

**The First Twenty-Five Years  
Of  
The Countryside Improvement Ass'n.  
Of  
Orchard And Pine Lakes  
Oakland County, Mich.**

## Contents

1911 .....	3
1912 .....	4
1914 .....	5
1916 .....	7
<b>WORLD WAR I .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1920 .....	10
1921 .....	11
1923 .....	12
1924 .....	13
1928 .....	14
<b>DEPRESSION.....</b>	<b>15</b>
1933 - 1936.....	17

1911

Through the summer of nineteen hundred and eleven there had come to the observer of the changing conditions of our mode of transportation, the feeling that one was no longer secure in that sense of isolation and quiet which one has associated with the country. Time and space were being annihilated in the perfecting of a vehicle which would be self propelling. A few of these contraptions had already appeared on the highway and a few more were owned in the neighborhood, but still one felt that it was a fad, wholly impracticable, and like bicycling and roller skating, it was doomed to an early passing.

About midsummer there ran an article by Kate Douglas Wiggin in a current magazine, of three small villages in Maine, made up of summer residents who would return year after year, because they sprang from native stock, still holding that aloofness which is traditional. Three small communities with nothing to draw them together, but all doing rather much the same sort of thing.

In a letter to one of our organizers, Kate Douglas Wiggin writes: "There is nothing we (her sister) haven't done with church, neighborhood house, Sunday school, village improvement, choir, library, Dorcas society and, yes! fire department in order to make the three little villages of Hollis, Buxton and Bar Mills pleasanter places in which to live." Here was a situation paralleling in some degree the lack of community interests in our own neighborhood. Among our neighbors we had talked of many of these needs, fire protection, better roads, a place for picnickers. Co-operation with organized effort behind it was needed.

In September just before the summer exodus-a meeting was called at the Pine Lake Country Club, to consider tentative plans for organizing a group of women, property owners and summer residents, with a view toward protecting the lake property against violators of the existing laws and to anticipate conditions that might arise through the possible annihilating of miles that separated the country from the city.

The thirteenth of September the first meeting was held, after appointing Mrs. Edward W. Stoddard temporary chairman, there was a free discussion of the need of an organization, and this group of enthusiastic women under a temporary chairman, proceeded to appoint officers and work out a pro-gram for the following summer. It is interesting to note these first officers, Mrs. Edward W. Stoddard, President, Mrs. A. D. Noble, Vice President, Mrs. Edward A. Skae, Treasurer, Mrs. Fred W. Moe, Secretary, Board of Directors, Mesdames Willis Ward, Edwin S. George, Harry Lewis, D. S. Howard, George Dulaney, Frederick Stoepel, Rose Ingoldsby and Miss Frances Sibley.

1912

During the winter there had been ample time to plan a schedule that intensive work might get under way in the early spring. Obviously, the roads would need attention. May I call to your mind there was no paved road outside of Detroit, and that the pavement on Woodward Ave. ended at Palmer Park where the cars turned back to the city, and in Pontiac a few rods of wooden block pavement, mostly ruts. A one track wagon road around the lakes and a very poor gravel road out to the Pontiac turnpike or as we speak of it now as Woodward Ave., two toll gates to pass on that highway and two on the Orchard Lake Road. The Path Master, as he was known, from time to time, would hire labor and out of the township gravel pit would have the road repaired. This year the county had more prisoners in the jail than they could afford to feed and instead of languishing there, the sheriff had the brilliant idea of putting them to work on the roads, and so our brave committee requisitioned convict labor to work in the area of Pine and Orchard Lakes. Now this might have been a little disconcerting to our timid members to have potential murderers and highwaymen foregather at their doorstep, this type of labor was soon abandoned by the County and the Township appointed its own road commissioner. What a life that man led! It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that Mr. Johnson's poor old horse went many miles out of his way to save his master the embarrassment of meeting some one of the vigilant road committee. This committee had other duties, one of which was the patrol work over the week-end, placing the wire containers where picnics were held and the marking of strategic corners for the guiding of motorists. It was the irony of fate that while we wished to discourage man from our shores, our line of endeavor seemed to be directed entirely to making things more comfortable when he arrived and easier to reach.

Another of the original committees was known as the Vigilant Committee. This Janus-eyed group let nothing escape them. Looking both ways for trouble their eyes were never very far from the D.U.R. and when the files are finally destroyed in the offices of that corporation there will be a sheaf of letters from the Countryside importuning them for bells, lights and shelter, less precipitous stairways, an ornamental bridge over their tracks and a suitable station below with ALL conveniences.

