



A CENTURY OF TRADITIONS

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
OF
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SOCIAL CLUB

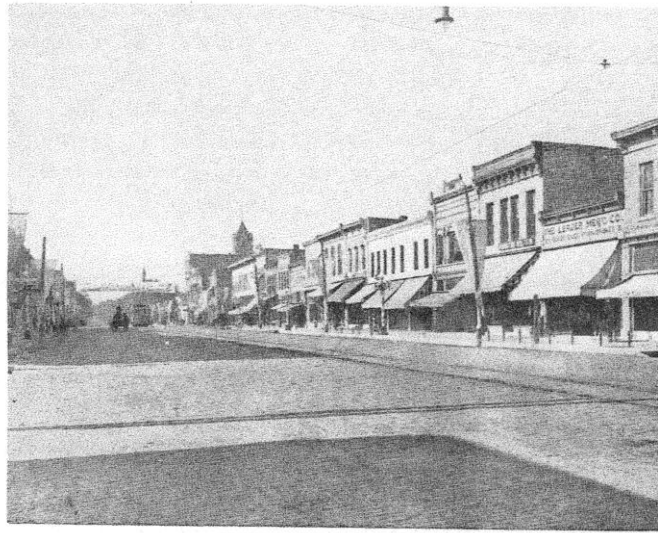
Acknowledgments:

Kansas State University Social Club expresses its sincere appreciation to Kansas State University Archives and Libraries for their invaluable assistance.

We also extend our gratitude to Rae Stamey (1967-68 Social Club President); Nancy Prawl, Historian (1996-97 President); and Program Co-Chairs Katherine Hasler and Carol Oukrop (President 2008-09) for the countless hours of research in the preparation of this presentation.

This program was originally presented as a PowerPoint at the Kansas State University Social Club's Centennial Luncheon on November 1, 2011, at the Manhattan Country Club. Please note it has been edited and reformatted from originally presented for display purposes on Kansas State University Social Club's website (www.k-state.edu/socialclub).

MANHATTAN 1911



Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan looked like this as this chapter began. The trolley rails occupied the center of the street, traffic was scarce and horse-drawn (with a few exceptions) and this sign was posted at each entrance to the community:

What was Manhattan like in 1911, the year when the Kansas State University Social Club was created? This is Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan, Kansas, in 1911. There were trolley rails in the center of the street. Traffic was scarce, mostly horse drawn , and this sign was posted at each entrance to the community.

MANHATTAN

- ◎POPULATION: 10,000 including students
- ◎STUDENTS: 3,000
- ◎INSTRUCTORS: 200
- ◎COURSES: 15

There were no paved streets and there were maybe half a dozen cars in town - none of them owned by Kansas State Agricultural College faculty. Some faculty owned horse-drawn carriages and there was a horse-drawn "hack" that could be hired to drive ladies to teas and card parties.



The Trolley ran at 15-minute intervals from Poyntz Avenue to the campus. In 1911, *The Industrialist* reported that there were 2,335 students enrolled in the Agricultural college. Nearly 80% of them came from farm homes and 75% of these would go back to those homes.



