

The CONSCIENCE of a CITY

Golden Anniversary
1916 • 1966





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Cover:

Active Citizens are the Riches of a City.

SKIDMORE FOUNTAIN INSCRIPTION





The CONSCIENCE of a CITY

Fifty Years of City Club Service in Portland

THE CITY CLUB of PORTLAND Golden Anniversary 1916·1966

"To inform its members and the community in public matters and to arouse in them a realization of the obligations of citizenship."

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PORTLAND, OREGON

THE COMMITTEE and the author together have many grateful acknowledgements to record. Author Lucia has expressed in the following terms, his view of the task and his appreciation of invaluable assistance in that connection:

In putting together this story of the first fifty years of The City Club of Portland, it was necessary to comb many old records, files, Club bulletins and reports, pamphlets, newspapers, books and other materials to learn what has made the Club the great Portland institution that it has become.

Many people generously devoted their time, thoughts and energies to locating facts and anecdotes, pursuing small details, and in relating past happenings that were a part of the City Club story. From this great volume of material—enough for a far larger book—the author sifted things down to build a profile of the Club and its character, and to tell its exciting story. Of necessity, from the limits of the project, some things had to be omitted and other incidents touched upon only briefly. The author, as an outside observer, had to rely on his own judgment as to what was of greatest importance and significance.

It would have been impossible to list all the individual names of people who, over the years, took part in City Club activities. The author made no effort to do so. Instead, he "let the chips fall where they may," using names only when they came naturally into the sequence of events, or were felt to be an important part of the record. The hero of this account is the City Club itself, rather than any single individual.

The author is most grateful to those who helped on the project, especially in the tedious task of research. Heading the list are members of the Club's history committee. Mrs. W. E. Naylor, City Club executive secretary, was extremely helpful, not only in pointing the trails to the fine points, but in relating anecdotes which helped give shades of color and life to the manuscript. Charles McKinley also provided important background on Portland at the time the Club was founded.

Personal interviews were conducted with longtime members of the City Club, and some former members. The author wishes to thank Ralph C. Ely, son of the late H. Ashley Ely, for granting an interview about his father.

The author is also indebted to the staff of the Portland library, and the librarians of *The Oregonian* and the *Oregon Journal* for their assistance.

The Committee heartily concurs in all of this acknowledgement; to that, it would add its special thanks:

For the broad guidance and support of the City Club's Board of Governors and its ad hoc Fiftieth Anniversary Committee.

For the unstinting and effective assistance of the executive secretary and all staff members in many and all ways.

For the fundamental and invaluable assistance of Club archivist Morris J. Isseks in research and review, and of Tom Humphrey in research, interviewing, and editorial work.

For enlightening professional memoranda by Charles McKinley, educator and political scientist, on the civic state of the community.

For the thought, memory-searching and time of early members and former officers of the Club, through interviews and correspondence.

For the use of files and photographs of *The Oregonian* and the *Oregon Journal*, the Oregon Historical Society, and others.

For the professional and penetrating investigation and revealing, lucid and interesting presentation of City Club history by author Lucia.

For the invaluable professional work of artist Douglas Lynch in book and typographic design and for the collaboration of Ned Malcolm in completing and producing a volume of handsome and attractive character.

THE AUTHOR

Ellis Lucia, the author of this historical account of fifty years of City Club life, is a Portland free-lance writer and photographer well known for his works on the Pacific Northwest, regional subjects, and historical accounts. Mr. Lucia has observed the regional and local scene very extensively over a period of years and has authored a number of books. His articles and pictures also have appeared in regional and national magazines.

A former newspaperman and editor, Mr. Lucia is a member of the Authors League of America and of the Western Writers of America. He holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Pacific University.

"If a nation expects
to be ignorant and free,
in a state of civilization,
it expects what never was
and never will be."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

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Logs corraled in Portland harbor. Multi-masted sailing vessels in background called at the busy port of Portland as late as the 1930's.

THE IDEA of an historical review of a half-century of City Club existence was touched off by the Board of Governors' consideration of the implications of the imminent arrival at a major milestone in the progress of a civic idea and a civic institution in Portland. And, more fundamentally, it comes at a significant point in the history of development of the metropolitan community which that institution seeks to serve.

Examination of the more obvious motive of appropriately marking an anniversary discloses the deeper, more complex roots of purpose.

There is an obvious concern with such history for the sake of its own intrinsic value: for the satisfaction of well-recognized and altogether normal interests—activated by nostalgia, curiosity, introspection and desire for knowledge and understanding—in the unfolding ideas, events and developments of the past.

But most important in the project's motivation is the consideration of the "past as prologue." The great value of historical review and appraisal for the understanding of the situation and needs of today, for a stronger light upon those of tomorrow—for a stronger understanding of what should be a quickening role for the City Club in a markedly growing and changing metropolitan community.

In this regard, there is an underlying trust that the City Club may find, through critical review, new wellsprings of forward-looking, constructive purpose, and may add new meaning and vitality to its plans, activities and programs. Most fundamental is a wish that a revitalized, renewed, strengthened City Club activity will be favorably reflected in the leadership, understanding, decision, activity and well-being of the metropolitan community itself.

The story here presented of the genesis and growth of an enduring idea, method and activity of the City Club past is necessarily in highlight only. This is an extremely condensed view, compounded and distilled out of the written and pictured record of fifty years of articles of constitution and incorporation,

memoranda, correspondence, meeting minutes, speeches, bulletins, research reports, news items and articles, and—very significantly—out of the memories and recollections of members who have seen the City Club emerge and grow in this community.

Under the conditions and limitations, the committee problem was to provide an historical review in a combined verbal and pictorial way that, it is hoped, will be illuminating and effective.

Faced with a monumental and intricate task, the committee sought expert, professional help. City Club members Douglas Lynch and Ned Malcolm consented to advise jointly in the design, typography and production of an attractive book. Ellis Lucia, Portland author, was asked to write the City Club story on the basis of the material available and of the extensive research, correspondence, and interviewing carried out by committee members and by staff, as well as by Mr. Lucia himself. The author was asked to capture the essence and flavor of the Club past. He would do this, it was suggested, in a manner that would be objective and independently interpretive, imaginative and readable, and at the same time as economical of words as practicable. The committee feels that these aims have been effectively achieved.

It should be emphasized that the history of the City Club must properly be viewed in the context of the community and its interests and needs. Its inherent and organic purposes and orientation are directed to the community and its welfare; the view of its history cannot well be self-centered, in-growing. The Club has grown with the metropolitan community. Its studies have quickly responded to and intimately reflected the problems of community need, development and management and have sought to aid in consideration and solution of the pressing issues.

In spite of the magnitude of growth and change, the kinds of situations and problems faced by the community, and dealt with by the City Club, have a strong continuity. As this historical review clearly indicates, these growing pains probably are inherent in community development and civic issues throughout all of our urban areas.

Growth and change are continuous processes in the society and the urban environment. New problems arise, or more generally, new aspects of basic problems appear, old problems become more intense or crucial. The general problems of adjustment of people to environmental change—geographical, economic, social, cultural—remain with us in their essential scope and character. The phases, the particulars, the immediate requirements and urgencies change.

Except for the shorter-run civic problems, the solutions will rarely be fully comprehensive, absolute and final—conditions are constantly modifying, new situations evolving, targets moving. But thoughtful civic consideration, research

and appraisal by such organizations as the City Club have contributed and can contribute to the setting of desirable community goals, to the identification and appraisal of emerging community situations, problems and needs, to the indication of rational and feasible directions to take in solution or amelioration in the public interest. The City Club has aided and can aid in the essential task of determining the most fundamental, essential and urgent aspects and phases of the many-faceted problem of adjustment to growth and change. Often it can aid in reducing issues and proposals for civic betterment to comprehensible and manageable terms and proportions.

In this, the City Club can *react* to evident problems and needs, and to the proposals of governmental executives and legislatures, or of civic interests. It can also *lead*, through its own initiative in civic observation, research, analysis and appraisal.

In any community's civic advance, there are definite periods in which evolution has accelerated and problems have accumulated at more than a "normal" rate. Such broad turning points may be discerned in Portland both at the time of the City Club's beginnings and at the present time.

In the second decade of the century, Portland and the Pacific Northwest were at the end of a period of inordinate, frontier-opening type. Population and economic expansion had raced ahead of advances in fields of culture, civics, and government. The great needs of civic innovation and improvement were apparent to many leaders in the community.

The population of the City of Portland had trebled—to about a quarter million in less than two decades—when the City Club was born. The people of the city greatly outnumbered, by two or three to one, those of the surrounding area that is now a part of the metropolitan district. Population characteristics still reflected the frontier era that was passing. The people were younger. The males outnumbered the females by a substantial margin.

The city boundaries were relatively wide, encompassing most of the then urbanized area as well as a great proportion of its metropolitan population. In contrast, the population of the present central city is only about forty per cent of the nine hundred thousand people who live in what is now known as the standard metropolitan area. With relatively limited boundary extensions throughout the years, the central city population has grown only moderately over the past three or four decades, and since the forties, little, if any. On the other hand, that of the suburban areas has grown and is growing more rapidly in accord with the national trend in urban and metropolitan development.

Thus, the outstanding problems evoking the attention of the City Club founders in 1916 were those of emergence from "frontier" and "boom" conditions. They were also primarily those of the city itself. Today, the City Club

is concerned with the problems of an expanding and diversifying modern metropolitan area of many governmental entities—one beginning to crowd the million mark in population and ranking twenty-eighth nationally. The community is also one whose significance is enhanced by reason of the very large regional area and economy it serves in the Columbia basin and the entire Pacific Northwest.

Political Scientist Charles McKinley, out of his long experience in affairs of the community and the Club, has highlighted the civic situation in which the City Club was launched. His memorandum reminds us that the early part of the Twentieth Century was a time of civic renaissance in the United States. James Bryce, the author of *American Commonwealth*, first published in 1888, had said in the preface to a new edition in 1910:

...all I have seen during the last few years makes me more hopeful for the future of popular government. The forces working for good seem stronger today than they have been in the last three generations.

The National Municipal League, dating from the 1890's, had expanded with the active interest of social scientists and had headed a strong movement for reform of urban development in form and practice.

With reference to the local situation after the turn of the century, McKinley wrote:

... in Oregon, the new concern for improving governmental institutions and political practices first gave attention to statewide changes to meet the new needs. Here these discontents, beginning in the early 1890's, demanded constitutional amendments or direct legislation to curb the misrepresentative tendencies of state, city and county legislative bodies, the recall, to buttress still further the accountability of elected public officials, and the direct primary to cure the misrepresentativeness of the party convention system. By 1906, the organizations of governmental reform leader William S. U'Ren [later City Club member] had also obtained a "home rule" amendment for Oregon cities. With these "gateway" changes achieved, attention quickly shifted toward their exercise in a stream of social legislation at the state level, and, in Portland, to the expansion of city government functions and the discussion of improvements in structure and administrative methods.

These concerns, McKinley points out, had "crystallized in the 1913 dramatic city charter changes which ushered in Portland's commission form of government." However, in spite of a new government and new drive, "the civic situation was far from serene." One manifestation was a recall movement directed against the mayor and two other commissioners in 1914, which proposal, however, was soundly defeated.

In the forward movement of the time, McKinley notes other fruits of civic concern in the form of action in several important directions: toward a Portland

park system; toward a master city plan; for a survey of governmental organization and business methods; the introduction of higher education facilities in the city; the modernization of the area road system to cope with the mounting automobile traffic; the expansion of the suburban fringe; the decentralization of homes, industries and shopping centers, forerunning the long era of flight from the central city. Most of these matters are touched upon in Mr. Lucia's account.

Turning to the present situation: The metropolitan community has gone through and is going through revolutionary changes in urbanization and suburbanization, of decentralization and recentralization, of urban renewal, of transportation and communications, and so on. The major problems and needs of today have to do with the metropolitan community—with its development, its government, its operations, its services and its environment, but also with its society, its culture, and its behavior. Many of these issues are reflected in current and proposed City Club investigations.

A qualitative estimate of the present civic condition has been fortuitously offered by Unitarian Pastor Richard M. Steiner at the City Club forum which began the fiftieth anniversary and as his own ministry of a third of a century in Portland ended. Dr. Steiner's concern was primarily with the vital cultural—primarily the spiritual, the ethical and the aesthetic—state of the community. Willy-nilly, he may have spoken as the "conscience" of the Club.

Noting both creative and destructive capacities on the part of men and the society, Dr. Steiner made a plea for the strengthening of the spiritual resources of the community for "the task of creating a moral and cultural atmosphere of which we may be proud." He spoke eloquently of the role of the city:

While the mind says that men were never intended by the Creator to live in cities, the heart says that it is glorious to live in a city. All the arts and crafts of men which have enriched and made beautiful and more comfortable the habitations of men have been developed in the cities. The silversmith and the engraver, the poet and the printer, the physician and the engineer, the weaver and the painter, the buyer and the seller, the philosopher and the priest, have all depended on the city to supply nourishment, sustain and develop the needs and wants of the human race.

Nothing can be obsolete until something has been created to take its place, and nothing has yet taken the place of the city to keep the earth's humanity from physical, mental and aesthetic starvation.

On the forward-looking, creative role of such an organization as the City Club in social reform and in upbuilding the character of the city and citizenry, he continued:

Only the creative citizen is the happy citizen. His creativity is at its best when he is creating better human relationships. When he is healing and helping, when he is contributing to the growth, not only of his mind, body and spirit, but to the minds, the bodies and the spirits of those about him. Those who created this city out of the wilderness of the West were not creating for themselves alone. They built their houses, their places of business, their places of worship, and their public buildings for the generations that were to come. If those houses, places of business, places of worship and public buildings remained standing for only a few generations before becoming obsolete, it was not by reason of lack of vision for the future but by lack of knowledge for what that future might become.

The buildings we build today are built for posterity, but inevitably they, too, will become obsolete, for our knowledge of the future needs of our children, and our children's children is but a partial knowledge. But in building them with a thought for beauty, with a thought to their usefulness, not only to ourselves but to generations yet unborn, we are creating and contributing to the outward and inward growth of the future citizens of our city.

In seeking a better way by which our municipality may be governed, in seeking for a better administration of justice, in creating new laws for finer race relations, healthier family relations, more orderly human relations, we are creating not only for ourselves but for those who come after us.

In broadest summation, it may be adjudged from this historical review that the Portland metropolitan area faces in some degree all of the crucial problems that face all of our metropolitan areas: those of land, water and other resource protection and use; of production, transport, distribution and service; of housing and shelter; of community economic, social and cultural institutions and services; of parks and recreation; of education, health and welfare; of economic opportunity; of social justice; of community relationships and organization; of metropolitan shifts and dislocations and of urban and suburban renewal; of comprehensive planning and development; of governmental organization and coordination; of financing of capital improvements, services and operations. Transcending throughout are the imponderable matters of maintaining and enhancing the whole environment in the interest of human well-being and the ineffable quality of livability.

As with the City Club, it may be concluded that the metropolitan community is itself at a turning point—at a crucial period in which reappraisal, new understanding, new cooperation, and new planning are of unusually great importance. Crises are common in urban history and progress. But the metropolitan crisis of today is rapidly coming to a focus. The bursts and impacts of the national population explosion will continue for some decades in spite of the current slowdown in birth rates. In view of the continuing nationwide trend in urbanization, this pressure will be felt more intensely and probably for a longer time in the

metropolitan regions. The Portland metropolitan area's civic leadership should be prepared for a twenty-five year doubling and perhaps even a fifty-year trebling of its population—and, with this basic growth, for an even greater rate of intensification of accumulated problems of physical, economic, social and political character that must be met if environmental quality and community livability are to be maintained.

As is evidenced by City Club philosophy and activity, the community cannot be an island unto itself. The metropolitan area functions in a wide context. It provides economic, social and personal services for a large subnational region; it is deeply involved in the expanding activities of the whole Pacific Northwest. It is intimately concerned with many issues of state and nation. As a major port city it cannot be remote from world commerce and related matters. Its citizens have many interests in the economic, social, cultural and political affairs of the world. On such a basis the City Club has inevitably developed a continuing role as a forum in bringing national and world, as well as local, affairs and issues before its members and the public through its research and forum programs.

If there is a special focus to City Club effort, it lies in the general field of governmental organization and policy. With great developmental change and expanding complexities in the metropolitan economy, and with little or no corresponding reform and adaptation in governmental arrangements for metropolitan coordination or management, the central and major crisis of today lies in this key field. A great multiplicity—literally hundreds—of governmental entities exist in the metropolitan area with no adequate framework for the responsible and effective exercise of the over-all leadership, cooperation and coordination that are essential to the maintenance and enhancement of a good and secure metropolitan society and environment.

Nationally, problems of metropolitan government are very much in the public mind—although solutions are yet unclear. Proposals are rife, across the land and here, for modifications of city and county government, for more "home rule," for expansions and consolidation of services, for more authoritative and effective metropolitan area planning, for special planning in such crucial fields as capital improvement, transportation, consolidated water and related land services and conservancy, for metropolitan government consolidation or federation.

Environmental problems, including those of water, air and land pollution, are widely recognized as acute. Of special significance in the Portland metropolitan area at this time are the current studies of the Portland Metropolitan Study Commission, established by the State Legislature to formulate and present to the voters suitable proposals for metropolitan organization.

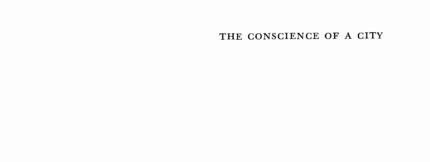
In this foreword the Committee has endeavored to present the essence—as it sees it—of the situation and problems, the dangers as well as the opportunities

faced by community and Club at the beginning of the latter's second half-century. Believing that the situation speaks for itself and carries its own challenge, the Committee does so without suggesting prescriptions, conclusions or recommendations of its own. The Committee trusts, further, that the historical account that follows will provide perspective and inspiration for whatever examination of objectives, directions, progress, policies and procedures the officers and governors and the ultimately responsible membership may elect to undertake as the constructive civic work of the City Club goes forward.

As a final comment: your Committee submits this historical account—a necessarily brief condensation of the great deal of historical material assembled and filed—with real concern about the difficulty of singling out the men and events that would be mentioned out of the very many that were significant over fifty eventful and productive years. The converse—the omissions—caused particular concern.

The actual selections of names and happenings, then, should be considered as illustrative of a much larger body and not as comprehensive or definitive. The Committee's dilemma grows out of the basic nature, purposes and policies of the City Club. The Club has not depended upon a select or elite few for strength and leadership. A principle of progressive and widening participation has been followed consistently. Membership has changed and grown, and within it the responsibilities for leadership have been constantly and deliberately rotated. The program has been consistently alive and moving. The result is an exceptional degree of sharing and diffusion of leadership and responsibilities and a large number of almost equally notable people and events. This history, accordingly, should be considered as a tribute to a whole civic institution and the many people who made it up and took part in its direction and accomplishments over a long and fruitful period of activity.

Roy F. Bessey, chairman HISTORY COMMITTEE



The Changing Scene

Portland in 1916

THE WAR IN EUROPE was taking precedence over all else that spring of 1916. Although the United States was not yet involved, there was much anxiety on all sides, for the newspapers were filled with frightening stories of the bloody fighting in France and the strikes by German submarines in the North Atlantic.

In the Pacific Northwest, half a world away and with a closer kinship to the Orient than to Europe, there was cause for concern that the nation might be drawn into the fighting. How long could the United States maintain its neutrality, even in this tense political year, with Woodrow Wilson to run on the promising slogan, "He kept us out of war?"

On all sides there was political, social and economic unrest, as turbulent for that vigorous new generation—and with all the misgivings—as are the times of today. It was an age of civic renaissance, characterized by the movement of the National Municipal League which drew to its fold public-spirited citizens, and stimulated many reform movements for urban governments. There was much anxiety over ineffectiveness, bossism, and crookedness in local and state affairs, especially in rapidly growing metropolitan areas where leaders were too busy making money to spend time or thought on matters of health, sanitation, poverty in the slums, vice, shoddily operated school systems and outmoded departments at the city halls, county seats and state capitals.

Women, too, were on the march, not only against the evils of rum and the saloon. The ladies had the ridiculous notion that they should be granted the right to vote in this man's world, and to have a say of things. Men in derbies, high collars and fancy vests chomped down hard on their stogies at the thought. Oregon had heard much about all this through its own nationally famous champion of women's rights, Abigail Scott Duniway, who won the battle in her home state in 1912. The Republicans and Democrats could fully expect the girls to be there in noisy numbers when the great conventions convened that summer. What with the United States edging ever nearer the brink of war, the women

could dredge up quite a case by pointing out that the nation's brawny males hadn't done a very good job of making the world safe for democracy.

