

## **Woman's Club of Cranbury – from NJSFWC History book**

Organized 1898: Federated 1922.

In 1898, The Reading Circle was formed to bring the ladies from the three Cranbury churches together socially. The objective was, "to fill our minds with those things that shall inspire us to higher attainments".

Mrs. Charles F. Taylor, the first president, was elected for a term that all of three months. In 1902, that term was changed to a year and in 1925, changed to two years.

In 1919, the Circle became the Woman's Club. In 1923, departments were formed and in 1944 "of Cranbury" was added to the name.

In 1906, it was stated "Thou shall remember that club day is Wednesday and to keep it from engagements and not absent thyself without an excellent cause" and that "each member should, like the Citizens in the Golden Age of Greece, be prepared to do anything that was asked of her".

In 1904, the Cranbury Girls Club was sponsored.

Trips have been taken to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Stratford, CT, and a theatre week in London England.

Department's offered instruction in sewing, gourmet cooking, china painting, flower arranging furniture refinishing, trapunto, crewel, leaded glass etc. We have reviewed Greek to modern plays, books and listened to worldwide personal experiences.

In 1973, 20 pieces of fine sculpture were purchased and may be on loan monthly from the Cranbury Library.

Our club sponsors a delegate to Girls' Career Institute and supports the Arts and Study Center at Douglass College.

In 1959, we started giving college scholarships. Demand has made us change this to the Educational Loan Program, which is interest free; payment begins one year after graduation.

In the 1900's, a fund to provide for starving Indians was started. The club held a Red Cross Drive, donated Christmas food baskets to needy families, gave to British War relief, to the USO at fort Dix and donated Christmas gifts for 57 servicemen and women during World War II.

Donations were made to the Congressional Medal of Honor Grove, Valley Forge, American Field Service, Cranbury Library, First Aid Squad and Fire Departments, Hotline of Hightstown, Camp Fund and Meals for Millions.

Projects included ecology, glass collection, traffic light, Golden Age dinners, games at nursing homes, Christmas parties for youngsters at Cranbury and Skillman Training Schools, children's flower shows and sale, Bicentennial banner, and parades.

Our annual budget includes State projects and we have been given to the Arthritis Foundation, Care, Federated Scholarship Fund, Vineland Research, and Ranch HOPE.

Fundraisers have included rummage, cookbook, and calendar sales; Card parties; fashion shows; vacation auctions; Charity Ball auction; Book Fairs; and House Tours.

We present pins to our 50-year members and recognition to our 25-year members. We have had members represent us on the State Board, many serving more than one term.

It has been, and is, a broadening influence, educational, most rewarding work, and fun for all.