Each week brought more of the "autos" on the roads - previously we used to take a pleasant drive on Sunday-now we kept the horses off the highway for safety. The duties of the Vigilant Committee were growing-there were dangerous corners that had to be marked, blind openings, shore lines that left a close margin between life and death, and more than all these hazards, they must find a way to "bring reckless driving into disuse."

These early days found some one constantly turning up new ground. What were our rights under the law? Could one clean fish on the shore of the lake? What constituted a trespasser? How far out in the lake did one own or control? If the night was made hideous by rowdies had we the law on our side? The put-put of the motor boat was not so easy on the ear. Some near accidents had been reported. The law read – "all power boats must carry 'Port' and 'Starboard' lights," but the Association went the law one better and moved and seconded that all motor boats must carry tail lights. Following this motion a letter was sent all motor boat owners and a member of the committee was instructed to look up the law about taillights.

## 1914

The doom of the toll road had certainly sounded and the owners felt that a radical change in road construction was imminent but in the uncertainty of needed legislation and dissolution of corporations, some one must carry on. The office of Path Master was still on the ballot and year after year the same incumbent was urged, scolded and cajoled to deliver the gravel where the ruts were the deepest. If action was too long delayed the road committee paid for the labor and Mr. Willis Ward, always our friend in time of trouble, donated the gravel. Much of the talk was about "ruts and roads," these first motoring days. The chemists were busy experimenting with waste products that would lay dust. In the spring of Nineteen hundred and fourteen, the road committee fully determined to concentrate on a good road around the lakes.

We were learning a lot about roads in those days and one of the elemental rules was "no good road without a good road bed," so we started to make the bed. A man by the name of King was the maker of the King drag and provided the Association bought one drag he would present the Association with another. The Chairman bought the first one. I always felt that her joker was up her sleeve, for she knew that the President had a team that would pull it through the dusty miles.

Mrs. Stoddard having served two years as President, Mrs. Edward A. Skae was now President. Pouring oil on the troubled waters was not comparable to pouring oil on the dusty roads. The first was to be on the Orchard Lake Road from the Toll Gate at the "then" edge of Pontiac to Orchard Lake Hotel at a cost of five hundred dollars. Decoration Day was in the offing and Mr. Stout, President of the Orchard Lake Gravel Road Company, not averse to having his road oiled, invited, nay, urged a group of ladies to come to the toll gate and solicit funds for the privilege of riding over the first oiled road in the county.

Queer looking contraptions as they stopped to pay the toll, without visible motive

power, and a sturdy whip in the socket beside the driver; ladies swathed in flowing veils and tightly, buttoned-up ulsters. Their escorts-oh, yes! one had to have a man at the steering lever (quite too bold for a lady) , ulstered and goggled. No shield to take the impact of dust and wind. All that summer there was scraping and oiling and raising money as well as dust that the PUBLIC might ride over dustless roads.

About this time the Treasurer began to sit up and take notice. It has always been the earmark of an efficient treasurer to balance the BUDGET, and the Road committee had spread forty thousand gallons of oil and had literally followed the oil truck through three summers over many miles of dustless roads. It was necessary not to lose sight of the social activities which the Association sponsored. Funds for the oil were gotten by subscription, but there were other demands on the treasury.

The new Social dances, Tango, Fox Trot, and Hesitation Waltz, gave an impetus to the art of dancing, and it seemed well timed to give as a first venture a "Soirée Dansant" and "Venetian Fete" at the Pine Lake Club. A more superb evening could not have been wished for. A full moon dancing on the water, while two professional dancers, Miss Hoyt and Mr. Silsbee demonstrated the new steps and put something of the, "joie de vie" into the oldsters as well as the youngsters. A delicious supper under the gnarled old apple trees, filtering the moonlight gave a fairy-like effect to the panorama. The success of the evening was measured by the smile on the face of the Treasurer. The year for rural activities was coming to a close, and everyone was pulling for improvements on Woodward Avenue as the main artery out of the city. It was now rumored that there was to be a hard surfaced pavement from Royal Oak to Pontiac, a new bridge over the railroad tracks, and the Association was to have some new road working equipment.

This year made a flying start with the road committee pursuing the road-oiling and scraping. A paid constabulary to keep order around the two lakes on Saturday and Sunday - and lest we become too road minded, as an organization, we joined the National Fruit and Flower Guild for the distribution of surplus from the gardens to the sick in hospitals and institutions, members giving their time and cars for the distributing.