Portland—Oregon's only sizeable metropolis and a leading West Coast city since pioneer times—was feeling these stirrings of change. But much of the shifting sprang from within the Pacific Northwest itself, a part of its own natural development. In recent years, this busy upriver port and major railroad terminal had become the lumber capital of the world. Timber supplies had been depleted around Puget Sound. The lumbermen were moving south in droves to harvest the great virgin forests of northwestern Oregon, which contained some of the richest stands in all the world.

The Pacific Northwest was coming out of its frontier stage and its great boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Portland—regional port, transportation and mercantile center—strongly reflected that condition.

It was shipping not only great quantities of lumber but mountains of wheat from across the Cascades. Fleets of windjammers and steam schooners, as well as steamships, slammed against the docks to gulp sawed lumber for the ports of the nation and the world. Gigantic cigar-shaped rafts, a whopping thousand feet long and containing five million board feet of logs, were hauled down the Pacific Coast. Sternwheelers plied the rivers to The Dalles, Astoria, Salem and Corvallis.

Great sawmills screamed day and night along the banks of the Willamette and Columbia, and the sky was often hazy from their wigwam waste burners. There were other humming industries—flour mills, textile plants, and the second largest furniture manufacturing company in the nation.

In addition to the industries there were beautiful parks, tree-lined neighborhoods with many fine homes, and more miles of paved streets than any other city of equal size in the country. In the commercial district, the narrow streets were jammed with motor cars, buggies, produce wagons, and lines of clanging street cars. Portland was a great town for street cars and lines fanned out in all directions, grinding up Council Crest and jogging out to Mount Tabor, and into Piedmont, where travelers caught the steam train to St. Johns. Portland could boast of the nation's leading electric railway system, the speedy red and green trains hustling out through the quiet suburbs and across the rolling farmlands to all the major valley centers, and operating many long trains to the Oaks Amusement Park on summer weekends. At the same time the first links of a fine system of motor roads were coming into being in the city and its environs.

Life in such a city—as in all others—had two sides, and the wild and wooly here was still very much in evidence. Loggers quenched their thirsts in the saloons of the roaring North End, rather than at Simon Benson's bubbling bronze fountains downtown. Seekers of food, drink, shelter and entertainment wandered

in and out of the saloons, the greasy spoons, hockshops, chippy joints, gambling rooms, honky-tonks and other dives. This was one of the largest skid roads found anywhere. It was a tough district where red lights glowed in the night and Bunco Kelly, the greatest shanghai artist of them all, got fifty dollars a head for filling out quotas for outbound lumber ships.

Over all, Portland was a bustling metropolis of about 240,000 souls. It had five daily newspapers. Its growth had been phenomenal, from 90,000 in 1900 to 207,000 in 1910. It was rapidly throwing off the slow-paced ways of yesteryear, although there were still many horse-drawn buggies along the streets beside the wheezing horseless carriages. Mayor H. R. Albee's efforts to motorize the city fire department had been slowed by a local depression from a poor lumber market, with many unemployed. Five of the fourteen fire companies were still using horses. Mayor Albee, a "reformer" who had weathered a recall movement in 1914, also saw his hopes dashed for construction of a detention home for women and for a municipal newspaper, or "house organ," to inform the public of the happenings at City Hall.

Yet, despite the bad times, Portland was experiencing a building boom. A new public auditorium would be completed before the end of the year. Bright new office buildings were reaching for the sky. The river town of Linnton had been annexed to the city. About \$200,000 was being spent annually for street lighting. The city was surely losing its rugged frontier momentum. There was a marked change of emphasis from the free-wheeling times of the immediate past in this bustling age of the Twentieth Century. It was characterized in public affairs by an intense new community civic consciousness among the people and the recognition of the needs for consolidation and order within the structure of municipal government, and by an expansion of its responsibilities.

This concern for improving governmental institutions and political practices was first exemplified in statewide changes, begun in the 1890's. They were aimed initially at buttressing the accountability of elected public officials. The direct primary was introduced to cure the distortions and power politics of the party convention system, exploited so effectively for their own benefit by men like railroad builders Ben Holladay and Henry Villard. Reformers led by William S. U'Ren had also, in 1906, obtained a "home rule" amendment for Oregon cities. These were gateway changes which resulted in a stream of social legislation at the state level and, in Portland, to the expansion of the functions of city government and to discussion of improvements in structure and administrative methods.

Even before this mounting public awareness crystallized into the drastic charter changes of 1913, which ushered in Portland's commission form of government, there were trumpets being sounded in the wind. To design a park system for Portland, the Portland Park Board hired the Olmstead Brothers, who had helped

plan the great Chicago World's Fair. Under the direction of E. T. Mische, an effort was launched in 1908 to bring some of the Olmstead proposals into reality. Existing parks were improved and a million dollar bond issue approved for the construction of beautiful Terwilliger Boulevard. Mische, who became Park Superintendent in 1908, remained a guiding spirit in the city's park and playground program until the early 1920's, and was one of the early presidents of the City Club of Portland.

There were other manifestations of this civic awareness. In 1912, Marshall N. Dana, then a staff member of Sam Jackson's *Oregon Journal*, served as chairman of a citizens' committee which brought in E. H. Bennett, an outside "expert," to develop a "master plan" for Portland. The plan was adopted by the voters but had no binding effect upon the City Council. A year later, Jackson became a prime mover in another civic effort, this time involving the municipal government. Fifty citizens, at Jackson's invitation, heard William H. Allen, director of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, tell of the bureau's work in surveying administrative problems in many American cities. Richard Montague, who was also to become City Club president later, was chairman of the session. From this meeting grew a committee which raised funds to employ Allen's bureau to "make a preliminary survey of organization and business methods of Portland's city government."

The bureau's report pointed up major faults in the organization and administrative methods of the municipal government. Among them the study stressed the inadequacy of the Police Department and recommended its complete overhauling. The Fire Bureau was found to have "a complete absence of a fire preventive program." The Health Department showed "scandalous negligence in handling contagious diseases." Throughout the report, poor organization and inadequate record-keeping for administrative control and policy making were cited over and over again. There was no adequate budgetary process. There was obvious disinterest by the City Council in the recommendations of the bureaus. The interference of lay executive boards or the mayor in the decision-making process of subordinate officials, and the handicaps imposed by numerous charter provisions, were also cited as chronic difficulties under which the city administration had to function.

Certainly the report strengthened the hands of Portland citizens who were advocating a more effective and responsive government. As a result, a new city charter establishing the commission form of government was approved by the voters in 1913.

There were high hopes, for the new commissioners were a dedicated group of competent business and professional men, willing to leave their vocations for fulltime public service. But the disruptions from a depression in the lumber industry and the adjustment of the economy to the outbreak of World War I caused the ambitious new government to strike a number of snags. Drastic cuts in city expenditures of all departments were forced upon the new administration.

Still the Council was able to move ahead, and important steps were taken. A rise in meat prices created an urgent need for inspection to prevent a flood of unfit meat for sale, resulting in an ordinance which was fought to the Supreme Court. A scoring system for restaurant inspection, and special attention to the establishments, resulted in great improvement in their standards of food handling. A dairy inspection program made significant progress, raising the quality of milk marketed within Portland. Contests brought about vigorous competition among the dairymen for high score ratings. A year later, at an International Milk Contest in San Francisco, Portland walked off with "more medals and diplomas than had been done by any city previously."

There was additional headway in the area of bettering public health. A review of the Public Works Department showed many needs for improvement—in a pension system for employees, the damage to work projects by budget cuts, the lack of corrective surveys or bench marks, and the inability to make preliminary explorations on proposed construction to save funds. The Department of Public Affairs had expanded its program to assist working people, including a free employment bureau and emergency woodworking camps for destitute men. As a result of a drastic water shortage in 1915, engineering studies advocated new impoundments on the Bull Run watershed.

A most striking change in the quality of the city administration, however, was improvement of the fire record. Headed by Jay Stevens, the new Fire Prevention Division inspected 151,000 buildings for fire hazards in 1915 and 1916. There was an intensive public education program and the prosecution of arson cases also paid off. The 1914 property loss of \$1,762,493 dropped nearly half a million dollars in 1915 and to \$554,205 in 1916. The number of alarms declined to less than half what they had been, and false alarms dropped from 187 to 13.

The new commission system, by such changes, had demonstrated its effectiveness despite the economic doldrums of the economy of Portland and its hinterlands during the first year or so of its operation.

However, another factor contributed to the civic "ferment" which led to this new city charter. This was the introduction of higher education facilities to the community by the founding of Reed College, and shortly thereafter, the Portland center of the extension department of the University of Oregon. President William T. Foster of Reed encouraged students and faculty to participate in community life. By 1912-13, the college expanded an extension program to ten courses offered at eight locations in the city. About this same time, citizens, stimulated by Dr. W. G. Eliot, pastor of the Unitarian church, collected \$600, the

interest from which would become an annual prize to some Reed student writing the. best essay in the field of city government. Under faculty guidance, students were also urged to prepare themselves to discuss publicly legislative measures coming before voters through the initiative and referendum. Their services were offered to neighborhood clubs and adult voter groups. The Reed *Bulletin* declared that "the college endeavors by this means to aid in the dissemination of dependable and non-partisan information for the guidance of citizens." Professor William F. Ogburn, who handled arrangements for speakers, also used city problems for his statistics course in social science.

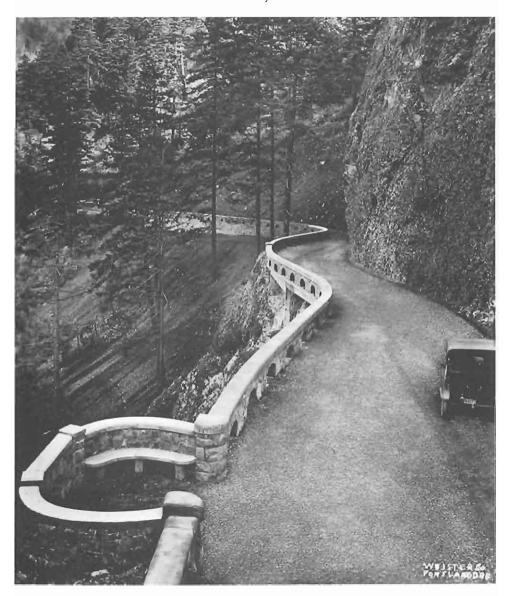
Reed College contributed to civic activity in another way, the compiling of studies and surveys on community problems. At the request of Mayor Albee, a special report was made on motion picture and vaudeville shows in Portland. Organized by President Foster, the team of faculty and sixty volunteers, working from a standard outline, covered fifty-one theaters and four vaudeville houses. There had been an unofficial censorship for movies since 1913, but this lacked compulsory power. Some theater managers refused to observe the requests of the censorship board. The Reed report advocated a tighter program and that necessary power be granted the censorship board.

There was one further aspect to the change in civic-social environment that led to the founding of the City Club. This was the growing activity of Multnomah County, exemplified by construction of the scenic Columbia Gorge Highway to the boundary of Hood River County. This was significant, for it was Multnomah County which initiated the use of public enterprise for a major long distance inter-city highway in Oregon. Chairman Rufus Holman of the county commission, in July 1913, offered a resolution to create an advisory board on roads and highways to investigate the road department and to make recommendations for better service. This board advocated employment of an engineer to supervise the work and creation of a new position of County Roadmaster.

But the county's involvement in this project led to other things. Scarcely had the highway been completed than there were land gifts to the county and the city of Portland of areas of great scenic value for park development along the highway. The largest was that of Simon Benson who gave some three hundred acres, including Multnomah and Wahkeena Falls, and extending from the shore of the river to the towering heights above the falls. This was the beginning of what ultimately became the Oregon State Park system, administered by the Highway Commission which was created in 1915 and evolving into the leading state park program in the West.

It was to Chairman Holman's credit that he was not only an effective leader of the Columbia Gorge project, but he brought to the county government a reformer's zeal for honest, competent administration. And the county's role in local affairs became increasingly important as the automobile age grew, taking mounting numbers of people who earned their living inside the city to reside in the suburbs.

This was the world into which the City Club of Portland was born.



Was the old Columbia River Highway really that narrow?

Facing page:

Columbia River Highway, in 1915, is partly paved to Crown Point, "end of the line" for early motorists.









Reading left to right:

San Diego bound. Northwest's famous cigar rafts; logs chained together for ocean towing.

Portland was scene of hectic shipyard activity during both World Wars. This 1918 photo shows wooden ships under construction on the ways.

Giant saws chew off enormous slabs of lumber in an Oregon mill.

Flower-bedecked bonnets vie with floral parade entries in an early Rose Festival event.

Strollers saunter up a drive in one of Portland's famous city parks.













Top Right: Mount Tabor trolley clangs Westward on Morrison in typical Oregon mist, past helmeted policeman.

Bottom Right: Old and new architecture. Nearly completed Yeon Building looks East over J. K. Gill's and Dekum Building on Third between Alder and Washington.

Left: Portland, 1912, is decked out for a gala holiday on Sixth Street looking North.



"The Hazelwood" — popular restaurant which served as rendezvous for the founders of the City Club, and was site of the early luncheon meetings — won prize as "best decorated store front" in early Rose Festival contest.

Rendezvous at the Hazelwood

City Club Beginnings

N A BRIGHT APRIL MORNING in 1916, H. Ashley Ely stood at the window of his office, 707 Broadway Building, and gazed down upon the milling scene in the street below. The young businessman who dealt in securities and investments was attracted by the noise at the corner of Morrison and Broadway where a balky horse and dray loaded with lumber had blocked the trolley cars. Motormen were clanging their bells angrily and a crowd had gathered to watch the show.

A street clock halfway down the block caught Ely's eye. Ten minutes before noon. Quickly, Ely turned from the window, slipped into his coat and jammed a bowler onto his head. He was halfway out the door when he remembered the papers on his desk. Grabbing them up, he dashed from the building.

Ely walked down Broadway, pushing through the knot of people at the corner. He crossed Alder and swung up Washington like a man in a hurry. Today was an important one, and it wouldn't do to be late. Near Tenth, he entered the Hazelwood Confectionery and Restaurant, a bustling place which was highly popular with the downtown business people. It had a pleasant atmosphere, and in the evening an instrumental group performed from the balcony for aftertheater patrons.

The manager, Harry Joyce, recognized Ely and motioned him to the rear of the large dining room which was rapidly filling up. Ely located the reserved table, moved up some additional chairs, and was shortly joined by three attorneys, Robert Rankin, Thaddeus W. Veness and Wilmot K. Royal. Others arrived, among them architects, a bank clerk, a forester, doctors, salesmen and members of the business world of Portland. They knew each other well by now, for this had become a habit. However, it seems significant that none of them belonged to the city's main line families.

These young upstarts had been getting together for about a year with noticeable regularity, mostly at this rendezvous place, but sometimes at the Broadway Hazelwood. The gatherings were informal, full of fun and good friends, but

gradually they took on serious undertones. These young men, well-educated and eager to do things, were dissatisfied with the way things were going in their town. They were especially critical of the operation of the city's public institutions and ways of government, and of some of its sacred cows. There was considerable room for improvement, they felt, but there was no way for them to make themselves heard. It was as though they were observing the action from the sidelines, or had been cast up on the beach.

None of them found satisfaction with the existing service organizations where men of good will sang rousing songs and wore large identification buttons. While these clubs did good work in certain fields, they were for the most part social organizations, devoted to back-slapping, "for he's a jolly good fellow" and all's right with the world. The Chamber of Commerce, with all due respect, was interested primarily in "promoting Portland," and that was as it should be. Nowhere was there a serious organization with its main purpose for existing, the improvement and betterment of the city and state; an objective group of intelligent, thoughtful men, among whom you could be outspoken and honest, critical yet constructive, with no personal axes to grind and no sudden accusations that you were being disloyal to Portland, to Oregon or to the United States just because you felt that there might be a better way of doing things, even though it upset the *status quo*.

In the wild frontier towns, such a group as this might evolve into a citizens' Law and Order League, or a Vigilante movement. It had happened not long before in that raw land east of the Cascade Mountains. But Ely and his friends had nothing like this in mind. They weren't rough-and-tumble, and they didn't meet behind drawn curtains. If they gathered in back rooms or a hotel basement, as sometimes happened, it was merely because there wasn't any other available place. These men didn't believe in shooting from the hip, verbally or on paper. But pen and paper were mightier than the six gun, rope and the frontier philosophy, "give 'em a fair trial and hang 'em." While they didn't consider themselves radicals, more conservative members of the community might think so. Their ideas were progressive, they advocated change, and if the sacred walls of the community crumbled in the process, then those walls stood in the way of progress. The unique organization about to be formed would appeal to many others who felt much the same way, among them William S. U'Ren, founder of the "Oregon System" who was branded a radical by his enemies for his visionary ideas about government.

The weekly meetings were an outgrowth of the "Pastor's Hundred" which was organized in the winter of 1914-1915 by Dr. John Boyd of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland. This large group met for a time in the church basement to

study and discuss the social and economic problems of Portland. The discussions reflected considerable political unrest and a mounting civic awareness.

The year 1913 had brought drastic changes in the city charter and the beginning of the commission form of government. Then, in October 1914, Mayor Albee and two commissioners—W. L. Brewster and Robert G. Dieck—faced recall under Oregon's new law which the people seemed anxious to test. Mayor Albee was charged with violating his oath of office by retaining his position as manager of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. The commissioners were accused of "inefficiency." It was alleged that many city employees had been dismissed without cause, in violation of the spirit of civil service regulations.

The recall election was delayed as long as possible, since there was already a test case before the Oregon Supreme Court over a Columbia County election. On October 18, the court ruled that the recall law was legal. Portland voting machinery was quickly put into high gear.

Mayor Albee and his commissioners were upheld by the voters two to one (15,455 for recall, 33,687 against), with 56 per cent of the electorate turning out. Despite this, confidence was shaken in Albee's administration, and to make matters worse, he had financial difficulties and budget cutbacks caused by a local depression. When the next election came in 1917, Albee didn't run and from a field of five candidates emerged George L. Baker, who won on a plurality of 1,568 votes. Baker campaigned on a platform against industrial strife, at a time when there was much trouble with the "Wobblies" in the lumber camps.

It was during this churning period that the Pastor's Hundred began meeting. However, the gatherings lasted only a few months. When the group ceased to function, the spirit of the fellowship held small bands of men together. It was one or more of these spinoff groups which continued to rendezvous at the Hazelwood.

Harry Ashley Ely, in his early thirties, was among these young enthusiasts. Ely was a comparative newcomer from Ohio, but he had grown fond of his adopted town and wanted to contribute to its well-being. Ely was born in Ravenna, Ohio, attended Oberlin College for two years, spent time in San Francisco and other localities, and then came to Portland where he engaged in wheat farming for his father-in-law, and dealt in securities and investments. He was married to Gwendolyn Smith, daughter of Charles Johnson Smith who had spent years in active public life as mayor of Pendleton, a state Senator, and an unsuccessful candidate for governor. Probably Ely's association with his father-in-law had whetted his appetite for public affairs.

Ely may well have observed the fine work of the City Club of Cleveland, Ohio, which was organized in 1912. In 1915 he proposed to his colleagues at the Hazelwood that they form a "distinctive club" along the lines of those in the East which served as watchdogs over community doings. Others, like C. C. Rich, had heard of the City Club movement, too, and readily agreed that this might be worth exploring. The idea of "just another luncheon club" didn't appeal to them, but there seemed little purpose in continuing to meet, eat and gripe about conditions without doing anything about them.

"No mossbacks or drones were wanted," recalled D. A. Norton, an attorney who became the Club's first secretary. "Everyone was to work. It was never to deteriorate into a tool of special interests. Neither politics nor money were to control youth and ability. Character, intelligence, training, civic-mindedness, a desire to help the community, were wanted and fostered."

The men wrote to eastern City Clubs in New York, Chicago, Boston, Cleveland, for the other clubs were anxious to help if they could. They sent along organization papers and other data on how they operated. The Portlanders corresponded with many of the officers, among them C. A. Dykstra, executive secretary of the City Club of Chicago. Dykstra, a man who knew his business and was rightly rated "the biggest man in City Club work today," was most encouraging. Later he resigned in Chicago to come West and take charge of a new club in Los Angeles. He also gained fame as a pioneer large-city manager in Cincinnati.

