

April 27, 2006
by Shirley Stanley

Two ladies of Cornelius decided that housework, churning butter and doing laundry, along with all the chores was certainly no way to broaden their minds and they needed to read more. Since a shortage of money prevented them from buying all the books they would like to read, they decided to start a library. This was April 8, 1913. In October, with more women expressing a desire to have more to read, they started the first public library in Cornelius.

They set up the library upstairs in Bunning Hall, Jan 21, 1921, and decided to have refreshments and entertainment to raise money to decorate the library. After expenses of 38 cents, (23 cents for stove oil and 15 cents for invitations) they raised \$36.30. This was used for decorations including \$2.10 for curtains. The rods were donated and one of the husbands donated his time put them up. The two ladies that went to Hillsboro to buy the material for the curtains turned in a bill for 10 cents each for car fare.

Where the original books they checked out came from there doesn't seem to be a record of, but it is recorded that they would check out an average of 600 books a month. I wonder how many chores got left undone.

Dues for the club were 50 cents a year and could be paid semi-annually. They were't raised to \$1.00 till 1946 and the dues in the Cornelius Civic Club are still only \$10.00 a year so it's still a bargain.

The Club subscribed to a magazine for the library (though they didn't say which one) for a year. Total subscription cost was \$1.00. They also voted April 2, 1917 to have the club paper a part of the library.

In November of 1922 a donor gave \$51.57 (though we don;'t know who it was) and the club voted to add \$8.43 so the library could receive \$60.00 so Mrs. Wilcox could buy books and supplies to keep the library modern.

Naturally the library had to be cleaned from time to time and a man was hired to do this. (All the ladies were busy reading.) He charged 50 cents a month but when the ladies bought him a vacuum cleaner he said he had to have a \$1.00 as the machine was so heavy to push.

The club started the first hot lunches at the Cornelius Grade School. They bought a new wash boiler and made soup from what ever was donated. Vegetables from gardens, always lots of rice and a real treat was a soup bone. They charged 3 cents for a bowl of hot soup and the children had to bring their own bowls and spoons. In 1939, the treasury abounded with money and they purchased 8 dozen soup bowls and 4 dozen cups for the school. The minutes don't mention spoons so not sure about that. Total cost of these supplies was \$13.20.

They planted walnut trees to line the streets in honor of the veterans of WWI and when the Boy Scouts started they gave them the crop as a fund raiser.

They held classes to help immigrantss get their citizenship, helped burned out victims rebuild, brought in the first county nurse, started the Camp Fire Girls furnished the uniforms for the Grade School Basketball Team at a cost of \$15.00, and helped establish a WPA kindergarten.

They built the kitchen in the old city hall at a horrendous cost of \$42.00 and donated labor. In 1925

there was such a crop of thistles in town they knew something had to be done so they held a contest with the school kids and harvested 1899 pounds of thistles in one day.

They purchased the first stove for the grade school and in 1954 they had money to help update the kitchen in city hall. Afterwards they bought dishes and up until a few years ago cooked lunch for the Booster Club.

Throughout the years they have supported the Red Cross and other organizations and were very active doing what needed to be done in WWII. The minutes are full of little things they did: Such as paying for a woman's surgery as she had to have it and no money. Total cost was \$25.00. The list goes on and many things to numerous to mention.

Always a big supporter of the school and the library and still remain that today. Though they used to buy books for the school we have now come into the modern age of helping purchase the electronic books for the kids. Most of our members are readers in the SMART program and if you visit the library you will see lots of things we have helped purchase. Also you will find names on the shelves. These are members who have passed away and our way of honoring them and keeping their memory alive.

Today we also give aid to Open Door here in Cornelius, the abused women's shelter, Birth Right, and the House of Ruth. We still aid the library and the schools.

We meet the fourth Thursday of each month from Sept., to May at the Forest Grove Senior Center. When we lost our kitchen we all decided we didn't like to cook anyway and so the Senior Center will furnish our lunch and allow us to meet there. We have members who have belonged well over 50 years as well as new ones. Do to some of our member's age and moving to retirement type living and none being available in Cornelius a lot live in the Forest Grove area but their hearts and concerns are still for Cornelius.

1993



Helene Hines



L-R 1993 Blueberry Queens
 Adeline Robinson Helen Herring Lynn Knaben, Regina Mieser
 Standing Sunny Eileen



Evelyn Zeller, Catherine Underdicht, Louise Hoffman, Ruth
 Vander Morkel, Betty Scepton, Margaret Austin, Helene Hines
 seated
 Joyce Hallenell, Fella O'Keefe



On April 8, 1913, 7 women gathered to form the Cornelius Civic Club. The primary reason was for fellowship and to start a city library, stocked, maintained and run by these 7 women. This mushroomed into the cemetery board and a city curfew within the first few meetings.