The lack of adequate markers on the country roads was a favorite topic for the members to discuss; it frequently was precipitated when some guest arrived late for dinner and later found he had been in the neighborhood but made a wrong turn down the road. The hill at Mrs. Kenzie Smith's was a lost corner, and if one missed it, well! it was just too bad. Lots of back seat drivers have been created out of just such trivial annoyances.

Today we are up-to-the-minute in road signs, although we concede that the Orchard Lake Village leads in design and appropriateness; the overhead in replacement is not too great a strain on the treasury.

## 1916

At some time in the life of an organization the high point is reached. As the Secretary's notes for the year Nineteen hundred and sixteen were read, that year undoubtedly was the outstanding year of the first twenty-five. First it was an idea, then a suggestion to a small group, then it became a definite, crystalized [sic] plan. Nothing seemed to be difficult. Flying trips were made to New York to interview booking agents for the latest attractions, which seemed at the moment to be Russian dancers. The committee after gathering a great deal of information, decided to give the program for the evening's entertainment to Miss Hoyt, who had just returned from New York, where she had been studying with Chalif, the great Russian dancing master. The stage setting, out of doors, was in the hands of professionals who transplanted trees and went to endless trouble to give the effect of a procenium arch, and dear old Finzel's orchestra once again played the familiar strains of Chopin and Chaminade. Hundreds of lights trailing through the lovely gardens of West Wind Farms, converted them into a veritable fairyland. A delicious supper, a moonlight night to enhance the wizardry of it all. A souvenir which was sold by the debutantes of that year was made up of an original poem for the occasion written by Eddie Guest, a photostatic copy of Kate Douglas Wiggin's letter anent the organization, and an illustrated article by William Miller, then Editor of *Country Life*. All this talent added to a special cover design done by Roy Gamble, with pages of artistic advertising matter, gave to the program committee a tidy sum to turn over to the finance committee. The winding paths were faced with the smartest little shops. The first importation of transparent rubber raincoats and hats with matching umbrellas had just made their appearance, and one of the shops was gay with these; fascinating hats for street or garden wear, gift boxes to be called for at the P.O., and many other shops made the separation of money from its owner an easy accomplishment. Then there was the lure of things to be raffled: the last word in a Ford car, presented by Senator Couzens; a Shetland pony from Mr. Depew's stock farm; a Steinway piano. The raffle committee added an appreciable amount to the receipts. A day and a night were ticked off the clock before the weary workers found their various ways homeward-s. It was all great fun, and the realization of this effort is reaching out into the lives of several young people in the form of a student loan fund. The gross receipts of the Carnival topped Five Thousand Dollars.

At the end of the summer the Centenary of Oakland County was to be commemorated in a pageant by the Women's Historical Society of Oakland

County. The countryside was asked to continue the pageant in the lake district. It was decided to place a boulder with suitable bronze tablet on the shores of Orchard Lake to mark the end of the trail of Chief Pontiac and his braves after the battle of Bloody Run. Our good neighbor, Mr. Tom Leggett, donated the boulder from his farm.

Gathered on the high shores of Orchard Lake that summer day were Chippewas, Seminoles, and Ottawas, gay in Indian blankets and feathered head dress, while below on the blue water canoes darted in and out, filled with warriors who echoed again the war cry of tribes or beat upon the tomtom. It was a vivid, colorful picture of one hundred years ago. At that gathering of several hundred people were a few of the venerable citizens of Oakland County and West Bloomfield, men of an earlier time, who remembered the last of the Indian tribes that lingered on in the middle West; Mr. Boughner, Mr. Burns, Mr. Callum, and others.

Mrs. Skae presented the marker to the County, Miss Caroline Campbell dedicated it, and Captain D. S. Howard accepted it for the County.

The native stone, which showed marks of disintegration some years ago, has been replaced by one of granite, and an enclosure as a safeguard against vandals has been placed around the stone.

This year we made our first donation to the Detroit Free Press Fresh Air Camp of Twenty-five Dollars.

It was thought advisable to invite five men to act as an advisory board to facilitate road work and get better co-operation with the County Officers. This was four years previous to full suffrage for women, and we didn't rate very high with the politicians.

This year finds the Road Committee still spreading oil and reaching out for more business to the extent of authorizing the Press Committee to inform the Pontiac public that the Countryside Association will agree to oil the streets in a neighborhood if a number of property owners will combine so that the oiling may be continuous. The chairman of the Road Committee was to be notified by telephone, *and she was*. Five carloads of oil went on the roads from the siding at Mrs. Skae's, and the committee raised three thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars and seventy-seven cents by special subscription over the summers of Fifteen, Sixteen, and Seventeen.

