

# THE FACULTY WOMEN'S CLUB

## Wife of Dean Cutter Heads New Woman's Faculty Club at School

MRS. IRVING S. CUTTER, wife of Dean Cutter of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, is president of the new Woman's Faculty Club.



Mrs. I. S. Cutter

is club of the school. Members are wives of the faculty doctors. The object of the organization is

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to promote the interests of girl students. It will also interest itself in social welfare work connected with the hospital which cares for the sick and needy of Nebraska, as well as in the problems that frequently arise in a hospital, which are unrelated to the physical needs of patients.

Mrs. Cutter called the meeting of doctors wives Tuesday at the University club. Other officers elected include Mrs. A. F. Jonas, vice president; Mrs. J. E. Summers, second vice president; Mrs. C. W. Pollard, secretary, and Mrs. A. A. Johnson, treasurer.

Luncheon will be served Wednesday at University hospital for the group, following a trip through the hospitals and nurses' home. Mrs. G. Alexander Young has charge of arrangements for a meeting to be held at Manawa Boat club early in July, when both the doctors and their wives will participate.

### PAST PRESIDENTS

1920-23 Mrs. Irving Cutter*	1952-53 Mrs. Ed Holyoke*
1923-24 Mrs. A. F. Jonas*	1953-54 Mrs. Dewey Bisgard
1925-26 Mrs. C. W. Pollard*	1954-55 Mrs. John Schenken*
1927-28 Mrs. C. Poynter*	1955-56 Mrs. Herbert Davis
1928-29 Mrs. W. A. Willard*	1956-57 Mrs. James Benjamin
1929-30 Mrs. C. A. Roeder*	1957-58 Mrs. Vincent Hascall*
1930-31 Mrs. B. B. Davis*	1958-59 Mrs. Roy Holly
1931-32 Mrs. Jay Keegan*	1959-60 Mrs. Willis Taylor, Jr.
1932-33 Mrs. H. B. Hamilton*	1960-61 Mrs. Robert Grissom
1933-34 Mrs. John R. Nilsson*	1961-62 Mrs. John Filkins
1934-35 Mrs. Rodney Bliss*	1962-63 Mrs. Stanley Pederson
1935-36 Mrs. Clarence Rubendall*	1963-64 Mrs. M. M. Musselman
1936-37 Mrs. Frank Conlin	1964-65 Mrs. Edward Malashock
1937-38 Mrs. Herman Johnson	1965-66 Mrs. Leland Olson
1938-39 Mrs. Edwin Davis*	1966-67 Mrs. Milton Simons
1939-40 Mrs. Willis Taylor, Sr.*	1967-68 Mrs. Warren Pearse
1940-41 Mrs. F. J. Murray	1968-69 Mrs. Alan Blotcky
1941-42 Mrs. Ross McIntyre	1969-70 Mrs. John R. Jones
1942-43 Mrs. Fred Niehaus	1970-71 Mrs. Donald Skoog
1943-45 Mrs. E. L. MacQuiddy*	1971-72 Mrs. Paul E. Hodgson
1945-46 Mrs. Charles Frandsen*	1972-73 Mrs. Frank Menolascino
1946-47 Mrs. Perry Tollman	1973-74 Mrs. Perry G. Rigby
1947-48 Mrs. Chester Thompson, Sr.	1974-75 Mrs. Chester F. Singer, Jr.
1948-49 Mrs. Howard Morrison	1975-76 Mrs. F. Miles Skultety
1949-50 Mrs. John F. Nilsson	1976-77 Mrs. Joseph Scott, Jr.
1950-51 Mrs. George Robertson	1977-78 Mrs. Thomas Norris
1951-52 Mrs. A. L. Bennett*	1978-79 Mrs. Thomas Gallagher
	1979-80 Mrs. Robert Eliot

\*Deceased



(Right) Decorated corridor, Unit II, hospital, 1928.



(Above) Children's ward decorated for Christmas by the Faculty Women's Club, 1928.

### Faculty Women's Club\*

Service and sociability have been the purposes of the Faculty Women's Club in the 60 years of its existence. The club was organized on June 1, 1920, chiefly through the efforts of Mrs. Irving Cutter, wife of the College of Medicine Dean and first president of the organization. The group's first meeting was held in the University Hospital dining room. Fifty-six charter members were enrolled; they included wives of faculty members, women faculty members, and directors of the nursing school, dispensary, and social service.

