

## PRESIDENTS OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TRENTON

- 1920-1921 — MISS HELEN WOOD GREEN (Mrs. James Imbrie)  
(AJLA Board Member)
- 1921 — MRS. FRANCIS W. HUNTER
- 1921-1922 — MRS. A. CARYL BIGELOW
- 1922-1924 — MISS VIRGINIA TURFORD  
(Mrs. Turford Wharton)
- 1924-1925 — MRS. ROBERT BELLEVILLE
- 1925-1926 — MISS VIRGINIA TURFORD  
(Mrs. Turford Wharton)
- 1926-1928 — MRS. S. LESLIE TATTERSALL
- 1928-1939 — MRS. JOSEPH L. BODINE
- 1929-1931 — MISS ELIZABETH CASE
- 1931-1932 — MISS ELEANOR BOWMAN
- 1932-1934 — MRS. HENRY HOLT APGAR
- 1934-1935 — MRS. GEORGE GRETTON
- 1935-1936 — MRS. R. GEORGE KUSER
- 1936-1938 — MRS. WILLIAM DOLTON
- 1938-1939 — MRS. GEORGE ARNETT
- 1939-1941 — MRS. YATES COREY (Mrs. Walter Peterson)
- 1941-1943 — MISS MARGERY TITUS (Mrs. John Lawton)
- 1943-1944 — MRS. FREDERICK KUSER (AJLA Board Officer and  
Director of Region II)
- 1944-1945 — MRS. JOSEPH SCUDDER
- 1945-1947 — MRS. J. ROGER PRIOR  
(Mrs. Ferdinand W. Roebbing, III)
- 1947-1949 — MRS. J. GOODNER GILL
- 1949-1951 — MRS. WILLIAM H. FULPER
- 1951-1953 — MRS. WALTER H. SWAYZE
- 1953-1955 — MRS. JAMES S. STUDDIFORD, II
- 1955-1957 — MRS. J. CARR NEVIUS
- 1957-1959 — MRS. THOMAS F. NOLAN, III
- 1959-1961 — MRS. J. CORNELL MURRAY, JR.
- 1961-1963 — MISS MARJORIE J. SMITH
- 1963-1965 — MRS. PAUL PARKER
- 1965-1967 — MRS. WILLIAM MILLS
- 1967-1968 — MRS. JAMES G. CROWLEY
- 1968-1969 — MRS. PAUL H. PLOUGH, JR.
- 1969-1970 — MRS. CARL L. DANBURY
- 1970-1971 — MRS. ROBERT J. FISCHER
- 1971- — MRS. JOHN J. CAIN



## A History of The Junior League of Trenton, N.J., Inc.

*Written in commemoration of the  
fiftieth anniversary of  
The Junior League of Trenton  
by Sara S. Hill*

**A HISTORY OF  
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TRENTON, N.J., INC.  
1921 — 1971**

**BEGINNINGS**

During the early 1900's, young women, desiring to serve their communities, began organizing independent groups. The first of these, located in New York City, was concerned with the problems of those dwelling in the Lower East Side slums. By 1912, seven such groups had been formed and agreed to adopt the name "Junior League."

Trenton was not without its young women yearning for ways to be of service to their community but not knowing how best to accomplish this end. In December of 1920, Mrs. John R. Serson, President of the Contemporary Club, returned from New York with a solution to their problem. Twenty-five young women were invited to the home of Miss Helen Wood Green on West State Street during the winter of 1921 to consider establishing a Junior League in Trenton. Three months later, sponsored by the Baltimore and New York Junior Leagues, the Trenton group received its charter. Its purpose was "to give its members an opportunity to obtain a knowledge of the social, literary and industrial conditions of their city; of the fields of social and civic work which are open to them, and by classes, discussions and social gatherings to equip them to become factors for good in their community." Miss Green (now Mrs. James Imbrie) was chosen the first president.

Soon after the Junior League of Trenton was formed, the Association of Junior Leagues of America, Inc. (now the Association of Junior Leagues, Inc.) was organized and the Trenton League became one of its thirty members.

**ORGANIZATION**

**Membership**

When the Junior League of Trenton was organized, membership consisted of young women 18 years of age and over. There were four classes of membership: Provisional, those engaged in complying with the requirements for admission to Active membership; Active, those under forty who gave a minimum of two hours per week to social service work; Sustaining, those over 40; and Life. In an era when dues were \$5.00 a year, a Life membership could be purchased after two years of Active membership by paying \$100. This fee then exempted the member from payment of annual dues until she became Sustaining. By 1927, three more classes of membership had been added: Inactive, those temporarily excused from Active service; Associate, those under 40 years of age completing five years of Active service and meeting volunteer requirements, who were ex-



cused from placement requirements; Non-Resident; and Professional. Professional members were those not able to fulfill the requirements of Active membership because they were employed. They held their own monthly meetings which were presided over by the Professional Members Chairman. In 1935, the Associate membership classification was dropped and the following year the Inactive classification. The Professional group remained an entity until after World War II when it, too, was abolished.

