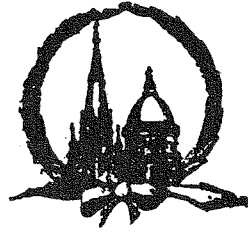


THE LADIES OF NOTRE DAME

1934 — 1974



JO D'ALELIO

ELAINE NICGORSKI



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PROLOGUE

In the spring of 1934, when the Ladies of Notre Dame was founded, the Notre Dame campus had an aura of concern and expectancy: concern for its gravely ill President, the Reverend Charles O'Donnell, C.S.C. and the confident expectancy that the University was on the brink of even further expansion of its academic endeavour. The campus already abounded with new buildings: the South Dining Hall, Alumni and Dillon Halls, the law building, the commerce building, the engineering building, and the football stadium.

Many a faculty member reviewed his lecture notes riding the street car that came down Notre Dame Avenue to a campus alive with 3200 students. The number of professors had greatly increased during the twenties and thirties. The proportion of lay faculty had grown rapidly and the question of adequate salary for their services was a serious problem for the administration. A response to this problem seems to have been the inclusion of the noon meal in faculty salaries.

At this time the lay faculty had already formed the Faculty Club. However, for the wives of the faculty, most of whom were not from South Bend, there were few social opportunities to meet, to explore the common problems of being a faculty wife and raising a family without the benefit of relatives nearby, and to develop friendships with women of common interests. There were informal gatherings of faculty couples, to be sure. One such evening was held in 1932 at Professor and Mrs. Jose A. Caparo's home. When Professor Pedro de Landero suggested that the women should form a club for their own social and cultural benefit, his suggestion was welcomed. Several of the leading universities in the country already had such clubs.

The idea languished until the spring of 1934. On April 9th, a "musical tea" was given for the women by the Faculty Club in the faculty dining room. The purpose of the tea was "to effect a permanent organization of women closely allied with the University."¹ Professor de Landero, president of the Faculty

¹ Minutes of LND Meeting, April 9, 1934

Club, addressed the women and "told them of the desire of that club to have the women organized also."² A committee, chaired by Mrs. Thomas Konop, was selected to write a constitution and to decide on a name. The committee was to report back to the group in only two weeks! A second committee was named, chaired by Mrs. James Armstrong, to nominate officers for the new organization. Mrs. Edward G. Mahin served as temporary chairman and Mrs. Eugene J. Payton as temporary secretary.

When the women met on April 23rd, the new Constitution was ratified. Several pertinent elements were that the organization was to be known as the Ladies of Notre Dame, that membership included wives of the faculty and administrative staff, that dues would be one dollar, and that the organization would meet on the second Tuesday of the month from October to May. Tuesday afternoon was selected because its light class schedule provided a time when husbands could be relied on to "babysit." An election of officers was held at this time. Elected were: President, Mrs. William L. Benitz; Vice President, Mrs. Knowles Smith; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Eugene J. Payton.

Among these early members there was a special kind of community. Many of our Charter Members attribute this family atmosphere, not only to the Notre Dame spirit, but also to one of our beloved founding members, Mrs. Henry B. Froning (Mildred), who "extended her interest, devotion, kindness to all the families of the University faculty."³ These words were written about Mrs. Froning at the time of her death in 1940. The eulogy continues with the following words:

Keenly aware of the difficulties that face families when they come to a strange community, Mrs. Froning made it her task to welcome them to their new surroundings, and did so with such sincerity and cordiality that today we may say that the 'oneness' of our group is in large measure her accomplishment. In times of rejoicing her joy was manifested. With

² Minutes of LND Meeting, April 9, 1934

³ Earl Langwell, ND Scholastic, May 3, 1940

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the coming of every new baby, the happiness of the parents she shared sincerely. She knew by name the sons and daughters of every teacher--likewise their birthdays. Every year at Christmas time she was the leading spirit in the party given in their honor under the auspices of the Ladies of Notre Dame.

When sickness or sorrow made their inevitable appearance, again Mrs. Froning was the first to assist, advise and to console. The beautiful Christian virtue of compassion--fellow-feeling--was exemplified daily in her relations with all her friends, and with such reserve and dignity that she may worthily be cited as the modern portrayer of Christian charity.⁴

Community-sustaining activities, such as those of Mrs. Froning and others were regularly happening well before the founding of the Ladies. These activities continued, and became, according to the testimony of our founding members, the heart and soul of the Ladies.