Now in the spring of 1916, the men at the Hazelwood were ready to organize formally. Many long hours were spent hammering out the details by a three-man committee comprised of C. C. Rich, architect; L. L. Reist, an attorney in the Chamber of Commerce Building; and Reynelle G. E. Cornish, attorney in the Northwestern Bank Building. Out of much heated discussion and many alterations came a solid constitution and by-laws which set down the purposes of the City Club of Portland:

To bring together congenial, forward-looking men of divergent beliefs, politics and occupations.

To assemble a library of information relating to all phases of civic life.

To study and discuss impartially Portland's civic problems.

To work for the improvement of the city's economic and social conditions. To encourage a fellowship which shall breed ideas and to endeavor intelligently to discharge the obligations of citizenship.

To work with all high-purposed organizations for a Greater Portland.

Ultimately, to have a club house whose hospitality could be extended to all other civic organizations.

These were noble purposes and far-reaching goals. In half a century, the City Club of Portland has managed to achieve all but the last one, which was discarded eventually as economically infeasible. The Club has gone far beyond the visionary dreams of its founders. In addition to Ely, Rankin, Reist, Rich and

Cornish, the founder group included A. J. Bale, manager of the Pacific Coast Biscuit Company, who served as chairman; Waldemar A. Schmidt, salesman; F. A. Steeble, insurance agent, and Ellis F. Lawrence, architect.

By June, the constitution was acceptable and the Club was underway. Memberships were being solicited and the first officers would be elected when regular meetings began in the fall. By early October, when the City Club's gavel spoke for the first time, two tables were needed to accommodate the group, for there was an unanticipated strong interest in this new organization.

Reynelle G. E. Cornish became the first president. Other officers were L. L. Reist, vice-president; Hugh P. Henry, bookkeeper for the Oregon Forest Protective Association, second vice-president; Edgar H. Sensenich, founder of the West Coast and Northwestern National banks, treasurer; and Delbert A. Norton, whose law offices were in lumberman John Yeon's new building, secretary. Serving on the first board of governors were: A. J. Bale, H. Ashley Ely, Dr. Charles T. Chamberlain and Dr. C. I. Booth, physicians; Estes Snedecor, attorney, and Roy G. Clark, salesman.

Local newspapers announced the new Club with mild articles on inside pages, although *The Oregonian* went so far as to publish photographs of the officers. But the goals sounded pretty high-toned and local people, including the editors, adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude. The Club could easily backslide, becoming primarily a social group and therefore ineffective. Probably some public servants gasped or nervously drummed their fingers, for it appeared that the City Club would be another gang of meddlers frequenting City Hall, sticking their noses into places where they didn't belong.

"According to the founders and those who have become officers," commented The Oregonian, "the Club will make a systematic study of Portland's commercial, industrial and financial possibilities, and advertise them in a sane and straightforward manner." The article further indicated some of the Club's other immediate interests, among them railroad transportation and shipping, the state constitution, boys' activities and juvenile delinquency. Future avenues of exploration might include industrial development, smoke and noise abatement, immigration and citizenship, city government and civil service, amusement taxation, city planning, municipal art and culture.

The Club was to be non-sectarian and non-partisan, a neat trick if you could do it. The underlying aim was to create the mood of a public forum or seminar, which Portland so direly needed at the time. It would hope to educate and inform.

"Our Club must stand for true democracy and exemplify its position by being democratic," declared one early-day leader.

Harmony through diversity became the Club's slogan.

To inform its members and the community in public matters, and to arouse in them a realization of the obligations of estizenship was its motto, later to become a part of the City Club charter.

The purposes were clear-cut: the action would come from men of civic responsibility, high ideals, and belief in American democracy. Only time would tell whether the membership had the necessary follow-through, and how Portland and the state of Oregon would receive such an ambitious and inquiring organization.









H. Ashley Ely, only member ever to serve two terms as president. 1918-19 and 1919-20—one of the "young men with ideas" who founded the City Club.

Reynelle G. E. Gornish, attorney, and furniture company executive, was first president of the City Club, elected in September, 1916

Delbert A. Norton, attorney, was first elected secretary of City Club; serving in 1910-17.

Edgar H. Sensenich, banker, was Club's first treasurer, and was elected president the second year, serving 1917-18 term. Hotel Benson, current meeting place for regular luncheon program meetings, has been most frequent site of City Club functions over past lifty years.

















Reading left to right

One of Club's first secretaries, 1919-1920 and a founder member. Thurston Taft Munger, forester, has been continually active in research, with emphasis on conservation and parks development.

A founding member and still active — Attornes Williad K. Royal, who was Secretary 1918-1919

Founder member Waldemar E. Schmidt

William S. U'Ren, Lither of new look in goverament, the "Oregon System"

Exten Snederor, a lounder and elected a member of the first Board of Governors.

Familiar landmark of Portland Hotel, scene of many early City Club meetings, dominates view of Sixth Street in the Twenties.







Reading left to right.

Ellis F. Lawrener, architect, charter member of City Club.

City Commissioner Ormond R. Bean way a young architect when he joined in 1919; has participated in Club activities ever since

Early member C. P. Keyser

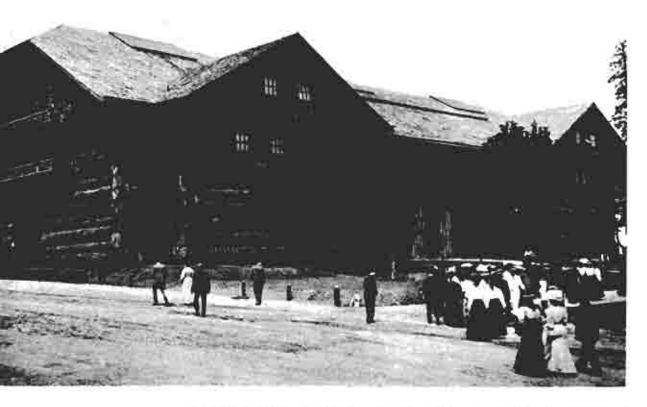
Comedian Edward Everett Horion, showed serious wide when he joined Club in March. 1918. Inting his occupation as "Actor" and office address as "Baker Theater." Telephone: Main 2: Committee preference. "Amusements."

At Right:

Thaddeux W. Veness, attorney, lett, a City Club meorparator at 1916. Thornton T. Munger, center, a lorester, and W. K. Royal, right, an attorney, have been continuously active as City Club allairs since the Club a founding year.







The Forestry Building — built for the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition — was the showplace of Oregon's lumber industry for half a century until it burned in 1965. A new forestry exhibition facility is now in the planning stage.

Forestry Building Interior — the awesome tree trunks serve as massive pillars unside the "biggest log cabin in the world."



Struggle and Growth

Early Years-War and Post-War

Unlike its sister clubs back East, the City Club of Portland took several years to find itself, establish its cherished traditions, and develop sufficient membership to deal with the expanding program outlined in the by-laws and the constitution. There was a good reason for this. The City Club was born into war, with the mainstream of people's attention focused upon the international situation.

While this small group was organizing, newspapers were headlining the "world's greatest sea battle" in which fourteen British and nine German vessels went to the bottom of the North Sea Cigar-shaped Zeppelins were striking at England in the introduction of long-range aerial warfare, while some twenty thousand Oregonians marched through the streets of Portland in a preparedness parade. When citizens read stories about the founding of the new City Club, they also gazed in horror at grim photographs of dead lying in the muddy trenches of France.

Eleven men affixed their signatures to the Club charter that summer of 1916, and although a majority of the early members were attorneys, the charter signers did indeed establish a format by representing a variety of interests in Portland. It is therefore significant to identify them again with their professions: Reynelle G. E. Cornish, attorney and owner of a metal furniture company; A. J. Bale, factory manager; Thaddeus W. Veness, attorney; Bert W. Henry, attorney who also operated a collection agency; Edgar H. Sensenich, banker; George M. McBride, attorney and son of a Supreme Court justice; Dr. Charles T. Chamberlain, physician; George E. Murphy, former attorney who had gone into business organizing the Western Spar Company and Associated Engineering Company at St. Johns; T. B. Layman, attorney; and W. M. Kapus, an executive with the Portland Gas & Coke Company.

When the Club began holding regular Friday noon meetings in October, 1916, average attendance increased from ten to twenty, requiring Proprietor Harry Joyce to set two tables in the College Room of the Hazelwood. The membership grew steadily, nearing one hundred early the following year. The Hazelwood couldn't accommodate them easily, so the members tried other places, meeting for the first time at the new Benson Hotel which would eventually become the City Club's permanent watering hole.

J. R. Bowles, president of the Northwest Steel Company, was the first speaker that October. Bowles was just right for the kickoff, for he was loaded with enthusiasm about Portland's future. The day of "Portland supremacy" was not far distant, he declared. "The large ships being built in expanding Portland ship-yards are indicative of the pulse of the community. To help bring about the day of Portland leadership, more attention should be paid to developing local industries which could supply the needs of the shipyards." Bowles listed brass works and foundries as among the important allied industries. He urged that such industries be encouraged, "since many manufactured goods for use aboard ships could be produced locally rather than being shipped in from other coastal cities."

The City Club possessed an immediate interest in affairs of the waterfront, realizing how important shipping was to the metropolis. It was as good a starting point as any. At the next meeting, Attorney McBride told the group that some six million dollars worth of vessels were on the Portland ways. McBride urged that there be substantial local investments in this big industry. He also advocated that the City Club support a constitutional amendment exempting home-owned and home-built ships from taxation as was done in California, Washington and British Columbia.

"Hence, deep-water vessels constructed and owned there, and even elsewhere, are registered there," McBride observed. "The only tax these ships pay is a state tax."

The Club was beginning to move, feeling its way and not knowing quite which direction it should go. In January, 1917, it sponsored its first legislation to strengthen the initiative and referendum, to protect them against "manipulation by non-representative factions." The bill proposed that not only should eight per cent of the registered voters sign the petitions, but the signatures must be distributed over a majority of the counties.

"There seems to be no opposition expressed to the proposals embodied in the bill," said McBride, who was serving on the Club's legislative committee. "Of course, we cannot tell what may develop after it is introduced."

The City Club's suggestion must have been favorably received, for modifications were made along these lines to protect the referendum and the initiative. It was one of the few times the organization initiated this kind of action, for it shortly restricted itself to being a fact-finding body.

But by June, 1917, when the City Club's incorporation papers were filed, the

young men were marching to "Over There" and the Club's membership was falling off with discouraging rapidity. Since the City Club was composed largely of young men, it was hard hit by the pointing finger of Uncle Sam. It was quite obvious that special effort by those who stayed at home would be needed to hold the Club together.

Edgar Sensenich, the second president, often found it difficult to muster a representative gathering. Membership scrolls dropped from 92 to 61 names, with merely a handful showing up for the meetings. Once the Club secretary, W. K. Royal, let his enthusiasm run away with him during the great wartime influenza epidemic, when public gatherings were banned. His postcard notices urged members to meet, "Be there, flu or no flu." The gathering had some tall explaining to do when a police officer showed up at the meeting.

The wartime programs quite naturally dealt with matters that were concerned with the war and the local problems that it created. The city had been invaded by thousands of shipyard workers who labored in three shifts, turning the city into a 24-hour town. There were acute problems in housing, recreation, transportation, vice and crime. Every member served on several committees studying these problems. City Clubbers sold Liberty Bonds, worked for the Red Cross, considered construction of a military highway along the rugged Oregon Coast, analyzed the harbors of the world, assisted federal fuel and food administrations, the shipping board, and the railroad administration. It became exceedingly difficult to carry on, for their dwindling numbers made the Club far too small. When nineteen showed up at one meeting, it was gleefully recorded as "the largest of the year." Consequently, in the summer of 1918, meetings were suspended because of the pressing demands of winning the war.

Despite all this, fragments of the City Club continued to convene wherever and whenever they could. Some of the locations were most strange. On occasion they met in the baggage room of the Oregon Hotel on Broadway because there was no other available place. In gloomy surroundings, like some secret society, they squatted on trunks and luggage to discuss the affairs of Portland and the world. It is small wonder that, with a war on, they weren't investigated for suspected plotting against the government. Even the Club's own members, loyal as they were, admitted that the organization was "at the bottom of the totem pole among civic clubs."

When the boys came marching home, the picture improved rapidly in the movement "back to normalcy." The City Club launched into a steady period of growth in both membership and influence under the initial guidance of H. Ashley Ely, who served two terms, 1918 to 1920, as president—the second term accepted reluctantly on the urging of his friends after he tried to resign. Ely,

who stayed active in the Club for many years, despite personal family tragedy, was the only member ever to serve two successive terms in the top office.

The membership was built up to sixty, largely through the untiring bulldog efforts of L. D. Bosley, the treasurer, who became president for 1921-22. Bosley ranged through the city, seeking and recommending the caliber of men he felt the City Club should have.

"In building our membership," Bosley explained, "it is our aim to bring together forward-looking men who have a genuine interest in the civic and economic welfare of the city, in order that, through earnest study, impartial discussion, and united activities, they may cooperate for good citizenship and efficient government."

That first large postwar banquet in 1919 was a rousing affair, sparked by enthusiasm of a new age and hope for the future of the Club. The turnout demonstrated that the Club was definitely on the rebound. Members and their wives heard Major T. B. Mills discuss the 4-L—the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen—which was organized during the war to offset the radical, rough-and-tumble Industrial Workers of the World, the "Wobblies," who were creating chaos in the Pacific Northwest lumber camps.

Twenty-three new members were accepted that night, as Ely began his second term. Also installed as officers were Sidney J. Graham, first vice president; L. D. Bosley, second vice president; W. M. Kapus, treasurer; Thornton T. Munger, secretary, and Dr. J. Earle Else and Ellis F. Lawrence, board of governors. The new members who contributed to the Club's rebirth were William H. Barton, Henry D. Baxter, A. E. Ehrhorn, E. Earl Feike, Paul P. Garrens, J. Hunt Hendrickson, Robert A. Hudson, C. P. Keyser, L. E. Latourette, Hugh A. Martin, M. M. Matthiessen, Royce McCandliss, George Mackenzie, Harry C. Melby, Robert H. Morrison, H. B. Murphy, J. Silford Nelson, George E. Reed, Lloyd R. Smith, Frank Streiberg, Jr., C. T. Webb, C. M. Wendell and William H. Witt.

Among the early members, too, was Edward Everett Horton, who moved to Hollywood to become one of the nation's most beloved motion picture comedians.

The forward strides were significant. By 1922 the membership had grown to 550 men who represented a great cross section of Portland life—lawyers, doctors, college professors, engineers, merchants, investors, industrialists, garment workers, social workers and businessmen. All were hand-picked for their sincerity of purpose in bettering their community and state.

"The City Club doesn't grind axes," it was often emphasized. Put quite simply, to qualify for membership, "you've got to care."

This didn't always hold true, the members being human. Several times during the City Club's impressive half-century, its very existence was threatened when issues became so emotionally entangled with bitter personal feelings, overruling logic, that the Club came close to exploding from within. One such charged issue was private versus public hydroelectric power in the Pacific Northwest which, when it did later come to the floor in an extensive report on the Columbia Valley Authority, had to be shelved as just "too hot a potato." Another time, the City Club was accused editorially of becoming a tool of biased politics. The Club managed to weather such violent storms to emerge even stronger, with the kind of dignity only a crisis can bring.

It was in this period, too, of the early twenties, that the Club motto, "To inform its members and the community..." came into prominence. The slogan was attributed to Frank I. Moulton, one-time president of the Chicago City Club. When Robert Rankin, president of the Portland club in 1920-21, presented his "Ideals of the City Club" in the first issue of the Bulletin, the Club's publication, in October, 1920, he concluded his statements with the motto. The next year, Bosley picked it up for his President's Message. Late in 1921, it appeared below the masthead. Since then, the motto has been carried regularly in a prominent place in the Bulletin, although the position has been shifted from time to time. In 1936 it was proposed for inclusion in the constitution, and became part of an introductory statement explaining the work of the Club. The other motto, "Harmony in Diversity," appeared in a box at the top of page one of the Bulletin, beginning with the first issue, but was eliminated in 1934.

The City Club still had no permanent home, although the idea of owning its own club house was to remain in the thinking of the membership for several decades. Many of the larger clubs had built, or were in the process of building their own headquarters. The Portland Club continued meeting in several locations, among them the Portland, Multnomah and Benson hotels, and the University Club. There were periodic meetings at Reed College, for this rather new school had created a better academic climate for Portland, and some members of its faculty were City Club members.

Interests were as varied as the community. So was the list of speakers, some of whom would remain familiar figures of state and national life for many decades. At one early meeting, Marshall N. Dana, well into what would become a long and fruitful career on the Oregon scene, spoke to the City Club about the history of the Greater Portland Association. Members listened to Frank Branch Riley, that colorful and energetic ambassador from Oregon to the outer world, who sang the praises of his state across the nation. At another annual meeting, they heard from Portland's memorable mayor, George L. Baker, who served at the city's helm from 1917 until 1933.

As the City Club grew in stature, it drew top talent for its provocative programs. State and national leaders recognized the importance and prestige of the

Club and its influence as a public sounding board, since its programs were thoroughly covered by the press. What the City Club heard, said and did become of great significance to the city, state and even the nation.

Across the years, the trail to the speaker's rostrum became a passing parade of the moving flow of history. There were the great and the near-great. The gamut ran from college professors to ambassadors, from businessmen to entertainers. Most all were outstanding in their fields, although some were unknowns to the public and even to members of the City Club. But there were memorable moments, never to be forgotten—two appearances by the great Negro concert artist, Paul Robeson...the controversial Harry Bridges in the days of the longshore strikes . . . Melvin Belli, the colorful swashbuckling San Francisco attorney who made a spectacular entrance by dropping via helicopter onto the athletic field of Lincoln High School, then appeared before the City Club in fancy cowboy boots and string tie (the same Melvin Belli who became a part of history as defense attorney in the trial of Jack Ruby, the killer of Lee Harvey Oswald) ... Ernest Haycox, a Portland native who grew to be one of the greatest Western novelists of them all... Senator Charles L. McNary, embarrassingly late for his own address... Senator Wayne L. Morse who holds the record for appearances before the club, with the noteworthy exception of the unforgettable C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter . . . Robert F. Kennedy whose speech was necessarily short because of another appointment, but who drew one of the largest crowds in City Club history...Walter Reuther...Averell Harriman...Arnold Toynbee...Nelson Rockefeller...Rise Stevens...Roy Wilkins...scores of others.

The atmosphere was one of warm fellowship cemented by a common bond of civic affairs. Educated men with alert mentalities were readily attracted. There was an hypnotic fascination with politics. Information, not reformation...constructive, not destructive... these were the watchwords as City Club members combed the records, looking under rocks, into manholes, and down back alleys to learn what made Portland tick, and why.

Within six years the City Club had made itself felt throughout the community. The Club's interests spread in many directions. A six-fold study was launched into the Portland system of government. There were reports on taxes, fire prevention, the port, city zoning, foreign trade, shipping, the possibilities of staging another world's fair, the growing population, passenger traffic on streetcars, the development of a map showing the street paving progress, and large graphs of Portland's bonded indebtedness. An intensive survey was made of the disposal of municipal waste and the garbage system, perhaps taking a cue from the study by the Cleveland Club of that town's water and sewer system, which caused a typhoid death rate three times that of New York and Boston combined.

The City Club's findings brought about an updating of Portland's neglected sewer system.

Often members had to reassure critics and those holding public office that the Club's purpose wasn't merely to cause trouble, but rather to build a better Portland, a finer state of Oregon. They turned to conservation and outdoor recreation matters, expressing concern over preservation of the water flow of Multnomah Falls, one of the prime scenic wonders of the Northwest. Portland was bridge-happy, and the City Club wanted to know if the proposed spans for Burnside and Ross Island were in their proper locations. The public was awakened to the need for better city planning for the growing West Side. Traffic delays on the bridges, the public welfare bureau and the Community Chest came up for scrutiny.

By 1923 the Club had completed and published thirty thought-provoking studies. Among them was an investigation of the public health in Portland which authorities described as "the best health survey made by a voluntary agency in America." However, an analysis of the Portland School District had the impact of an exploding bomb, for the City Club bluntly contended that a thorough analysis was needed before the public should approve any additional funds for buildings and replacements.

Thus the City Club found itself at loggerheads with a basic Portland institution of long standing, the public school board. The Board which didn't enjoy having its toes stepped upon, was currently attempting to pass a large bond issue, and therefore its directors were more than mildly miffed at the ill-timed stand of the City Club.

This wasn't the first time the Club had locked horns with the school board. Four years earlier, the Club urged a "don't pass" on a bond issue, then backed down to recommend approval, perhaps because the Club was new and its members possibly not altogether sure of themselves. But by the time of this latest bid for school funds, the Club was stronger and more confident. The school building program was seriously in arrears and a \$3,000,000 bond issue had previously been approved. Now the school board wanted an additional \$7,500,000 to continue its building program. There was little doubt that more schools were badly needed in Portland. What bothered the City Club was the complete lack of planning. It appeared that the school board was being all too free with the public's money, wheeling and dealing without much vision for the future.

