



RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

75TH ANNIVERSARY

1912-1987

75 Years of Service to the Community and It's Citizens...



RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

Ruskin, Florida



FOREWORD

This report on the History of the Ruskin Woman's Club members and activities has been an on-going project since 1982. At that time a meeting was held with Mrs. Esther Dickman and Mrs. Dorothy Renshaw. Mrs. Julia Miller and Mrs. Shirley Turner were invited but were unable to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to start assimilating the history of Ruskin. However, inasmuch as the Club's 75th anniversary was coming up in 1987, and much has been written about Ruskin, it was decided to concentrate on the history of the Club.

Following the first draft, Mrs. Dickman, Mrs. Renshaw and Mrs. Anne Adair, edited and added additional information. My sincere thanks to them for their help and assistance.

All available files, club minutes from 1918 - 1933, scrap books and newspaper clippings were re-searched for club activities and programs. Past presidents were also asked to report on the highlights of their administrations.

It is sad that so many of the Club records have been misplaced or lost. Hopefully, this will stimulate others to recall club activities and programs that have taken place, and, we urge you to please write them down and give to the Club president, or trustee, so they may be placed in the Archives for future reference.

mable i godfrey
Past President '83-'84
RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

November, 1987

Cover: Photo - Bell Dickman, Ruskin

RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

Ruskin, Florida

The 20th Century Club was organized in 1912. Dr. Minerva Cushman was the first president from 1912-15. For these 75 years the club has moved forward with their original purpose and dedication.

In the beginning the aim of these pioneer women was improvement - personal improvement, to improve their way of life and to improve the community, to work for the best that life had to offer - therefore, culture and civic improvements became the basis of the Club's activities, and the foundation on which to build something constructive and concrete that would endure beyond these 75 years.

They became tirelessly dedicated in their work and positive in their convictions and efforts to keep progress at the forefront of their town - Ruskin! The first few years were given to improving the cultural aspects of their lives - remember this was before the daily newspaper, radio or television, good books and news items were reported on and discussed at each meeting.

Meetings, held monthly, were designed to be interesting and informative. Yet, because they also wished to extend the club's influence beyond their immediate environment, it has followed that meaningful social and practical departmental committees were developed, however, the original purpose has been held to and sustained, 'Individual culture and civic improvement'. This has been made possible through a cultivated membership and through an earnest desire on the part of all for efficient up-to-date programs. Interest is sustained through the Florida Federation of District, State (FFWC) and General Federation (GFWC) organizations and the use of their publications.

Between 1914 and 1919, clubs of the GFWC swung into step with the war effort which included conservation of food, working with the Red Cross, active in Veteran's Assistance Programs and supporting moves toward child labor laws. During this time, Mrs. Adaline Miller was president.

In 1916, clubwomen asked for the establishment of a Women's Bureau in the U.S. Dept. of Labor, and it was established four years later with a woman at its head.

The Woman Suffrage and Equal Rights was endorsed by the clubmembers in 1918. Mrs. Adaline Miller had worked very hard on this movement before she came to Ruskin. She had been on a Lecture Platform and was very happy when it was passed in 1920.

In October 1918, a resolution of appreciation was sent to Pres. Woodrow Wilson by the Club and also to the Senators who voted for the Woman Suffrage Amendment.

In 1919, the Club became federated (the 19th club to be federated in Florida) and at this time voted to ask the Commongood Society of Ruskin to change the name of South Street (which is now US-41) to Liberty Street. This was done. Also, in 1919, a drive was underway to designate the first Friday in February to become Florida's Arbor Day. The Club also supported "Prison Reform". A resolution was drawn up and sent to the President, the Dept. of Justice, the GFWC and the O.E. Liberty Critic, in support of this movement.

Ruskin was growing .. the one teacher school was not enough. The 20th Century Club resolved to call on the Supt. of Schools and ask for another teacher.

In 1919, the Club passed a resolution to ask the Federation of Women's Clubs to write the Florida State Legislature to help frame and introduce a bill for "Old Age Pension" for people age 65, or more, in view of its being placed on the status book at an early date. In November of that year, an appeal was received from Oldsmar asking the Club's help in supporting a "No Fence Law". They were happy to comply for at this time it was "Open Range" and the cattle and animals made life miserable for all the communities.

Then came the "Roaring Twenties". Many changes took place - styles changed - this was the "Flapper Age", short became shorter and shorter, tight became tighter and tighter. In 1920, music was becoming popular and the Club agreed to help make "Good Music, Popular" and "Popular Music, Good". Mrs. Rose Dickman became the third president, 1920-1925.

In 1923, the Club learned it had become a Member of the Founders of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. The Club had donated \$1.50 to its cause. (At that time, this donation put the club "in the red"). The Club was asked to send two names who would donate an equal amount.

An inquiry was received from the Better Homes Society, asking what the Club was doing in the way of better sanitation. The Club wrote the President urging an appropriation of \$300,000 for the Florida State Board of Health.

The Club was growing and the natural desire to expand and have its own clubhouse prompted the acquisition of a lot on a 99-year lease basis, on what is now known as Hibiscus Park, where the Library now stands. It was a good idea but after much hard work, the dream was never realized due to the lack of funds. Again Mrs. Adaline Miller became president, 1925-1934.

In 1928, Miss Harriet Orcutt, a charter member, donated her large private library to the Club for use as a Public Library. The books were moved to the Chamber of Commerce building and club members maintained the Library for many years. The Club also held their meetings there until 1940. Mrs. Pauline Lawler became president, 1934-1942.