"Clean up" day was also inaugurated this year, that has since been taken over by the authorities. We have been proving many things by trial and error down these



years, but how can one measure how much farther we have come because the lesser problems have also been considered. Notices were sent to property owners, and posters were placed in conspicuous places that those who ran might also read.

Supplementing this movement, the Sanitation Committee placed thirty wire containers in locations where picknickers foregathered, in the hope that refuse would be placed therein, but to the committee's amazement it was also necessary to hire a man to do follow up work on Monday morning.

## World War I

The roll of the war drums was coming nearer and nearer; the United States had not entered the World War, but we had been asked to endorse the National League for Women's Service, who were doing Red Cross work for those nations already at war. The conservation of food was much discussed at these meetings, and we had been notified that most of the canned goods would be needed for European consumption, and also that shipments of sugar to Europe would put the United States on a rationed supply. The Association, always awake to its opportunity, secured a Home Economics graduate to demonstrate the newer methods of canning so that we might be prepared to carry on when it seemed wise to do so. That moment was not long in coming. Our gifts to the Red Cross had been as generous as our finances warranted before the United States entered the war. The National Committee had asked for Comfort Bags for the Allies. One hundred and eight were sent out from our small organization with a cash donation of twenty-five dollars. Later we gave to the West Bloomfield ten dollars a month to help maintain a workroom and assume charge of same. These meetings were held at the Seminary.

A dispersal sale of fine stock on the Flanders Farm gave the Association an opportunity to make some money for the war work. Long tables were set up convenient to the ring-side seats where stock men from far and near could sit down to a wholesome lunch. The proceeds of one hundred and fifty dollars were turned over to the Red Cross.

There was already under consideration the feasibility of taking the surplus from the gardens of residents and members for canning, that more food might go over seas. With this in view, a teacher from the State College came to demonstrate just how to equip and maintain a canning center on a commercial basis. Mrs. Skae was made chairman. At this time the Association was singled out for a visit from the United States Food Inspector, Mr. George Farrell of Washington, D. C., who had with him two American boys who had served in the front line trenches with the Foreign Legion. The canning center was organized within the Countryside Association, but its membership was not confined to the organization. Many

women volunteered to work on definite squads so that the task through the summer would not fall too heavily on anyone. The private school at the corner of Lone Pine Road and Woodward Avenue was loaned to the Association by its owner, Mr. George Booth, and was reconditioned to meet the needs.

Each day quantities of garden products came to the door from far and near. It was processed, packed, and stored away on shelves for its owners, who paid the processing tax, in this case a justifiable one. This work was carried on for several summers, and each summer found the workers more efficient, a better equipment, and the project making a fair profit. At the beginning of the third season our location had to be changed, and our canning center was moved to the corner of Long Lake Road and Woodward Avenue. Here the work was carried on for another year, and the next November Peace was declared. Those who served for three successive summers appreciate the output for so modest a beginning. Two hundred cans a day was the average pack. The preparation was done largely by school girls, 4-H clubs and other youth organizations. These helpers were paid in cash and all profits, which were quite substantial, went into the war chest.

## 1920

The organization had no sooner folded up the canning center than it was brought to our notice that the Free Press Fresh Air Camp very much needed a suitable place for the children to eat. The first reaction to this was an appropriation of one hundred dollars, but just prior to paying this amount our President made a personal visit to the camp and realized that wind and rain and clouds of flies just isn't an added comfort when one is eating, and resolved that if the organization was assuming this responsibility it must be done worthily. So we rallied to the challenge and began planning ways and means of raising the money. Dancing parties at the club, card parties everywhere, bake sales, etc. This went on until we had a sufficient sum to make a start toward an attractive, screened and convenient mess hall, the plans having been donated by Albert Kahn. Mrs. Kahn was a member of the Association. On July tenth, One thousand, nine hundred and twenty, we dedicated the building and named it Humphrey Hall, after Miss Humphrey, who had given much time and thought to the carrying on of the work begun by Mr. Arthur Mosely at an earlier date.

There was also provided that evening a special dinner for the children. The following Sunday the Rotogravure section fairly burgeoned with the doings of the opening of the new Mess Hall.

In reading over the President's annual address, she is still urging the roadside beautification project for West Bloomfield and quotes the Editor of *Country Life*,

who offered to speak to the Association in the hope of stimulating it to some definite purpose. For seventeen years our faint voices have been raised. Today there is a definite tide setting in that direction. Some day it may touch our shores. Let us not despair.