Mrs. Margaret Waters

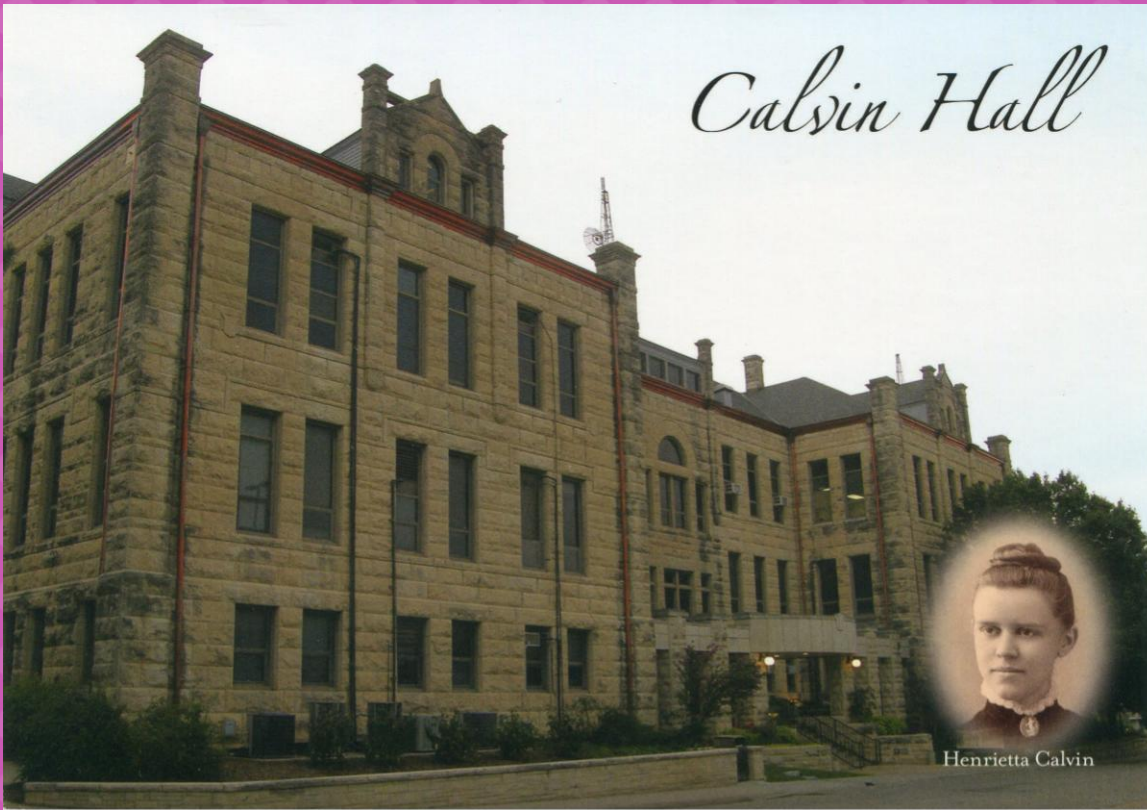
In 1911, Mrs. Henry Jackson Waters was the wife of the man serving in his third year as the sixth president of Kansas State Agricultural College. Margaret Waters was a delightful southern lady, always becomingly dressed and gracious, hospitable and friendly. She always called her husband “Darling,” which had not yet come into common daily usage. She rode in her electric car with “Darling” at the controls while she bowed and waved to friends. The faculty was growing larger and it was increasingly difficult for faculty families to get acquainted. On November 15, 1911, Mrs. Waters called together a group of wives of department heads to discuss forming an organization for faculty women and faculty wives. “The object to be a social one, enabling the women to become better acquainted.”



Mrs. Mary Pierce Van Zile

Mrs. Mary Pierce Van Zile, Dean of the Division of Domestic Science and Art, presided. The group decided to hold the first meeting in one of the newest college buildings, the Domestic Science and Art Building, which was completed in 1908.

Calvin Hall



It was later renamed Calvin Hall in honor of Henrietta Calvin, the administrator of Domestic Science and Art from 1903-1908. This picture is on a postcard that is currently available. The Art rooms on the second floor were suitable for entertaining. Letters were sent to all prospective members explaining the plan and closing with “It is hoped that you will be present and join the circle”. Dues were \$1 and there were 81 members that first year.

Kansas State Agricultural College
Social Club

1924

1925

Meetings: Second Monday of each month
in Recreation Hall, at 3 p. m.

Yearbooks

“Calling Cards”

