

Mrs. W. L. Block, Longtime Club Worker To Note Birthday Anniversary Monday



MRS. W. L. BLOCK She'll celebrate 88th birthday Monday.

BY FRED MOWREY
Club Editor, The Oregonian

Easily one of the best-known "elder statesmen" among Portland clubwomen is Mrs. W. L. Block, who, believe it or not, will be 88 Monday and is looking forward to that birthday with the zest of a teen-ager.

Spry Mrs. Block remembers things that happened in Portland women's organizations long before many of the present generation of club leaders were born and she smiles over them by the hour as she turns the pages of her voluminous scrapbooks which record the accomplishments of a busy life.

came interested in the parent-teacher organization, very young in Portland and Oregon then.

She served as first president of the Montavilla PTA and later helped organize the Couch school association, taking over its presidency when the woman elected to the job resigned after one meeting.

She was active, too, in the early days of the Portland Woman's club and the Portland Woman's Research club and in almost countless other organizations. Even now, on the eve of her 88th birthday, she still belongs to 31 of them!

Way back in the 1890s, Mrs. Block recalls, she was president of the Sisters of Israel Benevolent society, organized to help needy families with direct aid long before the days of the Community Chest. She was vice president of the board which established the Jewish Shelter house for children soon after World War I and there is a long list of other activities that crowd the pages of those bulging scrapbooks.

To celebrate the birthday, Mrs. Block has invited a few friends, most of them associates in her beloved club work, to have cake with her at her Sovereign hotel apartment Monday. And, come October 13, she will probably be on hand, as usual, for the meeting of the Portland Federation of Women's Organizations, just to be sure that the flag is saluted properly!

Mrs. Block was the first chairman of the federation's community service committee when it was organized in 1934 to study such problems as "reckless driving, misplaced beer parlors and the problems of distributing power cheaply enough so that women of moderate means could have electrically-operated devices in their homes." That, at least, is the way the federation minutes put it!

PTA Posts Held

This year she is on the citizenship committee and she sees to it that her beloved federation toes the mark on all the proper patriotic observances at its meetings.

Mrs. Block missed by inches, as she says, being a charter member of the Portland section of the National Council of Jewish Women, which had closed its charter just before she came to Portland from Baltimore in 1890. She still claims, though, to be one of its oldest active members and through the years she has served on some of its most important committees.

When her only daughter, the late Essie Block Bauer, was in grade school, Mrs. Block be-

'Round-up' Slated

The Portland unit of the Women's Overseas Service league will have a "round-up" of new, old and prospective members with Miss Jane V. Doyle as "chief bulldogger" at a dinner meeting in the women's lounge of the Gen. George White Veterans club, 429 S. W. 4th avenue, Thursday at 6:30 p. m.

According to a resolution passed at the national convention in San Diego in July, "all women who have served overseas with the armed forces of the United States or her allies are eligible for membership in the Women's Overseas Service league."

Equal Rights Tops Agenda

Women Campaign For Amendment

The proposed equal rights amendment to the constitution of the United States will be highlighted at the dinner meeting of the Business and Professional Women's club of Portland at the Congress hotel Thursday, according to an announcement made by the club's president, Mrs. Cornelius Tonseth.

Support of this measure, which provides "that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," is one of the cardinal points of the legislative program of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs. The bill has already passed the house and is now pending in the senate.

Active Campaign Planned

Mrs. John Y. Richardson, legislative chairman for the Portland group, says her committee has planned an active campaign in the hope that all of the Oregon congressional delegation in Washington can be persuaded to support the measure. Representative Homer D. Angell and Lowell Stockman voted affirmatively when the bill was up before the house.

Miss Olive Zimmerman, Deputy District Attorney for Multnomah county and consultant in the court of domestic relations, will be speaker at the dinner, taking as her subject, "Equal Rights."

Ignorance of Rules Laid To Army of Club Leaders

BY DOROTHY ROE
Associated Press Women's Editor

There are 5,500,000 women's clubs in the United States.

This is the figure estimated by the General Federation of Women's Clubs as the number of member clubs and affiliated organizations.

This means there are 5,500,000 women's club presidents in the country.

At least half of these do not know the basic parliamentary rules for conducting a meeting, says Alice F. Sturgis, author of the recently published "Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure."

Correct Procedure Suggested

Under a Guggenheim fellowship, Mrs. Sturgis, a recognized parliamentarian, has been studying the procedure of a group of national organizations. One of the first things that struck her was the astronomical number of groups in every community in the United States. The next was a need for a knowledge of recognized rules of procedure.

She feels strongly that anyone who accepts the presidency or chairmanship of an organized group should at least know what he—or she—is talking about.

