

### A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT PHILO

(Conversations with Lois Nicholson & Eva Bliss)

Imagine being to join the new women's Philomatheon Club in 1927 or 28. Lois considered it a great honor, especially since she had only lived in Loveland one year. Eva's sister was already a member.



Imagine being asked to bring a plateful of fudge and wear a pair of long-john underwear to your first meeting. And then, while the members of Philo ate the fudge, you and the new initiates had a red mercurochrome "P" initialed on your forehead and had to roll a walnut across the basement floor with your nose.

These are some of the memories shared by Eva Bliss and Lois Nicholson in interviews with Philo Publicists Sue Ericson and Julie Padilla. Eva and Lois remembered that the club was the idea of the mother of Bernice Van Sant, of one of the first members. Mrs. Van Sant wanted her daughter and friends to channel some of their teen enthusiasm and energy into good use and to keep up to date on cultural happenings. twice a month in the evening. The original club was much like a sorority, and Lois remembers being nervous about being voted on to be accepted into the group.

The meetings followed the theme for the

**"Friends made in Philo were friends for life!" - Lois Nicholson**

year. One year it was "Travel Around The World," and talks, food and skits informed the group about the 'country of the month'.

Some years it was theater and books.

Because many of the members did not work outside the home, they put much of their creative talents into programs to entertain each other. They took care of brief business at beginning of each meeting, then moved on quickly to fun. Skits, musical presentations, and book reviews created a close knit group. The meetings were fun, social events. "We wouldn't have thought of EVER

missing a meeting," reports Lois!

At the beginning, reports Lois, none (or very few) of the members were yet married. In later years, members married and their children were asked to entertain for the Mother's Day meeting. The group was also smaller then, with about 20 members.

When the Depression was felt in Loveland, the girls shifted their emphasis from social and cultural activities to philanthropy and service. Members gathered excess food from fruit orchards and vegetable farms, clothing from club members and the community, cast off toys, and added a purchased chicken or turkey to give to people needing help. From that grew the Food Basket Program as we know it.

The original meetings were held at members' homes. Then Philo rented "Club House" space in the basement of the Elks Club until the projects required more room. They then moved into the basement of the First National Bank at the NE corner of Cleveland and 4th. They had tables but had to bring their own chairs for a time. They purchased a refrigerator, a stove, partitions, etched-glass plates with matching cups and saucers, and silverware. They also bought a piano that was "a big chore to get into the basement" but provided accompaniment for entertainment.

Lois said she has watched the needs of Loveland grow over the years from when it was a small town of 6,000 to today's large population. Back then they had limited resources. She's "astounded at what the Club does now-a days" to help the community and astounded at how hard the women work with all their other commitments.

Throughout the years, Philo has raised money for good causes. During one period, a reputation for good cooking led Philo into the catered bridge party business. For a fee, Philo members would set up the clubrooms and serve a luncheon for up to 15 tables of bridge players. Another money maker was the Cedar Chest raffle. Members purchased a cedar chest then, throughout the year, added hand embroidered tea towels and other 'setting up home' items to fill the chest for the raffle. In the 30's and 40's the biggest moneymaker was the fashion show. {We'll hear more details of this later}.

Behind the partitions were the on-going projects for the community that members pulled out at meetings. Ladies cleaned toys for the Santa Workshop and prepared baskets for the needy.

When asked what the best part of the "Philo Past" was, Eva said it was the fun, the getting together to share good times, a lot of bridge, a lot of music and just good fellowship. As honoraries, neither is as active anymore, but they Lois said she is still as honored to be associated with Philo now as then.

by Sue Erickson & Julie Padilla

Thank you to members who moved up to chair committees:

Food Baskets Screening

Lisa Sloan,

Philo Food Baskets

Anne Moore

## Kathy's Kolumn



**Celebration** was the theme of Sharon Olson's message at the September meeting. She reminded members that laughter and celebration energize and renew member's spirit and commitment.