In the healthiest of families differences usually do arise. In the fall of 1934, one of the members asked that a change of name be considered. A Charter Member recalled that some of the women, especially those who were recently graduated from Journalism schools, thought the use of the word "Ladies" was dreadfully old-fashioned and "Women" should be used instead. However, the attempt lacked the necessary two-thirds vote needed to change the Constitution.

During the academic years 1934-35 and 1935-36, many refinements of the Constitution were passed; various policies were also established at this time. Because of the many requests from local charities and other groups to the fledgling organization, it was decided as a matter of policy that the Ladies, as an organization, would not support or give monetary donations to any outside group. In other words, the Ladies chose not to be a service organization. This policy to remain a social and cultural organization was to become a point of contention over the years.

⁴Earl Langwell, ND Scholastic, May 3, 1940

Because of the expansion of the University during the late 1930's, the members felt a need for greater representation from and contact with the members of all five schools of the University. The Constitution was amended, in 1941, to allow for a Board of Directors. Members who served on the first Board were Mrs. Thomas Konop, Law; Mrs. James E. McCarthy, Commerce; Mrs. Karl Menger, Science; Mrs. Dugald C. Jackson, Engineering (succeeded by Mrs. Walter H. Shilts); Mrs. John M. Cooney, Arts and Letters.

Since 1941 the Constitution has undergone several minor revisions. A major revision was undertaken in 1967 through a committee chaired by Priscilla Magee (Mrs. John).⁵ Two important organizational changes in the Constitution proper resulted: an increase in the number of Directors from seven to fourteen and the designation of the First Vice-President as President-elect. The By-Laws were almost completely rewritten at this time. Provision in the By-Laws was made for the Interest Groups (formed in 1964) and the Newcomers' Group under the heading of Affiliated Groups. The Newcomers' Group was restructured to include second-year Newcomers who would direct the Group's activities. They would elect officers who would work with the Newcomer Advisor, appointed by the President. Also included in this revision was the formulation of three new committees (Publications, Membership, and Program) and two new positions (Assistant Treasurer and Interest Group Coordinator). Because of the possible merger of Saint Mary's College with Notre Dame, membership was extended to women from Saint Mary's and the Constitution was so changed in 1972.

On November 6, 1973, the membership voted to change the Constitution in several areas recommended by the Revisions Committee chaired by Winifred Caponigri (Mrs. Robert). The "Purpose" of the Ladies was revised and now reads "The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the social and cultural welfare of its members; to foster friendships within the Notre Dame family and to encourage service for the University and community in supportive programs. This organization shall be a non-profit organization entirely administered by volunteers."⁶ To facilitate the intra-membership service the Ladies

⁵ This is the form we have used throughout for first citings of Ladies' names, except where we tried to indicate the more formal "Mrs. Smith" custom of early years.
⁶ LND Constitution, Nov. 1973, Art. II

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have always done and are continuing to do, as well as new service directed outside the Ladies, a new affiliated activity was added, Volunteers In Action (VIA). This classification includes all volunteers under one coordinator appointed by the President. Other changes included a restructuring of the New-comers Group, making the Parliamentarian an appointed rather than an elected position and changing the name of Area Coffee Committee to Hospitality Committee.

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Stated in the minutes of almost every year is a plea to the members to pay their dues. In 1934 these were one dollar and a "tea fee" was charged for several years for each tea to cover the expenses of renting a meeting place. Most of the special events were profit-making ventures which kept the organization fiscally sound and allowed for monies to be saved in a Special Fund for equipping a permanent meeting place. At present the dues are five dollars, which finance most of the Ladies' activities, such as the teas, the Interest Groups, a yearly donation to the Notre Dame Merit Award Fund and publications. Other events, such as the dances or luncheon, are expected to be self-sustaining.

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The treasurer's report of 1934-35 was a simple straightforward statement compared to the current complicated report which needs to be audited and filed with the Internal Revenue. Our present budget is around \$2,000. The small fund started for equipping a permanent meeting place has grown to about \$4,000 in a Notre Dame Credit Union account.