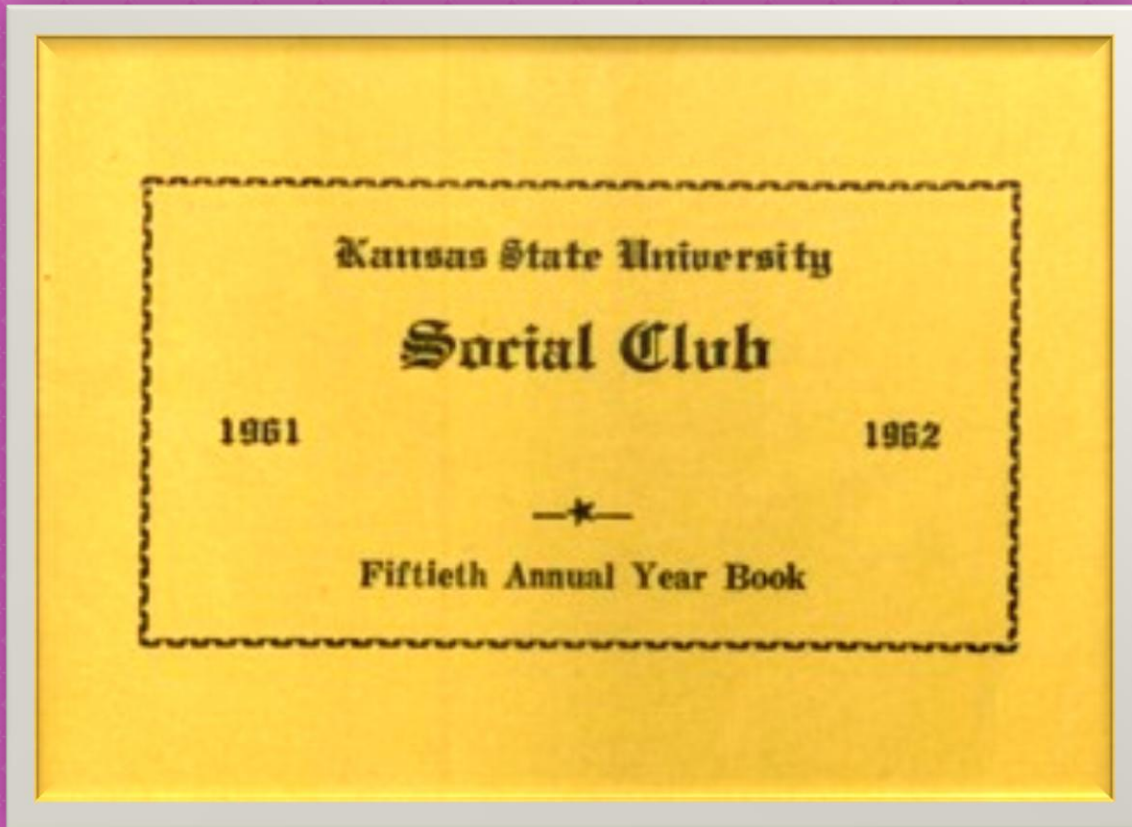
KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Social Club

2011 – 2012 Membership

Celebrating 100 Years

The next year a “calling list” similar to the one shown here, was printed for distribution at the first meeting. The list contained the names of all women eligible for membership. This list printed was small in size, as it was designed to fit into a case that held engraved calling cards. It was common practice in those days to call on ladies during certain hours to present regards and to leave one’s calling card. It was noted in 1925 that Mrs. Farrell was “at home” on Friday afternoons to receive friends that wished to call. A format similar to the calling list is used today. It is now larger, and is called the Yearbook and includes only names of members, officers, and committee chairs, as well as a listing of interest groups, programs and special events.



Previous celebrations for significant anniversaries have been celebrated in various ways. The 50th anniversary was celebrated with a dinner dance, with golden lyres and goblets containing orchids centering the tables and the college glee club and a group of Girl Scouts entertaining at intermission. The yearbook appeared with a gold cover.



SIX DECADES in the history of Kansas State University Social Club were represented by members of the club at the fall luncheon Thursday. This group included, left to right, back row, Karla Ketch, Station KSAC, narrator; Mrs. Boyd Brainard; Mrs. John Helm; Mrs. T. M. Evans. Front, l to r, Mrs. F. W. Bell; Mrs. Edwin Holton and Mrs. A. L. Clapp.

KSU Social Club reviews 50 years

The KSU Social Club launched its students on their appearance and

In 1970, at a meeting to launch the Club's sixth decade, Karla Ketch from KSAC interviewed six past presidents representing the club's six decades.



