

CHAPTER 8

Public Servants, Military Records, and Clubs



Chalk Howard was an outstanding local public servant; his family has carried on this tradition. Pictured are: back row, Louise Howard Stewart, Tom Stewart, Lucille Gamble Howard, Robert S. Howard, Betty Howard Cearlock, Paul J. Cearlock; middle row: Wayne P. Lowe, Evelyn Howard Lowe, Pearl Howard, Charles Howard, Wilma Howard Myers, Martin J. Myers; front row; Paul James Cearlock, Lois Louise Lowe, Suzanne Howard, Loreta Louise Cearlock.

A town of no matter what size can not function without dedicated men and women. Town officials have given literally years of their time since Moweaqua was incorporated in 1863 to see that community problems were solved. The first trustees were elected in December 1863 and were: F. M. Chamberlain, the first mayor; B. H. McHenry; G. P. Hardy; S. F. Pease; J. A. Denny; and C. F. Hardy as clerk.

In 1877 Moweaqua was organized as a village under the General Law. The trustees at that time were: R. I. Smith, mayor; G. W. Bacon, E. Prescott, James H. Kirkman, W. M. Smith, V. Snyder, Jr., and J. H. Elsum as clerk, a position he held for ten years. The first police magistrate of record was J. E. Logenbaugh, elected in 1909.

The man who probably holds the record for longest term of public service was Charles Howard, who served as mayor from 1923 to 1952. Wayne Hemer served in this capacity from 1953 to 1968 with Lyle Ruot being elected in 1969, a position he still holds. Other trustees currently in office include: George Gaines, George Forston, Ralph Wooters, Norma Schorfheide, Delbert Fathauer, and Orville Schmahl with Jacklyn Funk as water collector, Jean Wooters as treasurer-clerk and Robert Moore, Sr. as full time policeman assisted by David McLearin and Don Woodard part time.

Although steps have always been taken to assure fire protection to the town, in 1957 a fire district was formed through the support of Harold Lamb, Mayor Wayne Hemer, P. J. Cearlock, Bill Moore, Delbert Fathauer and others. Mr. Fathauer was appointed Fire Chief, a position he still holds, by trustees Wayne Gregory, Glenn Gordon and Glenn Humphrey. Bill Minott is Assistant Fire Chief, and twenty-six other men who now make up the volunteer squad. The current trustees are P. J. Cearlock, president, Wayne Gregory, secretary-treasurer, and Gilbert Baird. There are now three fire engines and an emergency wagon order in the department.

The people of Moweaqua are deeply indebted to all those who gave of their time and who were interested enough to make Moweaqua what it is today. In 1910 the village population was 1602. It has not grown significantly since that year — 1,687 in the 1970 census — but at the beginning of our third century as an independent nation many are beginning to realize that bigness is not an unalloyed blessing. Perhaps the entire country could benefit from a stabilized population, a reality in Moweaqua these last sixty-six years.

Many Moweaqua residents have served their community and country as military personnel. A number of Civil War veterans came to Moweaqua after that war, some because their homes were here, others because they were given four acres of government land for having served in the Union Army. In 1927 six of these veterans still lived here; George Dean, William J. Snyder, Ephriam Adamson, who had served in President Lincoln's body guard, Charles Van Meter, Walter Humphrey, Sr., and King Manus. Lewis E. Harlan, then of Tower Hill, was the last member of J. V. Clements Post 363 or the G. A. R. He died in 1935 and post flag was buried with him. Mr. Harlan lived in Moweaqua from 1878 to 1925. In June of 1919 Mr. Harlan's son Remann died less than a month after having returned from France, where he had been serving in the United States Army during World

War I. He had been in poor health for five months, and finally succumbed to pneumonia. He had been honorably discharged from service in May, 1919. He was twenty four years old. In October of that year the Moweaqua American Legion was formed and named for Remann H. Harlan. Although many Moweaqua area men had served in the military during World War I, none were killed in action. Since Harlan's death was a result of disease contracted while in active service, this honor was posthumously bestowed on him.