Today, the Junior League of Trenton consists of young women 21 years of age and over. A 1971 provision allows League members to elect to retain their Active membership status after 40 up to the age of 45 at which time they are required to "go Sustaining."

### Provisional Training

The Junior League of Trenton has always had a training course for its Provisional members. These courses have varied infinitely with the exception that there has always been an orientation to the Trenton League and the Association of Junior Leagues. Until about 1945, nearly every Provisional class was required to take a course in parliamentary law. Other highlights of Provisional courses during these twenty-five years were: a series of lectures on "Politics" by a Princeton professor for the years 1930-32; attendance at monthly lecture meetings of the Trenton Social Workers Club, 1931-33; a series of eight classes on "Current Philosophy and Practice of Social Work" by the head of the Extension Department of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work during 1933-34; courses on welfare work and civics from 1934-38; a public speaking course from 1938-40.

With the end of World War II, Provisional members began a tradition which has been carried on until the present day of initiating and carrying out their own community project. The first was the redecorating of the Florence Crittenton

Home, and successive projects have included some type of work at the Union Industrial Home, Boys Club, Orthopaedic Hospital, Widows and Single Women's Home, Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery, McKinley Hospital (now Helene Fuld Hospital), Bargain Box, Delaware Valley Rehabilitation Center, Childrens Home Society, Child Guidance Center, Valley Day School. Recent projects have included a travelling art exhibit for Trenton Public



Schools, the making of audio tapes for a programmed learning technique in teaching reading for the Trenton school system, a tutorial program at the Grant School, and work with senior citizens at the Mercer Street Friends Senior Citizens Center.

### Placement

Volunteer work, or placement, has always been a requirement of League membership. In 1923, each Active member was required to "make" 70 points for the year, half in Junior League work and half optional. All volunteer work counted one point per hour, except out-of-town work which counted ½ point per hour. Eight points had to be made each month. By 1926-27, half of the required number of points could be made in charitable work of one's choosing; the other half were to be given to the League project, the Baby Shelter.

In 1932, conditions of the times caused the League to search for different phases of volunteer work in the city to relieve conditions existing in charitable organizations due to shortage of help and funds. This was the first year of regular volunteer work whereby the "real aim is to value our volunteer service by its quality and usefulness rather than by the amount of time given." The same year, a Princeton League member was designated Princeton Placement Chairman and served as a member of the Placement Committee. She was in charge of arrangements with social agencies in Princeton through which Trenton members residing in Princeton worked to make their points.

In 1960, the "President's Bowl" was inaugurated to honor the Active member with the most outstanding record of community volunteer service for the year. The name came from the fact that each past League president donated toward the purchase of a silver Revere bowl which serves as a trophy and is passed on from year to year. Traditionally, the Placement Committee prepares a list of nominees and their volunteer service using numbers instead of names. A committee of Sustainers reviews these and then chooses the outstanding volunteer from this list.

### Meetings

Regular monthly meetings have always been the fare of the Junior League of Trenton.

During the 1920's and early 1930's, most meetings were held in the homes of members. Topics during these years ranged from "Books for Summer Reading" to "The Cause and Cure of War." During the late 1930's, as the membership of the League increased, meetings were held at the Trenton Country Club and Trent House as well as one or two in members' homes. A listing of the meeting topics for the year 1935-36 gives some idea of the diversity of subject matter offered League members: "Trends in Modern Art," "Chic," "Glass and China," "Current Books," "Care and Arrangement of Cut Flowers," "Dining Wisely and Well," a marionette show, annual meeting, and picnic.

After the Second World War, an increasing number of monthly programs dealt with social, economic and political problems of the times. In 1949-1950, the monthly meetings featured the following: "New Jersey School for the Deaf," "The Present World Scene" by a professor from the Wharton School of Finance, "Christmas Floral Decorations," business meeting, "Comparative Study of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Constitutions," "Child Guidance Work," fashion show and luncheon, and picnic. This trend has continued to the present day.



## Office

Headquarters for the Junior League of Trenton did not exist until the late 1930's when the William Trent House was used to house major files. When the Trent House was not heated during World War II, Junior League equipment and files were moved elsewhere to be moved back after the war. With the growth of the Bargain Box, headquarters was established in the old Bargain Box building at 212 Centre Street in 1956 and moved to the new location at 210 Centre Street in 1962.

The increasing need for more office space as well as a "home away from home" prompted the League to secure a permanent suite of rooms at the Lafayette House, 777 West State Street, in January of 1968. A Headquarters Chairman and standing committee were also established at this time. Files literally buried under sofas and beds in members' homes where they had been collecting dust for years were gathered together and are now neatly organized and kept at this central location.

