





SOUTHWESTERN REGION  
SOROPTIMIST FEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

GOLDEN JUBILEE  
PILGRIMAGE TO OAKLAND

Sunday, October 3, 1971  
9:30 a. m.

GOODMAN'S HALL  
10 Jack London Square  
Oakland, California

PROGRAM

OPENING CEREMONIES

Processional  
Introductions

CALL TO ORDER . . . . . Bess Combs, Regional Chairman  
50th Anniversary Committee

PRESENTATION OF COLORS . . . . . Sixth Army

*THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER*

INVOCATION . . . . . Margaret Cox, Lt. Colonel  
Salvation Army

*THE LORD'S PRAYER* . . . . . Bertha Garrett, Soloist  
Helen Froebe, Accompanist

WELCOME . . . . . Charlotte Chichester, Governor  
Southwestern Region, SFA, Inc.

GREETINGS . . . . . Katharine Stinson, President  
Soroptimist Federation of the Americas Inc.

OFFICIAL WELCOME . . . . . John H. Reading, Mayor  
City of Oakland

Jerome Keithley, Manager  
City of Oakland

Robert E. Hannon, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

RESPONSE . . . . . Dr. Ruth Heitfield, Past Governor  
Southwestern Region

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BRUNCH

MENU

Grapefruit      Fruit Salad  
Danish Rolls  
Ham Steak      Scrambled Eggs  
Hash Browns  
Swedish Muffins  
Coffee      Tea  
Sanka      Milk

KEYNOTE ADDRESS . . . . . Ethel F. Lord, President  
Soroptimist International Association

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES . . . . . Ortha Wulffing, Member  
50th Anniversary Committee

GREETINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Bertha Cunliff, Member  
50th Anniversary Committee

Mary Lorentzen Moser, Past Governor  
Southwestern Region

PROGRAM

Distaff Singers . . . . . Ida Altenbach, Director

DEDICATION . . . . . Mary Gianotti, Past Governor  
Southwestern Region  
50th Anniversary Committee Member

REMARKS . . . . . Violet Richardson Ward, President  
First Soroptimist Club - 1921

ROLL CALL . . . . . Ortha Wulffing

PAGEANT . . . . . Bayonne Glenn, Member  
50th Anniversary Committee

PRESENTATIONS . . . . . 50th Anniversary Steering Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . . Bess Combs

RETIRE COLORS . . . . . Sixth Army

SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE

Led by . . . . . Blanche Edgar, Past Governor  
Southwestern Region

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50TH ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE

Bess Combs  
Mary Gianotti

Mary Ellen George  
Bayonne Glenn

Dorothy Cox

Charlotte Chichester, Governor

PILGRIMAGE TO OAKLAND  
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 3, 1971  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DEDICATION OF VIOLET RICHARDSON WARD BRONZE PORTRAIT BUST

On the 26th day of September 1921, the first charter was issued and executed. It stated, WHEREAS: the persons whose names appear at the foot hereof (each of them being a woman, over the age of 18, engaged as proprietor, partner, corporate officer or manager of a legitimate business in the County of Alameda, State of California) having enrolled themselves as Charter Members of the Soroptimist Club (Oakland) and having agreed to conform to the By-laws of said Club as adopted on the 26th day of September organized by electing the following officers, to wit.

President, Violet Richardson (Ward)  
Vice President Sue Ballard  
Treasurer, Nellie M. Drake  
Directors, Edna B. Kinard, Doris C. Tilton,  
Gladys R. Leggett, Blanche Rollar, Adelaide Goodard

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the SOROPTIMIST CLUB, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws and State of California, DO TH HEREBY GRANT to the aforementioned officers and to their duly elected successors, sole and exclusive rights to conduct a SOROPTIMIST CLUB in the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, State of California, together with all rights and privileges appertaining thereunto, subject to the condition that the active membership of said Club shall at no time fall below twenty-five, and to the further condition that should a State or National Association of Soroptimist Clubs be hereafter organized, the said Soroptimist Club (Oakland) shall be represented therein and shall comply with such by-laws as may be regularly adopted by said State or National Association.

80 energetic women signed that first charter, just 50 short years ago.

They looked to the future with great courage, as they envisioned an organization built upon the high ideas of friendship, achievement, service, integrity of profession and the love of country could become state wide or even national.

Little did they realize that barely 10 years later it was to become an International Association. We have grown, since then, to establishing clubs in 42 countries throughout the world with over 50,000 membership.