## 1921

The year One thousand nine hundred twenty-one seemed to be outstanding for its resignations. Changes had come to many members in their family life and the organization felt the reaction. The Vigilant Committee was still importuning the D.U.R. for lights and bells at the crossings, as traffic became more and more of a problem. The roads were still inadequate for the increased travel and this condition contributed to the picnickers alighting on any green turf for their midday meal rather than go farther afield over bad roads. This again necessitated patrolling with the motor cycle officers. Many of these problems have now been ironed out, the real country is within easy travel over good roads, and the speed limit of fifteen miles per hour has been stepped up considerably.

At the annual meeting this year we had as a guest speaker Mr. James Lynch than whom, I might add, there is none more conversant with the needs of Oakland County. He spoke on "Our rights or lack of rights on the public highways and the shores of the lakes"; urged us to be considerate of those who come to the country to enjoy its beauty and quiet, and touched upon a plan for a public park or a system of parks in Oakland County, where one might have enjoyment and rest during the summer days.

The automobile brought many new problems to the Association owing to the utter lack of laws covering self propelled vehicles. The open road belonged to the people and the shores of an azure lake nearby were irresistible. There were times when one had only to raise one's eyes to see on the lawn several generations disporting themselves while still others refreshed themselves in the cooling waters which beat upon the shores of privately owned property. Legal action needed to be speeded up. The Association called a meeting at the Pine Lake Country Club for members and their husbands to discuss the feasibility of securing through the Supervisor a Public Park, including a lake, that the week-end crowd might be directed to a definite place. At this meeting Messrs. Pelletier, Frederick Strong, Howard Bloomer, Frank Callender and Charles Lohrman were asked to petition the Supervisor to consider the purchase of land in Oakland County to be used as a public park.

This we believe was one of the first moves in the State toward a system of parks which today *is* State wide. Mr. Gilbraith, a personality of no mean measurements

in the motor world, was asked to support and assist on the legal aspect, and gave the plan generous assistance. Gov. Groesbeck was deeply interested and lent a listening ear to this embryonic plan conjured up by a women's organization, offering to lend us the State Park Commissioner to go along on a site-searching committee of five men and women, this committee to report in the spring of nineteen twenty-two.

In the very early spring before thoughts began to trek towards the open country, it was proposed that the Constitution under which we were working be revamped. Amendments were added and more recently there has been the need to again add amendment to meet the changing times.

It was thought wise to bring some pressure on the authorities to name and mark the township roads, which in some cases bore the name of a resident living on that road. It was not until Nineteen hundred twenty-eight when the newly incorporated Village of Orchard Lake posted its roads, that the Countryside adopted the same type of road signs, thereby giving a uniformity to all the road signs in this area. Mrs. Pelletier this year took the chairmanship of the patrol work and raised by private subscription an amount to pay five deputies, buy their uniforms and pay a bonding fee of ten dollars each. A crusade against advertising signs on trees and fences along the highway was undertaken and we learned that there is a law forbidding posting signs on trees.

The committee which had been asked to report on the Park sites was now asked by Governor Groesbeck to co-operate with the State Committee on Park sites which had at this time three locations under consideration on Straits, Sylvan and Union Lakes. At the close of this year the treasurer reported seventeen hundred dollars and bonds in the treasury and one thousand dollars additional raised for deputies fund.

The following year the problem of State Parks in widely scattered areas throughout Michigan had been completely covered by those two outstanding gifts from the Dodge Brothers and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bloomer of our own community. It is enthusiastically conceded that no gift could have been more timely.

## 1923

The twelfth year of our organization, it was borne in on our consciousness that the boys and girls of nineteen hundred and eleven had grown up and wanted to go places. A plan for a junior membership was adopted and Miss Grindley, now Mrs. Grosvenor Campbell, was made Chairman. The Fourth of July always a rallying date for young people was kept in true American fashion with fire works at the

Club house supplemented by a water fete passing in review off the club point and a boat race on Orchard Lake which was great fun as the Countryside members viewed it from the balcony of their new club house, a gracious gesture of Mr. Willis Ward to a group of women who really wanted a place in the sun. On July fourteenth, there was a formal opening and you may have one guess as to whom, with all kinds of handicaps of service and serving seated two long tables of hungry folks to a delicious and abundant supper. With the acquisition of the new club house the Junior group enjoyed many dances and card parties.