## The Association of Junior Leagues

From the initial thirty Leagues which comprised the Association of Junior Leagues of America in 1921, AJLA grew to include 114 Leagues by 1930. By 1960, there were 197 Junior Leagues with a total membership of 80,000 women. During the past eleven years, the total number of Junior League members has almost doubled. Today, AJL binds together 218 Junior Leagues with a total membership of over 150,000 women.

The Junior League of Trenton has participated with AJLA in hosting two conferences. The first, the 1963 Regional Meeting of Region XIV, was held in January of that year at the Princeton Inn with thirteen Leagues attending. The second, a Mini-Conference, was held in March, 1968 at the Trenton Country Club.

## MONEY RAISING

The first money raising affair sponsored by the Junior League of Trenton was a dance held at the Trenton Country Club in April, 1921. An unknown band leader, Paul Whiteman, and his group provided the music. This highly successful affair netted \$1,600 which was used to furnish the dining room of the New Jersey Children's Home Society.



A year later, the League went in for money raising on a big scale. It presented the spectacular show, "The Arabian Nights." A city-wide contest was held and citizens were asked to vote for the most beautiful red-headed girl in the city. The winner was crowned queen of "The Arabian Nights." Costumes for this production were rented from the movie sets at Palisades Park studios in New Jersey and a top professional director was hired from New York. The program included dances, songs and skits. Between these acts, "Animated Ads" were introduced which proved to be both amusing and financially profitable.

The show ran for a week at the Trent Theatre with a matinee on Saturday and standing room only for the last two nights. The Trenton Times acclaimed the show as "a production that rivals any and surpasses many of the professional revues that Trenton has seen." The proceeds from this production, which amounted to \$7,000 were donated to the American Legion to assist the veterans in their purchase of a convalescent home at Toms River.

So successful was the initial venture in the production of extravaganzas that several other shows were presented in subsequent years. "Stepping Out" was the attraction in 1925, netting more than \$9,000. "The Junior League Revue" of 1927 netted \$8,000, "The Magic Carpet" of 1929 raised \$9,500, and "La Revue Parisienne" in 1930 another \$6,500. Proceeds from these four shows were used to establish and finance the League project, the Baby Shelter.

Income from these professionally-directed shows provided the main source of League project financing, supplemented by minor money-raising activities such as fashion shows and dances, until 1955.

After World War II, the Junior League of Trenton embarked on a new endeavor. The Bargain Box was started in the old Boys Club building in 1947 and has offered good used clothing and household items at low cost for twenty-four years.

In 1949, the League hired a paid worker for the Bargain Box and instituted a quota system of \$10 in merchandise per League member. That year, \$1,000 was turned over to the Project Fund (forerunner of the Community Trust Fund). Substantial renovations were made to the building in 1952, and the second floor renovated in 1956 for storage of out-of-season clothing. That year, a "Weekend at the Waldorf" contest was held with first prize an expense-paid weekend in New York for the League member donating the greatest amount of merchandise to the Bargain Box. In 1958, the League member quota was raised to \$25 and a goal set for the Bargain Box to carry the League's total financial commitment. The following year, the shop was again refurbished and the League began to pursue the possibility of moving from the 212 Centre Street site since quarters were rapidly becoming crowded with the increase in quota requirements.

As part of its 40th Anniversary celebration, the League donated \$35,000 to the Boys Club for a new gym and it was agreed that the front of the new building at 210 Centre Street would house the Bargain Box. To ensure a financial success in its expanded facilities, all Active members were required to give







three hours per month in volunteer work at the Bargain Box and the 1962 Provisional class had the option of choosing either Children's Theatre or the Bargain Box for their total volunteer commitment during their first Active year. The official opening of the new facility was held on April 2, 1962, and during the first year of operation sales increased 31% over the previous year. During 1963-64, awards were initiated for the member giving the most volunteer hours to the Bargain Box and for those donating over \$50.00 of merchandise.

The compulsory three-hours-per-month placement at the shop was discontinued in 1964, but a three-hours-every-three-months commitment was begun in 1969. Today the Bargain Box stands as the League's major money-raising activity, returning over \$12,000 a year to the Community Trust Fund.

In 1958, the League tried a new means of raising funds by sponsoring a Tennis Exhibition at the Trenton Armory. This successful venture brought Althea Gibson, Karol Fageros, Dick Savitt and Eddie Moylan to town. The following year another tennis exhibition was sponsored which included a match by Governor Robert Meyner. Twentieth Century Fox Movietone News recorded this match and it was shown throughout the country.

A "Follies" with an Around the World theme was held in 1961. Although this was a successful money raiser, the enormous amount of time spent by League members to put on a revue of this kind and the high production costs made the League search for other means of raising money.