It was obvious that you have given serious thought to your Philo commitment. You need to know that if this isn't the right time, it is OK to resign and come back when the timing is better. Change is constant and we will always be making adjustments to meet the priorities of family and busy lifestyles.

With membership and commitment comes responsibility. We will be taking time this year to review our customs and obligations.

**Meetings:** Members must attend 5 business meetings. This doesn't mean you can't attend more. This is where you make and keep friendships. And we can't conduct business without a quorum.

**Committees:** Members need 6 points per year. Please attend committee meetings and plan to be a co-chairman and then chairman. If you can't meet an obligation please try and get your own substitutel There are many honorary members who would be glad to help out.

Time is one of your most valuable assets and as President I will respect that. Meetings will start on time and your board will work to make meetings productive and timely. Committee chairmen are encouraged to work with their board liaison and attend board meetings. Committee reports will be called for at all meetings. If you have an agenda item please advise the board in advance of the meeting.

I appreciate your gifts of time, talent and commitment to make this a better world. One last thought:

**Volunteers are like Dial Soap  
They care more, don't you wish  
everyone did?**

*Kathy*

A great big THANK YOU to the Telephone Tree callers and the 28 Philo members who provided baskets to fill our lengthy list of recipients this year. With your help, nearly all the needy elderly and families that applied for a basket, received one. Feel free to turn in your receipts to the treasurer, hopefully in January, for reimbursements of your costs.

Thanks Again,  
Carol Kamtz

The major fundraiser continued to be the spring Style Show. The show was in the Pulliam Auditorium and got greater community support each year. Show themes through the decade included "The Essence of Paris," "The Philo Showboat," "Fashions In A Loveland Garden," and "Hotel Philo-by-the-Sea."

In 1951-52 the "Philo Fine Food" cookbook with club member recipes was part of the year's activity.



**Philo Awarded  
\$500**

"The Christmas season is full of surprises and full of joy! We hope that what we have to tell you will fill you with both!"

Those opening words of a letter from Group Publishing were true indeed! In November, Philo members Pat Farnham and Myrna McIntosh submitted an application to Group for a Charitable Giving grant. The competition was tough, and Philo was not one of the 26 area non-profit organizations chosen for a total of \$53,500 in awards in various categories.

But now the surprise. Group had an unexpected surplus of money, and randomly chose thirty-one additional \$500 winners from all of the organizations who had applied.

"We are happy to report that your organization was one of the groups we picked!," said Group representative Bill Korte, in a letter to Kathy Loken.

Thank you, Group, and thank you Pat, Myrna, and all the others who contributed to the application. We plan to use the additional funds wisely in our continued efforts to help our community in 1999.

## Go Back in Time

### ...Philo in the 1950's

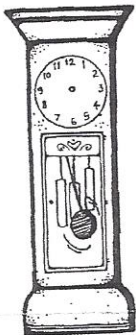
Sue Erickson

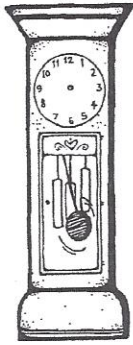
The format for Philo didn't change much during the 50's. The membership rose from 67 active members in 1950 to 88 in 1959.

Meetings continued to be twice a month and a majority of the time the entertainment was supplied by club members in the form of skits, musical numbers or readings. Programs for the year followed a theme.

- '50 Radio Station P-H-I-L-O
- '51 Philo: The Magazine Women Believe in
- '52 College of Philomatheon
- '53 Behold the Stars
- '54 Our American Heritage
- '55 Accent on Tomorrow
- '56 YOU
- '57 Philo Quiz Show
- '58 Articles of Philo
- '59 Philomatheon Chronicle

The year always began with a September breakfast, followed by a November new member initiation, a December Christmas Party, a February husband/wife dinner, a spring Mother's Day party, and a year-end banquet. The major community service was still the Christmas food baskets





## Go Back in Time

### ...Philo in the 1960's Sue Erickson

I am continually amazed and envious of the originality of the programs and themes for each year. The "Philo girls" put great effort into presenting an interesting and entertaining program for each twice monthly meeting.