In 1940, the family of Mrs. Adaline Miller deeded the present clubhouse to the Club. It was the only remaining building of the Ruskin College after the fire in 1918. It was originally the home of Dr. Geo. McA Miller, president of the College which was opened in 1910, and his wife, Adaline Dickman Miller, who designed the Swiss Chalet style structure which was built in 1912.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic places in 1974, one of 16 sites selected in Hillsborough County, out of nearly 200 nominated in the state, and was dedicated at a National Historic Site, Feb. 22, 1976. Mrs. Anne Adair was president, 1974-1976.

Up to this time the club had been known as the 20th Century Club, in 1940, when a new charter and by-laws were written, the committee decided to change the name of the club to the Ruskin Woman's Club, the membership approved and at that time the Ruskin Woman's Club became the owners of a beautiful clubhouse and grounds, located at 503 Tamiami Trail, South.

Unfortunately, many of the club's records from 1934 - 1971 have been lost or misplaced. Club Presidents:

42-44	Mrs. J.W. Beaudette	50-52	Mrs. Earl Christopher
44-46	Mrs. Esther Dickman	52-54	Mrs. J.M. Glass
46-48	Mrs. Julia Miller	54-56	Mrs. Frances Carothers
48-50	Mrs. C.L. Council	56-58	Mrs. E.A. Congleton
61-62	Mrs. Leland Kennedy	58-60	Mrs. T.R. Hovey
		60-61	Mrs. H.G. Brower

In 1955, the Florida Outdoor Drama Association was sponsored by the Club and brought to Ruskin. "The Voice of the Wind". The cast was to be provided room and board by Club and its members. The cooking was done by Frances Carothers and Pauline Lawler, assisted by many others. They served 150 meals a day. The theater was torn down in 1981.

In 1962, the clubhouse had extensive damage from Hurricane Donna. During these years, the club was so strapped for money to do the needed repairs that money was borrowed from members, interest free, to do them.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The outstanding program for 1962-63 was an original play written by Mrs. H.R. Nichols. It was a complete history of the RWC from its earliest conception. The play was narrated and performed by clubmembers, complete with stage settings and costumes of the periods depicted.

1962-64, Mrs. Wilhelmina Willis, Club President

A movement headed by the president to recondition and reactivate the Ruskin Agricultural Park and the Amphitheatre was undertaken as a club project. The effort snowballed into a community betterment organization called the "Ruskin Roundtable". The Club had 120 members at that time.

The Club's first Christmas Bazaar was held at Bahia Beach. Margaret Council gave Dorothy Renshaw her famous Watermelon Pickle recipe and it was by far the best seller at the bazaar. Ruth Elsberry's Green Tomato Pickles came in a close second. All of these preparations were accomplished at the clubhouse. Booths and spaces were rented to outside people and filled the ballroom. The major attraction .. was Annette Saylor doing portraits.

1964-66, Mrs. Dorothy Renshaw, Club President

In 1964, the Library books were again moved to the Chamber of Commerce building where the library was opened five afternoons a week. Up to that time, the service was one afternoon a week. Mrs. Carothers, chairman, was unable to serve, so the task fell to President Renshaw, assisted by Peggy Gay, Frieda Stoll, Billy Willis, Margaret Council and others.

In 1965, a musical extravangaza was produced by Doll Keeler at Bahia Beach to raise funds to repay loans borrowed from members to pay for the damages to the clubhouse from Hurricane Donna.

The work of the Club over the years resulted in the Ruskin Branch Library being built. In April, 1966, the Club, for their work on the Library, won \$300 for first place as the best FFWC Community Improvement Project in District VIII. This money went into the library work.

The Ruskin Branch, which was opened June 6, 1966, with a portrait of Pauline Lawler painted and donated by Annette Saylor, was the first County Library built by matching funds provided by President Johnson's Education Bill.

The Ruskin new Library represents an investment of \$100,000. Ruskin and individuals contributed \$30,000, plus the donation of land (Hibiscus Park), National-State \$21,000, Hillsborough County \$49,000.

In 1984, the Library size was increased by another third - making the Children's Dept. a suitable size.

1966-68, Mrs. Stella Guderian (Jennison), Club President

The club was active in co-ordinating committees which started the School for the Handicapped at the Ruskin United Methodist Church.

1968-70, Mrs. Ruth Elsberry, Club President

- The upstairs apartments were renovated.
- "New Year's Open House Reception" for the community was revived. It was started in 1916 by Mrs. Adaline Miller and became an annual event until 1949.
- A "Driver's Improvement Course" sponsored jointly.
- CIP Program: Family Service Association.
- Smorgasbord & Card Party cancelled due to influenza epidemic, February 21, 1969.

1970-73, Mrs. Jackie Fenzau, Club President

The Club was incorporated (the corporation to exist for a term of 99 years) in 1971. The Trustees at that time were Pauline Lawler, Julia Miller and Dorothy Renshaw.

The clubhouse was rewired. Electrical trunk line increased. New Air Conditioner (reverse cycle) was installed, (\$650.00).