The findings of the educational committee were conclusive. The nervous school board, under fire from the public as well, was outraged. As MacCormac Snow, who later became a City Club president, described the situation, the school men "as a whole did not take kindly to the suggestion." The school board had to do something to save face if nothing more. It conducted an unenthusiastic

survey of existing conditions, but failed to consider such important factors as future population increases and probable traffic alterations.

The City Club shook its head, still dissatisfied. It pressed the matter until a representative of the U. S. Bureau of Education was brought into the picture to conduct a complete and impartial survey of Portland's school needs. When this was done, the City Club gave its blessing to the bond issue, which passed, and the school expansion program was placed on a sounder foundation.

It was a major victory for the City Club, a milestone in the Club's history. The value of the Club as a watchdog over public affairs in Portland had been fully demonstrated. The Club had proved its worth, that it was far more than a meet-and-eat organization. From that time, it was destined to move forward beyond the wildest dreams of its founders.

The streets are now smoother and cars sleeker, but City Hall is the one and the same, thirty years after this photo was taken.

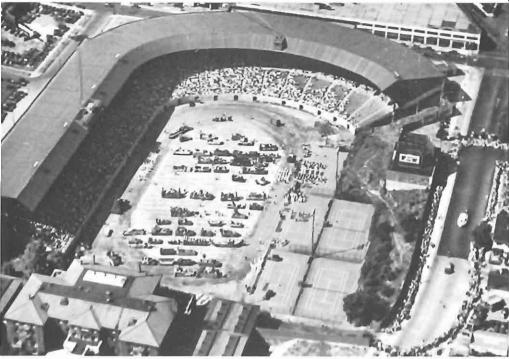


Pioneer Post Office is flanked by spacious home of pioneer Henry Winssow Corbett on South, old Portland Hotel on the West, but bounded on the North by new and "towering" American Bank Building and half-block structure of Meier & Frank Co.









Burnside Bridge was dedicated May 28, 1926, 'mid bunting and throngs of onlookers — in contrast to the October, 1966, routine opening of the tremendous double-decked Marquam Bridge, which went totally unnoticed.

The graceful towers of St. Johns Bridge pierce the skies in the north end of Portland to provide easy east -west access across the Willamette in the 1920's. Multnomah Stadium, built in 1926, served as staging area for Rose Festival parade entrants until Memorial Coliseum inherited the event.

Not for Fun and Games

Evolution of Civic Purpose

THROUGHOUT ITS FORMATIVE YEARS, the City Club had some difficulty maintaining its image as "not just another luncheon club." It was a natural assumption by outsiders who didn't know better, for the Club met Friday noons. Also, the wide range of activities, from field trips to softball games, projected an unmistakable outward appearance of "fun and games."

It was important, in pursuing its destiny, that the public and civic officials fully understand that the Club's underlying reason for existence was far more significant than its standings in the city softball league. Nevertheless, there seems to have been a struggle within the Club itself to achieve its true purpose in life. Until the latter half of the Twenties, the City Club's program schedule was filled with a conglomeration as varied as the vaudeville shows at the Pantages Theatre. The Club seemed like a gangly adolescent, trying many things and going off in all directions.

Some of the field trips exemplified this condition. When the planned city of Longview, Washington, held open house, members and their wives journeyed by bus as guests of the Long-Bell Timber Company to inspect the dream of R. A. Long to create the most modern industrial city in the country, and certainly a far cry from the rough logging camps of the Northwest. This was the Club's first field trip beyond the city limits. Another day, the City Club held a meeting atop Mount Hood, climbing the pinnacle with the Mazamas at a time when a railway was being promoted for "Portland's" mountain. Again, they made a long trek by bus to inspect the facilities of Crater Lake National Park.

There were other trips, closer to home and more on target, to view the institutions supported by the Community Chest, to inspect waterfront facilities as guests of the Army Engineers, to Good Samaritan Hospital and Girls Polytechnic School. Such excursions broadened the knowledge of the Club members about Portland and its institutions and facilities, along with observing first-hand their needs and problems.

The continuing desire for a City Club building came in for considerable discussion. It would be nice, many members believed, to have a specific place of their own to hang their hats. By 1921 the City Club had established offices in the Henry Building, 309 S.W. Fourth Avenue, and employed a full-time secretary, Robert W. Osborn, a Reed College graduate who stayed in the position four years. A weekly Bulletin, supplementing a more modest newsletter, was launched to keep members and key people of the community abreast of what the City Club was doing. Ralph H. Mitchell of the Timber News was its first editor. Although the Bulletin was small, often but a single sheet, the editor found it difficult to fill the space and appealed to the membership to supply him with news items of interest.

Mitchell, who had professional know-how, also licked the problem in another manner. The City Club was very active in boys' work, so for a time Mitchell filled the columns with long lists of good reading for boys, prepared by the New York Rotary Club. This took up considerable space. Among the books earmarked for boys, indicative of the times, were Kipling's Jungle Book, Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer, the Uncle Remus stories, and James Fenimore Cooper's Last of the Mohicans. Years later, when the City Club was going full blast, there was no trouble filling the Bulletin with news of civic activities, texts of speeches, and published reports which ran as high as twenty-seven pages.

Members continued looking with envy upon the rich eastern organizations with their fine clubhouses. Extensive studies were made of facilities in New York, Chicago and Washington, D. C. where city clubs had raised their own buildings—plush edifices several stories high and containing meeting rooms, libraries, record rooms, offices, recreational facilities, social rooms, kitchen and dining facilities, and overnight accommodations for members and out-of-town guests. Debate was heated over construction of a new building, but it was finally decided that it was too large an undertaking for the Portland organization, since many of the younger members earned only modest salaries and were pressed for time. It appeared much more in keeping with the purposes of the Club to place its efforts into dealing with Portland and her problems.

The City Club has therefore always rented modest office space and has moved its headquarters at least eight times during the half century of its existence, although its general luncheon meetings have been held at the Benson Hotel for many years. Secretary C. W. Platt made his office in the Gasco Building headquarters for the Club prior to 1921 when they were shifted to the Henry Building. A short time later, Robert Osborn established new headquarters in 1010 Northwestern Bank Building, but stayed there less than a year, moving again to the Oregon Building on Southwest Oak Street. The offices were there for more than twenty years. Then in 1946 the Club's belongings were packed up and moved again, this time to the mezzanine of the Benson Hotel. But this location

lasted only two years, when files and desks were trucked to the Cascade Building on Southwest Sixth Avenue. Since July 1951, the offices, library and meeting room for committees have been in the Park Building, 729 Southwest Alder street.

Finances were another headache. Membership dues were originally set at \$6.00 a year, but were raised to \$12.00 at the time of hiring the first executive secretary. The operating budget was \$2,954, with expenses totalling \$2,775. But \$3,000 was needed to pay the new secretary and an additional \$600 for stenographic help, so the dues were doubled. From then on, dues increased gradually in small steps up to \$20.00 where they remained until 1965. Meanwhile, the staff remained at one executive secretary and one part-time staff assistant. In 1965, dues were jumped to \$30.00 a year in order to increase the staff to a more realistic size and the executive secretary now has a full-time assistant to work with research activities as well as the general staff assistant. The annual budget is approximately \$30,000 a year.

While the Club wasn't seeking notoriety or puff publicity, its members felt it was in keeping to inform the public of what the City Club was accomplishing. For a while a press director was appointed to get stories and other information to the newspapers and radio stations. However, individual members were discouraged from capitalizing on their City Club affiliation for personal gain. The Board of Governors became particularly irked when one member publicized his City Club affiliation in his business advertising. The Board sent him a firm letter rebuking his action and requesting that he refrain from any further publicity about his membership. That established a tradition against the use of personal publicity by members about their activities within the Club.

It seemed difficult to determine just where the limits and responsibilities of the Club should lie. One year the membership proposed entering a float in Portland's renowned Rose Festival, but then dropped the matter as being too expensive and time consuming. But evidently the City Club was eager to demonstrate its support of the festival, for another year it sponsored a program at the Festival Center in the Park Blocks, including a speaker and a male vocalist.

There was a strong interest among the membership in good music. Often the noontime programs featured musical interludes, with vocalists and instrumentalists. The Club also proudly had its own male quartet, composed originally of George Mayo, Walter S. Klein, O. B. Harriman, Jr. and J. H. Berry, later adding others as some original members dropped out of the activity. A frequent soloist was Dr. Earl E. Abbett, who also assisted with arrangements for several of the musical programs. The Club sponsored concerts, furnished speakers to other civic organizations, and sometimes arranged joint meetings with them. There were dances, including benefit affairs for the unemployed, banquets galore, a special Christmas party, sports events, and the aforementioned field trips. Despite the

reluctance to do much socializing, it was recognized that all work and no play made Jack a mighty dull creature.

A number of college professors belonged to the Club. Many of the members had college degrees. The Club had a very close association with Reed College, including an annual banquet on campus at the Commons, or at the University Club. There were joint efforts to obtain special speakers and to organize public meetings where these men could be heard. The City Club also joined in a Presidents' Council, comprised of top officials from twenty or more of the leading civic organizations. These officers met for dinner each month to discuss civic problems and issues, and to exchange ideas of mutual interest, then to report back to their members.

Faced with mounting quantities of data and files of reports, the City Club began developing its own library, geared to assist its members with their research projects and to help anyone seeking information on public matters and institutions. Cornerstones for this library included a copy of "Our Common Country," a collection of essays personally autographed by its author, President Warren G. Harding, "To the City Club of Portland, with heartiest commendation for every contribution toward better citizenship"; and secondly, "Have Faith in Massachusetts," autographed by Vice President Calvin Coolidge.

With the advent of women's suffrage, the City Club was hard-pressed in its early years to take the ladies in as members. The ladies were determined to become a part of this group which was having such mounting influence upon the community. The very idea ruffled male feathers and on this point the men stubbornly set their heels. This was an exclusive male organization and by the gods, so it would remain! However, they bent a bit, perhaps goaded by their wives. The Board consented to allow women to attend "special meetings" and notified the ladies, too, that anyone wishing to hear the speaker could sit in the balcony. The Board explained, with apologies, that there simply wasn't space (thank goodness) on the main floor. It was further suggested that the ladies might consider organizing their own forum group along City Club lines. That ended the matter, and the City Club today remains purely a men's organization, although the audience usually includes the female members of the staff, occasional female reporters from various media and special female guests having official connection with the program. The members are encouraged to bring their ladies to such special events as the dinner meetings, Christmas programs and, on rare occasions, a special program.

Until 1943, the executive secretaries were always men. Perhaps the wartime shortage of males had something to do with it, but in that year, after considerable wrestling with their inner feelings, the Board hired Virginia Shirley, who stayed three years. The ice was broken, and women have held the job ever since.

Margaret Clarke succeeded Mrs. Shirley, and then Margaret C. Rubey served briefly. Since 1952, the position has been held by Ellamae W. Naylor.

It took considerable soul-searching, too, before women speakers were invited. Many of the men couldn't conceive of any woman having anything of significance to say. One of the first to invade this male domain was brave Mabel Holmes Parsons, professor at the University of Oregon. She talked at length, and with color and verve, about Sinclair Lewis' Babbitt. Members went away shaking their heads and asking each other, "Who is this fellow Babbitt, anyway?" There was a sudden rush on book stores and the Portland library for copies of the volume which vividly portrayed the typical businessman of the Roaring Twenties.

Roy Denny proposed in 1925 that the luncheon meetings be turned into open forums where members could "lay it on the line" in expressing their ideas and opinions, and where speakers could also be blunt and honest, calling the shots as they saw them, without danger of the audience walking out *en masse*. The Board of Governors welcomed the suggestion. From that time the City Club's forum-type luncheons became traditional and an important segment of Portland life, where the municipality's shortcomings could be examined in detail and the issues of the day discussed and questioned in a straightforward manner. The forums sharpened the City Club luncheons almost at once. There was a point behind almost every program, thought-provoking and with depth. This caused the respected *Oregon Voter* to observe that the City Club programs were "solid and heavy" in contrast with those of other luncheon clubs which were described as "light, frivolous and jazzy."

There was a lively interest in sports activities. The Club organized bowling, volleyball and indoor baseball teams, and participated in the local leagues. One year the Club won the city bowling trophy, which is still displayed in somewhat tarnished condition in the Club's library. When a Father-and-Son banquet for the Boy Scouts was staged at the Public Auditorium in February 1923, members volunteerd to serve as "dads." The event was memorable in that many saw their first motion picture, a film about the Alaska railroad. Later that year, the City Club held a similar banquet for underprivileged boys of the Portland area.

A speaker a month was furnished for a Boy Scout camp at Troutdale, the Club sponsored a drive for funds to help refugees of the great Japanese earth-quake of 1923, and also had offered assistance far closer home to the people of Astoria a year earlier when their downtown business district, thirty-two blocks all told, was gutted by fire. Club members were kept busy on many civic projects. They assisted in drives for voter registration and in the operation of an information center at the large auto tourist park and campgrounds near Peninsula Park in north Portland. But they went on record against Sunday movies and also a few years later took a stand against a New York burlesque show playing at the

old Music Box Theater. The Club sent a resolution to the City Council, stating that "in the interest of community morals and common decency," there should be "immediate revocation of any licenses that would permit the continuing exhibit of the current burlesque show." Decades later, when the Club was nearly fifty years old, its members failed to lift an eyebrow over the appearance of topless go-go girls in the city's night spots.

Although public matters were its chief motivation, the City Club had its internal strife, too. In the beginning there was a movement afoot for members to wear identification badges at the meetings. Horrors! Wasn't this one of the very things they were trying to get away from? The Board of Governors turned thumbs down on the proposal, but it reached the floor and the vote was 81 to 53 in favor of badges. However, since only 134 of some 500 members were present, the issue of "to label or not to label" continued to create an uproar within the Club. The Board finally sent out a mail ballot and only twenty-eight were returned, all voting "yes." The Board then ruled that this was also "not representative" of the Club and tossed out the whole idea. Membership cards were issued for several years, however.

The Club's Americanization program, which was among the strongest of its early activities, was expanded to help foreign-born residents to become naturalized citizens. This was in keeping with the Club's basic interest in good citizenship. There was special concern over the plight of a German naturalized citizen who was charged with wartime disloyalty to his adopted country by allegedly assisting a German spy to get information for the enemy. Feelings ran high against the man, a Portland attorney, throughout the Pacific Northwest. He was being persecuted by public opinion and in the press. The City Club urged that there be a speedy trial so that his guilt or innocence could be determined, and so that he might have an opportunity to clear his name of the allegations.

The cultural side of Portland was another interest. One committee kept a watchful eye over the design for the base of the Theodore Roosevelt statue for the Park Blocks, and met with the artist. Joining with other local groups, the City Club helped push through an ordinance to establish the Art Commission. It encouraged the activities of the Portland Symphony, even sponsored parties to the concerts. The beautiful Oregon outdoors was still another realm of interest. Lumbermen were removing timber in unbelievable quantities, so that the City Club took up the matter of highway beautification by preserving timber strips along the roadways. It also endorsed establishment of a vast wildlife refuge south of Burns, which has since become the nation's largest, on the historic rangelands of cattle baron Pete French.

There was considerable interest in legislative affairs, resulting in the formation of a permanent statehouse committee to keep track of Salem business. The Club suggested, as it would many times over the years, that the Portland charter be revised to provide a streamlined and more efficient city government. Another urgent matter was sanitation of the city's swimming pools; and showing a feeling for the heritage of the Oregon Trail, the Club became alert to an extension of East Morrison street that would cut right through the pioneer Lone Fir Cemetery where, among other early day Portlanders, lay Asa Lovejoy, one of the founders who had flipped a coin with Francis W. Pettygrove to decide the name for the town.

Through this ever-expanding range of activity, the City Club demonstrated its "concern for everything civic." All the while the Club was maturing and growing wiser in the way of things. Often it was observed to be "far ahead of the crowd" in changes that were proposed. Many things that the Club advocated took other forms and are today a solid part of community life. The Club gained a healthy respect from the community and civic officials. A dignity sprang up around it and the intelligent manner with which it approached problems. The Oregon Journal described the Club as "one of the splendid civic organizations of Portland." It had acquired stature to deal with the issues.

And, consciously or not, the Club had established a continuing dialogue between itself and the public institutions, foremost of which was the City Council. The Club thus became Portland's conscience, its best friend and severest critic.

Lewis Mumford, famous author and critic, and dean among viewers of the city and metropolitan scene, once observed, in speaking to the City Club:

"The fact is that only a handful of people in any age are its true contemporaries. Only sluggishly do the mass of people respond to the currents that are sweeping through the ruling classes or the intellectual elite."

Dr. Edward O. Sisson, professor of Reed College, said it another way at a dinner meeting in April, 1935, in what was rated as one of the finest addresses ever given about the Club and its work:

"The City Club thinks for the city. The Club is a sort of brainchild for the body politic. The phrase has two senses: that the Club volunteers to do a certain indispensable task as a servant or agent of the city; and that the Club will work faithfully for the good of the city.

"The fight for intelligence is the most visible and tangible phase of the City Club's work. The Club is pledged to hear all sides, entertain all pleas, consider all claims; nothing less than this constitutes intelligence and good will. This is exactly what a Club committee does. It impartially gathers the facts... and finally it finds a verdict. And this is exactly what all society needs, without which it must succumb to strife and dissolution. The potentiality and obligation of the club are tremendous.

"It is the greatest embodiment I know of working democracy."



Reed College and City Club have shared strong "Town and Gown" relationship for five decades.

Dr. E. O. Sisson, Reed professor, was a strong moving force in the Club's meaningful research program. He termed the City Club "Embodiment . . . of working democracy."



Doc, Dad and the Judge

Radio and Public Information

HEN THE CITY CLUB observed its fifteenth anniversary in April, 1931, the members took stock of how far the club had progressed since those first wobbly months at the old Hazelwood.

The glorious evening of dining and good music at Reed College honored some of the charter members, among them D. A. Norton, Dr. C. L. Booth, W. K. Royal and F. A. Steeble. Three of the early leaders and past presidents—Edgar Sensenich, L. D. Bosley and Ernest C. Willard—reminisced from the rostrum on the pioneer days of the Club and how well it had done as an important Portland institution. They also resorted to some complimentary back-patting.

The Club has remained true to its early ideals, Sensenich declared with pride. It has even managed to "stay out of politics" so far as becoming involved with individuals, although Sensenich wasn't sure this was a good idea. He thought the Club should study and recommend men as well as measures.

Bosley was certain the City Club had "earned a reputation for careful analysis and unbiased opinion through its carefully prepared reports."

"The City Club man is now as always a forward-looking man," Bosley said. "He is a student. He is a worker. He enjoys being one of a group of congenial associates to study certain current questions, to determine what course is best, and to work for civic progress in Portland."

By this time, the Club had issued nearly two hundred reports dealing with civic problems.

"Their high quality," Bosley continued, "is evidenced by the number of requests that have come from other communities where similar problems are being studied... The present high standing of the City Club in the community has been due largely to the fact that it is composed of unselfish individuals who are working for the good of the community. Looking into the future, I am sure that there can be no doubt in the mind of anyone who knows the splendid character and qualifications of those who constitute its membership that even greater

results are in store for the Club itself, and also for the community through its activities."

The Club had set its sights high and refused to settle for less. Now public officials and private citizens were depending on the Club to act in their behalf.

The Club also was reaching the people of Portland through regular Sunday radio broadcasts. In the late Twenties, some members had taken a dim view of radio in much the same way some people were later skeptical of television's value. The programs were described as a waste of time and little more than trash.

But the City Club concluded that it might be able to serve the community and at the same time elevate radio locally as an educational medium by discussing its reports and current issues over the air. The Club had recently heard Don E. Gilman, vice president of the National Broadcasting Company, speak on "What Can We Expect of Radio in the Future." Gilman was enthusiastic, as naturally he would be, but some of the things he pointed out struck home to his audience.

The Club had spasmodic brushes with radio from time to time. Radio's effectiveness in bringing issues before the public was demonstrated in 1928 when there was much palaver over public and private power as an outgrowth of a City Club meeting. As a result, Franklin T. Griffith and George W. Joseph took up the issue over station KEX in what was the first City Club debate ever aired for the public.