From time to time the question has arisen as to our being incorporated. There had been letters between the Secretary of State and our own Secretary and in this year it seemed to be definitely settled as we find this notation "It is decided not to incorporate after having read by our Secretary a letter from the Secretary of State." The second season in the Club house on Orchard Lake opened June eighteenth. It was decided not to sub-let the building as had been done to certified people the year previous but limit its use to the Countryside and the Junior group. One of our major problems seemed to be getting out of hand again, the necessity for patrol duty around the lakes. The overlapping of just what was the County's responsibility under the Sheriff and local enforcement under the Supervisor brought about much talk and high words from the politician. The Supervisor said "he would patrol the lake roads with his men" and the Sheriff of Oakland County stoutly maintained "that it was his duty to enforce the law in the County and make arrests." Mr. Brown of the Oakland County Automobile Club and Mr. Jackson of the Lansing Bureau also had speaking parts in the "Comedy of Errors." As we find no more notes we must have gone blithely on our way and kept the peace.

## 1924

The fall of Nineteen hundred and twenty-four we hear the first mention of the Flower Show as a part of our program. The Juniors had been dancing down the Primrose Path to the Club house for two seasons. There were few Country Clubs, no cocktail bars, wayside dance halls or so called "gardens" burgeoning with electric lights and fleecy like hangings to serve a purpose. What the Association offered was sufficient for the time and the place.

The State Parks in Oakland County had become well known through the Press, the Conservation Department and interested friends. Signs and directions were along the highways, equipment, stoves, benches and rest rooms had been set up in the parks and the weekenders found a pleasant place by the side of the road. The members of the Countryside voted that it was high time for them to journey hither and enjoy a day at one of these parks which they had so earnestly espoused. Mr. Bloomer was invited to foregather with the members on July sixteenth at the State

Park at Rochester overlooking that peaceful valley. From the hillside park one realized what a splendid work had been done in preserving for all time for all people this scenic spot.

We were becoming Garden Club conscious as competitive shows were being held in the larger centers and amateur growers were in our midst and membership. Our first show was in the garden of Mrs. Ben Marks, Pine Lake. There was a generous response from members and friends and the gardens afforded a delightful setting. There was also held the life saving cake sale.

Repeated rumors that the D.U.R. was about to abandon its trolley line to the lakes gave birth to the idea that if approached in a tactful way, we might induce the Corporation to square matters with the Countryside by donating the very well built Station at Pine Lake to the organization for a Club house. The Secretary wrote but that letter must still be on the table where it is covered up with defaulted bonds.

## 1928

The coming of another year and the memories which survived the winter of the first Flower Show gave the impetus to the Spring flower market. This was held at Mr. Ward's boat house which was still the Association Club house. A banner was stretched across the roadway and a group of gaily dressed flower-laden members standing alongside of the road holding up the passing motorists netted the Association Fifty Dollars that pleasant Saturday afternoon.

There had been frequent discussions on the naming of the roads in the newly incorporated Village of Orchard Lake. Many of the members were property owners in the Village and felt that considerable thought ought to be given to the naming of the roads that had been designated as "the road that turns at the white house at the corner" or take the road that "branches off where the twin elms are." In the Secretary's report of nineteen hundred and twenty-eight, we find this recommendation: "To the Village Commissioners of Orchard Lake: It is recommended by the Countryside Improvement Association that the road between the Walled Lake Road and the Scotch School House be named Old Orchard Trail, and the road from Orchard Lake to Commerce Road, Old Orchard Trail East, also the road known as 'Elm' be changed to 'Willow Lane' and the road passing to Mrs. Fenkers as 'Elm Gate'." It is pleasant to note that some of these names were accepted by the Commissioners and the Countryside received recognition and had a definite part in an enduring record.

Having solved all the major problems, the Association became conscious of its own doorstep again and set in motion household machinery to clean up. The

eigtheenth amendment had not been repealed and there was ample evidence that law breakers were not far away, as there was plenty of suspicion but no convicting proof. The co-operation of the constabulary had a certain potency and the guilty knew we had their number and *would* prosecute if they became too flagrant in breaking the law.

To keep our treasury reimbursed the Association held numerous bake sales and bridge parties through the summer. An added zest was given to our regular meetings by having them held in new and attractive places, Dearborn Inn, Green Lake Country Club, Show Boat on Grosse Isle, Rotunda Inn, and in the early spring at the City Club. One delightful summer's day in nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Claude King, Mrs. Satterthwaite and Mrs. Allen King were hostesses at the Island home of Miss Campbell, and Skipper John Law, (now Dr. John Law) sailed the more venturesome ones to the island and others rowed across the lake. Thirty daring voyagers stepped ashore and had soon forgotten the perilous voyage in the delicious luncheon served in Miss Campbell's island home where the traditional songs and stories of Oakland County have resounded down the years.