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A constant problem from the inception of the Ladies has been housing. Meetings have been held in a variety of places. In the early years the Oliver Hotel (now replaced by the Pick-Oliver—American National Bank Building) and the YWCA were frequent meeting places. For many years there was an annual meeting on the Saint Mary's Campus (included in the budget for those years was always a gift for Sister M. Madeleva, C.S.C., poet and President of Saint Mary's, who often spoke on her travels). There were many discussions and exchanges of letters between the University administration and the Ladies on the possibility of a permanent meeting place on campus. In fact, it is noted in the minutes of October 7, 1947, that a letter from the Reverend John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., was read which explained why the Ladies' meetings could not be held on campus. Unfortunately, the letter has been lost.

During the spring of 1950 the "President's Room" of the Administration Building was remodeled and designated as a Faculty Lounge (at present the offices of the Provost). The Ladies were allowed to use the new Lounge for their regular meeting place. The acquiring of a meeting place (although not really "a place of our own") necessitated the purchasing of accouterments, such as a tea-cloth, candleholders, and folding chairs. At one point the Ladies even sold shampoo to earn a 48-cup coffee maker from the Jewel Tea Company. But generally, monies from the Ladies' Special Fund were used.

When the Faculty Club building was in the planning stages (in the middle sixties), hopes were raised that a room would be included in the plans for the exclusive use of the Ladies. However, it was a false hope as was the case earlier when the La Fortune Center was remodeled in 1946.

Since the completion of the Memorial Library in 1963, the Ladies have held most of their meetings in the Library Auditorium with the tea in the adjacent Faculty Lounge. In 1972, the Ladies were given a small office in the Library where they store the official organization records and print The Distaff, their monthly newsletter.

Faced with the difficulty of communicating with a larger and larger membership, the Ladies, in the late forties, thought that it would be convenient to have a directory of its members. The first directory was mimeographed. For a few years there was a charge of ten cents a copy, which helped to defray costs and added a small amount to the Special Fund. The directory graduated to booklet form and in 1952, when Helene Thompson (Mrs. Richard) was President, the list of officers, the program, and the committees were added to the directory. The format of the directory has remained essentially the same up to the present. There were 519 names listed in the directory at the time of the Ladies' thirtieth anniversary in 1964.

Finally in 1971, the constitutional change of 1967 that the directory would not list inactive members (those who failed to pay their dues) was implemented. That year marked the first time eligible women from Saint Mary's College were included in the directory. At this time, also, some of the members asked the Executive Board to reassess the wisdom of printing the directory in view of the

increasing cost and the possibility of using the funds for other purposes. Ensuing discussions resulted in the deletion of the constitutional provision requiring the annual publication of a directory and the adoption of a policy providing for regular contributions to the Notre Dame Merit Award Fund. The directory was not published for the year 1973-74. However, because many of the members still wanted a directory and because a less costly method of printing was now available, the directory was again published for the year 1974-75.

Concerned that the Ladies needed more avenues of communication, Lillian Fahey (Mrs. Frank) discussed the matter with Lydia Lee (Mrs. Lawrence), 1966 Program Chairman. Enthusiastic herself, Lydia in turn received not only approval but keen interest from President Elizabeth Cullity (Mrs. Bernard). By means of lengthy telephone conversations throughout the summer of 1966, Lillian and Lydia gradually developed the basic plans for the newsletter. The first issue appeared that fall with Lillian as Editor and Eva Eliel (Mrs. Ernest) as Co-editor. It was Eva who penned the caption, "Published more or less monthly by the Ladies of Notre Dame" which appears on the masthead. She is also credited with naming the newsletter The Distaff. The typist for many issues was Arlene Quigley (Mrs. Arthur).

After the constitutional changes of 1967 were implemented, The Distaff was mailed only to active members. Some of the members were concerned that this action would make the Ladies an "exclusive group" and would be detrimental to the community spirit among the membership-at-large. Several members sponsored a constitutional amendment in the spring of 1972, to allow the mailing of The Distaff to all members of the Ladies. The amendment passed by a narrow margin.