- S.O.S. (Stamp Out Stupidity) Program was started at East Bay High School. Club joined C.O.D.A. (Co-ordinating Council on Drug Abuse of Hillsborough County). This was necessary so the state would license the Club to operate as SOS sponsors.
- Club protested the \$40,000 assessment on the clubhouse and property made by the County. Members attended meeting with the County Commissioners and School Board members to 'protest'. (Protest accepted - did not have to pay taxes in 1972).
- Club hosted District VIII Tour at Causeway Inn, October 20, 1972.
- FFWC, CIP programs - Family Service and Crime Prevention continued.
- April 3, 1973, Pauline Lawler lobbied for the Library at the State Legislature, Tallahassee.
- Library room in the clubhouse refurbished - cost \$206.56.
- Members wrote letter to State officials - RE: KEEP COCKROACH BAY IN ITS NATURAL STATE.
- Newly furnished Ruskin Library room was dedicated by Frances Carothers as "The Pauline Dickman Lawler Room". A plaque was presented to Mrs. Lawler.
- On Arbor Day - members planted an exotic blooming tree on the club grounds.
- The hardwood floors in the clubhouse were carpeted. They could no longer be sanded. New curtains were added. The Club had a float in the Ruskin Days Parade.
- FFWC Depts. were formed and the Club's By-Laws were revised to coincide with these departments.

THE RUSKIN CEMETERY

One of the outstanding projects of the club was the planting and beautification of the Ruskin Cemetery, which took place over several years and hard work of many members, with the help of the County which improved the roads. The Club paid for the plantings and the water system.

The earliest gravestone found was dated 1909.

In 1926, a deed to the property was received from the Dickmans.

In 1931, donation of the waterfront strip was received from a Mrs. Smythe of Bradenton.

The cemetery was supported by Ruskin Commongood Society, V.F.W., Homemakers Club, Area Churches and the Ruskin Woman's Club. In 1953, the RWC was relieved of full responsibility but continued to donate annual financial support.

In 1956, more land was purchased from the Dickmans.
 In 1962, additional land was purchased from the Dickmans.
 In 1964-66, RWC cut the ties to the cemetery up-keep.

1973-74, Mrs. Marjorie McMichael, Club President

- S.O.S. Program in schools continued (to educate and enlighten the youth of our country before they become involved in drugs and are a total loss to themselves and to their community).
- Purchased 30 upholstered chairs - \$10 each, 1973.
- Club received Sales Award (FFWC) through their efforts for selling the most Bright of America.
- C.I.P., Crime Prevention Program continued.
- Bids received for a new roof on the clubhouse. (Sears bid, \$3,428.50). Roof installed, Feb. 6, 1974.
- Effort made to save Eagles' nests when I-75 is built. The nests will be protected from September to the middle of May during their nesting time.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB disbanded giving the Club the privilege of continuing to publish the Ruskin Telephone Directory, which the Chamber of Commerce had turned over to the Juniors in 1960, with the stipulation if they re-organized within three years, the Book would be returned to them.

At this time the Club was checking into the possibility of having the Clubhouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1974-76, Mrs. Anne Adair, Club President

- A renovation project on the clubhouse was undertaken. A committee was appointed with Pauline Lawler chairman. This was a huge project - but finally, according to the FLORIDA ACCENT, April 4, 1976, newspaper, it was announced the building was repaired, painted inside and out, new drapes, carpeting and new kitchen floor covering.
- A Certificate was received designating the clubhouse as a National Historical Site. It was framed and hung by Annette Saylor.
 A Historical Marker (National Register of Historic Places) was installed - cost \$400 - \$600, the state paying \$125.

The Clubhouse Building was dedicated on Sunday, February 22, 1976. (See next page for Dedication Program). ⁷

HISTORIC HOME DEDICATED

The State Historic Marker designating the Ruskin Woman's Club as a National Historic Site was dedicated Sunday, February 22, 1976.

Mrs. Floyd Lowe gave the invocation. The welcoming address was by Mrs. Donald Adair, president of the Ruskin Woman's Club. O. D. Miller, Phoenix, Arizona, was the main speaker for the event, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Geo. McA. Miller, founders of Ruskin College, told about the early days of the college.

He said, the marker, "will inform and testify to the fact that this building, the Adaline Dickman Miller Clubhouse of the Ruskin Woman's Club, has been officially chosen to be listed in the Nat'l Register of Historic Places".

The clubhouse thus becomes one of only 16 sites in Hillsborough County nominated to the Nat'l Register of Historic Places - out of nearly 200 nominated by the county.

The Nat'l Register of Historic Places was established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, said Miller. It is sometimes referred to as "the official schedule of the nation's cultural property that is worth saving; a protective inventory of irreplaceable resources across the face of the land."

"This building, with its heritage and history, well fits the specific reasons for which it is cited, namely, 'its architectural, education and social-humanitarian significance". said, Miller.

"It symbolizes the practical idealism mutually shared by my parents, Dr. Geo. McA. and Adaline Dickman Miller, throughout their lives together".

O. D. Miller's brother, Willard Miller, a well-known Ruskin figure, unveiled the bronze marker, with Mrs. Norman Tillett, chairman of the Sign and Dedication Committee, reading the inscription on the marker which is topped by the official seal of Florida in full color.

Following the reading of the marker inscription, Mrs. Pauline Dickman Lawler, long-time member of the club, and chairman of the Renovation Committee, accepted the historic marker on behalf of the Ruskin Woman's Club from the State of Florida.

O. D. Miller's son, Don, an architect and painter, painted a watercolor picture of the clubhouse which he gave to his father recently on his 80th birthday. They decided to give the picture to the Ruskin Woman's Club to be placed in the auditorium to be enjoyed by everyone.