The yearly themes during the early 60's reflected an interest in the world beyond Loveland. Themes included "The Philomatheon Congressional Record," "University of Philomatheon," "S.S. Philo World Cruise," and "Philo Reports" (The Cinema, The Peace Corps, Faces in the News, etc.). The decade continued with "Adam's Rib" (Significant Women Leaders), and "Philo In Orbit." Themes became more local again in the later years of the decade with "Love and Laughter," "Tour Philoland, U.S.A." and "Philo TV Guide." (with Local Programming) 1968-1969 was a special year, as Philo celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme "We Shake Our Philo Family Tree."

By the end of the decade, there were 57 active members, 8 associate members and 29 honorary members. Dues were \$3 and members had to pay a \$.10 fine for each missed meeting.

Philo continued its tradition of community service. The club was very involved in helping the House of Neighborly Service with needy families, had a fund to help families purchase new shoes for their children, and as always, provided Christmas baskets. For the 1964 Christmas baskets, Philo members worked year round dressing and refurbishing 125 dolls. Philo members were encouraged to meet and help their Christmas basket families throughout the year. Groups that worked with Philo on various projects included the Lions Club, Elks Club, Loveland High "L Club," Girl

Scout troops and others.

The Style Show was the big Philo fundraiser that went to help needy families. It was also an event Loveland citizens anticipated eagerly. Style show themes mentioned in newspaper articles were:

- 1961: Fashion Fiesta
- 1962: Fashions in Flight
- 1963: Philo's Last Resort
- 1964: My World's Fair Lady
- 1965: Alice In Wonderland
- 1967: Carnival of Colors
- 1968: A Time For Fashion
- 1969: Written in the Stars

The style shows were big productions, with models (including children and men), narrators, and music chosen specific to the theme.

### *How Do You Do? Do You Just Belong?*

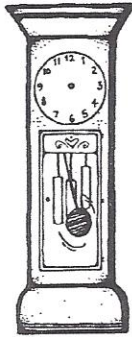
Are you an active member  
The kind that would be missed  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home  
And criticize and knock?  
Do you ever go to visit  
A member that is sick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about a clique?  
There's quite a program scheduled  
That I'm sure you've heard about  
And we will all appreciate it  
If you'll come and help us out.  
So come to meetings often  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member  
Dig in, and do your part.  
Think this over, sister,  
You know right from wrong,  
Are you an active member,  
Or do you "just belong?"

*Found in the front  
of the 1961-1962 Philo booklet.*

### Go Back in Time

#### ...Philo in the 1970's

*Sue Erickson*



Philo members decided to make some changes starting in 1970. The first change was to conduct a "business only" meeting at the first meeting of the month and to save entertainment for the second meeting of the month. Dues were \$3 for active members and \$15 for associate members per year.

In 1970, Philo started the Santa Claus Shop to enhance the Christmas basket program.

In 1973, Philo began sponsoring the blood drive that continues today.

It appears that the 4" x 6" yearbook (outlining the years' meeting dates and subjects, officers, members, etc) was eliminated in 1973. Up until then the annual themes were:

- 1970: It's The Sign of the Times (Philo's New Look for the 70's)
- 1971: It's What's Happening Baby
- 1972: There's No Business Like Show Business

Entertainment for one of the meetings in the 1970 season was "Sesame Street Rated X" presented for the membership by Mrs. Fred Anderson, Mrs. Don Burton, Mrs. John Connor, Mrs. Ray Patterson and Mrs. George Walbye. [Don't you wish we had movies of that?]