Over the years The Distaff has become a life line for the Ladies. It has provided the forum for lively discussions, space for "not so classified ads," and news of general interest to the Ladies. Our members look forward to each new issue to keep current on the monthly programs, the special events, and the activities of the affiliated groups.

I
PROGRAMS

Because the first two meetings in April, 1934, were concerned with organizing the group, the actual first "meeting" of the Ladies of Notre Dame was held quite appropriately in May, the month dedicated to Our Lady. That afternoon, the 8th of the month, foreshadowed the pattern meetings would follow for many years: a cultural program, part literary and part musical. As the years went by, the tendency to devote the entire program to one or another of these categories developed. But when the new President, Mrs. W.L. Benitz, introduced her committee, on which, incidentally, three of our currently Active Life Members served—Mrs. L.H. Baldinger, Mrs. W.F. Roemer and Mrs. G.J. Wack—⁷ they announced that a dramatic reading, followed by musical numbers had been planned. Mrs. O.R. South of the South Bend Conservatory, who appears to have been a favorite local entertainer, presented her interpretation of an O. Henry story.

Several little daughters of the members then appeared in a Maypole dance, in which they had been coached by Mrs. Jack Turley, also a current Life Member. Accordion solos by a young man from Notre Dame concluded the program. This introduction of their children and of performers from the University set precedents, also.

When the academic year of 1934-35 began, the opening meeting featured Sister M. Madaleva, C.S.C., President of Saint Mary's College, who reminisced about literary personages she had met while touring in Europe. A talk on tapestries highlighted the next meeting; the attention of the Ladies was focused on their homes during many meetings that followed. Needlepoint, furniture, interior decorating, all were on the list of topics. Travelogues, too, were well-received at those early meetings, and here faculty members who may have vacationed abroad often spoke. They were called upon as well to give book reviews, poetry readings or talks on art, sculpture or similar subjects. For variety, some meetings featured playlets, again with the help of the same Mrs. South; these were popular entertainment, especially when performed by the members themselves. This fascination with drama has never entirely disappeared,

⁷One inactive Life Member also served: Mrs. D.L. Campbell.

surfacing every few years. In the mid-1950's it was flourishing. Annual plays were staged in which Molly Bernard (Mrs. Leon) seems to have been producer, coach and actress with equal competence. Now, some twenty years later, this thespian flair has taken a new direction, as we shall see later.

By far the best-liked form of entertainment, however, was an afternoon of music, if the frequency of these is a true indication. Here again, willing faculty members displayed their talents. At times the Ladies called upon students of Saint Mary's College who, over and over again, provided the program. Not infrequently children of members became part of such afternoons while their mothers fondly watched their performances.

For the March, 1939, meeting the Ladies seem to have realized for the first time what an excellent source of education plus entertainment they had available within their own ranks. Mrs. L.H. Eells, President, in turning the program over to Mrs. Jose A. Caparo and her committee of non-native American Ladies, indicated that a special treat was in store. The origins of folk songs and dances were explained, after which the audience was delighted with colorful, spirited demonstrations of the differing rhythms and tempos of French, Hungarian, Bohemian, Italian and Spanish traditional music. A bevy of children, gaily costumed in the apparel of their forebears, enlivened the event.

From the beginning, an attractive tea table, set with appealing treats, had been a feature of every LND⁸ meeting. On this occasion the Ladies were tempted with delicacies from around the world, made by the committee, using their authentic recipes. Thus, the introduction of members with diverse national backgrounds and their special assets was early established and became an important part of LND events. It may be considered a forerunner of such highly-regarded facets of the current organization as the Foreign Foods Festival and the Cosmopolitan Interest Group.

⁸ Henceforth, "LND" will be used throughout, sometimes as a collective noun (singular), sometimes meaning all the Ladies (plural). In every case please read, "Ladies of Notre Dame."

Teas, then, with speakers on home-related subjects, book reviews, drama, art, music—these were the continuing format for several years. To be sure, during the years of World War II, program emphasis shifted to timelier topics: the role of women in Civil Defense work, nutrition, the Navy and the V-12 Program and Arms for America: a film. Beginning with Winnie Caponigri's year as Program Chairman at the start of the 1950's, such medically-related topics as mental health and cancer began to appear as subjects. Later in the decade, a speaker from the League of Women Voters turned the Ladies' thoughts toward politics at one program; in another, Dr. Charles Parnell of the N.D. Modern Language department discussed the teaching of a foreign language in South Bend elementary schools.