Remann H. Harlan Post was strong and active by Armistice Day, and the next day November 12, 1918, put on a celebration. At 4:00 a.m. guns were fired, starting a great day's celebration. At 11:00 a service was held at the school grounds, including parade drills. A large parade followed, more drills and a stirring football game between Illiopolis and the local Legion. The Legion won 6-0. An army supper was served at 5:00 p.m. including slum, baked beans, bread and coffee. Later a box supper and dance was held in Forbes Hall. Receipts for the day totaled nearly \$500.

On December 29, 1919, the Moweaqua American Legion received its charter: Remann H. Harlan Post, Department of Illinois No. 370. Listed on the charter are these members:

Haldon Buck Ayars	William Abner Clark
Oscar Horace Barbre	Frank Floski
Dale F. Boyer	Andy Potsick
Earl Brown	Steven R. Portwood
Dallas Dalton Coburn	George Sigler
Paul Lester Corrington	Richard Noling
Thomas Edward Gregory	Chas. L. Adams
Melvin Glenn Green	Ibra A. Adams
Floyd Haynie Grooms	Verne A. Coffman
Wallace Gregory	Homer Rose
Lawrence E. Heitmeyer	Bane Zanta Wetzel
Benjamin Oliver Heitmeyer	James Roby
Cecil S. Hudson	Frank Roby
James Earl Hedges	Anson Wilson
Willie A. Jackson	Harley Stombaugh
Emry J. McKinney	William Kinney
Frank McIntyre	Frank Segloski
Charles Hampton Poole	Clifford Hanelton
Harry Ellsworth Riley	John S. Simpson
Gail William Stivison	Jasper C. Sheppard
Norman Smith Starr	Merle Jesse
Glenn Cornelius Tolly	Earl E. Cheatham
Joyce Wiley	William Daughy, Jr.
Ralph Waldo Adams	Charles O. Workman
James Harry Stringer	Charlie T. Weakly
Paul Edward Stroh	Everett B. McClelland
Claude A. McKinney	Atwell H. Brookshire
Raymond W. Noling	Dan McGrath
Charles Joseph Gilmore	David B. Hill
George Lemar Phelan	Sam West
Richard Earl Gregory	James Page
Jamie Edward Hudson	Herbert Wooters
Melvin Albert Stabb	Joseph Birlyer
Howard Bridgeman	Glenn Snyder
Lawrence Gregory	Amos Reynolds
Athur Cassidy	Ivan Partelow
Lloyd Gregory	Ernest Wilkinson
Ray Wempen	Gail Wetzel
Jesse R. Long	Deloss A. Robbins
Rodger Wendel McGee	Frank E. Staab
Roy Richardson	Glen Adams
Robert L. Campbell	

First officers of the Legion were:

Post Commander Dr. N. S. Starr
Vice Post Commander Ibra Adams
Adjutant Earl Brown
Treasurer H. B. Ayars

Board of directors were, Dr. H. S. Wooters, Tom Page and Joyce Wiley.

On Tuesday, Mrs. W. E. Hartman of Decatur, state organizer for the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, met the wives, mothers and sisters of the soldiers of the World War, in the home of Mrs. H. S. Wooters and organized the auxiliary. There were 22 charter members and the following officers elected.

President Mrs. H. S. Wooters
First Vice President Mrs. D. A. Adamson
Second Vice President . . . Mrs. Earl Cheatham
Secretary Mrs. Joyce Wiley
Chaplain Mrs. T. G. Cheatham
Treasurer Mrs. Glenn Adamson

The 1976 membership of the auxiliary is 40 ladies. Our present officers are:

President Mrs. Rochelle Clipston
First Vice President Mrs. Louis Schmahl
Secretary Mrs. Rose Portwood
Chaplain Mrs. Helen Stollard
Treasurer Mrs. Frances Jackson

The Moweaqua American Legion has conducted the Memorial and Veterans' Day services each year since 1919. Each year two scholastic awards are presented to local high school students. At Christmas time the Legion sponsors Santa Claus and candy treats and food baskets for needy families.