The Style Show continued to be the major fund raising project for Philo throughout the 70's. And it still was the highlight of Loveland activities. An article for the 1978 show stated that 1,100 people attended the event. In 1975 the show was moved from the traditional spring (March) show to the

fall. For the remainder of the decade the style show occurred in October or November. The themes for the shows were:

- 1971: 3-Ring Circus
- 1972: Philo Votes for Fashion
- 1973: Philo Junction
- 1974: Philo's Scoop on Fashion - The Inside Story
- 1975: You've Come A Long Way Baby
- 1977: Gallery of Fashions
- 1978: Philo Fever
- 1979: A Chorus Line of Fashion
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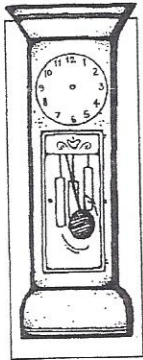


1973-74 officers: Maggie Cheyne turns the president's gavel over to Anne Anderson. Other officers are Donna Beatty, Rita Hardin, Judy Quadhamer, Corrine Adams and Shirley Hogan.

### Blood Bank

Grace Anderson reports 130 + donors and 13 referrals at the February blood bank.

Belle Bon Fils has a new supervisor who will do an onsite meeting with Nancy Guffey. They may add 2 more beds and 1 more service station.



**Go Back in Time**

**...Philo in the 1980's**

*Sue Erickson*

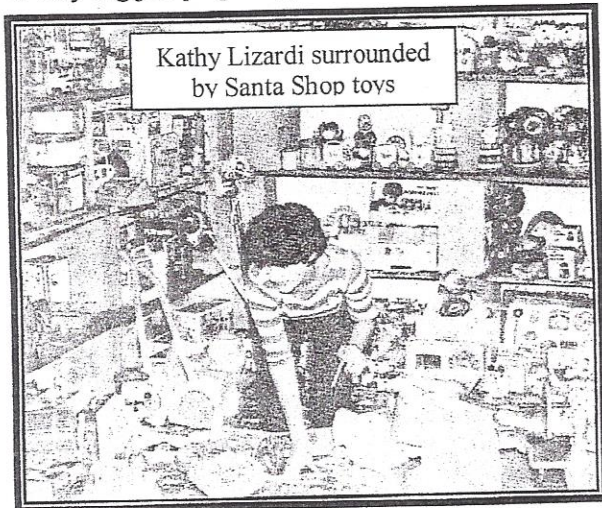
The 80's decade started out with activities spread among 11 committees: Blood Bank, Children's Theater, Club Room, Education, Finance, Food Baskets,

Santa Claus Shop, Style Show, Visitation, Sunshine and By-Laws.

In 1980 new carpet was purchased for the Clubroom (in the basement of the building at the NE corner of 4th and Cleveland). Six months later the carpet was soaked after the basement flooded during a heavy rain storm.

Throughout the 80's the Blood Bank was a continuing success and much appreciated community service.

The success of the Philo Santa Shop hinged on the contribution of local individuals and organizations, and the community always responded. With 32 organizations plus numerous individuals and merchants, Philo had a very big job preparing for the season.



One of the new community projects was sponsorship of children's theater: From 1982-84 Philo sponsored performances by the Joffrey Ballet Concert Group, the Canyon Concert Ballet, and Arizona's Childsplay Inc

The first Spring Home Tour was in 1983. Refreshments were served at the First Christian

Church on Lincoln Avenue where maps and tickets were sold for the 6 homes to be viewed. The homeowners were: Russ & Carol Kamtz, Richard & Debbie Ball, George & Coleen Ligothe, Charles & Nelda Peterman, Nate & Diana Reynolds, and Jack & Rosemary Boyd.

Home tours continued to be successful fundraisers throughout the 1980s [And are again!] Other Philo members whose homes were featured included Syd Fancher, Mary Ann Lane, Karen Bruner, and Georgia Torson.

In the Fall of 1983, Philo initiated their first Holiday Mart at the McMillan Building. That year the Style Show returned to the original March calendar, to open up preparation time for the new project. With a preview party on Thursday Oct 30, the Holiday Mart covered two full days for shopping on Friday and Saturday with 31 specialty merchants selected for unique items for Christmas gifts. With similar professional presentation, Philo continued the Holiday Mart every October through the remainder of the decade.

