

Men Dedicated To Service

By LARRY EVOE
Staff Writer

All of the major men's service clubs have chapters in Birmingham. The five clubs, Kiwanis, Exchange, Rotary, Lions and Optimist, have a combined membership of almost 350 men from the Birmingham area.

Oldest of the five organizations is the Exchange Club, founded on Feb. 18, 1924. Following closely behind is the largest of the groups, the Rotary.

Founded on the general theme of "Unity for Service," the Exchange Club was presented its formal charter on April 15, 1924.

OFFICERS of the first club included C. A. Bingham, president; "Cy" Osborne, vice president; Ralph A. Wilson, secretary and James Haasberger, treasurer.

Like many of the service clubs, Exchangeites are engaged in many youth activities.

Each year the group supports and sponsors such programs as Camp Oakland, Wolverine Boys' State, YMCA, teen-age clinic and a model airplane meet.

The club has grown from the original 25 charter members to 49. Each club member is pledged to "serve in unity with those seeking better conditions, better understandings and greater opportunities for all."

JOHN TOWNSEND is the current president of the Exchange Club. Other officers include Richard Turner, first vice president; Ernest

Falling Hair, Too?

Celebrated liver pads, belts and bands were advertised for sale in 1878 for one dollar each. They cured, claimed their manufacturer, diseases of the liver, kidneys, fever and ague, chills and fever, intermittent and remittent fevers, gastric derangements, biliousness and sore throat.

K. Efimoff, second vice president; and Marvin E. Moore, secretary-treasurer.

The Rotary was the next club to be formed in Birmingham. The first meeting was held in April, 1924, and the club was chartered on May 24 of that year.

From the first 20 charter members the club has grown to become the city's largest, with a roster of 110 men representing all areas of business and community service.

Three of the club's charter members are still active in Rotary affairs today including George R. Averill, the first president. Former superintendent of schools Clarence Vliet and retired insurance executive Charles B. Randall are also still Rotarians.

THE CLUB annually sponsors High School Career Day in the Birmingham schools. The Rotarians also support the Oakland County Crippled Children's Society, YMCA, Girl Scouts, Wolverine Boys' State, various summer camps for children and the Rotary Foundation.

Funds for Rotary projects are raised through the annual sale of newspapers and the sponsorship of the Wally Taber travel show.

Robert Thom is the 1964 Rotary president and William H. Burgum is the vice president. Other officers include Mike Rosenberger, secretary and James Moore, treasurer.

THE NEXT organization to be founded in Birmingham was the Lions Club organized with 35 members in 1928. B. J. Meirow, an insurance executive, was the first president.

Seven of the original members are still with the club including Jim Kelly, Russ McBride, Claude Morrow, Ray Peck, Walter Moreland, Russ Berger and Paul N. Averill.

The Lions, both on the local and national level, are strong supporters of the Leader Dog for the Blind program. Birmingham's club has contributed over \$58,000 over the years to aid various projects



SERVICE CLUBS GREET B'HAM VISITORS

Major groups all represented.

dealing with the treatment of the eye.

Now boasting a membership of 80, the local club also purchases rain capes for Birmingham safety patrol youngsters, rescuators for the fire department and has sponsored a Boy Scout troop for 35 years.

FUNDS ARE raised through the annual Lions concert, ice cream sale and White Cane program.

Ralph Alexander is the current president. Harris Machus is the

first vice president, Frank Woodson, second vice president and Donald Cummings, secretary-treasurer.

In the late 1940's another service club was organized in Birmingham. The Kiwanis Club, with 25 charter members, was formed in 1948.

Ernie Miller was elected president of the first Kiwanis Club and accepted the club's charter from state officials on May 25, 1948 at The Community House.

Engaged in many programs involving children, the club estab-

lishes scholarships, supports Wolverine Boys' and Girls' states, Camp Oakland, YMCA and as part of a state-wide program maintains a ward at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor.

THE PRESENT club has 31 members headed by Ben Reese, president. Other officers include Charles Lundy, vice president; "Hec" Nimmo, treasurer and Tom Everitt, secretary.

Newest of the local service clubs is the Optimists. Founded in August, 1960 with 35 members the club is known as the "friend of the boy."

William Blakely was elected president of the first club. Annually the club sponsors an oratorical contest and a Youth Appreciation Week to honor the community's outstanding teen-agers.

The Optimist also support the Pontiac Sea Scouts, Baptist's Children Home and The Community House.