For several years after its beginnings the Legion meetings were held in the back room at Ayars Bank. They next met in Rettig's Hall. In 1940, they purchased the Kaiser building on the northwest corner of North and West Main Streets, which they still own and use. Until 1971 the meetings were held in the upstairs of the building, while Duez Shoe Store and the Kroger Grocery Store, later becoming the L and W Store, had space on the street level. From 1940 until 1959 the Moweaqua Post Office leased the north half of that level. The L & F Variety Store also leased space on the ground level. The upstairs was used by other organizations and groups, dances and bingo parties were held there to help defray the building upkeep and expenses.

In 1971 the Legion began using the downstairs section for their meetings. Renovation, which had begun several years earlier was completed, leaving the quarters with modern kitchen, rest room and meeting room facilities. All labor was donated and financial aid came from the Auxiliary's money making projects. The most recent improvement was attaching the sign to the front of the building as a memorial to Earl Cheatham, a charter member who was an eager Legion worker and who passed away in 1976.

Moweaqua sent many of its sons to active duty during World War II. In 1942 Henry W. Peontek was reported missing in action in the Philippine Islands. He was in Prison Camp No. 1, a prisoner of the Japanese. He received a big welcome in Moweaqua in 1945 when he returned from Luzon. Pfc. Anthony Pekovitch was wounded in Italy, Pvt. Paul Duez was wounded in Germany, and Cpl. Norman Sylvester Gillett was wounded in France. S. Sgt. John B. Novota was reported missing in action over Germany in

1944, but was returned home for a 64 day furlough after being held as a German prisoner for nine months. Pvt. Orlie Linn was held prisoner in Stalag 70B in Germany for 14 months and released in 1945.

On Tuesday, August 14, 1945, the Second World War came to an end. People gathered downtown to hear the exciting news events of the day. Services were held in the Moweaqua Presbyterian Church the next day, as people gathered for thanksgiving and praise. The parade that day was the largest Moweaqua had ever seen.

The American Legion sponsored a three day "Fiesta" in August, 1958. Included were horse shoe pitching, an antique car parade, square dancing and kiddie rides.

The 1975-76 local Legion membership is 92. This years officers are:

Commander Jesse W. Schmahl
Senior Commander Howard Knight
Junior Commander Harold Lamb, Jr.
Chaplain Garland Lockart
Finance Officer Earl Brookshire
Adjutant Herbert Jackson

To help obtain information for this article Pamela Moore, Robin Schinzler and Teresa Collins recorded military inscriptions on tombstones in three Moweaqua Township Cemeteries. These records are permanently filed at the Post.

In 1946 a committee was formed to raise money to purchase a permanent plaque listing the community veterans of World War I and II. The committee included Ora Winter, Chairman and Ralph K. Hudson, Co-chairman. Other members were Charles Howard, Roy V. Snyder, Jake Pinkston, Harry Gaither, Esther Wyatt, Corda Lockart, Erma Johnson, Erma Bilyeu, Gale Stewart, Harold Lamb, Gilbert Fathauer, Vada Weers, Alma Winter, Gertrude Newman, S. W. Reatherford, Woody Cox, and Mervil Snyder. With the help of Claude and Elsie Snyder, a complete list of veterans was made up. Albert McCarty, a local instrumental music teacher, created the design for the bronze plaque. It was first erected on South Main Street, the moved to the Moweaqua Park. Later it was placed permanently at the southeast corner of the local Legion building.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The desire to meet with friends and neighbors for fellowship and service caused early settlers in our community to form clubs and organizations. In the beginning many of these provided a means of serving a small area, such as the residents of the country school districts. Throughout the years, there have been many clubs; some are still in existence, others have passed on with the changing times and needs.

We include the histories of some of the groups that have been active through the years. This is by no means a complete list of the clubs in the Moweaqua Community, but it will perhaps serve as a cross section of the types of groups that function in this area.

CHARTER OAK COMMUNITY CLUB

In the spring of 1921 Mrs. Walter Smith and Mrs. Merville Snyder called on several neighbors in the community of Charter Oak School to see if they would like to have a Women's Club. The idea was met favorably and a meeting was called in May, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Walter Smith. Mrs. May Porter of the General Women's Club assisted at



A group of active Senior Citizens pictured in the 1970's.

this meeting, and this club was accepted as a Division of the Moweaqua Women's Club. They chose the name Charter Oak Community Club, which meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the red and white carnation was chosen as the club flower. The purpose of the club is to uplift the educational conditions in this community.