Their activities were many as they were joined by other ladies, from city beautification to performing in November of 1928 a play that drew over 200 people.

They took charge of providing hot soup for school children during the cold winter months, cooking the soup in a new wash boiler and adding to the soup bone furnished by the Club whatever was handy. Rice, macaroni, vegetables and charging 3 cents a bowl. Children had to furnish their own bowl and spoon. However, in 1939 they were able to purchase 8 dozen soup bowls and 4 dozen cups for a total cost of \$13.20. Later they hired a cook and in addition to paying her wages they also continued to furnish the soup bone.

Many city beautification projects were completed from garbage cans on main street to killing poison oak, planting roses to city wide cleanups and beautification including walnut trees planted along baseline in memory of the WWI soldiers.

Countless agencies, children and families in need have benefited from the Cornelius Civic Club from burned out families, to glasses hearing aids and even to paying one hospital bill for a member many years ago.

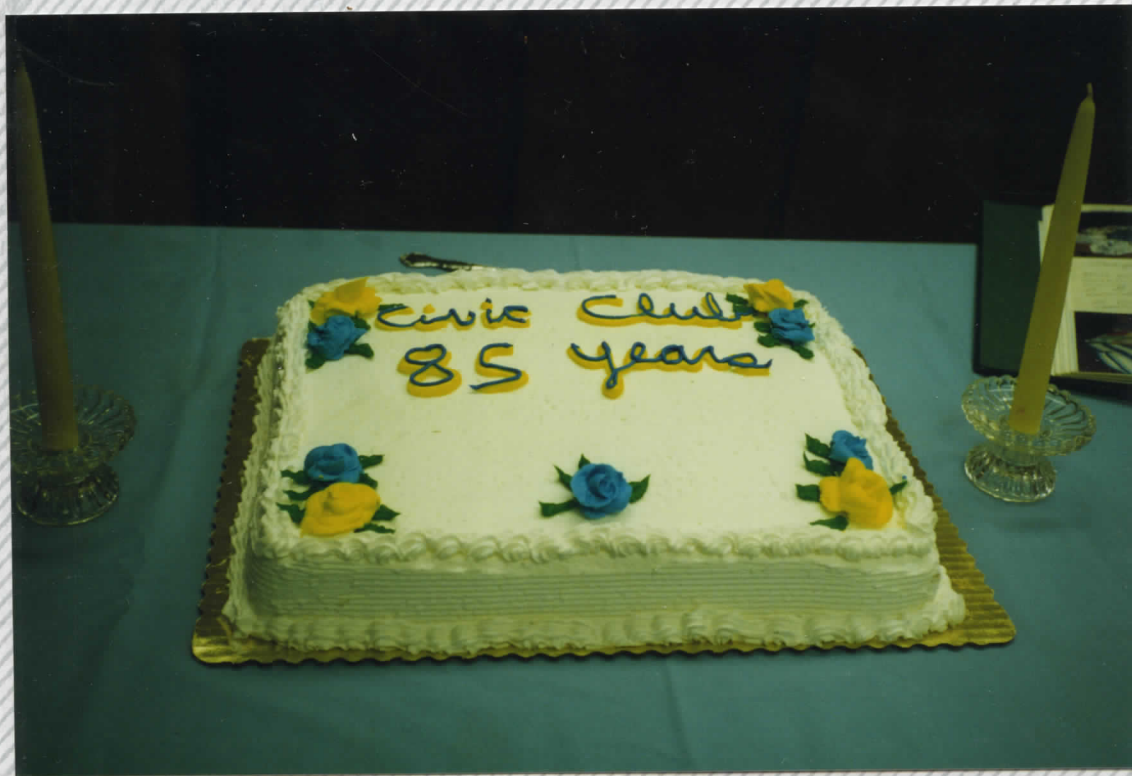
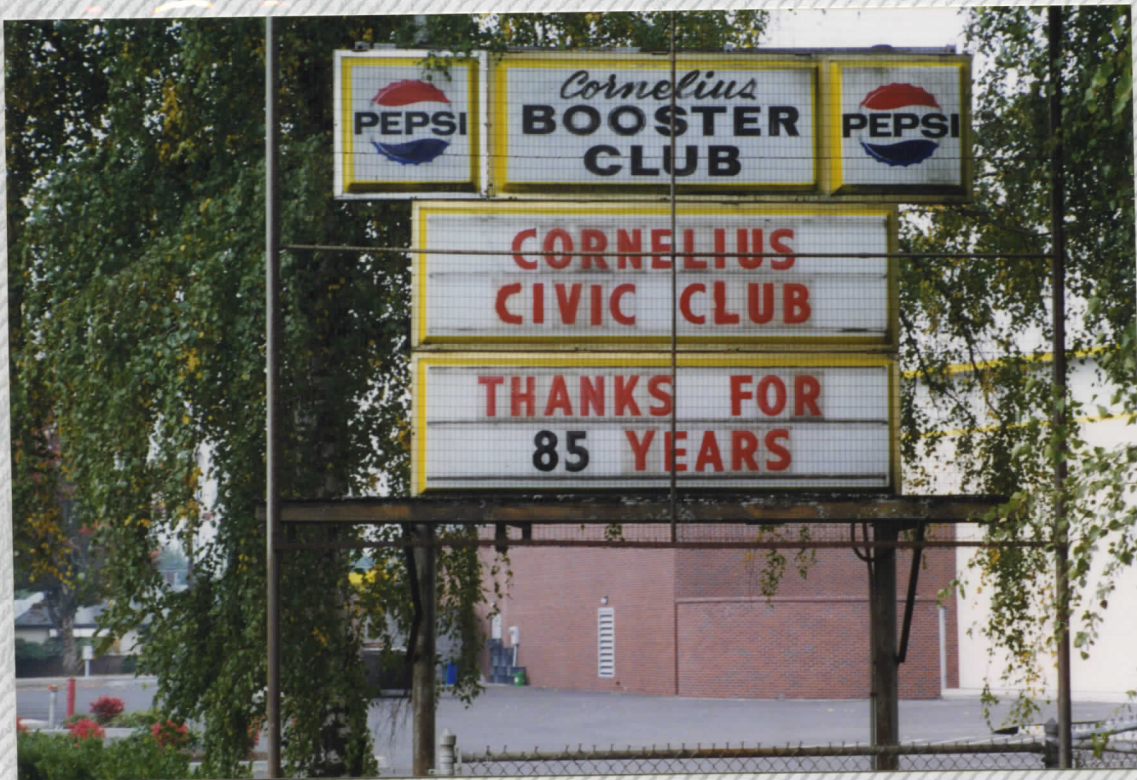
Through the years the theme has remained with the Civic Club. Continuing to help the now very successful Cornelius City Library, aiding and adding to the school library and other school needs, and still continuing to support the community where and as needed. Hand made blankets have been donated to the Unwed Mothers Home, the Vets, and the nursing Homes. Christmas baskets of personal items have been donated to the Abused Women's shelter and donations of food, personal items, clothing and cleaning supplies to the Open Door.

