

Once Social Organization, Philo Club Now Outstanding Philanthropic Unit

(Ed. note: The following is one of a series of stories on Loveland women's clubs by Helen L. Beard, society editor).

Loveland's Philomatheon club (better known simply as "Philo"), has the unique distinction of being a social club which outgrew its more social aspects to evolve into an outstanding philanthropic woman's club of the city.

A group of about 10 girls met in 1918, and formed a social club, with Emma VanSant and Bell Norcross, as sponsors. The club name, which means, "seekers after knowledge," was adopted from the name of a club at Monmouth college, Illinois. Meeting in various homes, members later began money-raising plans and in 1924, the club held its first charity ball to raise money to help four large families. Club records note members were able to raise \$75 from the project.

The club's annual style show now raises about \$800 which is used to assist approximately 90 families at the Christmas season.

This year's show is set for Monday, March 2, at the Community building, with Mrs. Glen Yarberry and Mrs. Ed Nugent, co-chairmen.

The show, open to the public, has become one of the outstanding social events in the area. Theme of the event, which always plays to a full house, is a closely guarded secret until the curtain rises the evening of the show.

Members began working about 10-12 years ago with the Elks club on the philanthropic projects. Size and scope of Philo's activities may be seen in the storage room at the Elks building, where items are collected for the holiday distribution. The club is aided by local merchants who give discounts on merchandise and often give cash.

Two nights of the year are devoted solely to mending the used garments and sewing new ones. Members also give much time to inspection, cleaning and pressing clothes for donation.

Collecting dolls and making doll clothes is a large project within the Christmas philanthropy project. Mrs. Robert Christensen is doll chairman. Over 90 little girls had a happier Christmas in 1963, because of the efforts of Philo members.

Throughout the years, other means were used to raise money.

Other fund-raising events have included musicals, sponsoring a hope chest, which was raffled off, selling chances to the Rose Bowl game, catering parties and luncheons, and sponsoring a cook book.

Of the 10 charter members, three are still with the group: Mmes Bernice Peterson and Helen Anderson of Loveland and Hazel Lawson of Drake.

For about 25 years, the club has maintained its own club rooms in the basement of the old First National bank building, where the decor has always been done by members. To help furnish the rooms, each member brought a chair one year.

The year's activities begin with an autumn breakfast and conclude with a banquet in spring. New members always present the Christmas program and present the club with a gift.

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