We look with great respect, upon the founder members who intitated purposes, set policies and made laws to be so effective and far reaching that today with these same purposes, policies and laws we can work together in ~~would~~ friendship for the betterment of communities throughout the world, *and* do the service, ' to help peple help themselves, ~~throughout the world.~~

On this 3rd day of October, 1971, over 1,000 Soroptimists and guests have traveled by bus, by auto, and by air to join in the GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION. Since it was right here in Oakland, California, "The Pilgrimage to Oakland." <sup>where it all began,</sup> it seemed befitting that a Pilgrimage to Oakland would <sup>not only</sup> honor the occasion but would also afford the opportunity to pay a special tribute to Founder President Violet Richardson Ward.

We in Southwestern Region have been fortunate indeed, especially the clubs in the near vicinities, to have had in our midst the very first President of the first Soroptimist Club. *and about 50 years.*

Just as the first women banded together to further the ideals of Soroptimism, the members of Southwestern Region ~~banded~~ together to bring to completion a idea, which was to pay tribute to this First Lady of Soroptimism, the making of a bronze portrait bust, in her likeness.

This idea was for honoring her with a visual remembrance which would. The many rare qualities, of Founder President Violet, have been captured in this beautiful bronze portrait, by the sculpture, -Mr. Ono deRuyter. This man <sup>is</sup> of Violet, "It has been a unique experience and a rare privelege to have had the opportunity to depict the many qualities of this very warm person. And I have sculptured her larger than life-size because she is large in her thinking and in her living".

Southwestern Region applauds the sentiments of the sculpture,  
Mr. Ono de Ruyter, and, on this day, October 3, 1971 at the  
GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION, in Oakland, California, the 5,000 members  
of Southwestern Region deem it an honor to dedicate the bronze  
portrait of Founder President, Violet Richardson Ward.

Mary Gianotti  
Past Regional Governor  
50th Anniversary Steering Committee

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SOROPTOMIST INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN JUBILEE

PILGRIMAGE TO OAKLAND

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RESPONSE BY

VIOLET RICHARDSON WARD

TO DEDICATION OF BRONZE PORTRAIT

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1971

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MARY GIANOTTI: Just as the first women band together to further the ideals of Soroptomism, the Members of Southwestern Region band together to bring to completion an idea which was to pay tribute to this First Lady of Soroptomism and that was the making of a Bronze Bust in her likeness.

The many rare qualities of Founder-President Violet have been captured in this beautiful bronze portrait by Sculptor Mr. Ono deRuyter. This man said of Violet:

"It has been a unique experience and a rare privilege to have had this opportunity to depict the many qualities of this very warm person and I have sculptured her larger than life-size, because she's large in her thinking and in her



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living."

Southwestern Region applaudes the sentiments of Sculpture Mr. Ono deRuyter and on this day, October the 3rd, 1971, at the Golden Jubilee Celebration in Oakland, California, the five thousand Members of Southwestern Region deem it an honor to dedicate the Bronze Portrait of our Founder-President Violet Richardson Ward.

(Thereupon a standing ovation was had.)

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VIOLET RICHARDSON WARD: It's all right. Many of you have heard me say before, "It's good for you to get up."

(Laughter.)

I feel a little bit queer, you understand?

I wish to recognize my family. I don't know whether they are all here who are supposed to be here, but I'd like to know whether or not they are.

(Laughter.)

Well, my son and his wife back there, they should stand up. I hope they are there and --

(Applause.)

You shouldn't take the time to applaud, because they have only allowed me four minutes and I have a lot to say.

(Laughter.)

Are Stanley and Afton Richardson here?

MR. RICHARDSON: Here.

MRS. WARD: Where? Oh, good. And Val and her

1 husband, where is he? That's right.

2 And then Sis. Are Daisy Marchant Cross and George  
3 Cross, her husband, here?

4 And Pauline and Ed McIntosh from Alameda.

5 And is friend husband here?

6 (Laughter.)

7 He'd better be.

8 And I have said Pauline and Ed and Jack and Ester  
9 Marchant. Ester was the first president of the Lafayette-  
10 Orinda Club and sometime when we're not in a hurry, I'll  
11 tell you a story about that.

12 (Laughter.)

13 Now, did I name them all? I think I did.

14 I made some notes here ready for my speech. I made  
15 the note about the family and my home club is Berkeley. I  
16 couldn't function without them. They see that my scarf is  
17 on right and that the corsage is right and that I get to  
18 places on time and that I eat a little lunch and so on. So  
19 will the Berkeley Club kindly rise?

20 There are some of them.

21 I couldn't function in the very, very beginning had  
22 it not been for Eloise Cushing and Emily D. Wilky and Doctor  
23 Ella Stone Swagger -- I think that was her name and the  
24 eighty others, you know.

25 They did elect me to the presidency. They did do it  
26 on the third ballot.

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(Laughter.)