The first officers were Mrs. Owen Smith, Chairman; Mrs. Walter Smith, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Merville Snyder, Secretary and Treasurer. There were fourteen charter members.

In the early days this club bought a flag pole and flag plus other small items to beautify the school area. In May of 1948 Charter Oak School consolidated with Moweaqua School Unit.

In May, 1971 the club celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Snyder Lake Home. A special event at this meeting was the honoring of the six living charter members: Mrs. Merville Snyder, Mrs. E. O. Smith, Jr., Mrs. Elmer Nicholls, Mrs. Leila Carr, Mrs. Ralph Orange, and Mrs. Louis Gorden. The attendance at this occasion total 106 friends and neighbors.

The club always remembers its deceased member with a memorial service in their honor at one of the regular meetings. On Memorial Day, on each members grave is placed a remembrance of their club flower.

Money was given to help build a new pavilion in the Moweaqua Park. They donate yearly to the March of Dimes and Cancer Funds. They entered a very pretty float in the centennial parade in 1952.

Among their many annual events in which their families join is the Christmas dinner and meeting held at Snyder Lake Home. Mr. Roy Snyder graciously opened the doors to the Lake Home and Erma Johnson has always beautifully decorated it in keeping with the season. A picnic or hamburger fry in the summer at the park is enjoyed. There

has always been a chicken fry in the summer, held in various members homes. This has become a tradition at the William Shewmaker home for the past six years.

In October the ladies gather at noon for a fall luncheon at a restaurant of their choice.

For each child of a member planning a new home and marriage, a bridal shower is given.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wicklein are the oldest couple in the club, and Mrs. Ollie Nicholls, the oldest individual.

This has been a great community for 57 years. Neighbors have come and gone, and through this community club there have been many joys and sorrows, shared by all.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Moweaqua F.F.A. was a charter member of the State and National F.F.A. in 1929 — George Hill was president.

Richard Hunter was first American Farmer for the chapter and top American Farmer in the State in 1969. Chris Bohlen was a regional winner in the National Poultry Production Contest in 1966. From 1952 to 1976 Moweaqua had 20 winning teams in Parliamentary Procedure.

The Agriculture Program has grown from 2 classes with 28 students in 1948 to 5 classes and 58 students in 1976. The boys farm 10 acres of land, owning all of their own equipment except a combine and corn picker.

They have installed the Christmas lights downtown (some 900 bulbs covering four blocks) since 1954 under the direction of the local Rotary Club.

Members of the chapter have attended all except three national conventions in Kansas City since 1946.

MERRY MAKERS CLUB HISTORY

The "Merry Makers" club was formed of members living in Prairieton Township, a completely rural neighborhood. Research in the Moweaqua newspaper files show the first meeting, an informal get together including the ladies' husbands, to have been held in April 1923.

On July 12, 1923, thirty-three members met and elected officers. The president was Mrs. Wheeler Johnson; vice-president, Mrs. Edd Young; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. King Reatherford; and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Allen Peabody. The following ladies were reported to have been members on March 28, 1924:

Fay Reatherford	Elsie Johnson	Daisy Mouche
Edna Davis	Catherine Young	Mildred Bilyeu
Mayme Moss	Lela Bilyeu	Pearl Gordon
Linda Bilyeu	Helena Bilyeu	Bessie Workman
Mary Lawrence	Grace Peabody	Verna Peabody
Winifred Peabody	Dora Peabody	Mary Kimmerly
Lizzie Mouche	Allie Scribner	Lizzie Bays
Mary Bilyeu	Ora Kepner	Grace Kepner
Elva Epps	Gladys Epps	Lucy Workman
Cleo Ashley	Rose Thomason	Edna Bilyeu
Flo Ritchey	Vie Bilyeu	Lela Riggins

Of this group, Daisy Mouche, Edna Davis, Catherine Young, Mildred Bilyeu, Pearl Gordon, Helena Bilyeu Bright, Bessie Workman and Winifred Peabody Comisky are still living.