## Depression

At the end of the year nineteen hundred and thirty we were absorbed in a localized relief work endeavoring to meet in a substantial way distress in our Township, members bringing money, clothing and food to our Welfare Committee for distribution. Industrial workers' families were in great need pending the coordination of County, State and Federal agencies. The drain on the Township purse was more than it could meet. The Association set up headquarters in Keego Harbor where those in distress could have immediate help Medical attention, food, clothes and limited financial assistance.

Teachers felt that small children were not having enough food for proper nourishment. The Association contributed ten dollars a month to a milk fund and further set aside a sum for maternity cases of which there seemed to be many imminent. Enough praise cannot be given to the committee who watched over this work through several winters and eased the way for many, many families.

With the closing of the banks and the need for ready money to meet our Welfare work, the Treasurer had her ZERO hour. We mulled along on a small cash reserve and membership dues hoping that the bank situation would clear up. Obviously, we survived but the lean years were not over. The harvest was bountiful as in previous years but two years without money left little or no reserve. The West Bloomfield welfare called a meeting to devise ways and means of utilizing the perishable

products from the farms. It was decided to interest the women of the Township to carry on a canning center in the West Bloomfield Town Hall which had some facilities for cooking and accommodations for a group of workers, quantities of garden produce were forthcoming, most of the sugar was donated and to look into the store room it would seem that all of West Bloomfield might have jam, pickles and other products. Three thousand cans piled up on the shelves to be requisitioned in the winter, each worker receiving her quota. Again, our women put their shoulder to the wheel as in pioneer days and pulled together.

The economic insecurity had touched our organization and made us conscious that only those things were secure that were not corrupted by "moth and rust." Now, as never before, were opportunities for making investments in the Youth of our country who must carry forward the torch of enlightenment in the coming years and with that thought we reached out our hands again to ease the way for one who still was going upwards. The war bonds which had fulfilled their purpose might be made to do a more satisfying thing than paying a minimum interest. There was a wide field of languishing projects, social service, Red Cross, Welfare, and trooping down through our more intimate circle came a group of wide-eyed wondering boys and girls who never dreamed that they would have to come home from college and "look for a job to help dad out." A committee gave all these projects serious consideration, finally choosing the "Student Loan" which seemed to meet with the approval of the membership. The Association is sending its sixth student to College this fall. Some have been full loans covering all expenses, and others wanting only small loans to carry them over until earnings returned. This Committee has taken their responsibility seriously choosing the applicants who seemed ambitious and sincere.

It had been several years since the Association had sponsored an honest to goodness show where everyone had a part and had to make good. The personnel has superb rallying powers and everyone helped to put over the tenth Annual Flower Show. The setting for the display of flowers in silver and black was perfect and the gardens of West Wind Farms again made pleasant places in which to go. Other diversions made the afternoon all too brief; the floral arrangements and the specimen blooms were equal to a professional show, so said the judges who had judged at many shows. Bridge, games of chance and in the cool of the evening, a delicious supper.

The Michigan Horticulture Society awarded their Certificate of Recognition to the most outstanding exhibit and the following spring the Association was invited to participate in the North American Flower Show at Convention Hall. We are indebted to one of our members who sent in the name of the organization an arrangement of Claudius Pernet roses.



## 1933 - 1936

Early in April of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, three of the members sat in at the Council of Highway Beautification at Lansing. Prof. Edward C. Goddard of the University of Michigan was chairman. Members of the Conservation and Highway Departments spoke of the scenic value of unknown areas in Michigan awaiting development and also closer in locations that were ready for beautification. The Huron River project near Ann Arbor already had made considerable progress under the guidance of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan. When finished it will be a fine tribute to the women who had sponsored the project. There are many beauty spots nearby which might be improved under the magic hand of a landscape artist.

During the summer months there have always been numerous social activities, members entertaining at bridge, musicales, movies of wild life, flora and fauna of Michigan. A visit to Pewabic potteries as the guest of Mrs. Stratton was of unusual interest. Miss Gillette has also made us more appreciative of the beauty of our own State. Having been Park minded in the earlier days we certainly endorse the development of these areas for future generations and for the State of Michigan.

The activities of nineteen hundred thirty-five and nineteen hundred thirty-six seem to be eclipsed by the strenuous years of the depression from which we are just emerging. No group was eager to promote an entertainment for the larger public aside from the usual bridge parties, bake sales and specialized speakers at regular meetings. This inertia was undoubtedly an aftermath of taut nerves and new economic conditions.