Staff photo

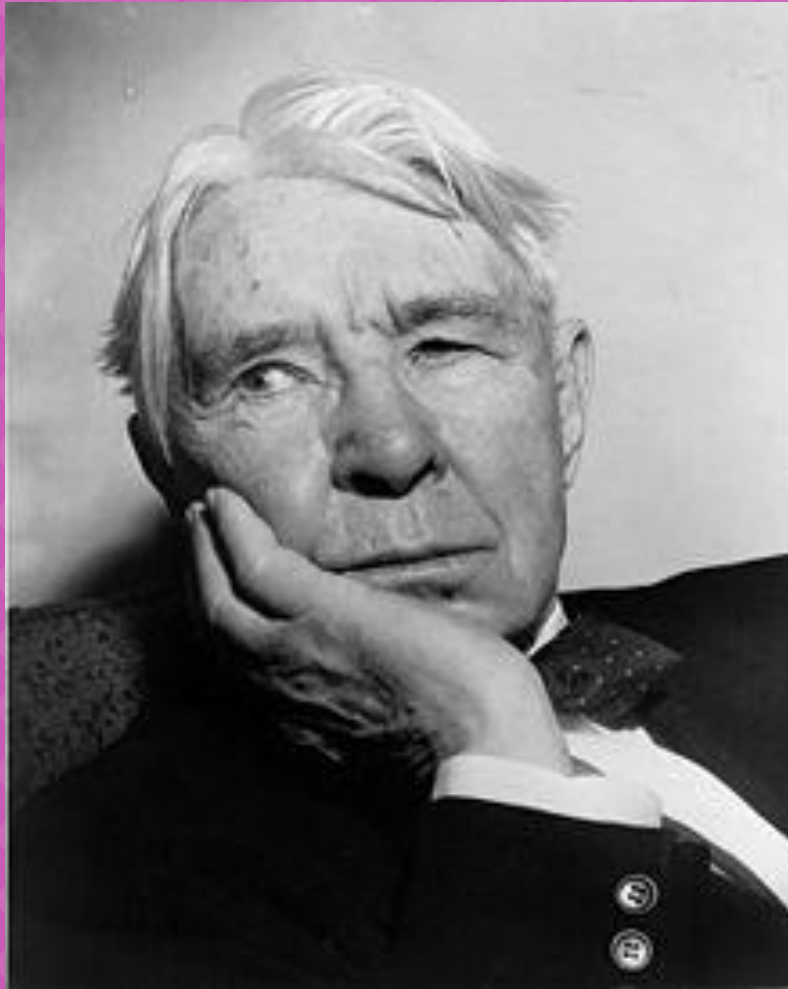
Kay Weigel was one KSU Social Club past president lighting candles on cake Wednesday.

Diamonds to club members

The 75th celebration program began with a luncheon followed by a parade of fashions from the Club's beginning. Ladies modeled historically appropriate clothing and songs of the period were performed. Kay Weigel, a Past President who was pictured lighting candles on the 75th birthday cake, remembers taking the day off from her teaching for the celebration.



That yearbook had a silver cover. These programs were not condensed into a lunch hour. For most of the history of the Social Club many of the members did not hold full time jobs outside of the home, and longer and more varied programs were possible. Events were planned for a morning, an afternoon, or an evening, sometimes a whole day.



Just a few examples – In May 1914, the Club planned a picnic supper on campus. In 1921, the Club brought in poet Carl Sandburg for a lecture recital, adding to the cultural life of the college.

Daniel Hobson
Staff Writer

When the Kansas State University Social Club was founded about 90 years ago, membership was mandatory for faculty members' wives.

But the club has long-since shed its early image, and is looking for more university faculty and staff members to take part.

"People think we're a sorority and all we do is eat and visit each other," said Harriette Janke, the club president.

The club actually is a way for university workers and their spouses to get acquainted with other university workers through the many lecture meetings and classes it offers, said Arlene Hopkins, a co-historian with the club.

The club is open to administrative officers and assistants, faculty members of the rank of instructor or above, visiting professors, Regents professors, post-doctorates, commissioned officers in the military science and aerospace departments, the director and assistant director of athletics, coaches and assistant coaches, government personnel working in conjunction with the university, and former faculty members.

Although hundreds of people are eligible to be members, the club averages only about 250, said Hopkins, who has been a member for 25 years.

At the beginning of the fall semester every year, the club mails invitations to about 1,800 people who are eligible, Hopkins said.

"We try hard to get the invitations out to all of the eligible faculty," Janke said, and if these people check their mail, they must know the club exists.

From October through April 2002, the club will have three luncheons and three dinners under the theme of "Stress ... Bringing People Together." K-State faculty as well as other speakers present lectures during these meetings. This year the subjects range from women's clubs in Kansas to the Santa Fe Trail.

In addition to these scheduled meetings, the club also offers meetings that range from book discussion and creative cooking, to learning how to preserve photographs and playing bridge.

"The organization is here to bring people together from

different departments on campus — from chemical to cooking," Janke said.

The club has a storied past — from bringing poet Carl Sandburg to the university in the early 1920s, to providing scholarships to today's K-State students — and both Janke and Hopkins said they'd like the club to keep going as long as the university operates.

But to keep it going, the club is looking for more people to join. Invitations were mailed Tuesday, and on Sept. 17 the club will have a newcomers meeting at the Manhattan Arts Center.