In 1929, the Club began having regular radio broadcasts over KGW, one of the pioneer stations of the Pacific Northwest. Later they used KEX and other stations, among them the old KTBR. Since circulation of the *Bulletin* was limited, radio offered a means of confronting citizens with the issues and the ballot measures. The Sunday programs drew a wide audience. There were interviews, informal talks and dialogues. One of the most popular series featured "Doc, Dad and the Judge," played by City Club members who talked informally about issues of the moment from prepared scripts. The assignment was passed around, and many City Clubbers sacrificed their Sundays to handling the radio broadcasts.

There was no end to subject matter. Many discussions were held about City Club investigations. One series of broadcasts was devoted to twenty or more ballot measures. Other programs discussed the pension system for firemen and police. There were three broadcasts devoted to the Club's intensive study of the juvenile court in Multnomah County. One KEX series was called "Planning Portland's Progress." The topics included development of the waterfront, a major street plan, problems of the metropolitan community, future government, city-county consolidation, tri-county consolidation, county home rule, need for a

municipal research bureau, the proposed Community Council, and health conditions in Portland.

The stations often donated the air time or kept the fees nominal. A special radio fund was developed and there were outside donations. Since the programs were done live, before the days of tape recorders, members had to hold to the carefully written scripts which were screened in advance by a radio committee. Without the script, there was always the danger of a misstatement or the City Club being committed to a stand it hadn't taken. But it was all very worthwhile. The broadcasts not only educated a host of listeners, but gave the City Club a new prestige with the man on the street, who may have been only vaguely aware of the existence of such an organization. Radio has continued to play an important part in City Club functions. KOIN Radio as a public service has for many years taped all City Club programs for broadcast Friday evening and makes its tapes available to state and local educational stations.

In the late Twenties and early Thirties the Club's membership fluctuated between four hundred and six hundred, quite a difference from the first year. When J. C. Plankinton, the 1931 vice president, made an analysis of the rolls, he found an amazing spread of business interests. Lawyers and doctors were in the largest numbers. There were 88 attorneys, 52 doctors, 39 insurance men, 29 public utilities men, 25 educators, 25 federal employees, 21 bankers, 19 engineers, 18 lumbermen, 18 in publishing, 17 merchandisers, 15 in investment bonds, 13 manufacturers, 11 social service workers, 10 architects, 10 public accountants, 8 churchmen, 8 in property management, 6 contractors, 5 real estate agents, and 12 classed as "miscellaneous."

Despite the stresses and strains of the Great Depression, the City Club remained very active. There seemed to be an upsurge of interest in public affairs, both locally and nationally. In 1931 when Herman Kehrli, the executive secretary, made his annual report, he stated that there were 517 members and 110 applications. During the next few years, the Club saw little decline due to the hard times.

Committees pursued problems and issues with a vigor that had become traditional. The streetcar transportation system was in trouble, beginning a long downhill run for the trolleys. The City Club membership, rejecting recommendations by its own committee, suggested that Portland should try trackless trolleys, busses, and other forms of transportation. There were extensive studies of fish legislation, the port of Portland, the state police, old age pensions, unemployment bond issues, excess condemnation, and distribution of Christmas charity contributions.

The report on the charities, released at the start of the Yuletide season in November 1931, advocated coordination of Christmas giving in Portland. It

questioned fund raising and distribution methods, and urged a better form of investigating, approving recipients and the follow-up procedure. Among other things, the report recommended that the proud godchild of the Police Department, the Sunshine Division, be terminated.

The study created quite a community ruckus, even within the City Club itself. C. C. Chapman led the floor fight against the resolution endorsing the study. Chapman urged that the report be merely accepted and sent to the various charity organizations, but this was defeated by an almost unanimous vote favoring the report.

The City Club found itself highly unpopular in this season of good will. All three newspapers vigorously opposed the Club's position, advocating that the status quo be maintained. The Oregon Journal commented editorially that while it had "great respect for the City Club which is sincerely devoted to public welfare, effective administration and a broad view of life... from the nearly unanimous adoption of the report of its charity committee, the Journal must dissent."

City Club members were puzzled by this unanticipated uproar. Obviously the timing was bad, since the charities were bound up in a good deal of personal emotion. Had the study come out in June, it probably wouldn't have created such a storm. Nevertheless, within a week following the report's adoption, the Community Chest announced creation of a Community Christmas Bureau, patterned after that advocated in the City Club study. This has been continued and is now a part of the Community Council system.

On rare occasions, the Club directed its research to national and international affairs. Three studies were made about the World Court, in 1925, 1931, and a third published December 7, 1934, a date that seven years later would stand forever in American history. The Club unanimously adopted the 1931 reports presented by a special committee headed by Richard W. Montague, approving the accession of the United States to the "Permanent Court of International Justice" and urging Oregon delegates to work for ratification by the Senate. Again, in 1937 when Franklin Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the Supreme Court, the City Club assigned a committee to consider the plan, then made its negative position known to the President and the Public.

But by and large, the City Club remained chiefly concerned with the problems of Portland and Oregon. A study was made of the platoon system in Portland schools, which the Club had always favored, and this report attracted widespread attention in educational circles throughout the country. Once again the Club found itself at odds with the Portland School Board, this time over the location of a new Irvington school. The Board had reached its decision without announcing the time of its meeting which, the City Club observed, was "unfair to all parties concerned." A letter protesting the action was sent to the board and

Superintendent Charles A. Rice reassured the organization that the board would not take final action on the new school until a City Club report had been published and fully considered.

Among the most far-reaching of the City Club's proposals during the depression decade outlined a ten-year improvement program for Portland. The analysis which had unanimous Club backing gazed into the crystal ball and projected things into the future. It was accomplished during the administration of Charles McKinley of Reed College. Serving on the committee were Lewis N. Penfield, R. C. Flanders, George W. Montague and Arthur A. Goldsmith.

The study embraced the City of Portland, Multnomah County, School District No. 1, and the Dock Commission. It proposed bond issues to finance the large program over a period of years. Moreover, it suggested that an advisory committee of fifteen citizens be named by the four main governmental bodies to carry the program forward. Submitted to other civic groups, the study drew enthusiastic response from all sides.

A series of ten public forums, styled on the oldtime town meetings, was sponsored by the Club to give the public "a voice in city government." Concerned over the lengthening bread lines and great numbers of jobless, the Club whole-heartedly endorsed three emergency bond measures, totaling \$2,400,000 from the city and county, for relief of the unemployed and indigent. Other committees took up the matter of the state department of social welfare, proposed changes in the telephone franchise, investigated the water bureau's finances and rate system, recommended that the cost of maintaining the Willamette River channel from the inner harbor to the Columbia be assumed by the federal government, and voiced opposition to a proposed tax of ten cents a pound on oleomargarine, contending that the plan was designed to drive the oleomargarine business out of Oregon.

The Club's members seemed ever alert to what was going on in the community, and as a result, the public could feel secure in the knowledge that the City Club was patroling the streets and corridors of its institutions. Often the Club's reports and recommendations, like safety valves, saved public officials, civic leaders, and the people at large from lost time, errors, unnecessary waste in expense, and general embarrassment. Some civic leaders and boards of directors might growl at the City Club for its busy-body ways, but they were forced to concede that over the long haul, the Club was not only well within its rights, but was making a substantial contribution to the community and performing a service in the execution of its responsibilities. One longtime civic official never yielded, however, but always declared that as far as he was concerned, "the City Club was a dirty name."

More and more men wanted to join the Club. By 1940 over 2,000 men had,

at one time or another, been members of the Club. Despite normal attrition due to transfers, deaths and resignations, the membership tripled in five years in the late thirties. Much of this growth was credited to the work of C. Herald Campbell, executive secretary from 1934 to 1939. When Campbell resigned to join the Reed College staff, he had built up not only a sizeable membership but a healthy \$2,000 in its bank account.

The Club had another way of keeping abreast of affairs. There was a continuing array of star-studded speakers—politicians, industrialists, business leaders, statesmen, authorities on local, state and world affairs. Among them were the genial Charles A. Sprague, then a candidate for governor of Oregon; Author Lewis Mumford; Dexter Keezer, one of Reed College's more colorful presidents; the well-known foreign affairs expert, Dr. Frank Munk, also of Reed; William B. Greeley, the great forester of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, who talked about the lumber market and foreign trade pacts; and Dr. Wayne L. Morse, the young law school dean of the University of Oregon, speaking on the critical labor disputes, especially the West Coast longshore strikes. In the first half of the decade, problems of the depression occupied much of the Club's thoughts as reflected by the weekly speakers. But in the late thirties there was increased concern over the rantings of a little man with a black mustache in Nazi Germany. Dr. Hubert Phillips, professor of social science at Fresno State College, California, tried to bring things into sharper focus when he posed the question, "What Does Hitler Really Want?" Two weeks later, the Club heard Brigadier General George Grunert, U. S. Army, on National Defense. The signs of the times, unhappily, were all too clear.

But the City Club wasn't the kind of organization to bury its head in the sand, or lose its thoughts in a social swirl. It was used to facing the facts, no matter how difficult they were. Dr. Blair Stewart, professor of economics at Reed College, summarized it as well as anyone ever did before the Club in a talk entitled "No Man Is an Iland." His words became part of the City Club's doctrine.

Dr. Stewart drew his theme from that passage of John Donne's book which became widely known as the title of a book on the Spanish Civil War by Ernest Hemingway: "...I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

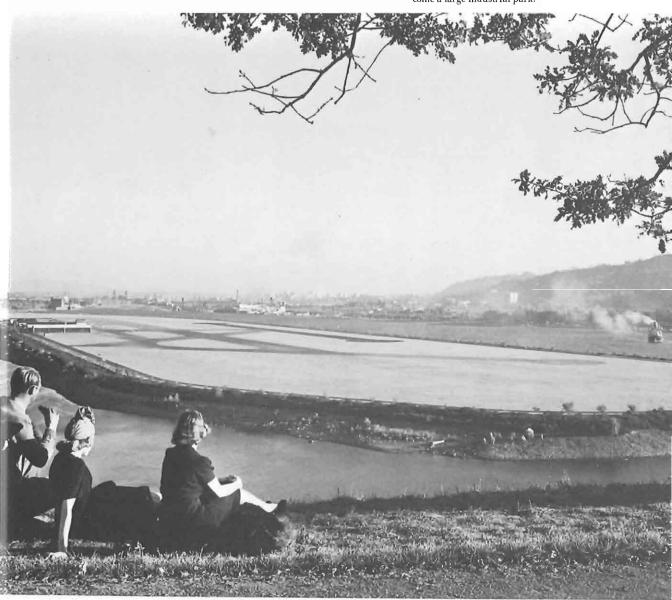
"In modern times it is the lesson that no individual can insulate himself from the electric forces which move the world," Dr. Stewart declared. "His failure to participate intelligently in public affairs has the same effect as one participant added to the forces actuated by emotion rather than by intelligence—and for private rather than public interest.

"By participation in the work of the research committee," he continued, "the members of the City Club, in keeping with the Club's long-time traditions, can

make an important contribution to intelligent and responsible citizenship in this community . . . Those who make these investigations, and those who use them, demonstrate a realization of the supreme truth of Donne's words."

Long ago Thomas Jefferson had so warned the people of a new democracy: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Swan Island was Portland's only airport in the Twenties. Since World War II it has become a large industrial park.





Saving the Tarnished Rose

Wartime Problems

DURING WORLD WAR II, the City Club didn't suffer from a decline in membership and activity as it had in the world conflagration a quarter century earlier.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, the Club was much older and wiser. Many of its members were beyond military age. Despite the upsets and pressures from long hours and shortages of manpower, members were able to keep the Club going, hold regular meetings, and make studies of the wartime scene. The Club thus rendered invaluable service to the community and made a marked contribution to the war effort. In one major instance, it helped clean up a condition, which was fraught with danger to the public health, and which would have been permanently injurious to the community.

There was a heavy impact on Portland and Oregon from the influx of a new transient population which came for jobs and cared little about the welfare of the town. A large portion of the newcomers was Negro. There were also Army and Navy units stationed in the area. What city, county and state governments, civic and church leaders, and public-spirited organizations were doing to solve the resulting problems was of concern to the City Club.

Portland was again transformed into a great war center. Its shipyards operated 'round the clock. The war had caused peacetime standards to break down, laws were relaxed, and public officials looked the other way. The war had to be won at any cost, workers required recreation, and above all, there was the crying need "to do something for the boys" who had or were going to lay their lives on the battle lines of Europe and the South Pacific.

The flower of the Willamette was described by the boys in uniform as "the best leave town on the West Coast." This was indeed a compliment and many naive citizens who entertained lonely service men in their homes on weekends and for special holidays must have believed that this was directed at their hospitality. The fact was that the rambling rose of Portland was tarnished and the

slogan, "For you a rose in Portland grows" had another connotation. The town was wide open and vice conditions were on the rampage. The problem of venereal disease was becoming so critical that the military threatened to brand the big port city "Off Limits" for service personnel. This would have been a staggering blow to the sedate town and would also have a drastic impact upon the economy. It would take many years to live down such a classification. However, many people and civic leaders didn't believe the problem was as bad as the military men had painted it. The true picture was anyone's guess. The City Club decided to find out.

During the summer of 1944, the Club's Board of Governors authorized a full-scale study of the venereal disease situation in Portland. A committee was appointed, chairmanned by Thomas H. Tongue. Members were Ward Cook, Dr. Aubrey Davis, Herbert Templeton and Harold York. Their report's findings proved to be one of the most explosive in the Club's history.

The committee asked three questions:

How serious is the problem in Portland?

What is being done about venereal disease control?

What more can be done?

Six months were spent on the investigation. When the report was published, in January 1945, the thirteen pages of small print plus a number of graphs disclosed some amazing things. Portland's rise in venereal disease was among the highest in the Nation. There was a definite hazard to the health of shipbuilders and the military, not to mention the homefolks, from the city's loose morals and laxity in restrictions.

While embarrassed Portlanders and city officials might blame the condition upon the war and the new population, the facts couldn't be ignored. They were conclusive. There were, for example, 1,554 recorded cases of disease in 1940 and 2,465 in 1944. During a comparative nine months period, the city experienced a rise of 78.7 per cent in syphilis cases. There was no telling how many other cases went unreported. Houses of prostitution operated with little threat of law enforcement. Scant medical attention was given to known and suspected prostitutes who frequented the dance halls, taverns, neighborhood clubs and cheap hotels. If arrests were made, they were merely token demonstrations. It was all too clear that city officials weren't doing their job.

Mayor Earl Riley told the City Club committee, in an interview made while gathering data for the report, that he "assumed personal responsibility for complete closure of the houses and clean-up of this source of venereal disease in Portland." Chief of Police Harry M. Niles indicated that his department was pursuing a policy of regulation rather than eradication. The city health department was found not to have been very aggressive in controlling the disease under

existing city ordinances. There were those among the officials, it appeared, who strongly opposed any strict law enforcement, contending that to close the houses would only drive the girls into the streets and out into the neighborhoods. Better to keep them centrally located, where they could be under surveillance, they said.

But the City Club committee, and subsequently the membership which approved the report, couldn't agree with this line of thinking. The report laid it on the line:

"The Mayor and the Chief of Police should insist that existing laws requiring the repression of prostitutes be strictly enforced. The Chief of Police should intensify police activity in patrolling streets, taverns, dance halls, hotels and alleged houses of prostitution, and in the enforcement of all ordinances and laws directly or indirectly related to the problem of venereal disease. The health officer should resume the responsibility imposed by ordinance to exercise every possible means to repress prostitution."

The report suggested that the health department extend its case-finding methods, that every person confined to the city or county jail be examined, and that there be intensified public education about venereal disease and its consequences. It was further advocated that plainclothes men and women frequent the dance halls and other likely hangouts to detain women for examination without filing formal charges against them.

"The city administration," the committee asserted, "should provide additional funds and personnel in order that adequate public records may be maintained from which data may be furnished to the public on police activity dealing with suppression of prostitution and other unlawful activities directly or indirectly giving rise to venereal disease."

The hard-hitting report struck a sensitive chord with Mayor Riley and his colleagues. When C. B. Stephenson, the City Club president, and members of the committee took the report to him, the mayor blew up. He accused the City Club members of trying to "get him." Stephenson stressed the fact that the findings were of utmost importance to Portland, that the city was getting a bad reputation, and that the situation should be cleaned up. He pointed out further that Edwin J. Cooley, regional representative of the Social Protection division of the Federal Security Agency at San Francisco, had furnished the committee proof of extensive venereal disease conditions in Portland. There were also the complaints by the military and health authorities, and the threat to brand the town "off limits," which would certainly be a black eye for everyone, including those at City Hall.

But Mayor Riley and Chief Niles, both obviously embarrassed by the expose of laxness, issued firm denials as to the truth and accuracy of the study.

The Oregon Journal, standing behind the report, pointed an editorial finger

at Niles' admission to "regulation rather than eradication of commercial vice."

"The mayor must have a talk with the Chief," the Journal declared, "and the police must be held accountable. So must the health bureau . . . The public shall expect from Mayor Riley a restatement of the orders to suppress vice, and from Chief Niles and his officers, complete obedience."

But *The Oregonian*, siding with the mayor, wasn't ready to accept the City Club's findings. It charged that the Club had gone off the deep end and done the city much damage. The Club found itself in the unhappy position of being caught between the two powerful newspapers of the Northwest.

"When it comes to the question of whether Portland has done a good job of meeting the situation, by comparison with other cities faced with the same problem, this page finds itself questioning the implications of the City Club," cried *The Oregonian*. "We can only conclude that insofar as the City Club stirs the authorities to greater effort toward controlling the venereal disease problem, it (the report) will be useful, but insofar as it blackened the name of Portland, by comparison with other cities facing a similar problem, it did not prove its point and was unjustly injurious to the community."

The Club held its ground against this editorial attack. At its next meeting, the membership adopted a resolution expressing full confidence in the Tongue committee and the Board of Governors. The membership had a reply, too, for the newspaper, resolving "that the City Club regrets that *The Oregonian* editorial page deviated from its customary thoroughness of analysis and accuracy of comment to make superficial examination of the report and publish correspondingly superficial observations thereon."

A battle of words was shaping up, for the newspaper wasn't about to yield either. Instead, it handed the City Club a back-handed compliment by replying:

"The City Club is the best organization of its kind anywhere with which we are intimately acquainted. Year in and year out it does a job. It has been a tremendous influence in Oregon, and on the basis of work well done... But it came out the other day with a report which this paper felt compelled to question. Since then, it has adopted the report and passed a resolution of confidence in itself. The City Club is usually right, so we shall follow the same procedure, passing a resolution of confidence in ourselves and let the matter drop there."

At that point, the City Club sportingly agreed to let the newspaper have the last word, and closed the debate "without acrimony."

Nevertheless, the study got the desired results. It brought about better police surveillance and control of vice before the end of the war, and also saved Portland from the "off limits" brand. It further opened new doors for the City Club, leading within three years to an earth-shaking exposure of Portland as a wide open town.

Testing the Prevailing Winds

Explorations in Public Affairs

THE SOUL OF THE CITY CLUB is embodied in its devotion to intelligent investigation and research in the public interest. Without this function, to which each year thousands of hours are given voluntarily, without pay, the Club has no fundamental reason for existing. No one admits this more readily than do its own members.

The City Club sounds trumpets in the prevailing winds of public affairs. There are no limitations. Simultaneously, working committees may be pursuing property tax problems, salmon runs, and where the next freeway should go. The aim of these studies isn't to generate trouble or "get" a public official as a former mayor described it, but to protect the public, and to formulate a working analysis of a problem or an institution, and then attempt to draw some conclusions, so that the reports will be useful to officials in charting a future course of action.

The studies most often result from something that is currently in the news. Many investigations are initiated by Club members themselves, but suggestions also come from the outside. The Board of Governors makes the final decision about taking on a project. These require financing, often from the Club's own budget, although there are gifts and donations to the City Club Foundation, Inc., with no strings attached and these funds help finance qualified research activities. However, reports on ballot measures or issues before the legislature must be financed entirely from the general fund.

The Club can't be bought, or used, although people have tried, for the right recommendations of a report are of great value in putting over changes in institutions or new public programs. Furthermore, the Club doesn't endorse political candidates, but only makes recommendations on measures. Some of its members have contended, from time to time, that it should study the men in government as well as issues. But this would throw the club into the political arena and completely change its complexion.

The City Club is therefore a unique organization to the community and the state. Through a series of checks and balances, and tight reins on committees and members, its studies emerge as honest and well-balanced portraits in depth of a subject. Even when the conclusions are at odds with the community, as in the case of the Christmas funds, the Club has neither lost face nor has the investigation been a waste of time, since one of its purposes is to create discussions from which ideas are generated.