The most difficult year had to have been the spring of 1988: The Philo Club had to give up their Club Room due to the sale of the building to new owners. And thus they had to give up their major philanthropic project, the Santa Shop. Meetings were moved to Trinity Lutheran Church and many of the social get togethers were abandoned for lack of space.

**Blood Bank (in 1999)**

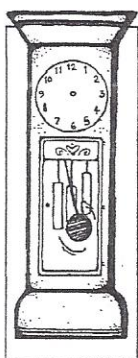
Nancy Guffey met with Belle Bonfils. They came with tape measure in hand to measure the church space available, but the church was being used. They did agree to have 14 beds and 6 tech's available for us. The tech's will still need to take staggered lunches.

There are still shift vacancies for the May and August dates. Nancy said the names of those who have not already worked a shift would be on the front of the sign-up sheet when it is passed around at the meeting.

termites away.] A final checkup proved the new heater didn't provide the termites with the moisture and warmth they needed to multiply, and a clean bill of health was issued. (Whew!)

A year and a half later, all major remodeling and building was complete! Fourteen interior walls were moved or eliminated to create a true Colorado "Open Space" floor plan. All the brick that could be salvaged was exposed and sealed. A gas log model replaced the old fireplace and heating is broken into "zones" for efficiency. The new appliances are energy efficient. They've replaced single-pane metal windows with double-pane storms and added air conditioning upstairs. They added ceiling fans to nearly every room downstairs to pull down cooler air and increase overall circulation during the hot summer months. During early summer and late fall, the skylight above the stairs provides a perfect breath of fresh air.

Whenever possible, the goal was to create a warm home that welcomes visitors and reflects the personalities of its owners. Brick, glass(open areas) and unpainted wood are the downstairs theme and will repeat upstairs when the upper level is renovated in the future. "Although this tour will not include the upper level, we'll open our house in the future as the remodeling progresses", say the proud owners of this exceptional home.



**Go Back in Time ...**

**Spring Dinner**

**Honorees Reminisce**

The members celebrating anniversaries at the Spring dinner have served Philo well. Most have served on the board and as committee chairs. And all have interesting stories to tell. Here they share a few of their special memories.

Gay Sennet served as club president and also co-chaired the Santa Shop, the Style Show,, and the Holiday Mart. She especially remembers visiting dozens and dozens of businesses in

Colorado and Wyoming with Elnora McCloughan, trying to get them to participate in the first Holiday Mart.

Gay & Elnora got the Holiday mart going and Sandy Roorda and Helen Wilson followed merrily after as co-chairs. Sandy recalls that she & Helen decorated their homes as they visited merchants. Helen echoes that. "If the store signed up," she said, "we bought a lot from them that day and could hardly stuff it all in the car."

Sandy also has fond memories of buying "toys for girls" for the Santa shop. Barbara Moore remembers that "working on the Santa Shop was always fun and an eye opener to the needs of others." Barb served many years as secretary and treasurer. Patsy DeGood thinks she worked her way through all the offices, "including treasurer, which," she says, "is not my best talent!! She, too, especially remembers the Santa Shops in the basement of the old First National.

The needs of others impressed Dee Dee Warnock, too. She remembers "some of the horrible living conditions, great need of assistance and the gratefulness" of the clients she saw when we visited potential food basket recipients in their houses. . Helen has another story about visitation. One day she was offered coffee "from the dirtiest kitchen I'd ever been in." As she accepted she "asked God to bless the cup and keep me free from disease." She didn't get sick! DeeDee chaired the Food Basket Visitation and Food Basket Matching committees and was both Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Kathy Loken and Joyce Mathias have more practical memories. Joyce remembers discovering Hickory House Bar-B-Q at Sam's so we didn't have to make our own at the Antique Show. Kathy guiltily remembers being the new member who proposed carpeting for the basement clubrooms -- and being on vacation when the clubroom flooded!

Those are just some of the stories these Honoraries jotted down. Ask them to share more tales when you see them at the Spring Dinner.