Meetings were held every two weeks in the early years, but later changed to every fourth Thursday, and presently, meetings are the third Thursday of each month. Members have always drawn names for secret sunshine friends and exchanged gifts at Christmas, birthday and wedding anniversaries. Records show that prices for gifts have doubled as have the dues. The third Sunday in July has always been designated for a family pot-luck picnic and in recent years several dinners have been enjoyed at nearby restaurants.

At its inception, the Merry Makers Club was primarily a social gathering and it remains so today. However, over the years, philanthropic donations have been made to the needy, "Care", "March of Dimes", "Cancer Drive Fund", "Heart Fund", Red Cross, and postage for soldiers during the Vietnam conflict.

Present membership includes president Florence Burgener, vice president Frances Bilyeu, secretary-treasurer Billie Daniels, assistant secretary Ercel Pyatt, Evelyn Adams, Evelyn Dial, Rhea Lambdin and Alice Zindel.

MOWEAQUA ROTARY CLUB

The Moweaqua Rotary Club was organized in May, 1925, by the Assumption and Pana Clubs. The charter members were:

C. E. Humphrey, <i>President</i>	Ralph Jarvis
Dr. J. L. Sparling, <i>Vice President</i>	J. E. Hedges
S. S. Clapper, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	J. F. Hickman
W. K. Andrews	Joe Gregory
J. T. Haslam	Dr. J. W. Dobson
P. L. Drew	J. E. Thomas
E. A. Weaver	Dr. F. B. Pratz
E. C. Foster	Les Smith

In June, 1975, a fiftieth year celebration was held. Seventeen members were in the club at that time.

The Moweaqua Rotary Club in Number 2079 in District 649. The club motto is: "Service above self and he profits most who serves best."

THE MOWEAQUA WOMAN'S CLUB

This club was organized in 1913, and so far as is known Mrs. Jessie Burkett is now the only living charter member. Mrs. Fannie Moss was the first member to join the club in 1913 after the charter closed. Mrs. Moss has been a member of this club for 63 years and holds a life membership.

Mrs. Hervy (Bet) Corzine of Assumption, Illinois organized the Moweaqua Woman's Club.

This club has always been active in community work and was instrumental in starting the Moweaqua Library in 1922 and in having the park pavilion erected.

Jessie Burkett and Fannie Moss were the first delegates from the club to a district convention in Cowden, where they traveled by train at a cost of \$1.56 per ticket.

Mrs. Moss brought honor to the Moweaqua Club by being elected State Chairman of Indian Affairs for Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. No club outside Cook County had ever held this office. Because of this office, Mrs. Moss traveled throughout the state creating interest in scholarships for worthy Indian youth. She also visited Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

Because of her service rendered to the education of Indian youth, Mrs. Moss was given honorary membership in the Chippewa tribe and was given the name "Nodinus". This word means "a gentle breeze from afar" and the name was bestowed upon Mrs. Moss in an Indian ceremony in Chicago.

PENN HOME BUREAU

The organization meeting of the Penn Home Bureau was held Monday afternoon at 1:30 P.M., September 20, 1948. It was in the home of Marie Shuster. There were 17 in attendance.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman	Eugenia Garman
Vice Chairman	Ruth Cox
Secretary-Treasurer	Marie Shuster
Literary Chairman	June Pierce
Health Chairman	Mabel Sadoris
Safe Home Chairman	Faye Bartimus
Recreation	Floy Gordon
Reporters	Nelda Bartimus and Phyliss (Gordon) Scribner

Mrs. Mary Ada Parks of Moweaqua gave a lesson on Dress Trimmings.

Today the Penn Home Extension Unit has a membership of over 35 and still growing. We are very active in the activities of the community and the county, and work with the 4-H organization and sponsor many worthwhile affairs. We invite you to join us as we welcome any new potential members and guests.

SHELMACO CLUB

This is the history of the Shelmaco Club. Information was obtained from Mrs. Hester Tolson, a charter member, and from Mrs. Lola Miller who became a member in the early 20's. Mrs. Tolson is still a member and was 90 years old April 3.