Seven years passed before the League again took on another major money raiser. In the interim, the phenomenal growth of income from the Bargain Box allowed the League to carry on its community projects. The League again turned to a sporting event in 1968 to raise funds, and sponsored an exhibition basketball game between the New York Knickerbockers and the Philadelphia '76ers at the Civic Center that fall. The game was well-received, even though there was a city curfew.

During a three-year period, beginning in January 1968, the League also sponsored Barclay Dancing Classes for pre-high school children. The classes were provided for the benefit of League members' children and their friends, but also returned over \$1,000 each year to help finance community projects.

## CULTURAL PROJECTS

### General Cultural Projects

An Arts Committee was not formed until 1928, and early work was mainly centered around handicraft exhibits by League members sponsored by various Junior Leagues and AJLA. A Scribbler's Club was formed of League members interested in creative writing, and in 1933 a Junior League Garden Club which held several meetings a year. The following year, a Bridge Club and French Club were begun.

During 1932-37, the League sponsored the famous Clare Tree Major plays for children. These were held at the War Memorial and admission was charged. Three plays were brought to Trenton each year, with the exception of 1933-34 when only one play was given, with an average attendance of 1,000 children per performance. From 1937-39, the League discontinued the Major plays in favor of performances by Junior Programs, Inc. These included two yearly performances, one a ballet and the other an operetta, also held at the War Memorial with admission ranging from 25¢ to \$1.00.

In 1935, the Arts Committee sponsored modeling classes at the New Jersey State Museum for sixth grade children from sixteen public schools. Children who attended the classes were chosen by their art supervisor for their special talent.

When the William Trent House opened in June, 1939 as an historic site, the League gave a very substantial sum of money for the early furnishings for the dining room. The Junior League of Trenton also assisted in sponsoring a campaign for membership in the Trent House Association which was organized to preserve and administer the house. The campaign chairman was a League member. By invitation from the Association, the League held meetings in the Assembly Room, for which it provided curtains designed and made by a League member. A complete set of china, with a Trent House motif, for use by the Association was presented by the League.

In 1940, the Junior League of Trenton promoted and financed the Arts for Youth Council. Membership in the Council included many community groups interested in good cultural programs for the young people of Trenton. The Council served as a clearinghouse for such programs and initiated new projects in the field of the arts where they seemed to be needed. With the Council, the League cosponsored professional plays for children at the War Memorial from 1945-1953 as well as a series of radio programs presented for fifteen minutes every Friday afternoon for thirteen weeks. The first of the series in 1945 was "Books Bring Adventure" with transcriptions rented from AJLA. A new radio series, "Up and Down the Scales," was presented in 1947.



This consisted of transcriptions of the lives and works of outstanding composers and ran for thirteen weeks. These radio programs continued through 1948.

The year 1941 brought the beginning of Junior League sponsored art classes at the Boys Club two evenings a week. The boys were instructed in pencil, crayon, tempera and water colors, and one scholarship was awarded for study at the School of Industrial Arts to the best student in the class. These classes continued into the mid-fifties along with a League-instigated Glee Club and Stamp Club.

Another post-war project in the arts was the sponsorship of an exhibition of art work by Trenton children, kindergarten through high school. Fifteen one-year scholarships to Saturday morning classes at the School of Industrial Arts were awarded by the League. The exhibit was open to the public and ran two weeks. A second exhibition was held in 1946 and scholarships were awarded again.

In the late 1940's, the Arts Committee was made a subcommittee of Education and it was not until 1957 that it again gained standing committee status. Its first project was a youth concert in 1958 by the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra held in Fairless Hills. Two more youth concerts were held in 1959 and 1961.

In 1959, the Arts Committee inaugurated a training program at the New Jersey State Museum which prepared League volunteers to escort school groups through the Museum. That same year, season tickets to the Symphony were given to blind students, and this was continued for the next five years.

With the cosponsorship of the Sears Roebuck Foundation in 1962, the New Jersey Leagues volunteered to present to the general public and schools a series of color Sandak slides on "Arts of the United States." The Foundation gave to the New Jersey Leagues 2500 slides, and the Leagues organized the material and arranged for slide showings. The following year, the Trenton League chose the section of slides on New Jersey Indians and formulated plans for these to be shown at the Cultural Center for visiting school children supplemented by Indian artifacts from the State Museum. However, delays in the completion of the Cultural Center prevented the presentation of the slides until late 1965.



For the opening of the new Cultural Center in November, 1965, the League underwrote the cost of the catalog for the center's first exhibit, "Three Hundred Years of Art in New Jersey." Purchase prizes were also donated to the State Museum for the First, Second and Third Juried Art Exhibits from 1966 to 1968. League volunteers found placement opportunities for lecture-demonstrations at the Museum on New Jersey Indians, Natural History, and State History and Government.