For the millions of women who this year will preside at meetings of their local clubs, she suggests ten rules on how to be a good chairman:

1. Don't use the club for your personal glory. If you put the good of the organization first the personal plaudits will follow naturally.
2. Don't keep on being president after your term is over.

There should be nothing deadlier than a past president.

3. Be sure that you understand the basic policy of your organization and follow its continuity. If you haven't got a policy, get one.

4. If you have an unpleasant duty to perform, do it outside the club meeting. Don't use the rostrum as center for a cat-and-dog fight.

Consideration Urged

5. Follow, don't push. Your job is to carry out the wishes of all the members, not to bend them to your own will.

6. Watch principles instead of technicalities. You need to know the rules of parliamentary procedure, but you needn't use all your knowledge all the time. Remember that the reason for rules of procedure is to facilitate and insure a fair consideration of every issue.

7. Remember that the president of a club is in the position of a judge. Don't take sides with one faction against another.

8. Don't campaign for your own election, or you will make enemies before you start. If you have to fight for the chairmanship, you probably are not yet ready for it.

9. In presiding, be sure of these points: (a) that there is a quorum present, (b) that everyone understands each motion, (c) that plenty of time is given to discussion, (d) that the vote is taken accurately, (e) that the will of the majority is carried out and the rights of the minority protected.

10. Observe the rules of parliamentary procedure and you will be safe from legal difficulties, avoid lawsuits and misunderstandings.

State and U. S. Parent-Teacher Groups Set Membership Goals for School Year

A membership goal of 7,000,000 for this school year for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was announced from its Chicago headquarters Saturday as Mrs. John E. Hayes, Twin Falls, Ida., congress president, proclaimed October as membership enrollment month.

Simultaneously, Mrs. Cecil Scott, Milwaukie, chairman of membership for the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, announced its goal of 100,000 members for the year.

Year's Gain Reported

In announcing the national congress goal for 1951-52, Mrs. G. W. Lühr, Walnut Creek, Cal., its membership chairman, gave 6,589,516 as its membership for the past year. This figure was reached this fall, that congress headquarters actually had 100,000 copies of the instruction sheets for individual PTAs prepared to go out with the kits of materials which go to local PTA presidents and chairmen at the beginning of a new school year.

In urging enrollment in the PTA during October, Mrs. Hayes, the national president, addressed her appeal to "every parent and teacher," asking them to join the organization "to help improve the school, the home and the community and to 'unmask and defeat enemies' trying to 'discredit or undermine them.'"

"For protection against the enemies that threaten us and the free way of life we cherish, America is building strong military and economic defenses. But not all our enemies are outside our gates. Some are in our midst, and against these enemies, too, we must build the strongest of defenses. Existing from within, they seek to discredit the institutions we hold most dear—the school, the home, the community in which we live. Because they hide under many guises our first task is to unmask them; our second, to defeat them.

"Unfair attacks have been directed against the public schools, attacks that seek to undermine the faith of the American people in the most completely democratic institution we have. No one is quicker than parents and teachers to welcome honest criticism of our schools, but the seeds of irrational distrust must not be allowed to thrive and spread. Today as never before we must be on the alert to give our schools our undivided allegiance, our clearest thinking."



MRS. CECIL SCOTT She wants 100,000 PTAs

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CURRENT EVENTS PROGRAM DUE

A program on current events is planned for members of the auxiliary to Travelers Protective association by Col. Ida N. Spiess, commander of the western area for Volunteers of America, who is chairman for the day. Mrs. Spiess will have as speakers Mrs. W. A. Bisbee, who will discuss today's news, and Mrs. Ernest Crosby, current literature. The meeting will follow luncheon at Hollywood House Thursday noon.

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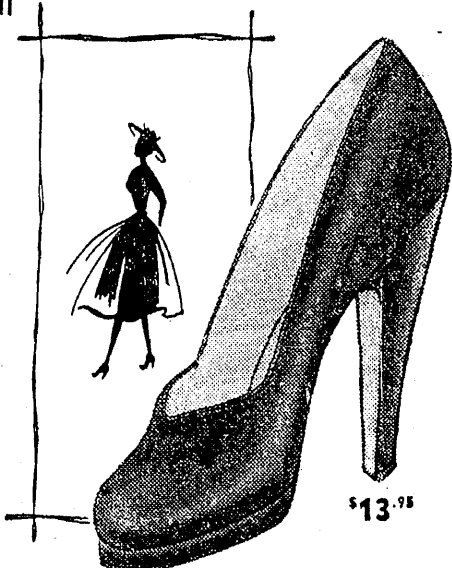
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