This club was organized in 1920. Previously, a group of farm women living northeast of Moweaqua met together at their homes to sew. Part of the time they made quilts. During World War I they made pajamas.

In the fall of 1920 they decided to become a club. They elected officers, chose a name for the club, a club motto, a club flower, and its colors.

The name Shelmaco was chosen because ten members lived in Shelby County and ten in Macon County.

The club motto — "If I would reap courtesy and hospitality, kindness and love, I must plant them".

Colors — Larkspur blue and pink.

Flower — Wild Prairie Rose.

Only one of the original members is still living. She is Mrs. Hester Tolson who resides in Moweaqua. She has been a faithful member through the years; but now is not able to attend the meetings. Other original members included: Mrs. Eunice Askins, Mrs. Ida Barber, Mrs. Lydia Bullock, Mrs. Belle Clipston, Mrs. Alice Cross, Mrs. Kathryn Freeman, Mrs. Ida Harper, Mrs. Nell Hilvety, Mrs. Sallie Hilvety, Mrs. Grace March, Mrs. Lizzie Richards, Mrs. Belle Russell, Mrs. Maude Shepherd, Mrs. Isabel Snell, Mrs. Belle Stombaugh, Mrs. Emma Stombaugh, Mrs. Sadie Stombaugh, Mrs. Hester Tolson, and Mrs. Clara Warren.

Every third Thursday afternoon of the month they met at a member's home. The next month they met at the home of the member who lived closest to that member, and so on around the community until each one had entertained. Then they started over. They had program books with the programs planned for each meeting. Those who had children took them along to club.

There were three fun things for all the families — a weiner roast, a picnic in the woods, and a Christmas party which was generally an oyster supper which was sometimes followed by a program.

For the first ten years, there was little change in the membership since most of them owned where they lived.

After that, there was a gradual change. Some died and some rented out their farms and moved to Moweaqua or to other communities. Members who had means of transportation remained in the club. Those who moved into the community were asked to join; some did, others didn't. Seven of the old homesteads have been "done away with". So, there are fewer homes in the community. Now there are eleven members. Two of them work away from home. There are five honorary members. They vary in ages from mothers with young children to great grandmothers. But all enjoy meeting together.

For many years they made cancer dressing for the American Cancer Society. Now they make lap robes for shut-ins. They give annually to three charitable organizations.

They no longer have the family get-togethers, but the women enjoy a potluck dinner near Christmas and have their Christmas program and gift exchange.

SUNNYSIDE CLUB

1926 - 1976

Fifty years of service to the community, all working together, sharing, and supporting charities, with many good

times as a reward for their faithfulness and dependability to each other and to each endeavor have been goals of the Sunnyside Club.

According to records, the club was organized in May 1926, following a school program at Sunnyside, a country school, near the north line of Flat Branch Township, Shelby County, Moweaqua, Illinois. Miss Ruth Humphrey was the teacher. After the program mothers present decided to have a club — voting to call it "Sunnyside Mother's Club". They elected the following officers:

President Aura Casey
Vice President Maude Kirk
Secretary Corda Lockart
Treasurer Mary Wright

They voted to meet once a month, on the third Wednesday, in the homes of the members. Their goal was to aid the teacher and to better equip the school. More books were needed in the library, also maps. A piano, Aladdin Kerosene Lights, curtains for the windows and the stage were purchased. How did they do it? By making homemade ice cream and cakes, selling them on the streets in Moweaqua on Saturday nights when everyone came to town. Money was raised by selling rugs. Club members sewed carpet rags and Pansy Zindel did the weaving for them. Other projects kept them busy.

Arbor Day was observed at the school in 1927, aided by the club, setting out trees on the school grounds. The names of the pupils, teacher and club members were placed in a glass bottle and placed among the roots of a tree. One tree was named "Miss Humphrey."

In 1930 the club's name changed to "Sunnyside Community Club". Membership had grown, and the school was the meeting place for programs by pupils, with the club helping, on the second Friday night of each school month. Following the entertainment, refreshments, and a social hour of fellowship completed the "Family Night". Getting to the meetings was a highlight of the month. If roads were muddy, wagons pulled by mules brought them.