The Club doesn't consider itself all-wise or infallible in the conclusions that are reached. There is no snobbery here, and the members have the ability to speak out—which they very often do. A committee may make recommendations, but a "minority report" may offset the conclusions of the majority and be adopted by the membership. Only once, in the matter of the Columbia Valley Authority report, did the issue become deadlocked and the report with its majority, minority and one independent statement, was filed away without final action.

Voters certainly don't accept the conclusion of the City Club as Gospel, especially the independent Oregon electorate. This was graphically true during the intensive 1964 campaign to sell Portlanders on a new multi-purpose recreation center at Delta Park. The City Club was also split. In the spring the committee was divided, with the majority favoring the ballot measure. Voters turned it down. In the fall, when Delta Dome—as it was called—was on the ballot again, the City Club by a narrow margin accepted a lengthy minority analysis favoring a "no" vote. The City Club's minority report found itself in line with the majority of voters, who again turned down Delta Dome.

The City Club has long favored changes to modernize Portland's governmental system. The public has consistently rejected any change from the commissioner form which has been in existence longer than the City Club. The Club is therefore not always on the winning side, nor does it expect to be. It calls the shots as it sees them, then lets others take the matter up from there. The City Club doesn't initiate or campaign for issues, promote changes, nor lobby in the legislature, although in early years there was a tendency in this direction, even to the sponsoring of bills in the state legislative assembly. If members speak outside the Club, they do so for themselves and not for the City Club.

During the period from 1920 to 1965, the City Club published 710 reports totalling 3,180 pages. There were two classifications: research studies and ballot measures. Represented in these pages were thousands of hours of concentrated and often frustrating work on the part of the committees. In 1956, a special committee under the chairmanship of Morris S. Isseks, now Club Archivist, began a thorough and lengthy analysis of City Club reports. It disclosed that in more than four decades, the Club had produced 439 ballot studies totaling 1,464 pages and 271 research reports covering 1,716 pages. There were 307 reports concerning

Portland affairs, 302 on state matters, 41 on Multnomah County, 55 on Portland public schools, and five concerning affairs of the federal government. These totals alone indicate the intensiveness of the City Club's role as watchdog.

The City Club has demonstrated a continuing interest in 24 major categories. Fifteen of these categories each with 21 or more separate reports, represent 88 per cent of all the reports. Five of these fields account for 45 per cent of the studies: education 76 reports, highways and streets 58, public health 52, public welfare 42, taxation and finance 93. The other ten leading subjects are: employees 30, government organization 40, judiciary 27, legislature 27, natural resources 38, planning 27, public safety 32, public utilities 28, public works 29, and recreation and arts 33.

There were 439 reports which reviewed 460 separate measures. The breakdown of these measures was: city, 169; state, 237; Multnomah County, 25; Portland schools, 29. The Club batted 66 per cent, with the electorate agreeing with the Club's conclusions 303 times. On Multnomah County and Portland school measures, there was a high agreement of 80 per cent on the former and 86 per cent on the latter. This declined to 59 percent on city measures and 67 per cent on state issues.

The Club also found that it saw eye-to-eye with voters, or *vice versa*, more times on negative recommendations than those favoring a measure. But this appears to ebb and flow with the years. The voting pattern seems to have found a greater meeting of the minds prior to 1931 and after 1960. In fact, in the primary and general elections of 1962, the City Club batted 100 per cent with voters on state measures, based on eleven recommendations. However, in the same elections, there was only a 30 per cent agreement on city measures. Two years later, the correlation was 80 per cent on five state measures and 75 per cent on eight city issues. In all, from 294 favorable recommendations by the Club, the voters agreed 178 times, while of 166 measures on which the Club turned thumbs down, the electorate agreed 125 times.

Ballot measure studies are often short, running two to four pages. Because of the briefness of time between filing of a measure and the election, committees often work day and night to dig out the facts and reach their conclusions. Twenty of these reports ran more than eight pages, while the longest, in 1964, was on the abolishment of capital punishment. Among other long reports, which further indicate the spread of interests, have been: State issues—the cabinet form of government, legislative reapportionment, repeal of pari-mutuel betting, prosecution by information or indictment, constitutional debt limitation, the personal and corporate income tax bill, amending the state workmen's compensation law, authorizing bonds for higher education; Multnomah County—the Delta Dome stadium bond authorization; and the city—a civic center, proposed new tax base,

council-manager government, the Exposition-Recreation Center, municipal ownership of transportation facilities, partial charter revision, and a standby city transit authority.

Certainly of equal importance, and often far-reaching and longer lasting, are the long range research studies. These investigations are not necessarily on controversial matters causing widespread public debate. The primary purpose behind a study of a situation may be to "see what makes it tick" by compiling facts, data and summaries about an important private or public institution, for the general benefit and information of its supporters, lawmakers, students, and the public at large. This was the case with a study made of the Portland Symphony and its problems, with the hope that the survey would help create a better understanding and appreciation of what, the report concluded, was a most important Portland institution. When these accounts were published, they become a permanent part of the City Club's growing files of information. They also are sent to public, private and school libraries throughout Oregon and neighboring states and other key places, among them the Library of Congress.

Of the 271 research studies completed during the past 46 years, more than half were concerned with Portland, 78 with state matters and institutions, 31 with Portland public schools, 17 with Multnomah County and five with the federal government. By and large, the reports are accepted by the Board of Governors and the membership as they stand. Only 12 have included "minority reports" and in three cases, there were two minority reports. Four times, the City Club adopted the minority recommendation and once—over the Columbia Valley Authority issue—the Club voted to file the report without recommendation. Moreover, not all the studies that are begun are completed, for various reasons, and sometimes the final reports are not published at all if, for instance, developments occur which correct a problem under study.

Four categories—education with 37 reports, highways and streets 32, public health 33, and public welfare 25—constitute almost half of the investigations made during the period surveyed, for a total of 127 studies covering 809 pages. One hundred ten reports, 703 pages, cover natural resources, recreation and the arts, taxation and finance, government organization, the judiciary, planning, public utilities and public works.

The reports, sometimes containing graphs, charts and photographs, vary in size, averaging a little over six pages. They were briefer in early years than now, due to increasingly detailed research and a more complicated age. They have been as short as a single page. But the record for length is held by a 1961 report (on the form of city government for Portland) recommending a strong-mayor council plan. That one ran for 47 pages.

The City Club has built a national reputation for the quality of its research

reports. Many of the Club's finest studies were done since World War II. Among these are: the Municipal Jail, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Delinquency reports in 1948; Oregon mental health agencies, in 1951; Oregon adoption laws and procedures, 1952; fluoridation of the public water supply, annexation policies for Portland, air pollution, and the Oregon Corrupt Practices Act, all in 1955; the Negro in Portland, and ragweed control in Oregon, 1957; the need and value of a county fair in Multnomah County, 1959; housing for the aged, voluntary health agencies, and the Portland Symphony, all in 1960; Portland city government, 1961; graduate education and research facilities for metropolitan Portland, 1963; and port management, operation and development, 1965. In 1966, a report on Emergency Care for the Stricken and Injured in the Portland Area was televised throughout its investigation by KOIN-TV as a documentary feature and released simultaneously with the committee's report. This was the first full-length television coverage of a committee at work.

Thus, through such intensive research, from daylight saving time to the need for a new city zoo, the City Club opens many new vistas of thought and understanding among its fellow citizens.



Allan Hart, current president, served as chairman of a Municipal Jail report, published soon after Law Enforcement report, disclosing undesirable policies and practices in city's jails. Findings in report were cited by Justice William O. Douglas in his dissenting opinion, in 1951, in a U. S. Supreme Court decision on police methods.



Overcrowded city jail — Adequacy of Portland's jail facilities, and coordination with those of county were issues in 1948 when the Club's Jail Report was published, and still are.







Dr. DeNorval Unthank, physician and surgeon, accepted in 1943, was first Negro proposed for membership in City Club.

J. C. Plankinton tackled touchy subject of racial discrimination, as chairman of mid-40's study on status of the "Negro in Portland."

E. Kimbark MacColl re-surveyed status of Negroes in Portland as chairman of a mid-50's report, to find much improvement in civil rights but many unsatisfactory conditions still existing.

Getting the Facts

Research and Its Conduct

I T TAKES FROM A YEAR to eighteen months to complete the average City Club research report.

Some are finished in far less time, depending on the speed and enthusiasm with which the committee moves, and the obstacles encountered. Occasionally studies have gone on for years without conclusive results being reached because of a constant shifting of conditions within the field under scrutiny. A survey on garbage disposal in Portland dragged along for seven years. The delay was blamed upon a continual reshuffling by the refuse haulers, so that the City Club simply couldn't draw any lasting conclusions.

The City Club tries to keep its studies current, so that the reports are up-tothe-moment when published. This is sometimes difficult to do, but it is significant that many City Club recommendations generally have been out ahead of civic officials and the general public. Occasionally, however, a sudden change of pace may make a study obsolete before it is published. Then it must be decided whether to publish the report at all, as a matter of record for the libraries and research archives of the state.

Conclusions are reached through a well-defined system of checks and balances which have been evolved over the half century that the City Club has been in existence. Considerable attention is paid to whether a committee has done a thorough and unbiased job of research leading to sometimes startling conclusions. In the last analysis, only the membership can speak for the Club and give a final stamp of approval—or rejection—of a report. Every effort is made to bring about a fair conclusion to a particular study. Copies of the report are mailed in advance to members, giving them time to study and consider them in advance of the meeting.

A danger, of course, is that a meeting will be "packed," or that there will be attempts at parliamentary maneuvering and frivolous or snap voting. Therefore, certain safeguards are sought to provide for a well-balanced discussion and so

that the final voting will reflect as nearly as possible the opinion of the membership. Motions for "tabling," a common maneuver, are discouraged. The important aim is to bring about conclusive action on the report, either for or against it. The report must be disposed of, or, if warranted by circumstances, be held over for further study. Club officials emphasize to the membership that much time and effort have gone into the study and the Club has a responsibility to the members and the community to bring it to a conclusion. Any delaying action, emotional voting, or other biased maneuvering are therefore out-of-bounds.

This system of caution and wisdom, bred of experience, has paid off hand-somely, reducing criticism to a minimum and building confidence with both civic officials and the public. Moreover, Portland's City Club is recognized as one of the most outstanding research groups and guardians of the public trust in the nation, with any number of its reports receiving national recognition.

The City Club's 1955 study of fluoridation of public water supplies for better dental health is proudly described as its "best seller." Over 24,500 copies of this report, acclaimed as "excellent and technically accurate" have been sent upon request throughout the United States and to foreign lands. It has gone in quantities to the American and Oregon Dental Associations, private manufacturers, and to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare of the federal government.

"The fluoridation of public water supplies as a public health measure has been probably as thoroughly investigated as any public health measure ever proposed," commented the committee headed by John C. Beatty, Jr. "The overwhelming weight of dental, medical and other scientific opinion confirms fluoridation of public water supplies as a safe and economic way of cutting incidence in dental caries by at least one-half. Fluoridation of water supplies is not a substitute for dental care, but fluoridation with or without dental care achieves a substantial reduction in caries unobtainable by other means."

The City Club reports do not mince words, nor are they written in highly technical language. They aren't wrapped in the jargon of lawyers, medical men, or government bureaus. Much effort is given to making the reports accurate, yet fully understandable for the layman without his having to keep a dictionary at his side. Editing teams go over the language carefully and question every statement and phrase. The reports come to the point with little room for doubt as to their meaning, and the conclusions thus may be shocking to people who are prone to hide their heads in the sand, unable to face the facts.

Two studies have been made of the Negro in Portland, one during World War II (1945) by a committee headed by J. C. Plankinton, and a follow-up "progress report" in 1957 by a committee on which E. Kimbark MacColl served as chairman.

"Some definite progress has been made, as it has throughout the country," the second study observed. "But we also found that prejudice and discrimination still exist in Portland, to the degree at least that most Negroes have not in any realistic sense been 'harmoniously integrated' into Portland's community life... We Americans as a people are prone to espouse principles—not the least of which is the right of every individual to equality of opportunity. In practice, unfortunately, we have not shared this right which we apparently hold so dear. It is the gap between our professions and our actions [which] constitutes the Negro problem. A Negro has not very often been permitted to be an American first and a Negro second."

Furthermore, the report charged:

"We find that the city authorities of Portland have been noticeably unconcerned with the problem faced by Negroes and other minority peoples, and generally unwilling to assume leadership in formulating constructive programs as solutions to some of these problems."

That called a spade a spade, and one could imagine there was considerable tooth-gnashing among the City Fathers upon reading this statement. The City Club is used to controversy, for this is an accepted part of the game. Debate and discussion are its sustenance. While the Club avoids dealing in personalities, it doesn't hesitate to bring public officials up short, if the need arises. The City Club regards them as public servants, employed by the people, and therefore they should be not only willing to take criticism, but to listen and consider.

The Club began building its sound reputation as community watchdog in the early Twenties. An early public health survey was hailed nationally as one of the finest studies of its kind ever made of a metropolitan area. Incidentally, and to the gratification of Club governors, publication of this report was aided by an anonymous gift of \$200. A few years later, the Club took up the matter of compulsory automobile insurance, as controversial at the time as are other matters of safety today. The 1926 report was one of the very first investigations made in the nation by a "disinterested agency." Requests for copies came from throughout the land, in such numbers that the Board of Governors authorized charging twenty-five cents a copy to help defray the printing expense. The report led to creation of an Oregon legislative committee to study the matter, with two City Club members serving on the committee. It also proved an important source of information for members of the California legislature when it was considering the problem.

But the automobile insurance inquiry wasn't popular even within the City Club. There was considerable controversy, several meetings were devoted to debating the question, and an inconclusive postcard survey of the membership was taken. When the Board of Governors decided to publish the report anyway, the wrath of the members came down upon them. This brought about a clari-

fication of the true meaning of approval of reports by the Board, as not necessarily endorsing the conclusions but only approving of the committee's work. It was part of the gradual evolution to the system used today by the Club in handling its investigations.

In the beginning, the City Club had three "bureaus" dealing with public health, legislation and port development; and eight committees—Americanization, boys' activities, city planning, education, industrial and port development, legislation, public health and taxation.

"These committees are charged with the responsibility of building up an active interest in the study of problems in their respective fields, and in the formulation of concrete plans for their solution," explained President L. D. Bosley.

The trouble was that there were no checks on the committees which appeared to enjoy almost complete freedom to speak, and without the approval of Club officials. The leaders realized that this could create confusion, and even chaos. By 1922 the Club had created a "Public Affairs Committee" system. This central group had the job of proposing and directing the Club's civic projects. There were several so-called "standing committees" assigned to the categories which comprised the Club's realm of interests. These in turn appointed subcommittees to which were assigned specific topics. The plan of investigation and the form of the report were left to the discretion of each committee, except for emphasizing that both sides must be presented in an "unbiased manner."

It was quickly concluded that this loose arrangement also was very dangerous. The Public Affairs Committee was all-powerful. The Board of Governors had benched itself and was unable to control what was taking place in the field. The following year, the system was modified, dividing the Club membership into sections for research, study and discussion, thus giving each member opportunity to indicate his interests and then participate. The President appointed chairmen and committeemen to seven sections of city planning: education and recreation, government organization and public financing, port development and public utilities, public health, public safety and defense, and social welfare. The public affairs committee was changed to a "steering committee" made up of the seven chairmen, three general members picked by the Club president, and the vice-president serving as ex officio chairman. Joint meetings were held with the Board of Governors once a month. This structure, with some slight modifications in 1944, was used by the Club until 1953.

By that time, the Club had weathered some stormy seas, among them the highly dangerous and controversial inquiries into venereal disease and vice and crime in Portland. But with extension of the Club into more complicated areas, it was realized by men like Allan Hart, vice president that year, that there were

still weaknesses and loopholes which could one day bring about the Club's undoing. Hart envisioned an even tighter system of overseeing committees and screening their findings. Some section chairmen were overloaded by several active committees, while other section chiefs had too little to do. This could cause grave errors. There was also scant way to force committees to meet their deadlines, and to conform to certain standards in writing their reports.

Following months of discussion, a research board was created, composed of three of more members appointed by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the First Vice-President who acts as ex officio chairman. The job of this board was to consider all proposals for studies, recommended to the Board of Governors, and then review all completed reports, submitting them with their recommendations to the Board of Governors. The research board was later expanded and ten years later, when it was realized that this board, too, was overloaded with detailed work, an assignments committee was created. This last committee, a subcommitte of the research board, handled the time-consuming work of weighing possible projects and then recommending to the research board. This arrangement, adopted in 1965, is the satisfactory system being used today.

Each project is cautiously mapped out before a committee goes into the field. A research board member is assigned as advisor to each committee. Members of the committee are carefully selected and not necessarily from their knowledge and experience in a certain area. While the tendency would be to steer members to fields where they know their way around, it is felt that they might also have pre-formed opinions and prejudices. In a ticklish matter, they might be influenced by "friends" within the institution or enterprise under discussion. Such a member serves better as a witness to be interviewed for his informed opinions. Therefore, a man who has worked with the port for many years might well find himself serving on a committee studying the transit system or surveying public welfare.

Committees must also be protected from undue intimidation or string-pulling from the outside, since City Club conclusions have considerable value and influence. There have been attempts to blackmail committee members by officials and business executives who have special interest in a field which has come under the City Club microscope. Sometimes unscrupulous men go to great lengths to get committee members to vote a certain way. One of the most astounding examples occurred when the owner of a printing firm who was serving as chairman of a committee studying the closing of certain coastal streams to commercial salmon fishing was pressured in an unusual manner. It happened that the promotion man for the group organized to oppose the measure had among his other advertising and public relations accounts, a large transportation firm whose print-

ing jobs had for some time been ordered from the committee chairman's printing company. When it was learned that the City Club report was undoubtedly going to favor the salmon fishing control measure, not only the transportation company's printing, but all other printing jobs ordered by the agency were terminated. The companies involved had no direct interest in the ballot measure and were unaware their printing contracts were being used as a political lever in an attempt to force the printer to use his influence to shape the committee's conclusions. However, the Club committee chairman didn't budge from his committee's stand. His firm lost several thousand dollars of annual business from the agency from that day. Whether or not the agency's clients ever learned the facts in this unusual case, no action was ever taken by them to right the wrong.

Research is imaginative and carefully executed, following instructions set down in the Club's *Research Manual*, which is the Bible of every committeeman. Like Sergeant Friday of television fame, the watchword is to "get the facts." Books, pamphlets, documents, financial statements, public records and similar surveys from other parts of the country are considered. Scores of interviews are conducted, not only with known spokesmen but also among those who may emerge as "hidden opposition" to the accepted pattern of things. All this information must be sifted down, weighed, compiled into a form, hammered out into a preliminary draft of the final report, rechecked and reconsidered, and then finally, conclusions must be reached.

Thus, nearly every study becomes an involved task, larger than it may appear at the beginning. For such reports, it costs the City Club an average of \$750. After the investigation has been fully reviewed by the research board and revisions, if suggested and accepted, made by the committee, the report goes to the Board of Governors for its action. The Board may pass on the report without necessarily agreeing with its conclusions. It also decides whether or not the study should be published.

When the report reaches the membership for final acceptance, it may come under its first crucial test in the debate on the floor, reflecting many points of view. If a minority report is also involved, a hassle can develop that sometimes extends through several meetings. Just how solid a job a committee has done may well come to light here.

However, once a report is accepted, the membership generally backs its committees and boards to the hilt when their reports are attacked by the press and civic officials, believing full well that "we must hang together or we'll hang separately." For if the City Club ever reflected serious doubts from within, or indication that its procedures might be wrong, its effectiveness would quickly decline on the Portland scene. That's why such care is demanded for the important work that is performed.

HOT ISSUES: CVA and the Great Vice Probe

Controversy in City and Club

DURING A PERIOD of about four years starting late in World War II, the City Club undertook some of its most controversial investigations, in which there was widespread public discussion. Among them were the reports on venereal disease, Portland vice and crime, and the proposal for creating a Columbia Valley Authority for river basin, water and power development.

While other studies generated violent reaction from without, the issue involving hydroelectric power proved by far the touchiest subject of all within the City Club itself. The study was almost the Club's undoing.

Power and water development and usage are touchy subjects in the Pacific Northwest. Almost everyone has his own opinion. This was certainly true in the case of the CVA. This highly emotional issue was being debated up and down the land by politicians, businessmen and editorial writers. It had gone on for years. Beginning in 1925, the City Club had made periodic reports on development of the Columbia and its tributaries. It had gone so far as to favor the marketing of power by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. But the proposed creation of a powerful federal agency similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority bristled a good many feelings.