The Club has existed 85 years due to the giving and community spirit left to us by the original 7 that primarily wanted a library. They're caring has been handed down through the years and today we honor the 5 longest continual caring members of the Cornelius Civic Club.

Helen Johnston	joined in 1941	member for 57 years
Margaret Mumford	joined in 1945	member for 53 years
Inez Nash	joined in 1945	member for 53 years
Olga Clites	joined in 1957	Member for 41 years

Louise Hoffman - 1974

- 24 years



Oct 1998



Joyce Hollowell, Ella Zhis, Shirley
Stanley, Margaret Austin Helene Hines
Zilli O'Rear, Laneva Robinson



Shirley Stonley planting rose
trees with Ella & his



1999-2001 President - Shirley Stanley
Vice President - Ella Thies
Secretary - Louise Hoffman
Treasurer - Lillie O'Keefe
Projects Birthright of Hillsboro
Open floor of Cornelius
House of Ruth

2001-2003 President - Shirley Stanley
Vice President - Ella Thies
Secretary - Margaret Austin
Treasurer - Lillie O'Keefe
Projects House of Ruth, Birthright of Hillsboro
Open Door of Cornelius

2003-2005
President Shirley Stanley
Vice President - Ella Thies
Secretary - Louise Hoffman
Treasurer - Lillie O'Keefe
Projects - Birthright of Hillsboro
Open Door of Cornelius

2005-2007
President - Shirley Stanley
Vice President Ella Thies
Secretary - Lovie Davis
Treasurer - Lillie O'Keefe
Program - Ella Thies
Corresponding Sec. - Beth Thompson
Projects - Birthright of Hillsboro
Open Door, House of Ruth

2007 - 2009

President Shirley Standy

Vice President Ella Thies

Secretary Carrie Lucia

Treasurer Tillie O'Rear

Program Ella Thies

Corresponding Sec. Beth Thompson

Projects: Birthright of Hillsboro

Open Door

2011 - 2012

President - Shirley Hall

Vice-President - Ella Thies

Secretary - Sue Abel

Treasurer - Tillie O'Rear

Corresp/Sec. - Beth Thompson

Projects - Penpals Cornelius Elem.