The years through 1933-1937 were busy ones — thirty-six (36) women's names were on the roll call. Many outdoor gatherings, including fish and chicken fries, (Annual Affairs), hamburger fries, weiner roasts, picnics in the park, are still a part of each year. Outings to Spittler Woods, Santa Claus Village — for Christmas trees, Ramsey Lake fishing trips, chartered bus to Lincoln and dinner parties for various celebrations. Special meetings were held at the Flat Branch Town House.

25th Anniversary 1926-1951

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the club was held on the night of April 26, 1951. More than 100 people attended the celebration. There was a program of music, solos, piano, clarinet, and a girls' quartet sang. Three plays were given by the women of the club. Corsages were given to three former teachers present, to the president, Wanda Hopkins, and the charter members. A social hour followed.

40th Anniversary 1966

On June 15, 1966 at the beautiful Snyder Lake Cabin west of Moweaqua the 40th anniversary party was held. Forty-four were present; enrollment was 22 at this time. Teachers of the past, friends and visitor helped the club celebrate. Corsages were given to the two charter members present, cards and letters were read from those who could not attend.

Pictures were taken of the group by photographer Mr. Diebert and Roy Snyder, our guest and owner of the cabin. A lovely tea table with 40th year cake, punch, nuts and mints were served the group.

The "Nucleus" is still alive with 11 active members in 1976 and under the leadership of Agnes Federman, plans are forming for the 50th anniversary of Sunnyside Club in June 1976.

Fifty years of "Friendship is the Highest Degree of Perfection in a Society".

SCOUT TROOP 85

The first charter to organize and operate Troop 85 was granted to the Rotary Club in January of 1955. On this first charter Don Drew was listed as institutional representative and Lyle Bilyeu was committee chairman. Robert A. Howard was appointed first scoutmaster. John Ashley, Howard Burns and Fred Seeds were listed as assistant scoutmasters.

In June of 1955 the troop attended their first camporee in Shelbyville and in July attended summer camp in Decatur.

In the fall of 1957, Robert Howard resigned as scoutmaster. Howard Burns was appointed by the Rotary Club to fill the vacancy, a position he still holds.