In the 1960's there was some further evidence of stressing practical education when a speaker from the Credit Union explained its workings; at a later meeting, education by means of TV was explored. The tour was a big item in this era, however. In 1962, with Claudia Kent (Mrs. Raymond) and Betty Samora (Mrs. Julian) as Chairmen, the modern language laboratory at N.D. was visited; in 1963, Catherine Barrett (Mrs. Edward) and Mae Stevason (Mrs. Carl) arranged a tour of the new Memorial Library; in 1968, Mary Cahill (Mrs. Robert) and Katie Parseghian (Mrs. Ara) planned our exploration of the huge Athletic and Convocation Center.

But in looking back on all our LND programs held during that fateful decade, there is nothing to give the slightest clue of the turbulence and violence that were causing such distress in the country and engulfing the campuses. The dawning of the seventies, however, reflected a sort of LND fever to catch up. This first half of the decade has directed a critical examination toward ourselves and our environment. It might be called the era of the panel discussion.

During Priscilla Magee's term as Program Chairman, 1970-71, when Ginny Nicolaides (Mrs. John) was President, there were no less than three panels exploring whether the University can survive the seventies; whether the students can; and, in a sense, whether we can. (The latter was explored in a discussion on The Role of Women in a Changing World, February 2.) These panels were moderated by and consisted of administration and faculty members whose expertise and differing viewpoints made for challenging debate.

In 1971-72, with Priscilla Magee as President and Del Tenney (Mrs. Mark), Program Chairman, the topic was Women at Notre Dame. Moderated by Jeanne Swartz (Mrs. Thomas), the three-member panel consisted of Dr. Rita Cassidy, Saint Mary's College History department; Jean Horiszny (Mrs. William), Assistant Director of Public Information at N.D. and Miss Eileen Fitzpatrick, an undergraduate student.

Get Involved -- You'll Like It! was the theme for the opening meeting in 1973. Flo Yeandel (Mrs. Frank), President, and her First Vice President, Anne Cooney (Mrs. James), presented Joan Hofman (Mrs. Emil) as moderator and speaker on St. Joseph's Hospital volunteer work; Helen Arnold (Mrs. Adam), speaking on the Peter Claver House; Mary Bergman (Mrs. Richard), on the Council for the Retarded; Catherine Ann Carroll (Mrs. John), on the N.D. Library Association and Joann Sporleder (Mrs. Donald) on Southhold Restorations. All members of the LND, they pointed out several directions other Ladies could take if they wanted involvement in community service.

This year (1974-75) began with a panel; this time we were taking a look at the Year of the Woman. Noreen Howard (Mrs. Alan), President, opened the meeting then presented her First Vice President, Rachel Weinstein (Mrs. Paul), who introduced the panelists. Jane DuComb, State Head of the Women's Political Caucus acted as moderator for the panelists: Dr. Josephine Ford, N.D. department of Theology; Nancy Kommers (Mrs. Donald), volunteer in community affairs; Carole Moore of the History department and Pat Crosson (Mrs. Frederick), psychologist.

The most recent LND program, although not a panel discussion, provoked much spirited dialogue. It was a talk by Rabbi Elliott D. Rosenstock of Temple Beth El and the N.D. Theology department, who gave his thoughts on Living Morally in an Amoral World.

One panel in the 1973-74 season consisted of N.D. professors who explored such highly-charged subjects as abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering and suicide. This rather weighty melange makes the light fare of an O. Henry reading and the children's Maypole dancing of our infancy 40 years ago seem like a lost age of innocence. But in other ways we do cling tenaciously to our traditions.

In 1949 a certain willingness to be innovative with the programming seemed to some Ladies an encroachment on the regular meetings. At the August Executive Board meeting, the policy of holding a monthly tea was restated: it was to be held "regardless of what other events might be scheduled." And what were these new happenings? Not all that new, really.