In 1945 the Board of Governors bearded the lion in his den by authorizing a committee "to study the desirability of establishing a CVA, and the type and scope for such an agency should one be established." Some members voiced the opinion at the time that this was a mistake; that it would be impossible to make an unbiased report.

When a draft was submitted a year or more later, the Board of Governors turned it back, asserting that the committee had failed to be objective. The Board also reminded the committee of criteria to follow in keeping with the Club's standards and its reputation. But later drafts still failed to meet the qualifications. A special committee was appointed to work with the CVA group to bring the manuscript into line. Finally the Club's governors, with reluctance,

approved the eighteen-page, three-part report. But the Board expressed its reservations, observing that in its opinion the report did not measure up to the research standards of the Club. However, the Board allowed publication because of the time and labor gone into the study, and perhaps with the hope that it would at least be somewhat helpful to people trying to make up their minds on the issue.

Quite obviously, the report was dynamite, as evidenced by the split within the committee itself. Five members comprising the majority recommended the present federal agency, the Bonneville Power Administration, as being all that was needed. A minority of two members favored creation of a CVA, while another single member suggested a master plan for resource development by a federal agency, but not necessarily a CVA. He commented further that "the subject is controversial, there is no room for doubt. In fact, the work of the committee has been retarded and confused by an overabundance of 'opinion evidence,' most of it emanating from biased and prejudiced sources."

When the report reached the floor, the agitated membership was immediately on its feet. Debate raged on for nearly two months. At two meetings, just before the 1946 Rose Festival, every attempt failed to adopt any one of the three opinions. It was obvious that members felt very strongly on the entire matter. In mid-July, there was an attempt to combine the majority position with the minority report favoring a federal agency other than CVA, with both supporting Bonneville Power. This also failed. Then on July 20, after what *The Oregonian* described as "three explosive sessions," the Club was firmly deadlocked. The report was referred back to the Board of Governors with the suggestion that no further action be taken.

While all this was brewing, ironically the Club adopted its research manual "Get the Facts," which stressed the organization's high standards. But too much personal feeling was bound up in the power issue, which was receiving wide-spread attention on every side. The City Club simply couldn't find an unbiased answer to the problem. Reflecting on the matter, observers believed that the City Club was nevertheless "acting normally," for it mirrored the strong and varied opinions of its members who hailed from all walks of life. It was also pointed out that on ballot measures the Club had consistently opposed publicly-owned utilities and bills sponsored by public power advocates.

Three years later, in 1949, federal power and river basin legislation was being considered by Congress. Not a month went by without material on the subject being published by the *Congressional Record* or in the newspapers of the Northwest. Author Richard L. Neuberger was writing extensively on the subject. Both Portland newspapers published lengthy series of articles on the CVA, one running ten installments, the other sixteen. But the City Club declined to tackle the issue again, for it was simply too hot to handle.

About all that could be said was that the Club had agreed to disagree.

The City Club has been caught in the crossfire of outside critics many times and has developed a thick hide against such attacks. Occasionally, it has found itself clear out in left field relative to the thinking of the community. People don't like to hear the truth, or raw facts, and sometimes react violently. As long ago as 1928, the Club learned that when it took up controversial matters, it would make enemies as well as friends.

That year the Club brought out a six-page study entitled "The Homeless Man in Portland," devoted to the problems of housing for single men and transient laborers, of which there were many from the ships and logging camps. The revelations painted a drab and startling picture of outwardly serene Portland, the peaceful hometown, and were highly unpopular. The Board of Governors found it necessary to issue an explanation of its position, as to just what "board approval" of a report meant. Nevertheless, the published findings brought action. Mayor George Baker appointed a twenty-one man committee to study and revise Portland's housing code ordinance. Seven members of the City Club served on the committee, and in 1931 a revised ordinance was adopted by the City Council.

The role that the Club has played in molding the destiny of Portland and Oregon cannot be underestimated. The Club has often changed the course of history, and its influence has been far-reaching. At times, it has risen to greatness, through its vision into the future.

"I occasionally differ with the City Club studies, entertaining, so to speak, a minority report," wrote Philip H. Parrish, the distinguished editor of *The Oregonian's* editorial page. "But I never ignore them. They have been an amazing influence toward straight thinking."

His counterpart, Marshall N. Dana of the *Oregon Journal*, felt likewise. He commented:

"Civic research is an essential function in a city like Portland. The City Club performs this essential function for the city in a logical way. While I do not always agree with the conclusions reached by the committee reporting on various problems, I have found the information compiled by Club members a valuable source for reference in considering and evaluating community questions."

In its first half century, if the City Club could claim a monument to itself, it would certainly be Portland's unique and wonderful Forest Park, the largest natural forest within the boundaries of an American metropolis. The Club made an extensive study of this property and recommended that it be retained as a woodland and wild life preserve.

"Left in its present unmanaged state," the committee observed, "the area is subject to the hazards of forest fire and erosion. The area has value when developed as a public forest park."

The study won many plaudits and was hailed as a sound suggestion. Commented *The Oregonian:*

"The recommendations for setting aside as a municipal forest park the nine square miles of rugged hillsides and ravines... merit the attention of the public and of city and county officials because of the thoroughness and objectivity of the community survey."

As a result, the great park was created in what might have been a wasteland, thus maintaining forever a natural part of Oregon within the city's boundaries.

Club inquiries are generally of a routine nature. Should Portland have a new jail? Should the Pittock Mansion be acquired by the city? What about rebuilding the auditorium? But when the Club dug into vice and crime conditions in Portland following World War II, it literally blew the lid off the town beside the Willamette.

There were many existing rumors that Portland was a "wide open town," and that outside hoods and possibly a syndicate were taking over. It was known that gambling, prostitution, bootlegging and other vices operated openly. Press and churchmen were demanding a clean-up. There were reports of corruption within the police department and alleged payoffs to men on the beats. The payoffs might extend into the City Hall.

The vice investigation to learn the truth was launched in 1947 when Ralph Thom was president. McDannell Brown, an attorney, headed up the committee. Other members were Myron C. Cole, Earl L. Condit, Asa B. Cutler, Stanley Earl, T. J. Edmonds, Irving Enna, Tom Humphrey, Ira H. Jones, William L. Josslin, Francis S. Murphy, George L. Thomas and Neal L. Zimmerman.

The group was broken into subcommittees for checking official records on crime and the law, and the city charter and ordinances. City and county officials, and those of the law enforcement agencies were interviewed. Checks were run on ownership of property rented or leased for gambling and prostitution. Committee members combed the various night clubs, after-hours joints, bootlegging operations, and places frequented by prostitutes.

They found crooked operations had been carried on unchecked for several years. Investigating teams saw high dice tables, crap games, lottery pools, horse booking, and slot machines in full operation. They played the games themselves, observed and made mental notes. The joints were sure-fire rendezvous centers for known stick-up men, burglars, dope peddlers, whores, pimps, and other underworld characters. Ex-convicts were found operating licensed bottle clubs, either openly or through "fronts" in whose names the licenses were obtained. Behind peephole doorways there were Chinese gambling and poker parties.

Some suspected officials tried to cover up, but for the most part, the City Club teams drew the cooperation of public officials, from Governor Earl Snell

down through Mayor Riley and city commissioners and from most of the law enforcement officers. But the facts were frightening. The committee compiled a list of 248 different places within Portland where gambling, prostitution and other vice flourished during the past year. Police furnished 185 addresses which had been the scene of arrests for gambling and prostitution. One showed a record of 59 repeated arrests for gambling, another 67 for prostitution.

The conclusions were astounding. Portland was riproaring. Gambling operations were controlled through syndicates; many of the operators had criminal records. There had been a serious breakdown in law enforcement. Vice operations were being carried on not only with the knowledge and acquiescence of Portland police, but protection was being provided through substantial payoffs, estimated at \$10,000 a month.

The fearless report was prepared by the public safety section of the City Club, with Dr. Dean Anderson serving as research advisor. It was outspoken and pulled no punches. It advocated a crackdown on all forms of crime and vigorous enforcement of city and state laws, the confiscation and destruction of gambling equipment, and abatement proceedings against property where vice conditions existed. A list of owners of property used by tenants for illegal purposes was compiled. Among them were some of Portland's most prominent citizens, two leading banks, two nationally known insurance companies, and some government agencies.

The committee concluded ruefully:

"The City Club reaffirms its adherence to recommendations made in the report on venereal disease control and more specifically, those under the heading of 'Law Enforcement,' none of which seem to have received any noticeable attention from our city or police officials."

The report burst into front page headlines. The Oregonian republished the crime report in full, the only time in fifty years that a City Club study has been so handled by the press. There were cries of anguish and denials as the rats scurried for cover. Officials of banks and insurance companies rushed to their files. The general public was shocked by the disclosures and the charges against the administration of Mayor Riley. Looking back, this was the second time within a few years that the City Club had placed the same mayor under fire. There was strong sentiment in the Club for the report to include the names of owners of those properties on which illegal activities were taking place. Dr. Richard M. Steiner, pastor of the Unitarian church, urged his fellow City Club members to "name names" and moved that the report be returned to the committee for these owners to be listed. His motion passed, but subsequent efforts to secure accurate information discouraged the committee and it was finally excused from this added

assignment. The committee felt the facts were clear as they stood, there was proof in its files and little could be denied.

The repercussions extended far beyond the general cleaning up of the city and the overhauling of its law enforcement division. The expose had a profound effect on public opinion. Average citizens looked around for officials to blame and found targets among those in the middle. A tragic plane crash in southern Oregon had taken the lives of Governor Snell and three other leading state officials, among them Snell's likely successors. In this situation the effects, according to political commentators, reached into the next state elections.

Nearer home, the expose led to the defeat of Earl Riley and carried into office an unusual personality, Dorothy McCullough Lee, who gained national fame as lady mayor of a major city. Mayor Lee, called "Do-Good Dotty" by her critics and those advocating an open town, was faced with the momentous task of cleaning up the mess that the City Club had unmasked amid the roses.



Above: City Club members cue up in snakeline through the Benson Hotel lobby to buy tickets for meeting considering controversial Law Enforcement report including committee members Francis S. Murphy, Ira Jones, Chairman McDannell Brown, Ed Berry, Dr. Myron Cole.

At Right: Overflow crowd in Crystal Room of Benson
Hotel for debate on Law Enforcement report.
Thirteen-man committee and presiding officer
Ralph Thom fill head table.













Reading left to right:

C. C. Chapman voices his strong opinions on the law enforcement findings.

Ed Averill, speaking hotly to the vice report.

Richard L. Neuberger; journalist and author, later one of Oregon's U. S. Senators, participated in heavy discussion on Law Enforcement report in 1948

Dorothy McCullough Lee, elected Mayor of Portland in 1948 on crest of wave of reform resulting from City Club disclosure of rampant vice conditions.

Ed Averill, City Club governor, eyes his subpoena, issued to all Club officials and committee members following publication of law report.

Francis S. Murphy, Law committee member, reports to bailiff to testify before the grand jury investigating vice conditions, as result of Club's law enforcement report.



The Forum's Passing Parade

Membership, Speakers and Discussion

HEN A CITY CLUB SPEAKER mounts the rostrum of the weekly forum meetings, Friday noons at the Benson Hotel, he looks out upon as broad a cross section of Portland interests and opinion as can be collected into one room. Of course, the representation on any particular day may depend on how well the speaker draws, or perhaps the price of the meal. But the guest's chances are good that the room will contain a wide variety of viewpoints.

Ever since its infant days, the City Club has strived to draw its membership from all walks of life. Its leaders felt that this was extremely important, since there was strength in diversity, in the task the Club set for itself. In its Golden Anniversary year of 1966, the Club is twelve times the size of that of early 1917. However, the feeling remains that herewith is representation the likes of which can't be matched in any other civic organization.

If anything, the Club's membership base has broadened over the years, which is for the better. Its complexion has changed, however, by the rising average age level. In the beginning, the City Club was comprised largely of young men in their twenties and early thirties. Now nearly sixty per cent are in their forties and fifties, and more than three quarters of the total membership—which ranges from twenty-one to over ninety—are above forty years of age. Appropriately, the average age in the Club's fiftieth year is fifty.

The Club has reached what may be termed the stature of middle age. This "maturity" reflects the very nature of the organization. Men tend to join and stay while in their middle or prime years of life, when they are likely to have more time and the financial means to devote to civic affairs. But some thoughtful Club leaders pose a question: In a time when youth dominates the social and political scene, those under forty in the City Club comprise less than a quarter of the membership, and under thirty, only four percent. They wonder if this might not be a deficiency in maintaining the balance of mirroring public thinking.

The City Club has long lived under the cloud of being dominated by attorneys. Lawyers were predominant in the founding days, and there is no denying that the Club has continued to attract many members of the legal profession. But they aren't in the majority, nor do they run the Club. In 1921, of 507 members, 57 were in the legal field. Ten years later there were 88 out of 467, while in 1959, the ratio was 176 in a total of 1055 members.

The City Club in mid-1966 had 1246 members. There were 245 practicing attorneys, and in addition, others of the legal profession were affiliated with lumber companies, utilities, railroads, investment brokerage houses, and other firms. There were 16 in federal legal positions, 11 with the state, 9 with the county, and 4 with the city. It would seem that what the City Club offers attracts attorneys, who as individuals are extremely interested, and often participants, in public affairs and politics.

The "balance of power" of the Club is valuable to its overall program. This factor has remained constant through the years, despite the growth of membership. The Club can't afford to be overwhelmed by any single group which could throw its weight around. Its membership policy seeks a sphere of influence apart from other commercial clubs and the Chamber of Commerce. This fact has influenced the membership pattern. Therefore, the proportion of members in wholesale and retail trade is only a small fraction of that of the urban population, while those in manufacturing are about one half the norm. On the other hand, City Club memberships run higher in finance, insurance, real estate, the medical and dental professions, various levels of government, and of course, the law, than percentage-wise make up the population at large.

In 1921 there were 149 in business and 76 in construction, including 26 architects. Other categories were: communications 8, religion 6, medicine 75, insurance 28, education 18, finance and banking 63, public administration 12, and miscellaneous or unclassified 15. Ten years later there had been few, if any, significant ratio changes in the membership which totaled 467. However, following World War II, interest in the Club soared upward. The membership doubled in the 1950's, totaling more than one thousand. New fields were also represented, but even in this period of extensive growth, no single group emerged to dominate the rest. A breakdown showed business 224, building and construction 49, communications 13, religion 20, social welfare 9, transportation 24, utilities 20, medicine 130, insurance 72, education 65, finance 109, legal profession 176, agriculture, forestry, conservation, etc. 3, labor 12, the arts 4, diplomatic corps 1, public administration 100, organizations and associations 21, and unclassified 3.

Who makes up the Club today? In its Golden Anniversary, the Club adheres to tradition. In addition to 245 lawyers, there are 222 in business, 84 building and construction, 53 communications, 123 medicine, 100 education, 139 finance,

29 agriculture and forestry, 28 religion, 28 social welfare, 21 transportation, 29 utilities, 68 insurance, 8 economics, 7 labor, 10 the arts, 3 diplomatic corps, 37 public administration and the military, 3 unclassified, and 12 who are administrators for organizations and associations in the fields of medicine, dentistry and education. There is one U. S. Senator, Wayne L. Morse, a former Congressman, Homer D. Angell, a former governor, Robert D. Holmes, and new Governor Tom Lawson McCall. City Commissioner Ormond Bean has been a member throughout the years, being classified as among the first year "founders." Many local, state, and federal officials have been members.

There are other highlights. Two of the medical group are in federal work, four with the state, and three with Multnomah County. Three in planning, research and engineering fields are currently abroad. Nineteen are with some branch of the government. Seventeen of those in conservation work are employed by the federal government. In the field of religion, ten are on "non-pulpit" assignments, such as campus Christian education and synod administration, although nearly all are ordained ministers, priests and rabbis. One in the diplomatic corps also teaches, while another is actively engaged in the lumber business.

You can't become a member of the City Club merely by walking up and plunking down your dues. Candidates for membership must be sponsored by a member in good standing and must be approved by the Board of Governors and the membership at large. Probably no other application created more of what Dr. Richard Steiner of the Unitarian Church described as a "tempest in a teapot" than did that of the first Negro applicant.

If the City Club had a color line during its first quarter century, it was extremely well hidden. But in 1943 the name of Dr. DeNorval Unthank, physician, surgeon and great Portland leader, was proposed. Dr. Unthank possessed stature and the kind of public spirit that the City Club enjoyed. Yet there was opposition, again mirroring a segment of the Portland attitude. Other members were shocked at the stand of a small minority, and there were angry words. Eleven members of the Board of Governors voted to accept the application. Three were against, on the grounds that it would "hurt the Club." When 213 members were polled, 166 voted in favor and 47 against, about 21 per cent.

Not long after Dr. Unthank became a member, he made a distinct contribution to the Club and the community by serving on the committee which surveyed and reported on the Negro in Portland. The membership now includes men of many racial and ethnic origins.

Local and national leaders, political figures, and personalities seek the City Club platform, not only because of the caliber and structure of the audience, but because the Club is the leading community sounding board. The forums are always covered extensively by the mass communications media. Speakers realize

this, and often save their "bombshells" for a City Club appearance. It was here that Dr. Wayne L. Morse, as dean of the University of Oregon law school, first made it known that he would run for the U. S. Senate And in 1966, Oregon Congresswoman Edith Green also chose the City Club forum for stating that she would not be a candidate for the Senate, a matter over which there had been considerable speculation.

The Friday forums have progressed in their importance and significance. The programs keep the Club alert on current affairs, heard "from the horse's mouth," so to speak. The meetings are as serious and thought-provoking as are the research studies. Often one dovetails into the other. With its reputation as a community force, the Club has little difficulty in obtaining "top brass" for its programs. Though it has yet to hear from a U. S. President, the Club has come mighty close with men high up in the federal affairs, among them Robert Kennedy when he was attorney general. There has been any number of governors, both in and out of the state. The first was Oregon's Walter M. Pierce in April 1923.

Most of the speakers were home-grown in the early years. So were their topics. It reflected the times, when there was an intense interest in local problems and America had withdrawn into a period of isolation from rough and tumble international politics. In the last two decades, the mounting importance in foreign affairs is markedly demonstrated by the great number of national and international figures, speaking on world problems before the Club. Among them have been over a dozen ambassadors from abroad.

But of the many hundreds of speakers who have mounted the rostrum, probably the most popular and provocative was a home-town citizen, the colorful C. C. Chapman, long-time editor and publisher of the *Oregon Voter*, a unique publication devoted to what was going on in Oregon affairs. Chapman joined the City Club in 1917, its first year of existence. He served as a first vice-president in 1918-19, on ten research committees, and handled several special assignments for the Board of Governors.

It was Chapman, too, who spearheaded the tradition of the "round table," where a particularly tight circle of fairly conservative members always sat. Whenever Senator Wayne L. Morse spoke to the Club—after he switched from the Republican to the Democratic party—these eight or ten members would boycott the Club meeting and gather instead for lunch at another hotel up the street.

Chapman fell into his rousing biennial reports on the Oregon legislature in 1919 when he made his debut talk about things in the state house, in what Secretary W. K. Royal recorded as "his own inimitable style." The members loved it. From then on, he was a "regular" who attracted S.R.O. crowds, for he let the chips fall where they may about the legislators and their accomplishments, or

failures. But his reports were no less colorful than the dashing appearance and jaunty flamboyancy of the man himself. "Chappie" always arrived purposely late, "after the house was seated." Then with the timing of a master showman, he'd come swinging in, brandishing a cane in one hand, jaws clamped tightly over a stout cigar, his soft-brimmed hat turned up at one side, and decked out sportily in bold plaid coat and matching slacks such as Bing Crosby might wear. In like manner, he would unleash oratory with tang and verve the likes of which members seldom, if ever, heard from the great and the near great. Few indeed could match Chappie Chapman in his field and the City Club never grew tired of him. He remained active until shortly before his death in May 1956.

But if Chapman is lodged in the minds of many, other speakers are, too, for various reasons. The City Club forum has given members the opportunity to hear, observe, question, and meet personalities of whom they've heard or read about. Forever after, memories of that brief personal encounter are welled up whenever there is a headline about them.

Paul Robeson is one of these. Longtime members feel they were fortunate to have had the privilege of hearing the great Negro singer who came before them twice. Once he appeared with Max Yergan to discuss the work of the Council on African Affairs. Robeson also sang for them, and on the occasion when he was giving a public performance in Portland, restricting him by his contract from singing, he hummed some of his familiar numbers. It was a thrilling time, one of life's highlights which members never forget.