During the summer of 1969, the League provided scholarships for a Theatre Arts Academy, sponsored by Theatre-in-the-Park. The Academy consisted of a series of workshops for teachers, students, and interested adults on phases of the theatre.

## Children's Theatre, Puppets and Marionettes

During the late 1920's and early 1930's, live entertainment programs for children produced by League members were a major interest of the Junior League of Trenton.

Puppetry was popular during 1929-1931. During these years, League members produced shows with puppets and manuscripts obtained from New York. Performances were given at a League meeting, the Union Industrial Home, Orthopaedic Hospital, Miss Fine's School, and the YWCA.

The year 1931-32 marked the first year of Trenton's all-Junior League marionette show. Performances were given in Trenton, Morrisville, Princeton, Edgewater Park. Two League members even hired the group for private children's parties. By the mid-thirties, League members were making their own marionettes and writing their own plays. Nearly 4,000 children were entertained through League marionette performances in 1935-36, and these continued until the beginning of World War II.

In the meantime, the League was formulating plans for a Children's Theatre in Trenton. Support from the community was tremendous. A building at 219 South Warren Street to house the theatre was contributed by Trenton Banking Company, rent-free for the winter of 1932-33. The City Rescue Mission cleaned, mended windows and built a stage in the theatre using unemployed men at a nominal cost. Park benches were painted and loaned by the City at no expense to the League. Stage curtains were made by Atlantic Products Company free of charge, and the newspapers gave many publicity articles and pictures as well as reduced advertising rates. Children from the McClellan School painted murals to adorn the theatre walls. Solfo Paint Company donated the sign, and a piano was loaned by Joe's Tire Shop.



The Theatre opened on November 5, 1932, and gave performances each Saturday morning through April. Moving pictures and professional entertainment (acts by ventriloquists, magicians, and trained dogs as well as story telling, Punch and Judy, etc.) were offered. Four schools also wrote original plays which they gave at the Theatre. Admission of 10¢ was charged. To defray costs, League Night at the Theatre was held November 17, 1932 with tickets costing \$1.00. Performances included magic acts and a dancing couple.

A Children's Club was formed of children from the neighborhood of the Theatre who could not afford the admission charge but would work for their admission. Later in the year, the League dropped the admission charge to 5¢. Passes were also issued by the League to the Citizens' Relief Committee to be



distributed by the organization to needy children.

In the summer of 1933, a Children's Theatre Dramatic Club was begun at the Theatre. From October 1933 to April 1934, that group produced four plays at the Theatre; League marionettes gave four performances; ten programs were sponsored by the schools, and the balance of the 28 programs were miscellaneous entertainment. During the 1934-35 season, the Theatre operated only one Saturday afternoon each month to assure better shows and larger audiences. Performances consisted of three marionette plays, two Children's Dramatic Club plays, and one Senior High Dramatic Club play.

In 1935, after three years of operation, the League was forced to dismantle the Theatre since Trenton Banking Company was planning to demolish the building. A new home was found at the YWCA's International Institute whose building was being used almost entirely by adult groups at night. The Children's Dramatic Club continued to operate during 1935-36; however, the new facility was used primarily for modeling classes, marionette performances, and folk dancing classes.

In October of 1954, the League presented its first program of live theatre for children using an all-League cast. Eight performances of Cinderella were given that year and entertained over 4,000 children. Since then, Children's Theatre has been a yearly League project. During its first year, Children's Theatre was trouped to the Trenton schools. The second year, evening performances were given at various central locations, such as the Boys Club, School for the Deaf, YWCA and YMCA, Chambersburg Community House, etc. The following year, the League gave the performances at several churches in Trenton and Morrisville which acted as centers for the local neighborhood. In 1957, the League again took Children's Theatre directly to the schools and has continued to do so. Since the opening of the Cultural Center, Children's Theatre has given performances yearly at that auditorium as well.



certainly, this is a tribute to the hours given by the Children's Theatre Committee.

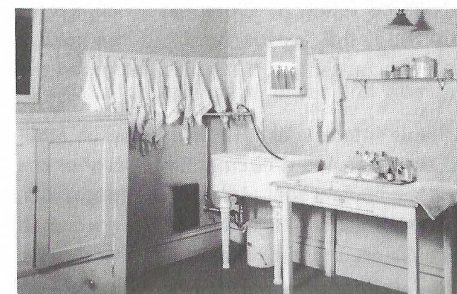
Meanwhile, as an outgrowth of the 1963 Provisional class project, puppets again became an interest of the League. Puppet productions in 1964-65 were given for over 800 children; the following year for over 900. One group of children who were entertained by a puppet performance were so enthused that

they made a simple puppet stage from a carton and purchased three animal hand puppets. "Already," wrote a teacher, "we have heard one very quiet boy do more talking as a puppet than he had done all year by himself."

## HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Just after its organization, the Junior League of Trenton took on a campaign for needed reforms for women at the State Prison and the State Home for Girls. League members wrote letters to the Governor and Judges of the State pointing out the benefits for women committed to the Clinton Reformatory and the efforts made there to rehabilitate the female offender. These letters stressed the sad plight of the women committed to the State Prison where they were required to do the laundry for all the prisoners. The small exercise yard where they were allowed a breath of fresh air after long laundry hours was a cruel joke, the yard being too small for games and the inmates too tired to exercise. Before long, the women were all transferred to the Clinton Reformatory and solitary confinement was abolished at the State Home for Girls.

In 1923, city officials petitioned the Junior League of Trenton to open a Baby Shelter. This was not to be a day-care center, but a place where small children could be temporarily housed and cared for when their mothers were too ill to care for them at home. The Shelter was voted on in 1924 as the first League project and opened its doors at 211 East Front Street on July 28, 1925 to ten children under three years of age, all admitted through various agencies. During the first year of operation, forty children were admitted.



In 1926, the Shelter was re-located at 82 North Clinton Avenue which enabled an increase in cribs to fifteen. By 1929, sixty-eight children were being cared for yearly, and the League decided to purchase land to hold as a future building site for a new Shelter.

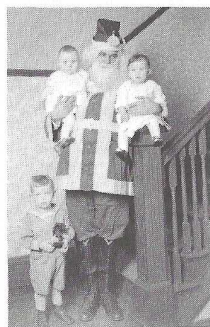
During this period, the Shelter was financed primarily through income from the large



professionally-directed shows. In 1929, the League also unanimously adopted an annual subscription plan to finance the Shelter, sending out 2,500 letters outlining the work of the Shelter and stating the maintenance cost of \$25 per day. Over 200 contributions were received and League members then went into the community to solicit another 249 contributions for a total subscription of \$6,500. However, the League temporarily gave up the idea of purchasing a site for the Shelter.

As the country sank deeper into the Great Depression, the League found it harder and harder to keep up with the expense of the Shelter. To reduce operating costs, League members contributed groceries monthly and were on call for all emergency work: mending, transporting children to doctors, grocery shopping, and case investigations. A Sewing Committee made over 200 garments yearly for Shelter children. Because times did not favor a large financial endeavor, such as another revue, League members tried every way imaginable to raise funds. These included dances, rummage sales, bridge tournaments, selling chances on a 1932 Chevrolet car and magazine subscriptions, and raffling off a Thanksgiving turkey which enriched the coffers by \$270! League members even donated a portion of their summer earnings from employment to the Shelter.

As the 1920's progressed, the demand of the Shelter on the League volunteerwise is also apparent. In 1926-27, half of a member's required number of points had to be given in Shelter service. From 1928-1931, all League volunteer work was done at the Shelter.



In spite of all the efforts, the Baby Shelter closed its doors on September 29, 1934 after nine years of operation. During those years, over 450 children were cared for and admitted through more than 15 agencies. Aside from the difficulty in securing funds for the operation of the Shelter, changes in the social and economic life of the city during the Depression removed the need for such an agency. At that time, family unity was being encouraged and helped through the services of the Emergency Relief Association.

Yearly projects during the 1920's and 30's were the dressing of dolls for the Trenton Times Christmas Fund and the filling of Christmas stockings for the New Jersey Children's Home. In 1923, the League furnished the nurses' room at the Trenton Day Nursery and redecorated and furnished a room at the Florence Crittenton Home.

In 1928, to "increase our charitable interests as well as provide an additional means of making points," the League started a circulating library for the patients at McKinley Hospital. League members donated books and magazines, and the Professional members were in charge of cataloging them. A tea wagon was purchased in 1929 to wheel the books around the hospital one day a week. By 1931, McKinley Hospital library had 150 books, and that same year a sim-

ilar library was started by the League at Mercer Hospital. The following year, a circulating library was established in Princeton.

During 1930-31, League women collected two bundles per week of League members' clothing and donated it to the City Welfare Department.

A Children's Home Committee was established in December, 1932 to work at that agency. The main aim of the committee was to amuse the children, but play rooms were also painted by League members, curtains made, and transportation provided to clinics when children needed attention. In 1935, the regulations ruling the Home changed so that the children had more privileges, and League members felt their services were no longer needed.

In 1937, the League set up and financed, with the aid of Community Chest, the Social Service Exchange. Acting as a clearinghouse for cases of various welfare agencies in Trenton, the Exchange opened its doors in February, 1937. During the first year of operation, 951 cases were cleared for 17 agencies. The Social Service Exchange prevented duplication of assistance to needy cases by more than one charitable organization.