Florence Kennedy, parliamentarian, read this resolution at the May, 1976, Installation Luncheon.

"Whereas; the past year has seen unusual achievements in rejuvenating the Clubhouse, installing the marker besides all the regular activities, and Whereas: our president, Anne Adair, her staff, also Pauline Lawler, have sailed through it all with grace and serenity,

Therefore, be it resolved that a standing ovation be given to show our appreciation."

Signed this Day: May 5, 1976
by .. Florence Kennedy

1976-77, Mrs. Thelma Stickle, Club President

The Club received its 50th year FFWC Certificate which was due in 1962. (Club was federated in 1919).

- A Breast Cancer Detection Program was held at the Club sponsored by the Amer. Cancer Society, Hills. County Unit. Dr. Lester J. Schultz was the speaker.
- An Art Auction show was held at Bahia Beach Ballroom as a fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund. Shirley Dubois, chairman.
- Warranty Deed up-dated to show new directors.
- Club's first newsletter, "ACTION" published January 5, 1977. Mable i Godfrey, editor.
- Clubhouse tented - \$960 - Ruskin Pest Control.

Community Cupboard organized May, 1976. Members to bring food items to each meeting.

"FEAST OF FLOWERS" an original play created and performed by the Florida Studio Theater was presented at the new Ruskin Recreation Center. The play traced the early Florida history highlighting the explorers from Spain, France and England.

The Club received the FFWC "Overall Outstanding Award" in the Citizenship Division for Voters registration April, 1977.

1977-78, Mrs. Alicia Lancaster, Club President

- A 'First' Dinner Dance held at the Bahia Beach Ballroom.
- New China, service for 12 in the Pauline Pattern was purchased. Florence Kennedy, chairman.
- Valentine Dance was held at Bahia Beach.
- The Club's 65th Anniversary and the annual Membership Orientation Tea were combined.

Mrs. Frances Carothers was honored by former students on her 79th birthday, November 14, 1977.

On May 11, 1978, Mrs. Paul B. Dickman (Esther) and Mrs. James Lawler (Pauline) received Special Award Certificates for their outstanding service to the Ruskin Woman's Club for the past 50 years, especially in raising funds to restore the clubhouse as a historical site and for the Bi-Centennial and supporting the Club in Community Improvement Projects. They also received 50-year Lifetime Membership Certificates from the GFWC. Mrs. Jo Angst received a Certificate for Journalism for her weekly article "Rambling" with Jo.

1978-80, Mrs. Bell Dickman, Club President

A committee was appointed by the president to work on the History of Ruskin. Members appointed were: Carmen Watson, Judy Gerrity, Esther Dickman, Mable Godfrey and Pauline Lawler, chairman.

- A 'First' - the Christmas Bazaar was held at the clubhouse. The Ruskin Garden Club, S.H. Lions Club were invited to have booths. The Ruskin Rhythm Rascals provided entertainment.
- A "Friendship Quilt" made by members.
- A public meeting held to try to get a 'Mini-Courthouse' in South Hillsborough County.
- CIP Program: 'One to ONE Tutoring' at East Bay High.
- Club held voters registration to deputize poll workers.
- Members attended a meeting for Southeastern Hillsborough Transit for the purpose of getting bus service in this area.
- Members volunteered for the Immunization Program at Joyce Ely Clinic.

1980-81, Mrs. Esther Rief, Club President

FFWC Programs - Crime Prevention and Anti-Shoplifting.

- Proclamation was issued for November as "Crime Prevention Month".
- Health Program - "Be Wise - Immunize", Home Life Dept. Mable Godfrey and Donna Allmond, chairmen.
- "Vial of Life" program implemented.

TALKIN' TALES: A Cracker Storyteller Remembers Growing Up in Florida" was presented by Jon Spelman - 'His One Man Show'. (Yancy Register, the homespun character of rural Florida).

- Home Life Dept. "What My Family Means To Me" - 5th graders contest.
- Blood Mobile sponsored by the club. Donna Allmond, Ch.

- For the 1979 Christmas Program, Girl Scout, Troop 458, (Kim Schaub, Leader) accompanied by Kay Sears on the piano provided entertainment.
- "ACTION" club newsletter resumed publication in 1980. Mable Godfrey, editor.
- "Friendship Quilt" made by members won 1st Place in Group Entry at the FFWC Fall Board.
- "Second" Christmas Bazaar held at the clubhouse. Ruskin Garden Club, S.H. Lions Club and Ruskin Rhythm Rascals participated. Mable Godfrey and Alice Regis, general chairmen.

1981-82, Mrs. Ruby Crosier, Club President

FFWC Crime Prevention Programs continued.

- Members attended a "Brown Bag Lunch" tour of the Tampa Museum. Esther Rief, chairman.
- "Country Store" added feature to the Christmas Bazaar.
- "International Quilt" by members. Mary Green, chairman.
- C.I.P. Program: "Child Abuse & Missing Children" - Home Life Dept.
- "Family Week Essay" contest Ruskin Schools. Education Dept.
- Girl Scout Troop 458 planted 40 bulbs on club grounds.
- 1980 Christmas Program .. "Christmas With The Talking Ladies". Bobbi Hamilton, chairman.
- First South Hillsborough Chamber/Commerce ARTS & CRAFTS Show held at Kash 'n Karry Parking lot. (Replaced Ruskin Days). RWC in charge of publicity. Mable Godfrey, publicity. Anne Adair, Mabel Cooney posters.