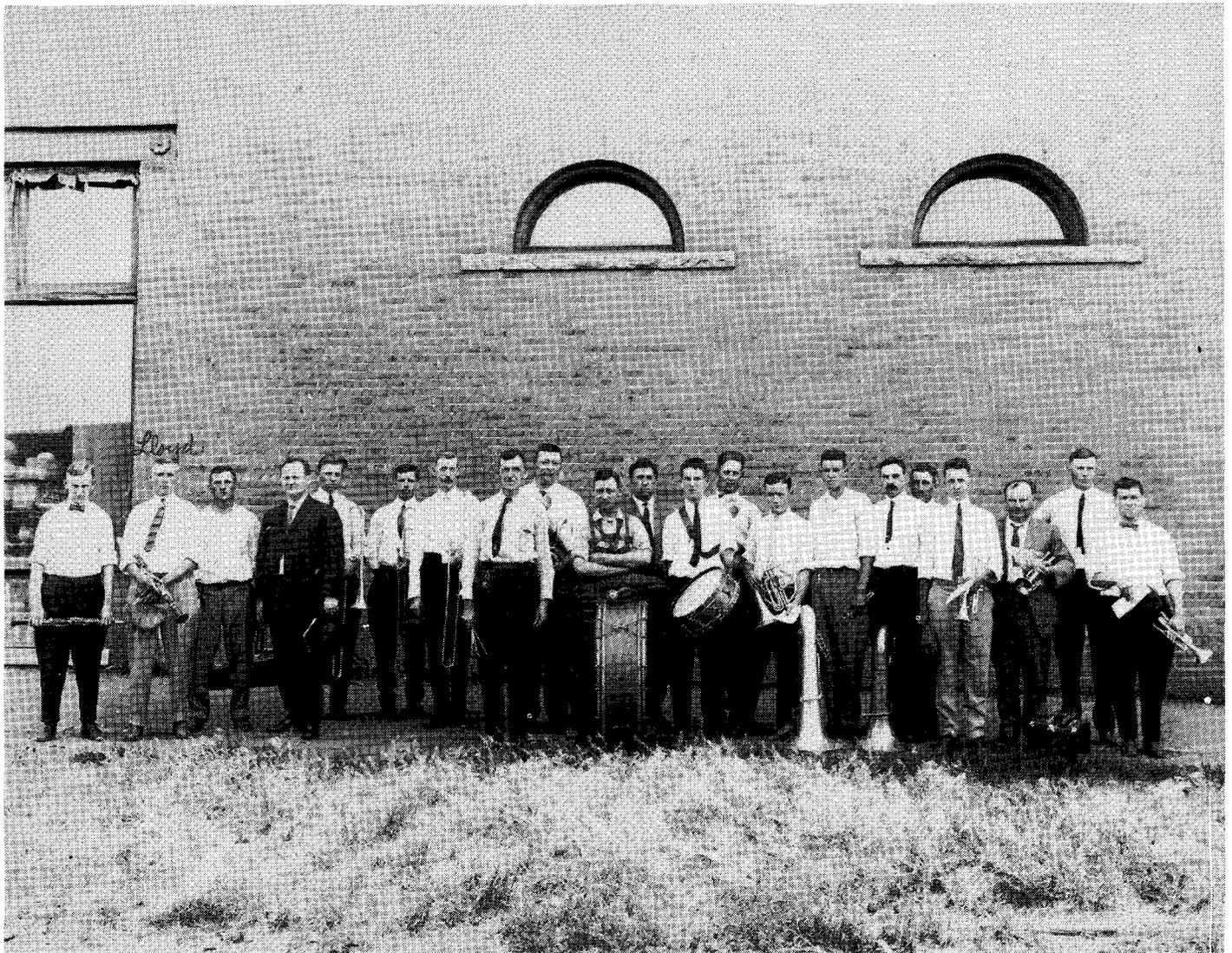
One of the first troop "good turns" for the community was to remove the flag pole from the old school site, repaint it, and set it in concrete at the new school building site. Members of Troop 85 raised the flag over the new school in April of 1956.

The first religious award, the God and Country Award, was presented to Lenny Windels by Rev. George Potter. Thirty-three religious awards have been earned by scouts to date.

The troop has always had an excellent advancement record. Over 650 units of advancement have been earned with 26 scouts earning the Eagle Award. The first Eagle Scout Awards were presented to Larry Hight, Mike Lockart, Jon Odell, and Mark Pistorius in October of 1957.

MOWEAQUA MEN'S BAND

Moweaqua Men's Band as it looked about 1915. Pictured left to right are: Roy Richardson, Lloyd Gregory, Roy Snyder, Harley Gregory, Bill Gregory, (unidentified), Harry Day, Mr. Harding the director, Archie or Jamie Gregory, Everett Gregory, Karl Snyder, Kenneth Snyder, Paul Corrington or Harry Ahl, Earl Gregory, Verne Silver, Mr. Logenbaugh, (unidentified), Mac Wilson and Lawrence Gregory.



In June of 1959, the scout troop had the honor of raising the flag at the ceremonies dedicating the new post office.

The troop, over the years, has participated in every district and council event including summer camp for 22 years, forty camporees, explorer outpost camps, scout fairs, deep freezes and klondike derbys. Many of these events included overnight camping for one or more nights. Including local camping trips, it is estimated the troop has camped out over one year (365 nights).

Swimming has been another important part of the troop program. Several hundred boys have learned to swim or improved their swimming skills under the troop swim program.

The merit badge program plays an important role in scout advancement. Over 1500 merit badges have been earned during the past 22 years.

The troop operates three patrols of 8-10 boys each and meets at the community building at 7:00 P.M. each Wednesday.

* * * * *

Drawn together by mutual interests, for community service, or for recreation, people in this rural community still join together for sharing. Many lives have been enriched by experiences gained in working and playing together. New friends are made and old friendships strengthened by sharing in a common cause.

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