For the convenience of persons visiting patients, the League in 1938 opened the Oasis at Mercer Hospital. Here one could buy gifts, candy, cigarettes, soft drinks, magazines and books. Proceeds from this enterprise went to the

project fund used by the League to finance other charitable work. The League ran the Oasis until 1942 when it was taken over by the hospital.

In 1940, the League underwrote the salary of a nurse for the Visiting Nurse Association. Because the need of that organization for the extra nurse was so great, the League continued with financial support until the mid-forties.



That same year, a Central Volunteer Bureau was undertaken as a League project and began placing men and women in volunteer jobs in April, 1941. The following year, the Bureau was taken over by the Defense Council.

During the war years, the League sponsored dances for servicemen and were hostesses at the United Service Organization Club on Friday evenings. Baked goods were also taken regularly to the Soldiers Club on Hanover Street. Placement consisted mainly of working with agencies concerned with the war effort.



League interest and support of the Boys Club continued during and after the war. In 1941, the Professional group adopted a project of starting a Health Clinic at the Boys Club, which opened the following year. The League donated funds to the Clinic during the forties, and in 1950 got 18 Trenton doctors to voluntarily examine 475 Boys Club members. These doctors also provided free surgical and hospital services for boys requiring them.

Research on the need for a Child Guidance Clinic was begun by the League's project committee in 1945. After two years of study, the Union Industrial Home had offered a wing of its building for the Clinic, a Board of Trustees had been appointed, and a committee established to furnish the Clinic with the League's contribution. Plans, however, faced a setback when the Union Industrial Home sold its building and a shortage of psychiatric personnel existed. It was not until June 15, 1950 that the Child Guidance Center of Mercer County officially opened with facilities in the newly-purchased Union Industrial Home building at 2 Whittlesley Road. The Center offered diagnosis and treatment for children and a consultation service to health and welfare agencies. The professional staff was furnished by the State of New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies. League financial and volunteer support was pledged for a period of three years. This was the first League project undertaken on a cooperative basis with other community agencies.

The Center has expanded over the years and now occupies a building at 532 West State Street and operates the Whitney Center on Nassau Street and a Drug Program on Witherspoon Street in Princeton, with a total budget of over \$500,000 per year.

In 1948, a Board Members' Institute was held at the Hotel Hildebrecht in Trenton which the League cosponsored with the Trenton Council of Social Agencies. There were afternoon and evening discussion groups as well as a dinner party.

At the time the League was seeing five years of planning and study coming to fruition in the opening of the Child Guidance Center, it embarked upon a new project. The Visiting Homemaker Service was accepted as a demonstration project for a one-year period under the sponsorship and supervision of the Family Service Association. The Homemaker Service provided two women to take charge of temporarily disrupted homes due to illness of the mother or other emergencies.

During the late 1940's and early '50's, the League was also active in other community endeavors. Camperships were given to children for several years to attend summer camps run by the YWCA, Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts. Junior League members also purchased and wrapped Christmas gifts for the Boys Club.

In January, 1950, a storytelling hour at Mercer Hospital was begun. League members entertained the children for an hour four nights a week. Scrap books were made for children at Mercer and McKinley Hospitals by League girls desiring at-home volunteer jobs.

That same year, League members collected yarn, knitting needles, woolen goods and carpentry tools to help establish a recreational program at Skillman Village, and worked with the Council of Social Agencies to compile a directory of state and county health and welfare services which was published in April of 1951. In 1952, the League decorated and designed a float depicting facilities available at the Child Guidance Center for the opening day parade of the Delaware Valley United Fund Drive.

In 1953, the League aided the Trenton Day School for Retarded Children. Through the League's financial assistance, the Day School increased the number of days it was open from two to four. The League also made available six scholarships for children unable to pay the minimum tuition and provided the services of a Visiting Nurse who gave periodic inspection of the younger children. The following year, the Day School was renamed the Mercer County Unit of the New Jersey Parents Group for Retarded Children and included in the budget of the State Aid for Handicapped Children. At this time, League financial obligation was dispensed with.

During the 1954-55 League year, the membership undertook to support a number of small projects within existing agencies rather than begin a large one. Money was given to the Boys Club for a new swimming pool; scholarships were given the Visiting Nurse Association as well as a contribution to enlarge and update their medical library; the Carolyn Stokes Day Nursery received money to provide transportation for children; the Orthopaedic Hospital was provided with a screened-in porch for its children; scholarships were provided for Mercer, McKinley, and St. Francis Hospitals; the YWCA received a contribution to underwrite leadership costs of its "Neighborhood Group for Teenage Girls" program; Donnelly Memorial Hospital was given three record players and records; and a contribution was made to the Carver Center to establish a health clinic.