MONEY TO aid the club projects is raised through selling products made by the blind and the annual purchase of the prize-winning beef of the Oakland County 4-H Show. Other yearly Optimist activities include a kite-flying contest and a boys and girls junior Olympic competition.

Jack Chapman is the president of the 27 member 1964 club and Art Lake Jr., and Donald Martin are vice presidents. Wilfred Gill is secretary and William Harkins is treasurer.

Early Birmingham Loaded with Color

On the streets of Birmingham one day in 1879 was noticed a woman wearing a green skirt with a brown over-dress, a purple neckerchief, a bow of yellow ribbon in her hair.

On top of that, she added a blue bonnet with a salmon-colored veil over her face.

LWV — 'For Better Government'

By SHELLEY SPANN

Public Relations Chairman,
B'ham League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of the United States grew out of the women's suffrage movement in 1920.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, a pioneer in the 75-year struggle for

women's rights called for a league of women voters in order to further the second purpose of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, "to increase the effectiveness of women's votes in furthering better government" and the League of Women Voters of the United States was born.

But this is the story of the

League of Women Voters of Birmingham, a depression child, formed in the depths of the financial crisis in 1932.

MRS. DOROTHY Roosevelt and Mrs. Angus McLay were instrumental in organizing the Birmingham chapter, which elected Mrs. Frank Hawley as its first president in the spring and held its first candidates' rally the following fall.

Despite this auspicious beginning, the infant League suffered the diseases of childhood, compounded by the economic problems of the day. At one point the membership dropped to 14, but they were 14 women who characterized all that has made the League grow strong.

Dedication, enthusiasm and an abiding interest in people and their government brought them through this crisis to become one of the strongest Leagues in the United States with 375 members in 1964.

One of the earliest concerns of the Birmingham LWV was the desperate financial plight of the schools. In 1933, members formed a cavalcade of cars—drawing in other local organizations—to go to Lansing and plead with the governor for additional funds for schools. Soon after, this interest in schools led the League to recommend to the board of education that voters for school elections be registered.

IT IS HARD to believe that prior to 1939, truckloads of voters could, quite legally, be imported to vote on a hotly contested school issue. The board of education acted favorably on the League recommendation and through a house-to-house canvass by LWV and PTA members voter registration was finally achieved.

In its early years the League put much of its effort into the study of county reorganization. In 1935 the ballot issue of county reorganization passed in Wayne and Oakland counties but failed to pass in the state.

Following this setback the League decided the best attack was through Constitutional revision—and the rest is history. The 15-year struggle for a new constitution grew out of the studies begun at that time and now, having won the first battle, the League has come full-circle through its present effort to make county reorganization possible through home rule legislation.

Although study and action characterizes the League of Women Voters, they are actually only a means to an end.

THE GOAL of the League is to promote informed and active citizen participation in government and this means all citizens, not just League citizens.

Toward this end, the years have seen continued effort put forth on voters' service activities. There have been candidates rallies, torchlight parades and voting machine demonstrations.

The speakers bureau makes capable, knowledgeable speakers on a host of subjects available to local organizations and, on May 26, the League presents SUFFRAGETTE '64, to the women of Birmingham as a challenge to utilize the hard-won right to vote—with all the privileges and responsibilities it implies—to the utmost of their capabilities.

The familiar sight of the smiling lady with the Voter's Guide has become a landmark of election years

and the hallmark of the League of Women Voters.

A non-partisan compilation of the backgrounds and views of all candidates who appear on the ballot as well as a statement of the ballot proposals, the "Guide" is the only publication of its kind available. "Know Your Town", written and distributed by the League, is the only comprehensive guide to the function and activities of all tax-supported units in Birmingham.

A supplement to this book will be added in the fall to cover Bloomfield Township.

CONTRARY to a popular misconception, the League of Women Voters is not a body of expert persons who do remarkable things brilliantly.

It is an organization of women; housewives and mothers, who are concerned with schools and libraries and mental health and all the other problems of a complex society.

These are women who want to prevent government's becoming an impersonal monster by understanding it. They are women who astonish even themselves by what they are able to accomplish with a logical and knowledgeable approach to the problems inherent in and created by government.

The League of Women Voters is proud of its members and their accomplishments. It is proud of the fact that its natural leadership training facilities have started many women on their way to leadership in the community.

The League is also proud to be a part of the Birmingham community, which produces and attracts the kind of women who have traditionally sought the League of Women Voters and made it strong.



PLANNING FOR 'SUFFRAGETTES '64'
Mrs. Garvin Bawden, Jr., and Mrs. Angus McLay.