For more information on the K-State Social Club, contact Janke at ahjank@ksu.edu.

You can reach Daniel Hobson by phone at 776-2300, ext. 248, or by e-mail at dhobson@themercury.com



About that same time a meeting featured eight members of the Club singing excerpts from Aida. Two of the singers were charter members of the Club - second and third from the left, Mrs. George Dean and Mrs. F. F. Frazier. At the December program in 1926, 70 faculty children under five years of age were present, and the program was lullabies from different nations sung by members in costume.

February

Evening party - February 3, 1934.

College Social Club

The college faculty men are to be guests of the College Social club. Saturday evening. The guests will be received at 8:15 by President and Mrs. F. D. Farrell, Vice President and Mrs. J. T. Willard, and Colonel and Mrs. J. S. Sullivan. A short program given by members of Orchesis society, directed by Miss Janet Wood, will permit a long evening of dancing to a six-piece orchestra and playing of contract. Nineteen paintings by nineteen well-known mid-western men have been collected by the Kansas State Federation of Art. These paintings will have their opening exhibition at this meeting of the Social club. Among this group are the following outstanding Kansas artists: John Steuart Curry, Henry Varnum Poor, Birger Sandzen, Ed Davison, and Kenneth Adams. The refreshment committee includes: Mrs. F. W. Bell, Mrs. Frank Blecha, Mrs. H. W. Cave, Miss Hilda Grossman, Mrs. R. G. Kloeffler, Mrs. H. H. Myrsh, Mrs. Ruth Heckler, Mrs. H. P. Fellows, Miss Thirza Mossman, Miss Alpha Latzke, Mrs. F. H. Lienhardt, Mrs. D. A. Willbur, Mrs. J. H. Parker, Mrs. H. M. Heberer, Mrs. L. E. Melchers, Mrs. C. D. Davis, Mrs. J. C. Peterson, Mrs. E. B. Wells, Mrs. R. W. Conover, Mrs. W. H. Martin. The social committee consists of: Mrs. W. B. Balch, Miss Dorothy Barfoot, Mrs. B. B. Brainard, Mrs. Helen Fisher, Mrs. M. W. Furr, Mrs. W. E. Grimes, Mrs. H. H. Havmaker, Mrs. Harold Howe, Miss Martha Kramer, Mrs. Frank Myers, Miss Ruth Tucker, Miss Le Velle Wood.

Early on (in 1912) the Club began evening meetings with faculty men as guests. Evening meetings included dancing, art shows, card playing and games such as bridge and canasta. This clipping from 1934 tells us that "a short program given by members of Orchesis society...will permit a long evening of dancing to a six-piece orchestra." Note that the orchestra was paid \$25, refreshments and flowers came to \$31.96, and invitations and prizes cost \$5.03.

For Orchestra - \$25.00

Refreshments & flowers - \$31.96

Invitations & prizes, etc - \$5.03

Fee for Art Exhibit - \$5.00

Often a year's programs featured a style show. Out of town trips were not uncommon. For example, in 1984, the club sponsored "A Fun Trip to Kansas City for Lunch and Theater". We can't begin to do justice in our short program to the variety, the fun, the interest, the elegance, and the sophistication of Social Club programs and events over the years.



Arts & Leisure

THE MANHATTAN MERCURY

SUNDAY

At one time, it was for

Ladies only

The K-State social club has changed a lot over the years



All photographs courtesy KSU archives

Above: Members of the Kansas State University Social Club, from left to right, Mrs. Vernon Larson, Mrs. Donald Ameel and Mrs. J.E. Mosier sample refreshments at the club's Christmas tea in 1969. During its early years, membership in the club was mandatory for faculty wives.

Below: The all-female cast of *Aida* performed during a club meeting. No date is known for the picture.

Right: Members and children mounted the runway during the spring tea and fashion show in 1970. The club has evolved and now is open to a much wider membership on campus.

Meetings were often quite formal, with wonderful centerpieces and decorations.

Meeting Places: The Club's first regular meeting place was the Domestic Science and Art Building, later named Calvin Hall. Meetings were held there from 1911 to 1920. In 1920-21, the chapel in Anderson Hall was remodeled into a Recreation Center, which had a small kitchen, and the Club met there for the next 35 years. Members did a lot of serving and dishwashing there. In 1950 with dues up to \$1.50 and more than 500 members, the Club's budget allowed for kitchen help and life was good for the refreshment committees. The Social Club moved its meetings to the Union Ballroom in March of 1956 and the Social Club refreshments committee was no longer responsible for serving and cleanup. Later, as parking on campus became more of a problem, the Club began meeting elsewhere, more often at the Manhattan Country Club.