As early as 1935 special events had been planned; these grew into annual, greatly-anticipated occasions. However, the Ladies did not want so much emphasis on these occasions, nor so many of them as to submerge their original purpose of getting together for a simple social tea. In fact, as long as twenty-five years later the membership was not prepared to relinquish that aspect of the organization entirely. But it would be interesting to see what the principal "Special Events" actually were.

Before the LND was founded, it had been a custom for the faculty wives to act as hostesses for the President of the University when he received the new professors and their wives at a tea. Once organized, the LND continued to serve in this way, the Board of Directors arranging the tea tables, pouring and generally acting as deputy hostesses in welcoming the incoming faculty. It followed naturally for the LND to make a welcome to their new members a featured part of their opening meeting. Often honoring them with corsages, the President saw that each new LND member was introduced and made welcome in our midst. This tradition has continued virtually unchanged throughout our history, from the individual introduction of the newcomer to the group in the early years to today's elaborate welcoming tea. Other special events began to find a place in our calendar as early as our second year. Bridge was an especially popular pastime in the thirties and many of our Charter Members were dedicated, skillful players. Nevertheless, the game became the main event at only one regular meeting each year. The Rotary Room of the Oliver Hotel in downtown South Bend was the location of the first bridge party. It was held on January 8, 1935. Mrs. John Cooney was in charge of the program committee on which Mrs. Wesley Bender also served. The event was the first of an on-going series which still affords a pleasant afternoon, nowadays, usually at the February meeting and at the University Club.

Plans were made that first year, also, for another annual feature which has

carried through to the present -- the dinner dance. For that first occasion, in May, 1935, it was perhaps wisely decided to join forces with the men of the Lay Faculty Club and the local alumni group. There had been some futile preliminary attempts by the unseasoned LND to organize an ambitious "Cabaret Dinner;" it surely would have been over-reaching our limited resources unless the three-way sponsorship had made it possible. Mrs. Cletus Chizek, Chairman of the LND planning committee, wanted the evening to consist of dinner, a floor show, cards and dancing. This, in fact, is exactly what was enjoyed at Melody Gardens here in South Bend.

Although "cards" were then considered an important feature of the dinner dance, in recent years the LND has not found it necessary to include card playing. But that is not the most noticeable difference between that first evening and those we enjoy now; much more dramatic is the changed price of the ticket: the couple in 1974 paid \$16. — in 1935 the ticket was \$1.00!

In the Spring of our second year five dollars was voted to bring a magician for a children's party. Moved the following year from May to December, the event began another long-lasting annual tradition, the Children's Christmas Party. With few exceptions, this fun-filled occasion was held annually, providing the youngsters with puppet shows, movies, games, candy and, of course, gifts from the inevitable Santa Claus. Many times the affable Charles Lennon, then at the University, played this role. At the first such party our committee women took care of fewer than 100 children, but by 1967 there were close to 400. Elaine Nicgorski (Mrs. Walter), Chairman, and her Co-chairman, Jeanne Martinez-Carrion (Mrs. Marino), found themselves and their committee faced with a stupendous undertaking; they had assorted ages from nursery school up to junior high school to reckon with. Perhaps the sheer difficulty of running such a party successfully, not to say safely, given the ever-mounting numbers of guests, led to the phasing out of this annual highlight after that year. It went out on a successful note but no one has had the courage to attempt it since.

Other special events have come and gone. The annual summer picnic, often held in September, was enjoyed for some 20 years after 35 couples gathered for their first in 1936. For a while, picnics were held for the Sisters enrolled in the Summer Session, but this, too, fell a victim to the greatly-increased numbers;

both picnics have become only pleasant memories.

Nevertheless, there were other innovations that caught on, becoming more impressive through the years. In November, 1938, the Ladies invited their husbands to a turkey dinner. Perhaps this was the seed that grew into our first, so-called "Potluck Dinner." This event quickly established itself as a looked-forward-to sort of evening, with each attending couple bringing either enough casserole, salad or dessert for twelve. After the North Dining Hall was completed the LND often were able to contract with the manager to provide the main course.

In 1963, because the affair took on an international flavor with Ladies from around the globe supplying the interesting and delicious items on the menu, the evening became the "Foreign Foods Festival." Pachita Pike (Mrs. Frederick), Ruth Montana (Mrs. Frank) and Irmela Seeler (Mrs. Otto) were in charge of the successful party and were assisted by other Ladies from non-American backgrounds.