1982-83, Mrs. Shirley Turner, Club President

'82-'84 RWC Telephone Directory published -- dedicated to Betty Lewers, who for many years was solely responsible for its publication. Shirley Turner, chairman.

- C.I.P. - "Child Abuse & Missing Children" - Home Life Dept. Also, Fingerprinting students in area schools. Dorothy Renshaw, chairman.
- Bake Sale - held to raise money for Asolo Theater Scholarship.
- Bell Dickman appointed FFWC District VIII, Centennial Chairman 1982 - 1990.
- GFWC Resolution - April 24, 1990 to April 24, 1991, will be CENTENNIAL YEAR; therefore, April 24th as GFWC DAY and April as GFWC MONTH will be observed.
- 1982 Christmas Program - "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" presented by members. Christmas "Open House" resumed.
- By-Laws revised in 1983.

- S.H. Chamber/Commerce ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR was held at the Tomato Packing Plant, Apollo Beach. RWC served as Hospitality Committee.

1983-84, Mrs. Mable i Godfrey, Club President

FFWC Programs from 1982 continued - Missing Children, Fingerprinting elementary school children, Seedling Reading Program and the Statue of Liberty Restoration.

FFWC Fall Board honored members with over 50 years as a Federated member at a "Tribute To The Receptive Heart" Luncheon. Esther Cralle Dickman was honored having been a member since 1927.

Ruby Crosier, past president '81-'82, was elected District VIII Director at the District Tour, October 22, 1983, and was installed at the 89th FFWC Convention held at the new Hyatt Regency Hotel, Tampa, April 30, 1984.

Lifetime Membership Awards were given to Esther Dickman and Jo Angst by the S.H. Chamber/Commerce at the Awards Banquet.

Ruth Brown, a member since 1938, was honored on her 90th birthday by clubmembers.

Julia Miller received her past-president's pin ('46-'48) which was long overdue, and was also honored on her 80th birthday at the club by her family and clubmembers.

The District VIII "Energy Style Awareness" program was held at Tampa and the week of October 22-29, was proclaimed as "Energy Style Awareness Week". Ruby Crosier, chairman.

- '84-'86 Ruskin Woman's Club Telephone Directory was published. Mable i Godfrey, chairman. Joan Flowers assisted. The Directory was dedicated to Mrs. Esther Dickman.

Operation "Con Game" a FFWC program was presented at the Ruskin United Methodist Church at an AARP meeting. A representative from the Sheriff's Dept. was speaker. He explained about "Con Games", bunco and fraud. Marjorie McMichael, chairman.

- A Cystic Fibrosis program - the #1 Genetic Killer of children in the nation - was presented by the Home Life Dept. Dorothy Renshaw, chairman.
- A new stove with self-cleaning oven and new pots and pans were purchased for the kitchen. Ruby Crosier, Ch.

- more -

- Several members took a bus trip to Tiger Creek with the Tampa Women's Club. (Tiger Creek is a section of pristine land near Box Tower that Federated Clubs are trying to keep in its natural state for future generations.)

An invitation was extended to the S. H. Chamber/Commerce to hold one of their Breakfast Meetings at the clubhouse. Many of their members had never been to the Club.

- Second "Annual Christmas OPEN HOUSE" was held. A "Raggedy Ann" Doll made by Dorothy Renshaw was raffled off.
- The "Friendship Quilt" was raffled off at the Installation Luncheon. Bell Dickman chairman. The quilt was won by Alicia Lancaster.

The '84 Installation Luncheon was held at Bahia Beach with "Spring Bouquet of Fashions" by Maxine's of Apollo Beach. Paintings, Photographs and Crafts were displayed by members of the Creative Arts League of Ruskin. Alice Regis, Pauline Hampton, chairmen. Mary Boggs at the piano.

1984-85, Mrs. Priscilla Mixon, Club President.

The club hosted the S. H. Chamber/Commerce Breakfast Meeting in June. Priscilla Mixon, chairman.

FFWC District VIII President's Council meeting was held in August at the clubhouse. Ruby Crosier, District VIII Director.

- Follow-up on Cancer Prevention Study II was held.
 - Seedling Reading Program in schools continued.
- Dorothy Gibson, chairman.

"SPRINGFAIR '85" (Ruskin Days) replaced the Annual Christmas Bazaar, with members serving Spanish Bean Soup and Cuban Bread, Baked Goods and a Country Store. "Hazel Ruskin" Doll raffled off. It was made and donated by Hazel Herbert.

RUSKIN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE ... was formed with the idea of having a "Landmark" sign welcoming visitors to Ruskin ... This committee disbanded for lack of active members and joined forces with the Ruskin Civic Association. John Tarabula, chairman. Mary Lutz and Mable Godfrey, RWC representatives.

- A tribute written by Mable Godfrey to Ruby Crosier was read at the FFWC District VIII Tour, October 16, 1984, by Dorothy Gibson, FFWC Dist. VIII Chaplain

SENIOR CITIZEN DAY CARE .. A program aimed to provide activities and fellowship for shut-ins, under the sponsorship of the Hillsborough Mental Health Program, the RWC Home Life Dept., and Calvary Lutheran Church. Meetings were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Church 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Carmen Watson, Board Member, Health Dept., chairman. Hazel Herbert, co-chairman.

1985-86, Mrs. Bell Dickman, Club President

FFWC Program - "A Gift - A Life" Organ and Tissue Donation was instituted.

