

The Lemon Grove Forward Club came into existance when a group
of 12 women of the Grove began meeting in the homes as a study group
of literature and current events. The first meeting was held in the
home of Mrs. C. H. Schellbach on the corner of Pacific and Buena
Vista streets. Mrs. Schellbach was it's first president and some
chapter
of the members were Mrs. Alice Bell, Mrs. Barbara Hendry, Mrs. Philo
Hoy, Mrs. Royal Gale, Mrs. M. P. Bond, Mrs. W.L.K. Good. *Mrs. Love Mrs. Hunt* A club song
was written by Miss Edith Constable, a teacher in the Lemon Grove
school at that time. The Rev. C. N. Hand pastor of the Lemon Grove
Community Congregational Church and his wife gave much help in
arranging the program of study. Among the books studied were Bryce's
South A merica, Bay View Magazine and a study of Mexico.

As the club grew in numbers, meetings were held in the Country
Club building on the corner of Church and Olive streets, which also
served as the County Library.

The Club joined the County Federation in 1913, State Federation
1917 and was incorporated, Jan. 3, 1921, and opened it's own clubhouse
at the present location May 1922.

To the present time, 23 presidents have served and members now
number over 133, ative and associate.

The mortgare on the clubhouse was burned at the Christmas party
in 1944.

In 1945 the Forward Club Juniors were organized. The club now
has a garden section, Book Revies section and Drama department, and
the Juniors have an arts and crafts department. The seniors organized
an arts and crafts department which is not functioning at the present
time. It has at all times supported and endorsed all civic improvements
and projects and contributed generously to many worthy causes.

Always it's progress has been as it's name "Forward" and it still

looks forward to the future as it has been in the past, to an
orginazation of helpful frendiliness and culture in a growing
community.

Pearl Ingham Cass
Historian 1930
1951-52

First Year History of Lemon Grove Forward Club.

Late in 1912 or early 1913 about a dozen Lemon Grove ladies were called together by Mrs. C.H. Schellbach and a literary and cultural Club

was organized with

Pres.-Mrs. C.H. Schellbach.

Vice Pres.-Mrs. Alice Bell.

Rec. Sec.- Miss Barbara Hunt, later Mrs. Hendry.

Treasurer()

Names of those belonging that year (some were Charter members) were:

W.L.K. Good; Chas. Good; Bell; Mey; Hand; Hunt; Love; Jas. West; Jester; Kerfeet; Sonka Sr.; Bryan; Miss Barbara Hunt.

After considerable discussion, the name of "Forward Club of Lemon Grove" was chosen because that expressed our spirit and purpose.

We met at the homes of members once in two weeks, and refreshments were limited to a minimum--usually tea and cookies. Mrs. Mey helped make out the first year program which included papers on travel, book reviews, current events, etc. Mexico was pretty thoroughly covered, that year. One woman was a doctor and she gave practical ideas on keeping our health--and we all took notes at each meeting.

Ambition aspired to a Club Song, written by Miss Edith Constable, a teacher in the L.G. schools, and sung by the Forward Club quartette. The Rev. and Mrs. Hand of the Congregational Church, were of much help and encouragement. The last meeting of the year was open to Club husbands,---and well attended.

L. H. Schellbach

(Mrs. C. H.)

Highlights of the Forward Club

for the years

1913 to 1919

Presidents-----Mrs. C.H. Shellbach	I year.
Mrs. Alice Bell	I year.
Mrs. J.Wm Fisher	2 years
Mrs T.J.Bryan	3 Years.

Years ago .when Lemon Grove could still be called a quiet little village. there grew up in its midst. as a symbol of its friendliness. culture and progress a group of women that organized and grew and strengthened into what we know as the Forward Club. There is no record of its earliest days. In September of '17 they voted to draft new by-laws as all former records were destroyed. This officially is the beginning of our present club. That same year they joined the San Diego County Federation of Womens Clubs and since then the club has worked with and for that organization.

Meetings were held twice a month in a building that now stands back of the Community Church , on Church Street, and now owned by Earl Near. This was rented from an organization named The Lemon Grove Country Club. Hostesses for each meeting prepared the rooms for the occasion, did the decorating and served the tea.

Members answered the roll call with a current event or some other response. The programs were much as we have them today. Music, dancing, readings or some form of entertainment would be furnished by local talent or drawn from LaMesa, San Diego or elsewhere, as well as supplying the more serious part of the program. In reading the minutes of the meetings of those years, one would have a feeling of great interests and respect for the activities of our club during its youthful days.

Following are some of the subjects and activities for those years.

A prolonged study of Mexico and South America.
Study of National Parks.
Women's rights amendment.
Government and National questions.
The two expositions at San Francisco and San Diego.
Traveler's aid with particular reference to the expositions.
Water Conservation.
Conservation of wild life.
Boulevard tree planting and State Forestry service.
Making money for buying, planting and care of trees.
Social service.
Armenian sufferers.
The Indians.
California Landscaping under Kate Sessions.
Child welfare.
Child health and co-operation with schools.

Jan2. '15 Noted that club dues were fifty cents for active members, one dollar for associate members.

The above item indicates why the social and economic life of the club were so closely related. Occasionally there would be a tea or a birthday party, but often the social affair would be a money making occasion, card party, dance, entertainment of dinner.

Perhaps the chief project of the club during those years was tree planting. They gave a tree planting entertainment to raise funds which seemed to be a success. Thereafter there was occasion to to raise more funds to care for the trees and replace lost ones. As we look at the older trees planted along the parking let us give a kindly thought to those earlier women who have come and gone and left a memento for us.

Sep. 8. 1916. Noted the first janitor service when the club voted to pay twenty -five cents to have the rooms prepared for the meeting.

A second project came with the war. The club co-operated with the various agencies to "do their bit". They sold thrift stamps and worked for the Red Cross two afternoons a month .

Another project was using some club days to work at Arts & Crafts

While Mrs Rena Wright was president there arose the question of regulating the opening and closing of the International border, and the club petitioned Sec Mellon to sustain the nine o'clock closing order. Also the club on Arbor Day planted a Jackaranda tree in memory of Spencer Bell, he being the one Lemon Grove boy who paid the supreme sacrifice during World War One.

Mrs. Wests last term of office endorsed a bill providing an institution for the cure of drug addicts. They made a trip to the Mitchell Art Gallery in Coronado, and one day celebrated with a picnic at Flynn Springs. This ends the era of the early club life of our club.

As all club women know, there is always the financial problem to be met. There were card parties, suppers, dances, sale of refreshments for community nights, bazaars, making of garments for sale, rental of club house, Presenting of dramatics for percentages, rummage sales, donations, entertainments and lectures. Also visiting of institutions bringing a fee per person to the club.