

## Business Professional Women Organized in 1930

By Helen Ewing and Gladys Gorman

On Sept 18, 1930, the Bozeman Business and Professional Women's Club was organized at a meeting at the Hotel Baxter with 25 charter members. Jessie Aiken was elected president; Mrs. Bess Davis, vice president; Trena Hollier, recording secretary, and Hettie Schumacher, treasurer. The club was chartered Oct. 25, 1930.

The objectives of the club, in accord with those of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, are to elevate the standards for women; to promote the interest of business and professional women and to bring about a spirit of cooperation among them; to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activities and to create fellowship and friendship among members.

The Livingston Business and Professional Women's Club was sponsored by the Bozeman club. Through the efforts of Mrs. Winnifred Dorsett, past president of the club, the Bozeman club sponsored the Senior Citizens Club. The local club has been host to state conventions as well as many district meetings of the Montana Federation of BPW Clubs. At Bozeman in 1951, Judge Sarah T. Hughes of Dallas Tex., was the first national president to attend a convention of the Montana Federation.

Bozeman BPW Club members who have been prominent in national, state and local affairs are Jeanette Rankin, first woman elected to Congress and who joined the local club in 1939; Mrs. Mabel Cruickshank, who served in the State Legislature; Mrs. Georgia Higgins, who served the State Federation as president; Mrs. Beatrice F. Davis, who served the State Federation as first vice president; Mrs. Gladys Gorman, who served as Director of District III; and Ruth Loucks who was invited by National President Sarah T. Hughes to be the official song leader at the Boston Biennial, an honor which she accepted.

Four members who served their country in the Second World War were: Helen Fechter of the Waves; Helen Atkins of the WAC; Hermione Peterson and Minnie Barclay, of the WAC. In 1944, Mrs. Emil (Alice) Dahl had the honor of christening the SS Bozeman at Portland, Oregon. She also attended the White House Conference on Safety in 1946 at the invitation of President Harry S. Truman.

In 1951, Miss Bess Fowler was the first woman so honored in the history of the Junior Chamber of Commerce when the Jaycees, at their annual dinner, presented their "good government" award to her in recognition of her 31 years of outstanding service as a Gallatin County employee.

During the Depression Years, the club followed the national trends of giving two hours weekly to unemployed women. This amounted to 10,077 hours of employment, totaling \$2,518.25. Other projects were selling bonds, USO service, War Relief Fund Drives, sending bundles to Europe, assisted the Community Chest Fund Drive, financial assistance to the Bozeman Nursery School, work with Post War Planning Board, help organizing the Blood Bank, working for better living conditions for the aged, working on Red Cross Drives, Cancer, Sunshine Boys' Camp, Chinese Nursing Fund, Polio and Safety. Since Girls State was organized, a contribution has been made each year. One of the most important projects of the club is the giving of an annual scholarship to a Gallatin County woman student at Montana State College. The first scholarship award of \$50 was given in 1937 and has continued through the years. In 1952 the scholarship was raised to \$100.

Of the original 25 charter members, four are still active in the local club – Mrs. Jessie Davis, Mrs. Winnifred Dorsett, Mrs. Alice Grant and Hettie Schumacher.

Women who have served as president of the Bozeman BPW Club from 1930 to the present time include Miss Aiken, Mrs. Higgins, Bess M. Davis, Beatrice F. Davis, Roanna Border Turner, Luvelva Peetrausch, Martha J. Burton, C. Lee Donaldson Hoatson, Helen MacQuarrie, Joanna Neely, Mabelle H. Clute, Winnifred Rush Dorsett, Irma Marquis, Phenie Ahern Rhoads, Beatta Johnson, Alice Dahl, Gladys Peterson, Mary Thorna, Gladys Gorman, Ruth Loucks, Esther Nelson, Leola Peshia, Eloise Reese, Pauline Mullica and Marjory Goering.