- Seedling Reading Program continued in the schools.
- Past President's Tea held in September.
- '86-'88 RWC Telephone Directory started. Mable Godfrey, chairman. Mabel Simmons, co-chairman.
- "SPRINGFAIR '85" held at the Commongood Park, Ruskin.
- Special Membership Drive held - 15 new members joined.

1986-88, Mrs. Marilyn Marshall, Club President

FFWC Programs continued. "A Gift - A Life"; Seedling Reading and "Save The Manatee".

- RWC 75th Anniversary Commemorative Telephone Directory published. It was dedicated to Julia A. Miller and Ruth Brown. Mable Godfrey, chairman, Mabel Simmons, co-chairman.

"Save Our Everglades" - "K E E P It Florida" and "Save The Manatees" FFWC programs continued.

- Clubmembers and spouses toured Big Bend Power Plant - Mabel Simmons, Chairman. Public Affairs Dept.
- The Club hosted the FFWC District VIII President's Council meeting in September, '86. Mary Lou Jackson, Temple Terrace, District Director.
- Work started on the RWC Diamond Jubilee Cookbook. Bell Dickman, chairman. Alitia Lancaster, co-chairman. Mabel Simmons and Helen Ouzman, committee.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR was held Saturday, November 7th, at the clubhouse. Kathryn Council, Gen. Chairman.

Many workshops were held during the summer, with the end results of some beautiful, outstanding, and unusual decorations and ornaments made by the members. Dresses - aprons - baked goods - watermelon pickles and plants were sold.

Two Raffles were held: Gold machine knitted Afghan by Dorothy Renshaw and a Crewel Paint-
int by Anne Adair.

The 75th Diamond Jubilee Cookbooks were received in time for the Bazaar. Everything was well arranged and tastefully displayed ... it was a beautiful sunny Florida Day with lots of beautiful people working together.

75TH DIAMOND JUBLIEE ANNIVERSARY

1912 - 1987

A Tea and Reception will be held Sunday, December 6, 1987, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the clubhouse to celebrate the Club's 75th Anniversary. Mabel Simmons, chairman.

"Each of us should be proud of our membership and participation in this Club. It has served its members and this community for 75 years with honor and distinction, accomplishing and contributing to many worthwhile projects without seeking recognition.

We, therefore, honor our founders and members who worked tirelessly and unselfishly to build the foundation upon which our Club rests today and for the success which we now enjoy.

We invite our Members and Friends to share with us on this memorable occasion."

/s/ Mabel Simmons, Chairman
RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB
75th Anniversary Committee

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THE RENOVATION of the clubhouse for their 75th Anniversary Celebration was made possible through the donations to the Ruskin Historical Trust Fund which was established in 1986.

The interior of the clubhouse was painted, new drapes hung, carpet cleaned and a new ceiling in the kitchen.

RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB - IN MEMORIAM

This list is not complete, but are the names found in club files and also from the records of the Ruskin Memorial Park Assoc., courtesy of the secretary, Dorothy Renshaw.

- 1964 - Beatrice Gebert
 1967 - Drue Fletcher, Ruth Atwood, Alice Congleton
 1968 - Dorothy Gardner, Maude Hall
- 1970 - Georgadda Metcalf, May Moser
 1973 - Marie Mook, Maude Tolle, Thelma Vasquez,
 Irma Anspaugh, Mina Tincher
 1974 - Lucille Serdahly, Norma Lauritsen
 1976 - Ruth Crate, Marion Davison
 1977 - Dolly Christopher, Vena Camburn
 1978 - Annie Swindall Gillette, Hazel Toland, Olga
 Bumper, Elizabeth Carlisle, Mary Beaudette
- 1980 - Thelma Stickle, Kathryn MacKinnon, Frances
 Powell, Edith Bramen, Mabel Richardson
 1981 - Peggy Gay, Alice Cash, Marie Follette,
 Wilhelmina Willis, Ada Willis, Pauline Dickman
 Lawler, Lela Juanita Sears Weeks
 1982 - Gladys Muth, Margaret D. Council, Gwendolyn
 Walker, Lela J. Hahn, Bertha Lowe, Ethell McNall,
 Eleanor Waterman, Vesta Harris Bendle
 1984 - Mary Kindred, Ruby L. Crosier, Pearl Carey
 1985 - Jessie Marquardt, Lelah Harris
 1987 - Esther Cralle Dickman, Gertrude Thuma, Elizabeth
 (Perkins) Worner, Dr. Mildred Higgins, Doll
 Keeler

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CLUB MEMBERS have been actively involved in the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs at the District and State levels - attending District and Fall Board meetings and State Conventions. Serving as chairmen:

Bell Dickman	- State Environmental Action	80-82
	- State & District Arts	80-82, 84-88
	- District Centennial	84-90
Alicia Lancaster	- District Conservation	81-82
Ruby Crosier	- District VIII Director	84
Dorothy Renshaw	- District Secretary	84
Dorothy Gibson	- District Chaplain	84
Betty Worner	- District Chaplain	84
Mable i Godfrey	- Membership/Volunteer	84-88
	- Page at State Convention	84-86
Anne Adair	- "K.E.E.P. IT FLORIDA"	86-87

THIS 'N THATIN YEARS PAST

- .. The Club operated a food booth at the annual Ruskin Tomato Festival .. this was changed to "Ruskin's Days" and later to "SPRINGFAIR".
- .. Monthly Card Parties were held at the clubhouse, later became Pauline's Weekly Bridge.
- .. Served meals to the Lions Club as a money making project.
- .. The club has been supportative of the Ruskin Branch Library, the Ruskin Health Clinic and Health Center, Red Cross, Ruskin Cemetery, Highway Beautification, Ruskin Blood Bank Unit, Community Drive, as well as many other civic and community activities.
- .. Has given scholarships to students at East Bay High School and gave a scholarship to the Asolo Theater from 1980 to 1986.
- .. Has budgeted funds for the following community organizations:
 - S.H. Chamber/Commerce
 - Ruskin Fire Assoc.
 - Apollo Beach Rescue Squad
 - Mary & Martha House
 - Community Cupboard
 - Girl Scout Troops
 - Day Starr Life Center

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Thirteen members have been selected "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" by the S.H. Chamber/Commerce.