Each year brought a new chairman with her own emphasis, although Sylvia Sim (Mrs. Herbert) must be commended for her almost perennial ticket management. Foreign and Festive the affair became, indeed, as a glance at the list of some inviting evenings clearly shows: Gasparilla Night (French cuisine, Las Vegas "gambling," dancing to a combo); Polynesian Night; Swedish Night; Mexican Night; Oriental Night; Irish Night. Adventures in exotic cuisines and merriment, these affairs have blended our different cultural backgrounds into one of the most popular LND traditions.

In February, 1939, a style show by children of the members was presented. Among the models were "Jimmie" Baldinger, "Tommy" Bartholomew, "Jimmie" Dincolo, Joseph Corona, Maureen Riley and Martha Shilts. Again in 1940, the style show was held, this time with adult models. It was combined with the already traditional dessert bridge party and took place at the LaSalle Hotel. It was not long before the style show became associated with a luncheon; as such, it has continued.

Usually held in as pleasant a local restaurant or hotel as could be reserved, the

affair for years brought out the Ladies in their best spring finery, eager to watch some local fashion shop parade its models in the latest styles of the season. Changing customs of recent years have, with their emphasis on the casual, eliminated the "dressed-up" look of the audience, it must be admitted.

Sometimes committees have used table favors and door prizes as an added fillip to the afternoon. It would be interesting to know whatever use was made of the handmade hatpins everyone received in 1952, or if Elizabeth Caparo ever wore her door prize from the same party — the \$10.95 Easter bonnet from Wyman's. And does Agnes Bartholomew (Mrs. Paul) still have the Kolinsky scarf she won in 1950?

Sometimes, too, committees have selected models from our own members; this always makes for a show more interesting to the LND audiences. When the models have made the clothes they are showing, it becomes even more so. The occasions when that happened will be described later.

One year, 1966, in somewhat of a departure from the up-to-the-minute American look in fashions, Pat Fitzgerald (Mrs. John) and Bea Haaser (Mrs. Norman) decided to feature Far-Eastern dress. Held in May at the pleasantly-situated Diamond Harbor Inn in Cassopolis, Michigan, the afternoon proved to be educational as well as entertaining. The models were natives of five countries: Mitsuko Furuhashi (Mrs. Yusaku), Japan; Kae Cho (Mrs. Jae), Korea; May Liu (Mrs. William), China; Runa Mozumder (Mrs. Asoke), India and Nellie Wong (Mrs. Warren), New Zealand. As they strolled among the tables displaying their native dress, a description of the origin and design of each was given by Lucille Sayre (Mrs. Kenneth) from a script she wrote in collaboration with Jo d'Alelio (Mrs. Frank). Soft, authentic music of the country played in the background. Ladies left the luncheon knowing the difference between an Indian sari, a Japanese obi and a Maori tiki; they had learned how to distinguish a Korean hanbok from a typical Mandarin gown.

Another specialized style show honored the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University of Notre Dame. Presented was a historical procession of fashions, with LND models representing a few women whose influence had touched on N.D., if only briefly. The period covered was from 1842 to 1967.

The committee was chaired by Jo d'Alerio with Irene Leahy (Mrs. Eugene) as Co-chairman; Elaine Nicgorski and Dorothy Leader (Mrs. Robert) produced the script, which Dorothy narrated; Helen Westmann (Mrs. B.S.J.), Runa Mozumder, Helen Donovan (Mrs. Mortimer), Jean Egan (Mrs. Sherman), Candy Schimming (Mrs. Bruce) and Dit Langford (Mrs. Walter) also served on the committee. Irene Leahy did the research on music popular in each era and provided the accompaniment. The program showing the correlation between the models and the music is reproduced here.* This unusual fashion show met with enthusiastic approval. Revised, it was repeated for the opening meeting in 1971.**

Two Pegs — Skelland (Mrs. Peter) and Saxe (Mrs. Harry) — also used a novel approach the year (1968) they were Co-chairmen of the luncheon. Riding enthusiasts both, their choice of setting was the Laughin' Place Stable in Niles, Michigan, elegant quarters as equine facilities go. Wines were served preceding the luncheon. During this social hour guests were invited to stroll through the impressive quarters on an inspection tour. A catered buffet then was served at one end of the large indoor ring, where small tables also were set up. From these, the Ladies concluded the entertaining afternoon by watching not a style show but a horse show.