We are facing a new program for our organization. Our State and County commissions are carrying much of the earlier work and committees have been released for other activities. These activities should be of a constructive and permanent nature if we are to go on in our contribution to create "a better place in which to live."

These few pages obviously make no record of hours upon hours of devotion to a purpose by this group of busy women, each carrying forward her own appointed task and sharing with her neighbor for a larger beneficence the duties of citizenship.

By precept and practice to set an example for those who would destroy and holding to their appointed task those who serve us.

IN MEMORIAM

As we come to the first turn of the road with new vistas just beyond, let us look back and recall to our hearts the memory of those splendid women who no longer meet with us but whose valiant and unselfish lives are still a living factor in our midst.

*"So they pass from stage to stage, along the shining course  
Of that bright river, broadening like a sea,  
As its smooth eddies curl along their way,  
They bring old friends together.*

BRYANT.

*Privately printed by  
The Countryside Improvement Association  
of  
Orchard and Pine Lakes*

<b>A</b>	
advertising signs	
law against .....	12
Apple Island	
bridge parties on.....	15
<b>B</b>	
back seat drivers .....	6
Bloomer, Howard .....	11
park land.....	12
Booth, George	
loaned school .....	10
<b>C</b>	
Callender, Frank .....	11
Campbell, Caroline	
dedicated marker .....	8
hosted party on island .....	15
canning	
center organized .....	9
trained by Home Economics graduate .....	9
club house	
donated by Willis Ward .....	13
Spring flower market .....	14
Countryside Association	
boat lighting .....	5
bought road drag .....	5
first meeting .....	3
Couzens, Senator .....	7
<b>D</b>	
D.U.R.....	4
letters sent .....	4
rumor about closing .....	14
depression .....	17
relied efforts .....	15
Dodge Brothers	
park land.....	12
<b>F</b>	
Flanders Farm	
dispersal sale at .....	9
Fox Trot.....	6
Free Press Fresh Air Camp	
donated mess hall .....	10
donated money .....	8
<b>G</b>	
Gamble, Roy	
cover design .....	7
<b>H</b>	
Hesitation Waltz .....	6
Humphrey Hall	
mess hall.....	10

<b>K</b>	
Kahn, Albert	
donated plans .....	10
Keego Harbor	
headquarters for depression relief .....	15
<b>L</b>	
Leggett, Tom	
donated boulder.....	8
Lohrman, Charles .....	11
Lynch, James	
speaks on public parks .....	11
<b>N</b>	
National Fruit and Flower Guild.....	6
Noble, A.D., Mrs.	
Vice-President .....	3
<b>O</b>	
Oakland County	
Centenary .....	7
Oakland County Automobile Club .....	13
Orchard Lake Road	
pouring oil.....	5
toll gates .....	4
<b>P</b>	
Path Master.....	4
office of.....	5
Pelletier.....	11
Pewabic	
visit to .....	17
Pine Lake Country Club	
dance held .....	6
meeting called at .....	3
public park meeting.....	11
Pontiac, Chief	
bronze table on Orchard Lake .....	8
power boats	
must carry lights.....	5
private school	
Woodward Avenue .....	10
prohibition	
law breakers .....	15
public park.....	11
<b>R</b>	
reckless driving	
control .....	4
roads	
naming .....	12, 14
Rotunda Inn .....	15
Russian dancers .....	7
<b>S</b>	
Seminary	

meetings held at .....	9
Skae, Edward A., Mrs.	
association president .....	5
presented marker .....	8
Treasurer .....	3
Social dances .....	6
Stoddard, Edward W., Mrs.	
President.....	3
temporary chairman .....	3
Strong, Frederick	
meeting for public parks .....	11
<b>T</b>	
Tango.....	6
toll gates	
stand at to solicit funds.....	5
two on Orchard Lake Road .....	4
two on Woodward Ave. ....	4
<b>V</b>	
Vigilant Committee	
D.U.R. lights and bells .....	11

duties growing.....	4
original committee .....	4
<b>W</b>	
war effort	
Comfort Bags sent.....	9
fine stock sale.....	9
Ward, Willis	
donates club house .....	13
donates gravel .....	5
West Bloomfield Town Hall	
depression era canning center .....	16
West Wind Farms	
flower show.....	16
gardens .....	7
Wiggin, Kate Douglas	
article by.....	3
letter to organizer .....	3
Woodward Avenue	
improvements.....	6
private school .....	10