



LEFT — Receiving recognition from Santa Cruz Woman's Club at its annual Federation meeting, from left, are Bertha Edmund, longtime member named Woman of the Year, and new honorary members, Alice Earl Wilder, Ruth Frary and Ruthmarie Sheehan.

RIGHT — Club President Helen Berchtold welcomes Jean Cutler, state federation president, and Mary Jane Marton, Loma Prieta District president.



## Woman's Club Work Is Never Done

By BARBARA BURKLO  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The year was 1907.

Theodore Roosevelt was president, the Panama Canal was well under way and people were playing ragtime on their new phonographs.

Many were driving Henry Ford's new mass-produced cars.

John Wayne was born.

And so was the Santa Cruz Woman's Club.

The five women who started the club, Mrs. Minnie Tanner Gushee, Mrs. J. P. Twist, Mrs. Grace De Lamarer Williamson, Mrs. F. W. Swanton and Mrs. Ella Vivienne Noe Phillips, called it the Saturday Afternoon Club.

Two months after the little group first met in Grace Williamson's home, they had gathered a total of 30 members to attend the opening meeting in October.

By the end of that year, there were 210 members.

Immediately, the new organization became affiliated with the California Federation of Women's Clubs, which had been organized in 1900, with 10 clubs representing 6,000 women. It was part of

the larger, national organization, founded in 1890.

Today, the international club is the largest women's service club in the world, numbering 10 million members in 45 countries. In the United States, there are 700,000 members in 14,000 clubs.

But, let's go back to those early days.

The club thrived, with vigorous leadership, excellent programs and well-chosen philanthropies.

Members were activists, too.

On January 25, 1908, the club members gathered a committee to wait upon the city council, asking them to take some action in regard to expropriating on the sidewalks.

On March 12, of the same year, they called a meeting to consider the "slaughter of the trees" in Big Basin State Park. As a result, they held a mass meeting on March 14, and Governor Gillett was called upon to set in motion at once the necessary powers of the state to stop the destruction.

Early programs were held in the Santa Cruz Hotel, and later, at the parish house of the Episcopal Church, with business meetings at the old library.

At one time the club owned a lot next to the library, but they sold it in 1922, purchasing a lot on Laurel Street Extension. They sold that one, too.

In the late '30s, under the presidency of Blanche Clark, they bought the Mission Street lot and set to work, raising the money for a building. After a series of fund-raisers, they scraped up \$8,000 and borrowed another \$8,000 from County Bank. The new building cost just \$16,000, and the club has owned it until this year.

However, because of exorbitant maintenance costs, the present 171 members voted to sell the building. The Eagles Lodge purchased it, but the Woman's Club will rent it for their regular meetings and bridge games.

Through the years, some of the finest artists to appear in the area presented concert programs for the club. But there was much more to the organization than being entertained. The members' philanthropies and causes were varied, ranging from regular contributions to the Red Cross, Drug Abuse Center and CARE to "Save the Redwoods." And many members have served on

boards of other area service organizations, as well.

The club for years has sponsored the Marri-Eds Junior Women's Club, cooperating with it in many civic endeavors.

Since the Santa Cruz Woman's Club can no longer keep its magnificent grand piano, it has donated it to the Santa Cruz Symphony Association, to be housed at First Congregational Church until the symphony realizes its dream of a new performing arts center.

Thursday, the club celebrated Federation Day and heard an address by Mrs. De Forest Cutler, president of the California Federation of Women's Clubs. Her administrative theme is "A New Faith for an Old Dream." Along with this, the local club is looking for new ways to fulfil old dreams, and plans to build its membership and continue to build in the community.

Next year, the Santa Cruz Woman's Club will have another cause to celebrate — its 75th birthday.

Diamond  
Jubilee  
Coming  
Up for  
Woman's  
Club