

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

The Indian Hill Women's Civic Club

This year, the Indian Hill Women's Civic Club will celebrate its 65th anniversary. The organization was founded in 1951 by nine ladies who lived in the then "New Acres" subdivision. (Algonquin & Graves Roads area), and it was initially named the Red Bud Acres Garden Club. Within two years, the gardening aspect of the club was dropped and the group became more social, holding parties to welcome new female neighbors. By the mid -1950s, service projects became a focus of the group. The women provided landscaping for the Indian Hill School, which was all on one campus then. Also, they made burn dressings for Civil Defense and bought uniforms for a knothole baseball team. The name was changed to the Indian Hill Women's Civic Club in 1956 to reflect its charitable nature. By the end of that decade, membership had increased to 35.

In the 1960s, a decision was made not to exchange Christmas gifts amongst members, but instead to purchase toys and food for the needy at that holiday. And, a new tradition started - an auction. One member had a grand piano on which she displayed her collection of Christmas decorations, and other ladies decided they would like to purchase various pieces from her display. The ladies started bidding on the items, and the high bidders took home the decorations. This was the nucleus of the ongoing Christmas auction to raise funds for charitable purposes.



In the 1970s, a history of the club was written to celebrate its 20th year. And an annual yearbook with a club roster and a list of programs was provided to each member. During this decade the club was nicknamed the "Girlie Club". Generally meetings started with a homemade lunch in a hostess' home, followed by a program and business meeting. Every year culminated in a summertime party, which included spouses as guests.



Civic Club member delivering toys & gifts

By the 21st century, the club membership had expanded all over Indian Hill. Newer members included Village residents with an international background. Ladies from Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland joined the group and were active participants. Also about once a year, an offsite meeting was held. Places that the club has toured include the Cincinnati Observatory, Waldschmidt House, Spring Grove Cemetery, and Matthew 25 Ministries. Visits to these places were educational. Meetings in members' residences featured speakers. Recent topics were "All about OLLI", "County Parks", "Breakthroughs in Medicine" and "The History of Music Hall".

The club continues to live up to its name by disbursing thousands of dollars to worthy organizations. Club members present ideas at the May meeting, and the group votes to decide where monies will go. The ladies of the Indian Hill Women's Civic Club have broadened their lives by gaining lifelong friends as well as by donating to charitable organizations in the area. The group continues to make an impact on the greater community, and it deserves kudos for doing so for more than six decades.