The year 1954-55 was actually a breather for the League between its termination of the Child Guidance Center commitment and the beginning of a new demonstration project. In October of 1955, the League voted to start a Speech and Hearing Center with the cosponsorship of the Department of Chronic Illness of the State of New Jersey. This project stands as a landmark in that it was the first time that a State had cosponsored a project with any Junior League. The Speech and Hearing Center officially opened in August of 1957. The League contributed toward the salary of a well-qualified speech and hearing therapist as well as volunteers to staff the Center. Equipment was purchased by the State Department of Health, and St. Francis Hospital remodelled an entire wing which included a sound-proof testing and control room to house the Center. During its first year of operation, 41 League volunteers gave 501 hours to the Center and 715 patient visits were made.

In 1960, financial support was given to the Community Nurse Association of Morrisville to enable that organization to pay off a mortgage on its property, and in 1961 the League provided the salary of a secretary for one year for the Rehabilitation Center. The person hired was a rehabilitated girl ready for employment.



The League sponsored a Community Leaders Forum in November of 1965 at the War Memorial. This was attended by representatives from thirty-nine social agencies and fourteen other Junior Leagues in Regions III and XIV.

In September of 1966, the League undertook its latest major project, The Volunteer Bureau. Staffed by a director and part-time secretary, the Bureau acted as a clearinghouse to provide volunteer manpower to various agencies in the Delaware Valley. A Volunteer summer program was also initiated for area teenagers interested in volunteer work. After the three-year League demonstration period had ended, the project was continued by the League for another year after which it was absorbed by the Central Services Division of the Delaware Valley United Fund.

During the four years under League auspices, the Bureau placed 1772 persons in 80 agencies with a total of 40,000 hours of volunteer service. It also sponsored an Agency Workshop, Volunteer Program for four summers, a Foster Home Recruitment Program, a Trenton State College placement program, and an adoption campaign for hard-to-place children.

The year 1969 brought a commitment from the League to aid the community in combatting the drug problem. Money for staff salaries was given to the Mercer County Child Guidance Drug Program at the Whitney Center in Princeton. A League Drug Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP) was adopted in 1970, and a workshop was held that fall in the area of drug education for fifth and sixth grade teachers from various Trenton schools in the Junior 5 area and for seventh grade teachers from Junior 5.

A "Know Your Town" project, begun in 1969, is designed to acquaint children in Trenton with their neighborhood and community according to their curriculum guide. Second and fourth graders at the Monument School have enjoyed visits to such places as the Cultural Center, Cadwalader Park, Trenton Post Office, Mercer County Airport, Perry Street Firehouse,

Roebling Farm, Evening Times, Nevius-Voorhees, and have taken a train ride from Princeton to Princeton Junction and back. League volunteers have accompanied the children on the trips and have given an orientation and follow up in the classroom.



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In 1944, a Legislative Committee was established to provide education of League members in Federal, State, and local governmental affairs, and to better acquaint them with current events and problems of government. Its first task was to assure ratification of the new N.J. State Constitution. This committee was given board status in 1951 and announced at League meetings upcoming elections or current legislation of interest and reports of the League of Women Voters. A Pennsylvania representative also served on the committee. The following year, this committee was renamed the Public Affairs Committee, and in 1956, a Pennsylvania Public Affairs Committee was added to the board because of the large number of League members residing in Pennsylvania. In 1958-59, the New Jersey Public Affairs Committee concentrated on establishing a practical and functioning Blood Bank program for the benefit of N.J. residents while the Pennsylvania group joined the Blood Insurance Program offered by the Bucks County Red Cross. In 1960, the two Public Affairs Committees were merged into one and organized the New Jersey Guidebook Project undertaken by the New Jersey Leagues, entitled "Away We Go." The guidebook, still available in bookshops, lays out trips to historic, cultural and recreational places in New Jersey and gives cost and distances of these trips.

During its fifty years of service to the Trenton area, the Junior League has donated nearly a quarter of a million dollars and untold hours of volunteer service to which no price tag can be given. It has served over forty community agencies, many of them, such as the Boys Club, innumerable times. It has started major organizations, such as the Child Guidance Center, and given joy to thousands of children with live entertainment. League members, both past and present, serve on nearly every agency community board. To the hundreds of young women who have given unselfishly of their time and talents over the past fifty years for the betterment of the Trenton community, this history stands as a tribute.





### **PRESIDENT'S BOWL**

1960-61	MRS. PAUL PARKER
1961-62	MRS. WILLIAM BORDEN
1962-63	MRS. LEE A. WILEY
1963-64	MRS. RALPH HALLOWELL
1964-65	MRS. JAMES G. CROWLEY
1965-66	MRS. DONALD LONGENECKER
1966-67	MRS. CARL L. DANBURY
1967-68	MRS. JOHN P. HUGHES
1969-70	MRS. HARRY HEHER, JR.
1970-71	MRS. ROBERT I. SCHLEGEL