, luncheon, tea at the Community House, tours of local industry, and an exhibit of Lester Bentley’s paintings.

In the 1940s, the Helen Mears Art contest was first sponsored locally for area eighth grade students. This has continued to be an annual affair, the local Club providing money prizes for the contest, then forwarding winning entries to compete in the state contest.

Woman’s Club in the 1940s had a representative on the Better Movie Council in Two Rivers. For a number of years the Club helped to sponsor a boy or girl from the industrial field to Madison for a six week summer session, and helped to send a girl to Badger Girls State.

In May of 1952, the Club again hosted the 8th District Convention. As set forth back in 1916, when the first constitution of the Club was written, the aim of the Two Rivers Woman’s Club would be twofold . . . that of study, and civic betterment. The decade of the 50s covered a variety of areas of study . . . of Korea and India, the Middle East, and the soon-to-be-states of Alaska and Hawaii. Tv had become widely popular and a study of it’s affect on living habits was made . . . a study of “phases of the American home” was climaxed with an excursion to historic Wade House. The Club became interested in the American Field Service program and has throughout the years assisted and encouraged it. Many for-
eign students have met with members of the Club.

Locally, the Club worked with the Hospital Auxiliary, and the mobile X-ray unit. Around 1954, Two Rivers Woman's Club decided to actively assist the State Federation's help to the Oneida Indian Reservation. This assistance has continued to date, providing help in such ways as layettes to newborn infants, scholarship aid to students, clothing, bedding, etc.

The 50th Anniversary of the Club came in the 1964-65 season. The year's study was devoted to 50 years of progress in many fields. The highlight of the year was a banquet; much preparation and research went into finding and contacting past members, many of whom were able to return for the event. The history of the Club was performed in anecdote and song.

Woman's Club in Two Rivers participates in the state and National Federation of Woman's Clubs projects; in addition to the Oneida Indian Reservation help and the Helen Mears Art contest, the Club yearly supports the "Trees for Tomorrow" conservation project, has supported the Federation Village in Korea, the Congressional Medal of Honor Grove, and other Federation projects.

Locally, the Club continues to support the Youth Hostel; to help commemorate the Hostel's 25th anniversary the Club presented a guest book to the lodge, and a large highway sign to direct hostlers. The Club has a concerned interest in the Extended Care Unit of the Two Rivers Municipal Hospital and helped to provide a chapel. Starting in 1966, the Club has provided programs for one month at the Unit . . . offering entertainment and diversion for the patients. Community singing being a favorite diversion, the Club has purchased a quantity of song books designed and typeset to be of greatest convenience to elderly patients. The Club maintains active chairmen to keep abreast of new developments in the fields of legislation, mental health, highway safety, and youth activities, and who keep members informed of their responsibilities.

The Seminar

The Seminar was organized in the fall of 1982 by Mrs. Arthur Rahn at a meeting held in her home. Present at this meeting were Mrs. A. A. Kruschke, Mrs. C. C. Case, Mrs. Harvey Gesell, Mrs. A. P. Zlatnik, Mrs. Sherman Gunderson, and
Mrs. Arthur Rahn.

The meetings to be held the last Friday of every month from September to June, in the homes of the members. The membership to be no larger than can be accommodated in the member's living room. The officers are to be President and Secretary. The program committee is composed of the outgoing President, the incoming President, the Secretary and one member appointed by the President.

New members taken in were Mrs. Dean Barber, Mrs. Erwin Birkholz, Mrs. Earl Boehringer, Mrs. Earl Kromer, Mrs. Richard Winklemiller, Mrs. Stanley Frick, Mrs. John Kraupa, Mrs. Carroll Swearengen, Mrs. Julian Peterson, Mrs. George Lester.

The object of the club is to develop conversational ability. To accomplish this, the club has made an extensive study of World Affairs, Education of the Consumer, Travel, Conservation, Homemaking, Book Reviews, Art, and a detailed study of Wisconsin.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1248
Eleven Gold Star Post

A charter for the post was issued on the 30th of August, 1924. The post had thirty three original members. Those who are still living are: Cas Broucher, August Dean, Ben Wolf, Ervin Schmitt, George Neiner, Ervin Schroeder, Norman Allie, William Zarn, Arthur Martin, Walter Vanderbloomen, Rudolph Zeman, and Ben Nehring.

In 1924 the post elected Fred Lintererus as its first commander. In 1925 a firing squad was formed having 16 members. This squad took part in military funerals and Memorial Day services. Most clubs and organizations start out in rather humble surroundings and the Vets were no exception as their early meetings were held in a candy store on Washington Street.

In 1926 the City donated a building to the post on land which is now the property of the C. Reiss Coal Co. In 1929 the building was moved onto City property next to the filtration plant. In 1934 an addition to the building was constructed with Art Stueck serving as general contractor.

In 1936 Commander Art Hinkel saw to it that the firing squad was outfitted in new uniforms for its various appearances. In the same year a Ladies Auxiliary was formed. Ca-
therine Lonzo served as the first president of this organization.

In 1939 the Vets sponsored a bowling tournament directed by Co-Chairmen Gust Mrotek and August Cochonet. The proceeds from the tournament were used to purchase the post's first parcel of land on Polk and 22nd Streets. Also in 1939 the federal government decided to build a new Coast Guard Station, leaving the older building open to transfer. Everett LaFond, being appointed a Colonel of Governor Heil, got in touch with Senators LaFollette and Wiley and Congressman Joshua Johns in regard to the transfer of the old building to the Vets Club for a new Clubhouse. A law was passed approving the transfer. Renovation of the building was carried out by Art Stueck and Sylvester Schmitt. The front lounge was an addition donated by Gust and Charlie Kirst.