The club's original constitution stated its purpose:

*The object of this club shall be to promote good fellowship among its members, to cooperate with and encourage student body activities, to foster social life in the College of Medicine of the University of Nebraska, and to have constantly in mind and to work zealously for the advancement of the college and hospital of the University of Nebraska.*

The women immediately began planning their activities. They held parties for medical students, interns, patients, and nurses. Their first fund-raiser was "a picture show in Conkling Hall, using the machine from the laboratory." Profits bought a Victrola for the nurses' home.

In 1921 the Faculty Women's Club began a tradition of decorating University Hospital for Christmas. Christmas trees were set up in each ward, wreaths decorated hospital windows, and each patient was given gifts. The club planned parties, supplied Santa Claus, and in many ways made the hospital a more festive place during the holiday seasons.

Another tradition began in 1922, the annual Washington's Birthday party for the members' husbands. These formal affairs, including gourmet dinner, entertainment, and dancing or cards, were held in the Conkling Hall gymnasium until 1951, when they moved off-campus.

During World War II, the Faculty Women's Club increased their volunteer service to include helping in the Dispensary office, sewing, working with the local TB health camp committee, and preparing surgical dressings. Social events in these years became more conservative and informal. Many members felt that the annual Washington's Birthday party should be suspended, but Dean Poynter urged them to continue the event. The party was held each year, but on a much simpler scale.

\*Excerpted from a manuscript, "A Parade of the Decades," edited by Helen W. Reihart. Authors: Helen W. Reihart, Margaret Thompson, Kate Robertson, Olga Davis, Virginia Grissom, and Bess Ogborn.

After World War II, the club increased their service commitment to the institution. They refurnished areas of the campus, sewed garments for the Needlework Guild, and helped in many other ways.

The decade of the Fifties brought a broadening of the club's sphere of interest. Activities to help students continued, and, guided by Mrs. James Benjamin, a Student Exchange Shop was established in 1955. Members solicited donations from stores and individuals, and stocked the shop with everything from baby items to furniture, appliances, and clothing. Students could purchase the merchandise for very small prices, and proceeds were given to the Student Loan Fund.

The changes in the campus during the 1960's were also reflected in the Faculty Women's Club and its activities. Students did not seem to need the social and recreational events that had previously been planned by the club. The Student Exchange Shop closed in 1964, when its space in the machine shop building was needed for other purposes. However, the club continued its tradition of serving students in a very tangible way — with scholarships and loan funds.

With tremendous growth in club membership as the Medical Center expanded, the Faculty Women's Club organized "interest groups," so that members with similar interests could become better acquainted and carry out projects related to those interests. These smaller groups have become a focus of the club's activities for members.

In 1971-72 the club organized the first Art and Medicine Project, an exhibit of art created by Medical Center personnel and their families. Mrs. Frank Menolascino, president of the club in 1972-73, originated the idea for Oktoberfest, the Medical Center's annual open house with exhibits, demonstrations, tours and entertainment. The Faculty Women's Club sponsored the event for its first several years, and Mrs. Menolascino remained as chairman or co-chairman of the event through 1979.

The group's projects for the Medical Center in the 1970's included production of large cartoon and storyboard cutout figures for the walls of those areas serving children, furnishing the hospital Meditation Room, and donation of a sculpture by a prominent Omaha artist.

In recent years, the Faculty Women's Club has placed increasing emphasis on providing loan and scholarship funds for students. Although financial aid has long been an interest of the group, their support has grown in the 1970's to approximately \$4,500 annually.

*Oktoberfest activities, Oct. 5, 1975.*



<p>1980-81 OFFICERS</p> <p>PRESIDENT <i>LaVonne Fusaro</i></p> <p>PRESIDENT-ELECT <i>Shirley Sorrell</i></p> <p>REC. SECRETARY <i>Joan Zetterman</i></p> <p>CORRES. SECRETARY <i>Alice Friedlander</i></p> <p>TREASURER <i>Elaine Reimer</i></p>
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