Well, Berkeley didn't vote for me at first, but on the third ballot they and I voted for me.

(Laughter.)

And so, that's why you are such a great organization now.

I'm very appreciative of Bess Combs, who has chaired all this and all of the rest of Southwestern Region that has helped her. I'm particularly proud of the sculptor. I think he did a wonderful job of my head.

(Laughter.)

They call it a bust, but that isn't there.

(Laughter.)

This idea of it being a surprise that we have spread throughout the nations, I don't know why they continue to say that. It's no surprise. Eloise sometimes says that she was a bit surprised, but there was no need to be.

Stuart Morrow promised me, before I signed the Charter, that we would be international and he kept his word. And then immediately after that, we had a song written by one of our Charter Members, Anita House Thompson; and the words were:

"We're a Service Club of Women and the time will not be long till we spread throughout the nations and are fifty thousand strong."

(Applause.)

1 She had the vision and she figured on its not being  
2 long. Well, it was fifty years and so many of you think  
3 that Eloise and I won't be here in the next fifty years.

4 You can't be sure of anything these days.

5 (Laughter.)

6 I have finished those notes.

7 Now, to Oakland President, Faith Elliott -- I forget  
8 now what it was I was going to say about her.

9 (Laughter.)

10 I made a note here, "Work while you pray." That's  
11 very important. You can pray from now until doomsday, but  
12 if you don't work, you know. It takes faith and prayer and  
13 work. I wouldn't give you a thank you for one of them  
14 without the other.

15 And then the other thing that I have to do -- yes,  
16 oh dear, I know my time is going.

17 But, Jaqueline Chevalier, who was President of the  
18 Paris Club many years ago and then she was President of the  
19 European Federation, she was in Rome and then she came and  
20 visited me with her son and his wife and she told me that the  
21 Paris Club wanted me to present this flag of Paris to our  
22 President -- who is she again? Faith Elliott.

23 All right, where is Faith?

24 A GUEST: Down here.

25 MRS. WARD: She'd better come up here and get it.

26 And here's the letter that she wrote giving me

1 instructions as to how to do it and --

2 (Thereupon Mrs. Elliott commences to leave the  
3 speaker's table.)

4 MRS. WARD: Now, wait a minute. I'm not through.

5 She asked me to drape this flag in some flowers and  
6 I was to buy the flowers. There's a five dollar bill there.  
7 Don't spend it on flowers; put it wherever you need it,  
8 because I went into my garden to look at a vine that I have  
9 that -- well, I have to go back a bit.

10 In 1921 and 1922, Hogan and Evers the florist in  
11 Oakland -- I hope we can get some recognition from this, you  
12 know what I mean. After all, I am advertising them and I  
13 haven't been there ever.

14 But nearly every week they used to send me a basket  
15 of flowers, which was on the table while I was presiding and  
16 one week I took the basket home to my mother and I pulled out  
17 a rose and I said, "Oh, I wish I had that rose growing in my  
18 garden." It was so fragrant and my mother said, "Well, don't  
19 be silly, plant it." So I cut off the top and I put it in  
20 the ground and it grew.

21 After some years, it was looking ill and we transplanted  
22 it. Friend husband did it for me and put it in the back and  
23 it's grown into a beautiful vine and it had five or six rose  
24 buds on it. It's a Madam Butterfly and they are very  
25 fragrant. They are just as lovely as those that were in the  
26 basket that Hogan and Evers presented to me -- or gave to the

1 Club fifty years ago and so I wish that Faith Elliott would  
2 take these and that's how I saved that \$5.00.

3 (Laughter.)

4 Thank you.

5 ORTHA WULFING: Violet, you are absolutely priceless.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE  
SOUTHWESTERN REGION  
SOROPTIMIST FEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS: the "Pilgrimage to Oakland" for celebrating the Golden Jubilee held on October 3, 1971 in Oakland, California, was an overwhelming success with well over 1000 persons attending and all declaring it a most outstanding affair in its purpose, planning and participation, and

WHEREAS: the success, friendship and enjoyment of this Golden Jubilee celebration was due to the time, effort and talents of many persons and committees,

NOW THEREFORE, the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee takes pleasure in expressing sincere thanks and appreciation for the many satisfying experiences of this meeting to all those who assisted as follows:

To our honored guest, Ethel F. Lord, President of the Soroptimist International, who so inspired all by her key-note address,

To Katharine Stinson, President of the Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc., not only for her attendance but also for her participation in the Pageant;

To Federation President-elect, Eileen Bidwell, Federation Vice President, Gladys Neale and Muriel Morse, Immediate Past Federation President for their attendance;