Pauline Lawler	1965	Jo Angst	1973
Betty Lewers	1966	Marilyn Marshall	1974
Stella Jennison	1967	Marjorie McMichael	76
Florence Kennedy	1970	Dorothy Reid	1978
Marie Follette	1971	Mable i Godfrey	1981
Jackie Fenzau	1972	Dorothy Renshaw	1985
		Anne Adair	1986

RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB
MARCH 5, 1975

This is an excerpt from the minutes of the Club's regular meeting held March 5, 1975. Rose Willis, Recording Secretary.

"Mrs. Pauline Lawler told of their first days in Ruskin in 1908. She also noted the College buildings were on the present College Avenue. The clubhouse and the main buildings faced south and the closed French doors were the entrance. Another opened from the Library. A small bridge crossed the inlet and the professors lived on Campus Shores. The Dickmans, she said, cut, sawed and built these buildings with their own lumber. The College buildings were quite complete. Even had tennis courts.

The main road was east toward Wimauma nearer the Little Manatee River and then west toward Shell Point Road. To get to Gulf (Sun) City, one had to go to Parrish and back.

When the clubhouse was taken over by the club, a maid's room off the kitchen was added to the kitchen and many other changes made."

"Mrs. Esther Dickman gave a brief history of the Library and the original Woman's Club. In the 30's, she was one of the younger members, and as she drove a Model-T Car, one of her jobs was taking members to the meetings in the homes. Much effort, she said, went into money making projects in hopes of raising money for a clubhouse. Two sites were tried, but due to the lack of funds - no clubhouse.

The Ruskin Tomato Festival, where they served food, was one of many efforts. Then they went to work on the cemetery. Had it all planted, cleaned up and greatly improved. An expensive water system was a part of this, earned and paid for by the women.

When Mrs. Dickman joined the Club in 1927, the dues were 50 cents. Their stationery read - "Individual Culture and Civic Improvement" - a good motto.

The Library started in the home of Miss Harriett Orcutt, who shipped barrels of books across the Bay to the College, then to the Old Chamber/Commerce where members manned it for many years. Again, it moved back to the Library room in the clubhouse, and again to the Chamber in 1962. Then due to many efforts, spearheaded by Mrs. Pauline Lawler, the Hillsborough County Library Building was built and opened as a full Branch Library June 6, 1966, a wonderful monument to her ability to accomplish things, aided, of course by help from any others."

RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB
503 South Tamiami Trail
Ruskin, Florida 33570

The Ruskin Woman's Clubhouse is a three-story, Swiss Chalet style, gray-stuccoed building constructed in 1912 and is the only one of the Ruskin College's original buildings to survive a fire in 1919.

In 1940, the Miller home was deeded by the family to the Ruskin Woman's Club. This structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Several alterations (complying with state's guidelines) have been made since the club took it over. The numerous open porches were glassed in and air conditioning and wall-to-wall carpet installed.

Originally, the house had four fireplaces—two upstairs, two downstairs, and one bath. Another bathroom has been added with a downstairs powder room.

The house originally had eight rooms on the second floor and six downstairs. The third floor was mainly for recreation "which speaks well for the house's foundation". Now the first floor, including the kitchen, is used for club and civic meetings, community activities and parties.

The clubhouse is, and has served, as a vital part of the community, having at one time housed the public library.

Of the original Miller's handmade furniture, only the dining room table, a built-in buffet and a table used by the club's presidents remain in the house.

Stained glass is placed in various places above windows and doors. A Tiffany glass window of two lavender tulips is in the dining room. The floors throughout are hard pine. The stairway, at the end of the main room, with its extra wide steps is 'spacious and gracious'.

Last year the club had to replace the roof. Plans are to remodel the kitchen. Both interior and exterior of the house is in need of paint. A monumental task with all the windows and French doors plus the 10' or 12' ceiling in the kitchen.

We are proud of all the cultural and historical events this building has been a part of for these 75 years (1912 - 1987), and it is our fervent hope to preserve it for future generations.

Mable i Godfrey
RWC Past President
LB Pub. Counselor &
Comm. Tampa Br. 8289

CLUB'S EARLY INVOLVEMENT

In researching the Club's early minutes, it is remarkable how involved these ladies were in national, state and local affairs. For instance ...

Woman Suffrage (which was a 'Big Thing' at that time having been endorsed by clubmembers in 1918) - they wrote letters to the President and to the Congress for their vote on Woman Suffrage and Equal Rights Act and later wrote letters of thanks for their votes.
Forestry Department - Thinking ahead, they were concerned for Park sites and Reserves.

War Relief - Red Cross work

Elections - the need for sanitary polling places.

