

# Women's Activities

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Wednesday, October 6, 1971 THE MODESTO BEE

## World-Wide Attendance Marks Club's Jubilee

Thrilled, excited, proud and bone-tired might describe the feelings of the more than 50 members of Soroptimist Club of Modesto and Manteca when they returned from the Golden Jubilee Pilgrimage to Oakland where they attended a special 50th anniversary program in Goodman's Hall in Jack London Square.

The Modesto contingent was especially tired from the day's activities as they prepared table decorations and favors for the 1,200 brunch guests and at least two Modesto Soroptimists made three rounds of each table before they were finished.

Soroptimist members attended from Turkey, Germany and Canada, as well as Oregon, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Arizona and Iowa and from throughout California.

The activities included a showing of fashions reflecting the year each club was chartered. Mrs. Reuben A. Sylva of the Modesto club modeled a costume from 1936, the year the Modesto club received the 16th charter in the state.

The program's keynote speaker was Ethel F. Lord of Morristown, NJ, president of the Soroptimist International Association, who spoke on "The Three B's — Belong, Believe, Build."

Hostess for the event was Charlotte Chichester, governor of the Southwestern Region, SFA, Inc., who welcomed the Soroptimists. Greetings were also given by Katharine Stinson, SFA president, and by officials from city and county officials.

A special guest who spoke during the afternoon session was Violet Richardson Ward, who was founding president of the first Soroptimist Club, the Oakland club which was chartered in 1921.

Musical selections were provided by the Distaff Singers, members of the Oakland Soroptimist Club, and the Sixth Army Band.

Mrs. R. Hadley Cox, former

president of the Modesto Soroptimist Club, is a member of the 50th anniversary steering committee which made several special presentations during the afternoon.

Mrs. Cox and the other committee members received special recognition for their work when Jerome R. Waldie, congressman from California, had the accomplishments of the Soroptimist club and the jubilee celebration activities read into the Congressional Record. Mrs. Cox's name now is officially listed there with her coworkers and other club officials.

Soroptimists also attended from Turlock and both Modesto Mayor Lee H. Davies and Turlock Mayor Enoch Christofferson joined other mayors in the Southwest Region in proclaiming 1971 "Soroptimist Jubilee Year."

Soroptimism is a service organization for professional and businesswomen. There are more than 50,000 members throughout the world involved in all its activities which include sponsorship of the Venture Clubs, for young professional women; "S" Clubs, for high school girls, and the Sigma Society, for high school and college girls.

**WORLD'S  
FINEST POP CORN**

mainly about... *Women*

PAULINE METZA, Women's Editor

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Richmond, Calif., Thurs., Sept. 30, 1971

No. 100

## Soroptimist Golden Jubilee

Soroptimists' "Golden Jubilee Pilgrimage" will be held Sunday starting with a 9 a.m. brunch at Goodman Hall, Jack London Square to celebrate the organization's golden anniversary.

Mrs. Violet Richardson Ward of Berkeley, founder president of the first club organized Oct. 3, 1921 in Oakland; Ethel Lord of Morristown, N.J., Soroptimist International president; and Katharine Stinson of Arlington, Va., president of Soroptimist Federation of Americas, will be special guests.

A bronze portrait bust of Mrs. Ward will be officially dedicated and, in the base, each club in the region will have its history contained in a capsule to be opened in 50 years.

Hostesses in costumes of the "Twenties" will greet guests and the program will consist of music by the Sixth Army Band, a parade of clubs by charter year, and an address by Miss Lord.

Many members of Soroptimist Clubs of El Cerrito, El Pinablo, and Richmond, will be present and officially represented in the Capsule March by Margaret Wolleson, Mrs. William Thacker, and Mrs. William Berk, respectively.

# Woman's Service Club Organized by Man 50 Years Ago

It was by chance that Stuart Morrow called on a secretarial school in Oakland 50 years ago and found himself intrigued by the fact that a woman was the head of the school.

A professional organizer of men's service clubs — including Rotary, which began in 1905 — Mr. Morrow started organizing women's service clubs after his conversation with Mrs. Adelaide E. Goddard.