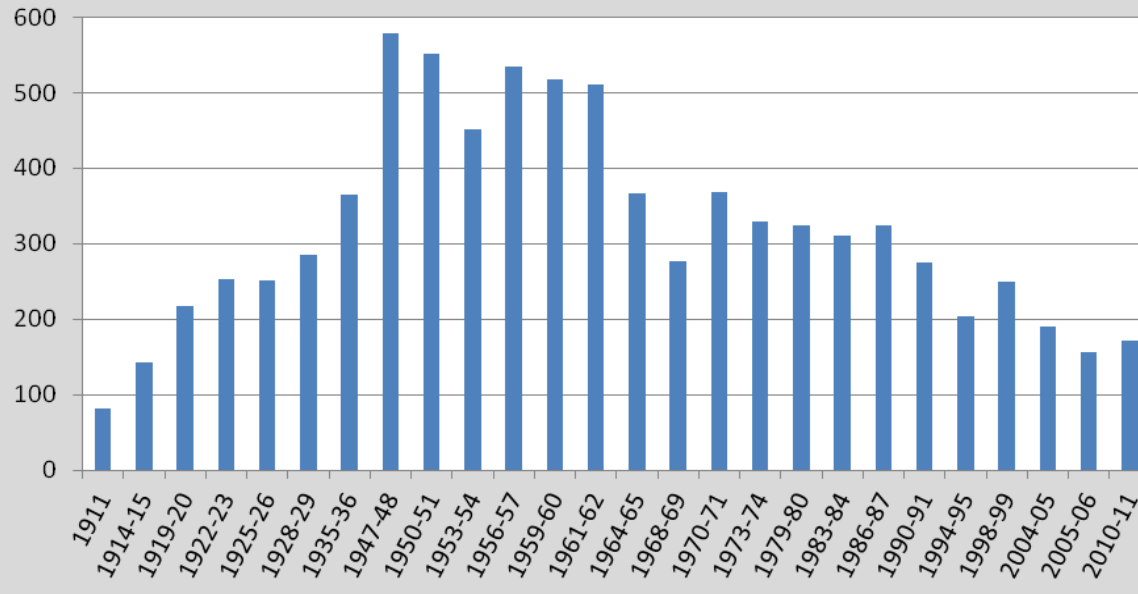
While meeting in the Recreation Center in Anderson Hall, the Club bought dishes, so they would no longer have to rent them from Duckwalls. Those dishes were later sold for \$25 for use in the East Stadium. In 1948, the Club purchased elegant Syracuse China, Selma pattern, for \$660. After the Club began meeting in the Union, the china was sold to the college at half price for dormitory use - sort of sad for the older members. In 1925, the Club bought its first silver tea service for \$74, adding silver candlesticks, trays, coffee pots, serving utensils, nut dishes, and other items over the years.





The Club's silver is now displayed in the memento room in the Alumni Center.

Kansas State University Social Club Membership



Membership: Has varied considerably, from 81 in 1911 through a high of 578 in 1947-48 to more recent memberships of fewer than 200. In the 1940s, 1950s and into the 1960s the Club had memberships in the four hundreds and five hundreds. The numbers reflect societal change, technological change, change in administrative support and other factors. In the early years, the college president expected deans to urge faculty wives and faculty women to become members. The wives of department heads collected dues from wives of faculty in their departments and often accompanied those new members to their first meeting. Mrs. Elmer Heyne (Marjorie) who arrived at K-State as a new bride in 1938, remembers that officers of the Club called on her at different times to invite her to join Social Club and they left calling cards. Mrs. Heyne has been a member of the Social Club for 73 years.

As early as 1916 newcomers were recognized at the first meeting of the year. A Newcomers Club was established in 1931 and was an important part of the Social Club for decades. It became customary to have the newcomers in receiving line at that first meeting. By 1938-39 new procedures had to be developed; 45 new members in the receiving line was simply too unwieldy. New members were seated in the front rows and were introduced by the heads of their departments. We still love to recognize new members, but the numbers are much smaller. On October 13, 1975, because of Title IX, the Club voted to admit men to membership.