To Mary Ann Foshee, President of the Venture Club Council of the Americas, VCCA Secretary, Sandra Marsh, VCCA Treasurer Wanda Fosdick, SFA Venture Club Committee Chairman, Ruth Cook, SFA Venture Club Committee Co-chairman Ruth Faulkner and to Southwestern Regional Governor Betty Hoffman for their attendance;

To Bess Combs for her guidance, perseverance and hard work as chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee, and, for bringing to culmination two outstanding 50th Anniversary regional projects, the making of the Violet Ward Bronze Portrait and the Pilgrimage to Oakland;

To Mary Gianotti, Past Governor and 50th Anniversary Steering Committee Member, for her idea of creating the Bronze Portrait, and, for her devotion and contribution toward the making of the portrait;

To the San Francisco Foundry and Mr. Ono de Ruyter, sculpture who so ably depicted the beautiful character in this likeness of Violet Richardson Ward;

To Mr. Andrew Gianotti who so designed and made the pedistal for the portrait to house capsules containing club histories or events, which were dropped into the recepticle by members from all 134 clubs, District Directors and regional chairmen. This recepticle has been sealed and is not to be opened until the year 2021;

To Aimee Lugenbuehl for her idea and inspiration for a Jubilee Celebration - "The Pilgrimage To Oakland.";

To Mr. Harold Bloom, manager of Goodman's, and his competent staff for their expertise in handling over 1000 persons for brunch;

To the Sixth Army Band who welcomed Soroptimists as they arrived for the festivities and for presenting and retiring the colors for the ceremonies;

To Margaret Cox, Lt. Colonel Salvation Army for her inspiring invocation;

To Bertha Garret for her beautiful and spiritual rendition of The Lord's Prayer, and to her accompanist Helen Froebe;

To Governor Charlotte Chichester for her welcome and to Federation President Katharine Stinson for her greetings;

To Robert Eng and Fred Cooper who brought greetings and official welcome for the City of Oakland;

To Dr. Ruth Heitfield; Past Regional Governor, for her warm and friendly response;

To Ortha Wulffing the mistress of ceremonies who so ably presided, and to Bertha Cunliff and Past Governor Mary Moser for bringing greetings from around the world;

To the Distaff Singers and to their Director Ida Altenbach for the appropriate and beautifully sung songs;

To Mary Gianotti for the stirring dedication of the Violet Richardson Ward Bronze Portrait, and, to Violet Ward for her remarks following the dedication;

To Bayonne Glenn and Past Governor MaryEllen George for the exciting Pageant, "Fashions Over The Years."; and, to all who participated;

To Fahrinissa Seden for her presentation of the Turkish flag to Faythe Elliot, President of the Oakland Club;

To Gisela Haach for her presentation of the German flag to President Faythe Elliot;

To Blanche Edgar, Past Regional Director, who so warmly led us in the Soroptimist Pledge;

To the Marin County club for contacting and supplying nearly 100 hostesses to assist at tables;

To the clubs who supplied "S" Club members to help with the seating and the escorting of dignitaries to head tables;

To the Venture Clubs who supplied the Venturists to assist in the escorting of dignitaries to the head tables;



To Bernadine Quinlan who assembled programs and tied the fascimilies of the First Charter, and to Ortha Wulfing and many others who assisted;

To the District Directors, Jeannette Romanoff, Dorothy Dodson, Marjorie Brown and Vada Fink who diligently worked with the Jubilee Clubs for providing the table decorations;

To Dorothy Cox who supervised the delivery and placement of table decorations;

To Geneva Kipp for taking reservations and for the many hours spent in keeping an accurate accounting of all funds, and to all who assisted her;

To photographers Gwen and Tom Symons, for so adequately taking pictures, and for contributing funds from the sale of photographs to the Soroptimist Endowment Fund;

To East Bay Printing, and to Grace Paoli, for printing the programs and the very apprapoe covers;

To the management of the Jack London Boatel, and to its staff for their many courtesies;

To Bess Combs for her many untold hours of work and dedication to the writing of the first Regional History, and to Matie Barker, Past Regional Governor who assisted, and to the many members who contributed much time and effort in its behalf;

To Isabell Portale, Leone Kanka and June Harmon who were in charge of the sale of Histories, and to all who assisted;

To all 134 clubs, and to the entire 5000 membership in Southwestern Region, for without their support this courtesy resolution could not have been written.

A copy of this resolution shall be presented to all who have contributed in making this PILGRIMAGE TO OAKLAND outstanding, and we acknowledge with gratefulness the efforts of the numerous unnamed persons.

50th Anniversary Steering Committee  
Bess Combs, Chairman  
Mary Gianotti  
MaryEllen George  
Bayonne Glenn  
Dorothy Cox