One more luncheon, of all the many pleasing occasions through the years, deserves special mention. We must go back a decade to an afternoon in 1964, to "Everyone's Birthday Party." When the Ladies walked into the Pick Oliver Hotel the scene was breath-taking. Twelve tables, one for each month, turned the room into a rainbow of color. Each was decorated in a different hue, with the appropriate birthstone color and displayed flowers typical of the season. The seating split up the usually inseparable "pals;" each one had to find her own birth-month spot. Ladies who previously may have known each other only by sight if at all found common bonds and perhaps a new friend. Humorous skits, folk songs and dances made up the rest of the program after the luncheon, to be more specific, after the dessert, which was, of course — birthday cake. Molly Bernard, Kay Barth (Mrs. Bernard) and their capable committee well deserved the many compliments they received; the imagination and congeniality of this event have been long remembered.

* See Supplement following p. 17.

** See following photos.

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Thus, it can be said that whether it is presented in a conventional manner or with our own many interesting modifications, the luncheon-style show will undoubtedly continue to claim a favored spot in the LND calendar.

One final special event is held annually to remember those of our organization who are no longer with us. They were first honored by a Mass for the Deceased in October, 1940. This memorial service now takes place in May, on Ascension Thursday, and is the last event of the LND year. Brunch usually is served after the Mass. By drawing the programs of the year to a close with our departed members in mind, we are respecting the memory of all who are deceased. Among them are many whose efforts in earlier years molded the LND into the organization we enjoy today.

LADIES OF NOTRE DAME
ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

"Notre Dame, Our Mother"	(O'Donnell-Casasanta)	
"Long, Long Ago"	(T.H. Bayly)	.1843
"Jeanne With the Light Brown Hair"	(Stephen C. Foster)	.1854
"Aura Lee".	(Fosdick-Doulton)	.1860
"When Johnnie Comes Marching Home"	(Lambert)	.1863
"Silver Threads Among the Gold"	(Rexford-Danks)	.1873
"While Strolling Through the Park"	(Haley)	.1884
"After the Ball"	(Harris)	.1892
"Oh, You Beautiful Doll !"	(Brown-Ayer)	.1911
"Down the Line" (Fagan-Casasanta)1926
"When Irish Backs Go Marching By"	(Casasanta)	.1929
"I Only Have Eyes For You"	(Dubin-Warren)	.1934
"Some Enchanted Evening".	(Rodgers-Hammerstein)	.1949
"Al Di La"	(Mogol-Donida)	.1961
"Notre Dame, We Hail Thee"		Pedtke

* * *

Mrs. Eugene J. Leahy, Accompanist

MORRIS PARK COUNTRY CLUB
APRIL 11, 1967

COLLECTION AND RECOLLECTION

Casasanta)		
. . . 1843	1840's	Mrs. Alexis Coquillard Mrs. Wm. Thomas Hamilton
. . . 1854	1850's	Mrs. William Phelan Mrs. J.P. Freeman
. . . 1860	1860's	Mrs. William T. Sherman Mrs. Francesco Montana
. . . 1863		
. . . 1873	1870's	Mrs. Edwin Booth Mrs. Leo V. Auth, Jr.
. . . 1884	1880's	Eliza Allen Starr Mrs. Antonio J. Botet
. . . 1892	1890's	Mrs. Maurice Francis Egan Mrs. James A. McCarthy
. . . 1911	1900's	St. Mary's Girl Mrs. Bruce B. Schimming
. . . 1926	1920's	Football Fan Mrs. John W. Houck
. . . 1929		
. . . 1934	1930's	LND Charter Member Mrs. Lawrence H. Baldinger
. . . 1949	1940's	Spring Dance Attendant Mrs. Emil T. Hofman
. . . 1961	1960's	LND Bride Mrs. Thomas O'Dea
. Pedtke		

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Mrs. Robert A. Leader, Narrator