Also not forgotten was the surprise appearance in June 1937 of Harry Bridges, the controversial and widely assailed leader of the longshoremen of the Pacific Coast. There was much seething bitterness over shipping strikes, blame for which was laid on Bridges's doorstep. He was in Portland attending a convention of the International Longshoremen's Association. Executive Secretary Herald Campbell boldly stormed the well guarded gates of the convention hall to issue Bridges a personal invitation to speak to the City Club that week. Campbell couldn't get past the husky guards, but they did agree to deliver a note to Bridges. He delayed giving an answer until virtually the last possible minute, but then said he'd come. The room was jammed with men who projected hostility and hatred toward the longshore chieftain. Already many members were questioning the right of Bridges to appear at all.

President Clifford E. Zollinger felt the danger of the public receiving the wrong impression of how the City Club stood relative to Bridges, who had been accused of being a communist. In introducing Bridges, he decided to lay it on the line, be factual and not pull any punches. But his introduction was more remembered than what Bridges had to say about the "CIO versus the A. F. of L." Thirty years later, Zollinger recalled it in his own words:

"I was concerned that City Club approval should not be inferred from the circumstance that Bridges appeared on its platform," Zollinger remembered. "I prepared my own thumb-nail biography from newspaper stories which had appeared from time to time in the current year and prior years. I tried to be completely objective. When I met him at the lunch table, I reviewed my notes with him and asked him to correct any errors. I do not remember his expressed concurrence, but he did not question the accuracy of any of the statements.

"My introduction first stated that the invitation to speak was not an indication of approval of the speaker or his attitudes or actions, but that the Board of Governors considered that the position of the speaker was of interest to City Club members and importance to the Portland community. I then read my biographical sketch, explaining its source and stating that I had shown it to the speaker, inviting his comment, and he had made none. I did not omit references to arrests and sentences for strike violations, or charges that he was a member of the Communist Party. I do not now remember whether proceedings for his deportation were then pending, but if they were, I am sure they were mentioned. I reviewed what I had learned about his activities in Australia and the United States. My purpose was to be moderate, fair and factual, but the net result may have been an unfavorable introduction. Many oldtimers in the City Club have reminded me of the incident long after it occurred. It seemed to them the high point in my term of office."

Bridges might well have walked from the platform after such an introduction. However, he bypassed any comment, and gave what was rated as an excellent address, in a calm and dignified manner. Members were astounded. They could not help but express admiration for the labor leader who had been assailed as an ogre verbally and in the press throughout the West Coast region.

"I have always had, since this experience, a high regard for Harry Bridges' intelligence and composure," Zollinger commented.

Nevertheless, the Club was severely criticized for allowing Bridges to appear. Three or four members resigned. Others declared that perhaps in all fairness, Dave Beck, the Northwest's own powerful labor leader, should be allowed equal time. He was indeed invited, but never agreed to any suggested schedule. But the Club has heard other men of the labor movement, among them Walter Reuther, the fighting president of the United Automobile Workers, who spoke in 1948.

During the forty-six years from 1920 to mid-1966, the City Club has had more than 2300 programs with speakers. Of these, 525, almost a quarter of the total, were devoted to international affairs. There have been at last fifteen foreign diplomats representing ten countries, among them Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippine Islands and V. Borisov of the Soviet Union. Foreign affairs has also been

a prime topic of guest speakers from within the United States. In 1950, Dean Rusk who was then assistant secretary for Far Eastern affairs with the U. S. State Department addressed the Club. So did W. Averell Harriman, when he was Secretary of Commerce. The controversy over creating the United Nations sparked a number of programs, one featuring Carlton Savage, Assistant Secretary of State. There have been many others, among them City Club member Dr. Frank Munk, a respected authority on world problems who has made numerous appearances; G. Bernard Noble, well remembered political science professor at Reed College, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, and who later served with the State Department; and Nelson Rockefeller who had an initial appearance in 1943 when co-ordinator for Inter-American Affairs. In 1964, Rockefeller was back in what was a distinct departure from City Club rules against having a political candidate unless his opponent also appeared. But because of the high office involved, the Club allowed the rules to be waived. The room was jammed, one of the largest crowds on record (578). Later, after he won the Oregon primary over Barry Goldwater, Rockefeller in a Time Magazine article credited his appearance before the City Club as "turning the tide."

But for a change of pace, the City Club also had heard on several occasions Oregon's own ambassador to the outer world, Frank Branch Riley, who showed the forum how he had sung the praises of his state from border to border and coast to coast.

A tradition of Christmas programs was started in 1921. Under it an area minister is the speaker and music is provided by a local group.

There has been a distinct effort to keep the forum programs "in balance," as demonstrated in a breakdown into categories over the years. Second to international affairs has been "national security" with 288 programs. The rest of the breakdown is as follows: business, labor and industrial-taxation research 220, education 209, public administration and politics 202, planning and development 190, natural resources-conservation 141, social justice 114, social welfare 114, health and medicine 105, culture and civilization 99, religion and moral responsibility 90, and communications 29.

Not all the programs are so weighty. There have been delightful interludes by people who were "in the news" or outstanding personalities, not necessarily with any earth-shaking message. Dr. Sigmund Spaeth, the famed "tune detective" of the 1930's, known for his radio broadcasts, was one of these master performers. And there was an unusual program in December 1940 in the appearance of Dorothy Anne Hobson, editor of the *Valsetz Star*, on a panel with Arden X. Pangborn of *The Oregonian*, Donald J. Sterling, Sr. of the *Oregon Journal*, and other seasoned newsmen. Who was Miss Hobson? She was unique in her craft, twelve years old at this time. At the age of nine she had started a newspaper

which grew to a national circulation of eight hundred and had received nationwide acclaim as "a booster of fir, hemlock and kindness."

The dropping of names shows the spirit of the decades and of history's passing parade. In 1938 the City Club invited General George C. Marshall, departing commander of the Vancouver Barracks, to speak to the City Club on national defense. General Marshall was already being hailed as "one of the outstanding officers of the United States Army." Then in 1939, members took a trip into outer space with an eminent astronomer, Harry G. Johnson, director of the Baker Foundation at Walla Walla, Washington. Johnson, who was well ahead of his time, showed the City Club some of the first pictures of the lunar surface.

The City Club audience has always preferred substance over oratory, although good showmanship is always fully enjoyed. There have been times when the subject matter got a little *too* solid, as in the case of a widely-heralded, eminent astro-scientist, scheduled to present a preview of man's first space flight, complete with model capsule and illustrations. When the lights were dimmed, the illustrations turned out to be four technical diagrams which were the basis of a long and droning scientific lecture, running long over the appointed hour. When the lights finally came on, the head table guests and staff were startled to find that the audience had dwindled to four, one of whom was fast asleep. Under cover of darkness, busy men had quietly left to keep their business appointments.

Charles H. Martin, who had a celebrated military career as a major general in the Far East, and later became an Oregon Congressman and Governor, talked about "winning the war with Japan." In March, 1945, Mrs. Mark W. Clark, wife of the famed commander of the Fifth Army in Europe, was a special guest. There was even a refugee countess, Morag Zamoyska, talking on "The Destruction of Poland"; and Vojta Benes, brother of the brave president of Czechoslovakia; Clarence Streit, a leading foreign correspondent; Dr. Robert Coffin, famed criminal lawyer, writer and historian; Dr. James Bryant Conant, the president of Harvard University; Dr. Dexter Keezer, the outspoken president of Reed College who was an authority on economics and later became an editor with the McGraw-Hill Book Company in New York; and Dr. Linus Pauling, graduate of Portland's Roosevelt High School and Oregon State College and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

President Clarence Young and Howard Kessler, the Club's executive secretary in 1942, learned something of the alleged eccentricities of geniuses, as popularly believed, from another Nobel prizewinner, Dr. Robert A. Millikan of the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Millikan insisted on juggling his own suitcases, and in walking from the train depot to his hotel.

And, when the City Club wanted to hear William O. Douglas, the U. S. Supreme Court Justice from Oregon, they had to send out a scouting expedition.

He was somewhere "thataway" in the wilderness beyond Mount St. Helens. It took foresters and fire spotters days to locate him, but Douglas sent word that he would appear and came out of the brush to do so.

And whoever forgot Dr. Frank Baxter, who had retired from a distinguished career as a college professor to become a television celebrity? "Why did you leave the dignity of the academic world to perform on television?" someone asked.

"Well," replied Baxter, "when I was defrocked by statutory senility from my faculty post at the University of Southern California, I found that my income for retirement would total the magnificent sum of \$88, and since I had formed a habit of eating..."

That's how it was . . .







Record -holder for number of City Club appearances is City Club member Senator Wayne L. Morse, who first addressed Club in 1932 when he was youngest law school dean in the nation.

Dr. Frank Munk presents one of his analyses of international affairs before fellow City Club members.

Dr. Blair Stewart, Club president in 1948-49, author of the significant essay on the role of the City Club, which he titled "No Man is an Iland" from John Donne's writings. He was also frequent program speaker.

Dr. Richard M. Steiner, pastor of First Unitarian Church until 1966, addressed fellow City Club members in June, 1966 as "Swan Song" marking his retirement and the Club's Fiftieth Anniversary — his tenth platform appearance, not counting weekly presiding duties while president in 1951-52.





Early photo of C. C. Chapman, fiery editor-publisher of the *Oregon Voter*, whose "no holds barred" biennial reports on the legislature covered nearly four decades and drew SRO crowds.









The traditional Annual Dinner meeting includes members, wives and guests each year. Most recent of these had British Ambassador Sir Patrick Dean and Lady Dean as guests of honor.

Congresswoman Edith Green reports periodically to her district's constituents in the City Club, and chose its platform to announce her decision not to file for Senate seat being vacated by Senator Maurine Neuberger in 1966. All Oregon Congressional delegates are invited to speak from time to time.

"My contract didn't mention humming . . . " so Paul Robeson, noted concert artist, on City Club platform to speak on African affairs, hummed such favorites as "Old Man River" when his singing contract forbade his singing elsewhere than in the concert halls.

Governor Charles A. Sprague has frequently addressed the City Club on state, national and international affairs.

Harry Bridges, controversial longshore labor leader, surprises somewhat hostile City Club audience with rational, business-like speech. Seated, left, is C. C. Zollinger, 1937-38 president.



Into a New Age

Today's City Club

By 1966 the City club of Portland had reached its Golden Anniversary year, marking a half century of distinctive public service.

Looking about them, members found the world a vastly different place and their home town and state almost unrecognizable from that of 1916. Many of the formidable Portland landmarks, readily recognizable to the elder members, had been crushed to dust by the swinging ball of the building smashers. Among them was the grand old Portland Hotel, replaced by a parking lot. The Hazelwood Restaurant had long since vanished from the scene. Streetcars and horse-drawn vehicles were gone, too, but the traffic jams were worse and the pace more hectic along the midtown streets, near the stately Pioneer Post Office which had somehow so far weathered the holocaust of civic progress. But much of what was old Portland was gone, replaced along the waterfront by the spaghettilike ramps leading on and off the many bridges.

There were hundreds of new and completely remodeled buildings, some of them very high indeed, and of glass and steel. There were more to come, among them a 28-story structure to be the tallest building in Oregon. On the east side, which Ben Holladay, the crusty transportation king, once declared would make downtown Portland a "rat hole," had risen one of the world's largest shopping centers. It helped change the complexion of Portland, now nearing a million population in the metropolitan area. Near the auditorium, where the city's original first log cabin stood, an urban renewal development was well along. Tall apartments, called "high rise," could be seen from all over town and there were modern parks named for the city's founders, and with tumbling man-made waterfalls. Portland was big time now, sprawling in all directions, and its new character reflected in the swank hotels, fine restaurants, and many facilities that attracted the conventions of the nation.

Yet in other ways, it seemed that the City Club had come full circle. The public auditorium, built the year the Club was organized, was being completely

remodeled. There were problems in local and state governments, not unlike those that faced the original City Club. There was a bad war in Viet Nam, the drafting of young men, parades of protest through the streets; and a serious rise in riots and violence across the nation, among them two mass murders in Chicago and Austin, Texas, and the stinging memories of the killing of a U. S. president which seemed more than ever to symbolize the violence of the times.

As the Club laid plans to observe its Golden Anniversary, some of the old-timers gathered to reminisce. They heard of the death, ironically this very May, of H. Ashley Ely at the age of 82. Looking around, they could see evidences of the Club's handiwork on all sides: in the projects of the Art Commission, the wilderness of Forest Park, the new municipal zoo with its national reputation, the freeways and traffic patterns, the thriving waterfront with its modern port terminals, the sprawling airport built for the future, the fine park and recreation facilities, the law-abiding community with a minimum of gambling, vice and other criminal activities, the good health and general welfare of the people at large, and the character that made Portland great. These things ranked it among the leading cities of the nation, causing visitors and convention delegates to marvel at its thriving, bustling ways and its enthralling beauty, retained as always against the backdrop of majestic Mount Hood.

Yet there was much more for which the City Club could be justly proud. In addition to the tangibles and the obvious landmarks, the Club could readily point to the continued forward strides in city government, and the undiminishing improvement in civic affairs. The Club had, in half a century, an undeniable impact upon civic and state business. It provided the intellectual muscle for accomplishment which either brought about directly, or paved the way for, improvement in the welfare of the people.

The City Club was a catalyst for civic action, possessing a dynamic human machinery to make it function. Its members were of a peculiar breed, spending long, long hours of hard, difficult, and concentrated work—at no pay—to achieve a better world not for themselves, but for the city, the state, the nation, and most important, for the people. Their reports were not merely something to be scanned and filed away, but to be seriously considered, for the persuasive power of these studies is very forceful indeed. The City Club has paved the way and opened doors for many things that make Portland outstanding. And of equal importance, the Club by its very existence has been a restraining force against fly-by-night schemes and crackpot promotions which might well have been harmful to the community. The Club has punctured many balloons, and any number of them failed even to get off the ground because the City Club was there ready to shoot them down. The City Club, therefore, during half a century, has been

of incalculable value to the community, and Portland can consider itself most fortunate indeed to have such an amazing group overseeing its affairs.

Yet if ever there was a need for such a service organization, it seemed to be now, to preserve the basic freedoms of the United States and the precious special freedoms that characterized the Oregon Country in the rapid and turbulent growth of the Pacific Slope. Life and public affairs were becoming more complicated all the time. There were the frightening things that were occurring across the land, shaking the very foundations of the union. The need for the type of watchdog investigating and analysis that the City Club performed was mounting with each passing day.

To meet the challenges of the time, the Club found that it must continually expand its research program and capabilities. This meant increased financial burden. In one instance, the Club sought and gained assistance from the E. C. Brown Trust Foundation to help produce the report on venereal disease. Back in 1944, it was advocated by David Robinson that an endowment fund be created to help finance the expenses of the research program, and such a special fund could receive donations, gifts, legacies and bequests that would be tax deductible for the donors. A special finance committee to investigate how to organize and administer such research-supporting funds was appointed and Ralph Thom, chairman, and his committee of Burt Brown Barker, Raymond R. Brown, Stuart R. Strong and F. S. Hecox, devised the organization and then proceeded to conduct a vigorous campaign for initial contributions to build a healthy bank balance. In order to qualify for tax deductible status, the Fund could not use any of its monies for reports relating to ballot measures or legislative bills. The Fund was created as part of the City Club in its own constitution, and because of this it was ruled not to have tax deductible status.

Finally, to meet fully the requirements of the tax laws, corporation papers were drawn up in 1965, for a separate organization to be called the Portland City Club Foundation, Inc. This could then absorb the funds and obligations of the former research fund, and permit donors to deduct their gifts to the Foundation. Tax exemption was granted and among the first major donations to the Foundation was a \$2,000 gift from the Collins Foundation, named for Truman Collins, a long-time member of the City Club, who had recently died.

Directors of the new corporation its first year were: Charles McKinley, president; Samuel B. Stewart, vice president; Ellamae W. Naylor, secretary-treasurer; John P. Bledsoe, Edward J. Kolar, and Emerson LeClercq, other directors. It had taken some twenty years to qualify the fund fully, but now the door was opened to make an aggressive effort to obtain donations and increase the number of sustaining members, presently seventy-nine. Aid could be sought through re-

quests to foundations and the education of members, of their attorneys and trust departments to encourage bequests in wills.

Thus the expanding research program could be carried forward through building up a stronger foundation working fund on which to draw. From 1946 to 1965, the two research funds had received a combined total of \$23,023. Most of this—\$16,000—came from sustaining members who paid \$10 or more annually over and above their dues. Interest on savings bonds and bank deposits brought in \$4,500. In addition to the \$2,000 Collins Foundation gift, individual members gave various amounts totalling \$850, and about \$1,000 was received from various sources, including sale of reports to non-members. This was certainly needed; a total of \$12,772 was spent on production and reprints of reports alone.

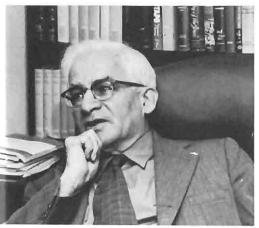
The Foundation now established a research grant program for outstanding college students attending Portland area institutions. In the anniversary year, this latest activity was just getting under way. It wasn't a totally new idea, but had been used previously only on rare occasions. In 1954 when the Oregon Corrupt Practices Act study committee wanted a comprehensive report of acts in other states and an analysis of British law, it was felt that such a project was too demanding for any single member of its committee. Reed College had a matching fund, named for Elizabeth Ducey, earmarked for students in practical application of their studies in designated fields. The City Club Research Fund contributed an equal amount so that one Robert Fernea, a 1954 graduate, could do the assignment for the OCPA committee. In like manner, another Reed student, Steve McCarthy, was granted \$450 from the Ducey Fund and \$250 from the City Club research treasury in 1965 for research in the offices of Secretary of State Tom McCall on "possible innovations in administration."

The hope of the Foundation, and the City Club, is to enlarge this activity. It isn't to be confined to City Club projects exclusively, but to broader facets of independent research that will be beneficial to the Club, or the community, and be an advancing educational experience for the student. College professors are working closely with the foundation in developing procedures for internships both during the college academic year on a part-time basis, and, in special instances, during summers on a full-time basis. For serious-minded young college students, it offers a golden opportunity to put their campus-acquired knowledge into practical application.

Under the new City Club Foundation's intern program, Jack Friedman of Reed College was assigned to the law enforcement committee. He was the first to work as a foundation intern, and his assignments from the committee covered both part of the academic year, and also the full summer of 1966 prior to his enrollment in University of Chicago Law School. During this summer, too, Nick Tri, a graduate of Willamette University, was granted \$300 to make special

studies for the stadium committee, and then another \$300 to assist the committee on metropolitan transportation and planning. Tri has now enrolled for graduate study in political science at Northwestern University. (Both interns during their research terms, became so deeply interested in the City Club that they became members.)

The City Club is therefore contributing to the future not only through direct research, but in the education and growth of qualified young citizens interested in public affairs. This is the legacy of the Club, in its Golden Year, as it looks ahead to a second half century.







Reading left to right:

David Robinson, Club President 1949-50, served more than nine continuous years on Board of Governors. His idea for endow-ment fund to support research projects grew eventually into Club's current foundation.

Ralph Thom, Club President 1947 -48, was the chairman of a special finance committee which developed and promoted the Research Fund.

Charles McKinley, constant champion of civic improvement, City Club president 1931-32, former president of American Political Science Association, served as first president of new Portland City Club Foundation, Inc. and he helped develop new research intern grant program.

"And long experience made him sage..."
Dr. Burt Brown Barker, among most senior active members of Club, discusses research techniques with some of most junior members — Nick Tri, left, Jack Friedman, center. Both juniors have served as research interns on Club committee studies, under grants from City Club Foundation.







Ruggedness of the city's primitive Forest Park preserve can be seen in recent view of Boy Scout party clearing trail.

City Club members added their support to new Zoological Gardens which replaced the overcrowded and dank Washington Park hillside site. Adjoining the zoo on its open hilltop high above city is the popular Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.



The City Club has played contributing role in preservation of a chain of park and wooded wilderness area along city's West Hills, including acquisition of lovely old Pittock estate, foreground, now a link between the vast primitive Forest Park, background, and the city's Washington Park, arboretum and zoological gardens.

Urban renewal—The new look of the city is reflected in the high-rise apartments of Portland Center silhouetted against the sleek modern office buildings and hotels of downtown Portland.

One spectacular rebirth of an area is Lloyd Center shopping area adjacent to Holladay Park. This 56-block development has sparked redevelopment of surrounding residential areas, with high rise apartments, new hotels and motels for tourists and conventioneers who headquarter at Memorial Coliseum or Sheraton Hotel nearby. West Side in background.





Lloyd Center's Splash Fountains



Pedestrian Mall within Lloyd Center





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