Interest groups have also been an important part of the Social Club over the years, furnishing yet another way for members to get acquainted. Subjects have varied among them antiques, gardening, needlecraft, square dancing, swimming, gourmet cooking, and wine tasting. A common and lasting interest has been bridge.

Dues and Philanthropy: Membership in the club has always been a bargain. Dues were set at \$1 in 1911 and remained \$1 until 1945 when they went up to \$1.50 and that's where they stayed for 10 years. Dues went up to \$2 in 1955 to \$3 in 1959 and from \$3 to \$5 in 1961. They went to \$10 in 1976 where they stayed for almost 30 years. Dues were raised to \$15 or \$25 for couples in 2005-06.



CURTAIN FUND GROWS—Largest single contribution to date to the Kansas State University "Cats for Curtains" fund was \$500 received from the University Social Club, according to Kenneth M. Heywood, director of endowment and development. Here Mrs. George H. Larson, club president, presents the check to Mode Johnson, senior from El Dorado and chairman of the student "Cats for Curtains" committee. Heywood looks on at left. The "Cats for Curtains" fund was established shortly after the old auditorium burned last year. Contributions will be used to buy curtains for the stage of the proposed new auditorium.

The Club has had many philanthropic projects over the years, beginning with a \$25 donation to the Belgian Relief fund in 1914. A student loan fund for women in their senior year was started in 1915. Between that time and 1941, 185 students received loans totaling \$17,136. A few other examples include “adopting” a French war orphan in 1918 at a cost of \$36.50, furnishing a recreation room for the soldiers at Fort Riley in 1942, raising funds for women’s residence halls, giving a gift of \$600 for a grand piano for the Student Union in 1955-56, and donating the largest single contribution to date...to the Cats for Curtains fund in 1968. This photo shows Mode Johnson receiving the Social Club check from Mrs. George Larson. Ken Haywood looks on.

Currently the Social Club awards four scholarships totaling \$1,750 each year.

The wives of the Kansas State University presidents have played important roles in the history of the Social Club. Margaret Waters, First Lady 1909-17, founded the Club and served on the executive committee. She was followed by this pretty lady Effie Lane Jardine who was First Lady 1918-25 .



Effie Lane Jardine 1918-25

Mildred Leona Farrell was first lady 1925-43. In 1931, the Club decided to try a plan used at some other colleges - the wife of the college president was to serve as permanent President of the Social Club with the dean of women as Vice President. Under this plan Mrs. Farrell served as President of the Social Club for 12 years.



