

Inventory of the

**Mendota Business and
Professional Women's Club**
Mendota, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 120

INTRODUCTION

Cindy Conforti, President, donated the Mendota Business and Professional Women's Club Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on December 12, 1980.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional history Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.5
Number of containers: 3
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 120

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection comprises a small portion of the records created by the Mendota Business and Professional Women's Club; most of the documents pre-dating 1954 have been lost. Minutes, correspondence, treasurer's records, and membership statements and lists detail club activities and membership statistics from 1954 to 1976. Nine scrapbooks (1937-1975) provide a brief look at the club's contributions to community concerns and affairs, but contain little detail on monthly meetings. Information on foundation contributions and Illinois Federation dues also is available (1960-1979).

Researchers should note that a brief historical sketch and a year by year outline of club projects can be found in Box 1, Folder 1. The Regional History Center also holds several other Business and Professional Women's Clubs' records--see the Center's Regional Guide.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Forty-five charter members elected Myrtle Beitsch, president, Mrs. W. L. Gish, vice president, Lorraine Lasswell, secretary, and Adena Johnson, treasurer at the organizational meeting of the Mendota Business and Professional Women's Club on February 10, 1937. The club's purpose contained the following statements: 1) to elevate the standards of women in business and professions, 2) to bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the United States, and 3) to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along the lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities. In addition, the club community and heavily involved itself in worldly affairs by donating time and money to several charities.

Among its many projects, the Mendota BPW Club's greatest contributions went to needy children and families. In 1942-1943 the club donated money to the Child Welfare Association. In 1946-1947 fifteen dollars went for the rehabilitation of a Belgian child and seven packages for

the needy went to Holland and Europe. In 1947-1948 the club sent a CARE package to a family in France. In 1953-1956 the members contributed fifteen dollars to the Ministerial Association for a needy family. The club made Christmas baskets for needy families in 1957-1958 and in 1964-1966 the club, with it's district, sponsored a foster child in Columbia, South America.

Educational speeches and contributions, facets of other club programs, benefitted a wide variety of people. Members collected 25 pounds of junk jewelry and small mirrors in 1943-1944 to send to World War II servicemen for use as barter with natives. Marguerite Stitt Church, congresswoman, visited and spoke to the club in 1952. In 1956-1957 the group sent letters to legislators urging passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The club also urged participation in the reorganization of Civil Defense in 1960-1961. And, throughout it's history, the Mendota Business and Professional Women's Club actively worked for and donated to the Mendota Hospital Association. Today, the club continues it's diligent work to help needy citizens and educate it's members.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Business and Professional Women's Club
Mendota
Mendota Business and Professional Women's Club
Professions, Women
Women
Women's Organization

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Historical Information	
	2	Constitution and By-Laws, n.d.	
	3-4	Minutes, 1967-1974	
	5	Correspondence, 1954-1976	
	6-9	Treasurer's Reports and Ledgers, 1955-1976	
	10	Yearbooks and Programs, (1938-1976)	
	11-12	Statements of Club Membership, 1960-1978	
	13	Membership Applications, n.d.	
	14	Membership Lists, n.d.	
	15	Resignations, 1961	
	16	Club Remittances, 1960-1969	
	17	Foundation Contributions, 1971-1972	
	18	Illinois Federation Dues, 1960-1979	
	19	Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1967	
	2	4 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1937-1957
	3	5 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1966-1967, 1973-1975