With George Casavant as Commander, the post was awarded first prize in a Community Civic Service contest conducted on a statewide basis in 1956.

In 1943 the post sponsored a paper called the SOJOURNER. It was a monthly paper mailed to all servicemen from this area. There were approximately 600 recipients of the paper. E. J. Smeijkel was the paper's advisor and the printing was done in the Vocational School print shop.

One of the more active Commanders of the 1940's was Everett LaFond who as one point was made a state inspector of all 89 posts in the V.F.W. state organization. Another commander, Alfred Allie, was honored by the post for increasing the membership from 139 to 354 in one year.

In the 50's the post was ably served by Commander Ben Wolf who held the leadership duties from 1950 to 1958.

The Club has sponsored Christmas parties, Loyalty Day programs, Voice of Democracy contests, gifts to the Memorial Hospital, lite-a-bike programs, and Cemetery flag-holder programs.

*Mother of Hope Council No. 1957 Knights of Columbus*

Knights of Columbus Council 1957 of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, was incorporated on 29th of September 1919, at Marquette Hall. The name of said corporation should be known as Knights of Columbus Home Association of Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

The original directors were Frank T. Becker, William A. Pregnitz, and Henry Schwake.
On August 12th, 1930, the Knights of Columbus Home Association was changed to Knights of Columbus Club Association. Directors were Peter A. Scheuer, Rev. C. V. Hugo, Bernard J. Neuman, Frank T. Becker, Frank A. Polzar, W. G. Ahearn, Frank Schroeder, Bert L. Larkin, and David LeClair.

On January 22, 1931, the Knights of Columbus Club Association called a meeting at which Ben Nilles was chosen President, Frank Schroeder Vice President, and Ben Neuman Secretary-Treasurer.

On August 14, 1945, The Knights of Columbus Club Association bought its mortgage on the Club House which was purchased in 1923. On September 25, 1956, 2 lots were purchased on 2208 Garfield Street for the purpose of a new Club House.

On October 9, 1964, The Knights of Columbus Club Association sold its property to the Bank of Two Rivers. The officers of the building committee were Ed Koutnik, Chairman; Less Kars, Vice Chairman; Peter Beitzel, Secretary-Treasurer. Committee members Art Stueck, Robert Mitchell, Claude Elliott, Joe Weier, Leo G. Bowser, Robert Berkovitz, Milton Tegen, and Al Kotchi. Sylvester Schmitt was the architect of the building.

On January 27, 1966, the plans were accepted by the industrial commission and by the members of the Columbus Club Association.

On March 1, 1966, the Building Committee approved the contracts of the new building.

In April 1966, ground was broken for the New Building.

On September 15, 1966, The Knights of Columbus Council #1957 moved in the new home which was not as yet completed.

On November 27, 1966, the new building was opened to the public for inspection.

The present officers are: Milton Tegen, Lewis Klein, Ronald Feest, Peter J. Beitzel, Joe Weier, and Robert Berkovitz.

The local Knights of Columbus sponsors a wide variety of activities which include essay contests, blood donation, Christmas parties, sick committee, memorial services, religious retreats, foreign student exchange, vigils, choir activity, softball teams, high school baccalaureate mass and breakfast, field masses, orphanage fund, corporate communions, and Columbus Landing Day banquet.
The Knights of Columbus have shown a steady growth and in 1952 had some 516 members. It was decided at this point to establish a new council at nearby Mishicot that would accept some members from the Two Rivers Council with the result that membership at the Two Rivers Council dropped slightly to 496 members by 1962.

The Mother of Hope Council #1957, now located in one of the more attractive Clubrooms in town, continues it's many fine programs and projects and is another credit to the community.

_Columbus Club Association Auxiliary_

On a summer afternoon in the year 1919, a small group of women, wives, and sisters of the Knights of Columbus met in St. Lukes hall. The organization was called the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary. This group consisted of twelve members.

In July of 1933 a constitution was adopted and by-laws were drawn up. On July 16, 1933, the official name was stated as the Columbus Home Association Auxiliary.

One purpose of this organization is to foster a spirit of sisterhood among members. Another purpose of the organization was to aid the Knights of Columbus in the upkeep of the Club. All regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and a social gathering follows each meeting. The annual election of officers is held the third Thursday in June.

Any Catholic woman who has a husband or brother who is a member of the Knights of Columbus may become a member.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Adolph Zellner; Vice President, Mrs. Joseph Klein; Secretary, Mrs. Thelma LaFond; Treasurer, Mrs. Alois Hammernik.

_The Ladies of the Round Table_

Ladies of the Round Table, one of the oldest of the women's clubs of the city, was organized in the summer of 1912 by Mrs. J. F. Conant, along with Mmes, W. J. Hamilton, H. P. Hamilton, E. W. Studdard and A. J. Hallock to encourage the study of the fine arts.

The membership, not to exceed thirty active members be-

Programs are presented by the members themselves with occasional guest speakers which have included Lester Bentley, Dr. Kenneth J. Conant, Mrs. Charlton Heston and Dudly Crafts Watson.

In the early days of Round Table each program consisted of a book review and a presentation of art, by two members. About the year 1951, programs were presented by one person. Many years the programs evolve around a theme such as Mexico, Africa, Contemore, and in 1962, the organization observed their 50th year and devoted their study to the American fine arts during the preceding 50 years.

They have encouraged art shows in the public schools and awareness of current affairs. Books are donated to the Joseph Mann Library in memorial of a deceased member. Occasionally art works have been donated to public institutions.

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