Education - meetings held to educate women along the line of voting.

Locally, petitioned for the price of sugar - 15 cents per pound.

They wrote letters to the President, Congress and the State Legislature.....

Child Welfare legislation; State Health Department (Venereal diseases); State Mother's pensions; State Old Age Pension, those reaching the age of 65 to receive a pension; for support of the Tuberculosis Assoc.; Bill on Home Economics and the "No Fence Law" at that time, animals had the right away. Betterment of Music in America.

Letters to Congressmen:

Prohibition and League of Nations; Protest treatment of German women or debasing women in any country in the world.

Letters to President Harding to go on record in favor of disarmament.

" to Congress to appropriate \$300,000 for the State Board of Health

" for information on what the Club could do to discontinue the traffic in drugs.

" to officials in Washington to support a measure for a Bureau of Education.

The Orange Blossom was voted State Flower March 7, 1932.

RESOLUTION to Senators and Representatives to make more humane the trapping of fur bearing animals, also

RESOLUTION for support of a fund to maintain a 9 month school year and also retain the Home Demonstration Work and Public Welfare, also

RESOLUTION to support Air Mail and Fire Protection legislation.

The Club also contributed to the Madame Curie Radium Fund;
Asked for support for Women Colleges and Universities;
Opposed Capital Punishment - if done, to be done privately;
Distributed sex pamphlets sent out by government agency to members.
Asked for protection for all birds that are not destructive
Asked for mosquito prevention - (clean up breeding areas)
Wrote to Congress to support the World Court of Justice.
Wrote to the Dept. of Justice - re: Prison system and Prison Welfare
Recommended skirts be not longer than 7" from the floor (October 11, 1922).
Recommended more work on programs on illiteracy.

From all of these activities and involvement, we can more fully appreciate and be proud of all the work that has gone into this organization and all the cultural and historic events that have taken place in this clubhouse these past 75 years.

mable i godfrey
RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB
Past President '83-'84

Play Takes Women Through 50 Years Of Ruskin History

RUSKIN - SUN - CITY NEWS
Nov. 16, 1962

By Josephine Johnsond
And Ann Bowen

How the soft feminine hand can tuck itself into a mailed gauntlet and get things done was depicted with much audience amusement for the Ruskin Woman's Club in a six act play Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 7.

The women, led by Mrs. H. Y. Willis, club president, put on their much heralded skit of 50 years of Woman's Club history and according to those who jam-packed the clubhouse it was an "historical riot."

While the audience switched from misty-eyed nostalgia to outright glee, the group of enterprising ladies played out the history of the club as it was made and lived by their mothers and grandmothers.

Here, on the stage, was displayed that potent mixture of feminine guile, humor, dignity and everlasting courage with which women have pressed forward some of the greatest advances of humankind.

The audience saw how ideas could be hatched over a teacup, intermingled with chatter about the neighbor's chickens, babies, and just chatter—and then emerge ultimately as positive victories in the matter of child labor laws, suffrage for women, the 8-hour day, and other advances which the male world now takes for granted.

Key figures of the early Ruskin days were, of course, Mrs. Adeline Miller and Mrs. Rose Dickman, first ladies of the old Ruskin Colony and college campus of 50 years ago.

"Aunt Rose" Dickman was ably portrayed by her daughter Mrs. James Lawler and equally convincing was Mrs. Paul B. Dickman in the role of Mrs.

Adeline Miller.

From the start, "As It Happened," which was the name of the skit, carried the audience through a succession of community growth pains as varied and meaningful as they were frequently amusing.

The play was written and directed by Mrs. H. R. Nichols, Pelican Point, who has written and directed a number of plays before coming to Ruskin.

The cast of characters included:

The Dreamer—Mrs. H. Y. Willis; Dr. Cushman,—Mrs. J. M. Glass; Adeline Miller—Mrs. Paul Dickman; Rose Dickman—Mrs. James Lawler; Miss Orcutt—Mrs. Joseph Gay; Mrs. Glegg—Mrs. Ruth Brown; Mrs. Billings—Miss Joyce Ely; Flapper No. 1—Mrs. Norman Renshaw; Flapper No. 2—Mrs. Rex Camburn; Clubwoman No. 1—Mrs. Paul Dickman; Clubwo-

man No. 2—Mrs. J. M. Glass; Flower Show Judge No. 1—Mrs. T. R. Hovey; Flower Show Judge No. 2—Mrs. E. A. Congleton; Clubwoman No. 3—Miss Joyce Ely; Clubwoman No. 4—Mrs. Ruth Brown; Cook No. 1—Mrs. James Lawler; Cook No. 2—Mrs. W. E. Carothers.

As the play opened, Mrs. Willis commented on how active the Ruskin Woman's Club was at the present time and how much there was to do. With that she dozed off and the next acts reenacted the origin and history of the organization of the club which started in 1912 with a handful of members.

Advisory councilor for the play was Mrs. C. L. Council. Mrs. Georgeadda Metcalf furnished the musical background. Mrs. W. E. Carothers was narrator and Mrs. Thomas Spence handled cosmetics.



THEIR METHODS ENDURE—How grandma started community activities over the tea cups was ably portrayed at the Ruskin Yoman's Club last week in a skit showing women's activities over the past 50 years. L-R are shown Mrs. Joe Gay, Mrs. Paul B. Dickman, Mrs. James Lawler—all cast in roles of departed women who "did things" for the town and area. —Ruskin Studio Photo