The emphasis was on vocations. And, the result was the launching of the first Soroptimist Club in the world on Oct. 3, 1921, in Oakland. Violet Richardson (now Mrs. Stanley Ward) served as the club's founder-president.

The organization was called the Alameda County Soroptimist Club until 1928, when a separate Berkeley club was formed. The original club then took the name of Oakland.

As that well-known advertisement says, You've Come a Long Way, Baby! Soroptimism had spread throughout the world and continues to grow. There are about 1,642 Soroptimist Clubs, with more than 50,000 members in 38 countries.

And, today marks the organization's 50th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, Soroptimist members from throughout the Southwestern Region — as

well as other parts of the nation — are attending the Golden Jubilee Pilgrimage today at Goodman Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland — the city where Soroptimism was born.

Delegates from the Santa Rosa club are Mrs. Donald Arrabit, president, and Mrs. Donald Mohr and Mrs. Lea Sawyer.

Other Santa Rosans attending the affair are Mrs. Ernest Bailey, Mrs. June Chamberlain, Mrs. George L. Conley, Mrs. Ruth Deeds, Margaret Dixon, Dora Finnemore, Mrs. Lily Greer, Joan Johnson, Elsa Kuntze, Mrs. E. V. Moon, Mrs. Daniel Priest, Mrs. T. J. Reidelbach, Mrs. Margaret Richardson, Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Emil Zanelli and Mrs. Thomas Zerintcheff.

Chairman of the event is Bess Combs, Antioch, who is a former member of the Santa Rosa club.

## Special Guests

Special guests will include Mrs. Ward, Berkeley, founder-president of the original club; Ethel Lord, Morristown, N.J., president of the Soroptimist International Association, and Katherine Stinson, Arlington, Va., president of the Soroptimist Federation of the Americas, Inc.

A bronze portrait bust of Mrs.

Ward will be officially dedicated. Each club in the region will place its history and projected goals for the second 50 years in a capsule. The capsules will be placed in the base of the bust to be opened 50 years from today.

There will be a parade of clubs by charter dates. Representatives will wear period costumes depicting the charter dates. Mrs. Conley will represent the Santa Rosa club in this parade.

Hostesses will wear costumes of the 1920s. Music will be provided by the U.S. Sixth Army Band.

The name of Soroptimist was coined from the Latin "soror," meaning "sister," and "optima," meaning "best." Thus, Soroptimism has been interpreted as "the best for women."

By the end of the first year of organization, clubs had been established in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., with plans under way for a club in Sacramento, which was chartered in 1923.

London and Paris Soroptimist Clubs were chartered in 1924. By 1927, seven more clubs had been organized — Long Beach and San Jose, 1924; Seattle and Philadelphia, 1925; and Portland, Spokane, and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 1926.

The Soroptimist Club of Son-

oma County, sponsored by the San Francisco club, was chartered March 13, 1937. In 1945, the club was divided into two clubs — the Soroptimist Club of Santa Rosa, chartered May 26, 1945, and the Soroptimist Club of Petaluma, chartered June 3, 1945.

## Local Projects

The Santa Rosa club has participated in the chartering of four on-going clubs — Ukiah (co-sponsored with Petaluma and Napa) and Sebastopol in 1949; Healdsburg in 1956, and Sonoma Valley in 1960.

A Venture Club was chartered in 1950 and sponsored until 1965. Venture Clubs are Soroptimist-sponsored service organizations for young employed business and professional women. Because membership was difficult to maintain — girls married and moved from the community — the club disbanded.

Public affairs and service projects have been many. They include the sponsorship and establishment of Sonoma County Heart Association in 1953; the re-establishment of an invitational formal Dance Club from 1953 to 1965; the sponsorship and establishment of Sonoma County Visiting Nurses Association in 1956, and many others.

The club continues to serve the community with a wide va-

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**SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY TODAY IN OAKLAND**

Participants Include Mrs. W. A. Sawyer Jr., Mrs. Donald Arrabit, Dora Finnemore and Mrs. D. A. Mohr  
Scroll Will Be Sealed in a Time Capsule