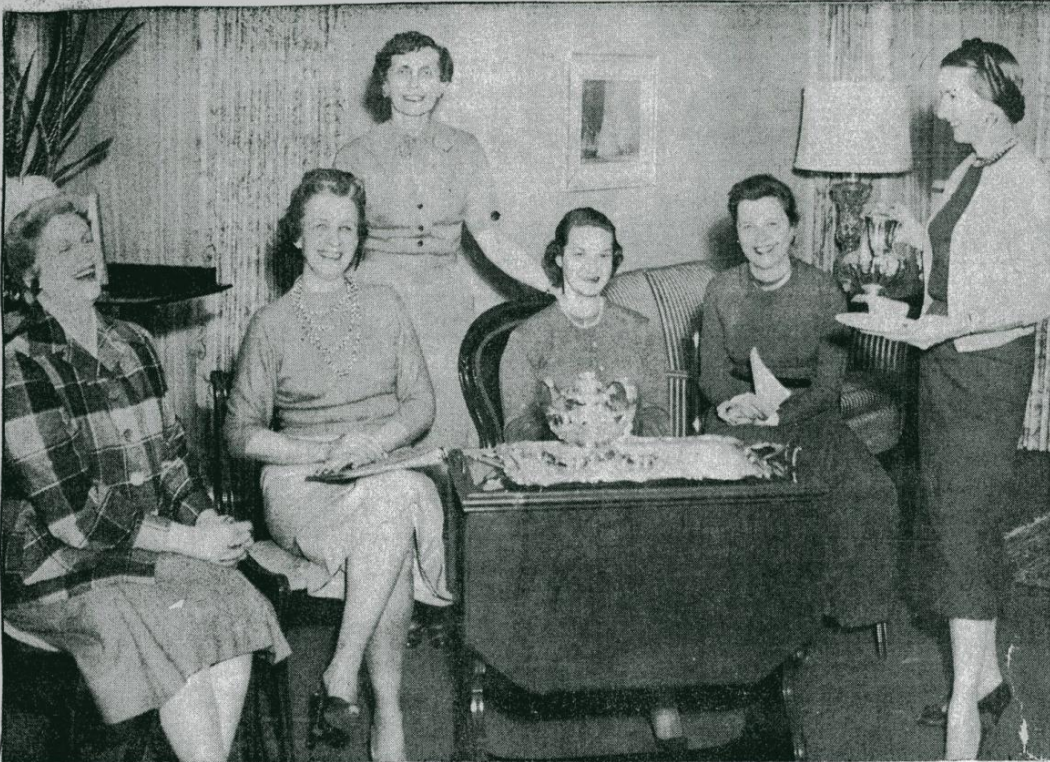
Mildred Leona Farrell 1925-43

Helen Eisenhower then served for three years under the same plan. The plan was discontinued in 1946. Subsequent wives of KSAC and KSU presidents have been a vital part of the Social Club serving as Honorary Presidents, and have supported the Club's many activities.



Helen Eisenhower

For example Janet McCain, who was the First Lady from 1950-75, entertained outgoing and new officers at an afternoon tea in the President's home each year.



A CUP OF COFFEE for members of the College Social Club executive board members concluded their meeting Tuesday morning at the home of Mrs. James A. McCain on the campus. Left to right sitting, Mrs. Max Milbourn, Mrs. Joe Nate Wood, Mrs. Kenneth Thomas, Mrs. James Carey; Mrs. Earl Hoover, standing and Mrs.

McCain, pouring the coffee. Final plans for the February 10 dinner meeting for the College Social Club at the Student Union were made by the group. All reservations for the dinner are to be in by this evening.



Janet McCain
1950-75



Honorary President
and First Lady
Shirley Acker 1975-86

Shirley Acker was followed by Ruth Ann Wefald who was honorary President and K-State First Lady from 1986-2009. We thank Ruth Ann for her help attendance at the Centennial luncheon and support all those years when she was Kansas State First Lady.



Honorary President
Ruth Ann Wefald
1986-2009

We also recognize Dr. Noel Schultz, who became First Lady at Kansas State University in September 2009. Dr. Schultz continues in the long tradition of supporting the Social Club as she will be hosting a Centennial Tea in her home on Nov. 4th.

More information about the K-State First Ladies can be found on Rae Stamey's poster at the display table. Their lives are also highlighted in the book "Land Grant Ladies: Kansas State University Presidential Wives" by Michaeline Chance-Reay. A copy of that book is also on the display table.

Since getting acquainted and making friends is such an integral part of our organization, we were honored to hear the recollections of a lady who has been active in the Social Club for 58 years. Rae Stamey came to Manhattan in 1953 and became deeply involved in the Social Club. She shared a little about the Newcomers Club and a long-lasting interest group – activities that helped make Social Club a vital part of the lives of its members.

“Shortly after we moved to Manhattan in 1953, I was invited to join the Social Club, and, particularly, to become involved with the KSC Newcomers Club. In 1953-54, there were 451 members in the Social Club, and 75 in the Newcomers Club for Kansas State College women in their first and second years here. The Newcomers Club was a strong organization in its own right, with a full slate of officers and six monthly meetings a year. In our second year here I was listed as vice president of the Newcomers Club, but actually presided. The women I worked closely with were not just fellow club members; they were my neighbors and my friends. The Newcomers Club played a big part in my quickly feeling “at home” in Manhattan.

Interest groups were also an important part of Social Club. I had just learned how to play bridge, and quickly became part of a 12-person bridge group. Our group bonded and continued to meet year after year, surviving until just recently. As members left, we did not replace them. We simply continued as a smaller group, playing with eight members for several years. Once we got down to just five members, we quit playing bridge, getting together as usual and going to lunch.

Ada Marr and I were the last two surviving members. Ada passed away earlier this year.

I have truly enjoyed being part of Social Club for many years.”

The richness of our history is fascinating to read. As we searched the K-State Archives, we found mountains of information we would have liked to share, but in our brief time, we could cover so little. We hope that this presentation has given you an overview of our 100 years and has made you proud to be a member of the Kansas State University Social Club.

From the beginning of our existence we have remained true to our purpose -- a social one enabling women (and later men) to become better acquainted. We are proud to be an organization that has moved and been moved and molded by the society of the times, always concerned with the busy lives of its members.



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