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History of OWC

Classmate Magazine; NPS Officer Students' Wives' Club

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HISTORY OF OWC

In reading through past issues of CLASSMATE, we realized that our Club has a very unique and interesting history. Since very few of the people who were instrumental in its founding are still at the School, we thought the story worth telling so that current wives may know its history.

When the Postgraduate School moved to Monterey, it was made up of several individual schools. From these, three separate OWCs developed, the Engineering School Officers' Wives Club, the Management School Officers' Wives Club, and the General Line and Naval Science School Officers' Wives Club. CLASSMATE was originally started in December of 1960 by members of the General Line and Naval Science OWC and dealt strictly with their news and activities.

There were liaison officers between the three clubs, but on such a small base duplication of functions, and some unfriendly rivalry, developed. In January of 1962, at the suggestion of the Command, the three clubs merged into one, the current Officers' Wives Club of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. With all the wives working together as a single unit, it was felt the objectives of the club (promoting friendly relations among all wives, offering the widest possible variety of activities, and supporting charities sponsored by the Postgraduate School) could be easily obtained.

The wife of the Assistant Director of the Management School was appointed interim president of the new club. The elected presidents of the three old clubs served as co-vice-presidents, while the rest of the officers and the committee chairmen were appointed from the previous officers of the old clubs.

At the time the clubs merged there were some 500 members. Today there are around 1100. When the OWC was first formed, the registration fee was 25c for the entire time your husband was in the area. Today, due to increased costs, the fee is \$1.00 per year.

From the very first the Club had the extensive selection of activities for wives to participate in, the elaborate monthly programs, and most of the committees our Club has now.

The many silver tea services and various holloware pieces the OWC owns today were a dowry from the marriage of the three clubs. Each club had a few pieces which were donated for the use of the new club.

At the time of the merger, CLASSMATE became the magazine of all the clubs . . . but for a few months social news was still printed by separate schools.

Then in August of 1962 the Postgraduate School structure was changed. The separate schools were merged into a single homogenous school with various curriculum. This bound the various factions in the OWC closer together, and changed the editorial make-up in CLASSMATE to the way it is today.

For the first few months of its existence, the OWC sponsored two very different projects . . . Little Theater and a Korean orphan.

Little Theater, after an initial loan from the OWC treasury, soon became independent enough to form its own organization.

Ko Jai Man, the Korean orphan, was originally adopted by the Engineering School Officers' Wives Club, and his support and schooling was continued by the present OWC until he was 18.

In the two-and-a-half years the OWC has been in existence, they've sponsored many special projects and activities.

In 1962 a cookbook written by the wife of the superintendent of the Postgraduate School, Mrs. M. E. Dornin, was sold by the OWC. In the fall of '62 a party for all the husbands and wives was given by the Club. It was called the Frisco Follies with decorations and entertainment reminiscent of the turn of the century.

In December, 1962, the OWC was given the use of the 4th floor tower room in Herrmann Hall for board and commit-

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tee meetings. At the same time a drive was started to donate your Christmas cards for use in missions in the Far East. It was a great success, 1000 pounds of cards were collected.

In May of 1963, the club sold subscriptions to U.S. Lady and raised \$55.50 to be donated to Navy-Marine Residence Foundation. That same spring saw \$100.00 raised from cook book sales for the Navy Marine Residence Foundation.

Early summer found the OWC acting as agents for a local jeweler. Silver, gold, brass and pewter items—cigarette lighters, charms, trays, bowls, mugs, etc.—with the School's crest could be ordered, paid for and received through an OWC representative.

RADM and Mrs. Dornin were replaced in August of 1963 by RADM and Mrs. Charles K. Bergin.

A white elephant auction in September of 1963 netted still another \$100.00 for Navy-Marine Residence Foundation. A month later the first annual ball, Autumn Fantasy, was held. Music was provided by Les Brown and His Band of Renown.

The new year saw the start of Operation Participation. Now each month a curriculum hosts a program, rather than the hospitality and program committees planning and producing all the programs. Along with this change came the introduction of a member-at-large from the host curriculum participating in each board meeting.

In March of 1964 the proceeds from that month's program were donated to Fort Ord Hospital to buy a television set for the children's ward. Also that spring was another husband and wife party was hosted by the OWC. The affair was called

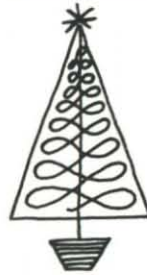
Last fall was the military ball, with \$1400.00 profit given to the Welfare and Recreation Department for a new sound system in the Ballroom. A Christmas workshop was held in December, and the \$48.50 raised was donated to Navy Relief.

It was at this time that the Postgraduate School tragically lost its superintendent, RADM C. K. Bergin.

Early spring marked the arrival of the current superintendent, RADM E. J. O'Donnell and his wife.

In March of 1965 cook book sales raised enough money to enable the Club to donate \$100.00 to Navy-Marine Residence Foundation and \$25.00 to Navy Relief. Casino Night was held in May, and \$500.00 raised for the Navy-Marine Residence Foundation.

That brings us to the present . . . may our future be as varied and rewarding as our past.



Christmas Workshop

A Christmas Workshop is being planned for September 16 . . . and we hope to have the active participation and cooperation of all the members of the OWC.

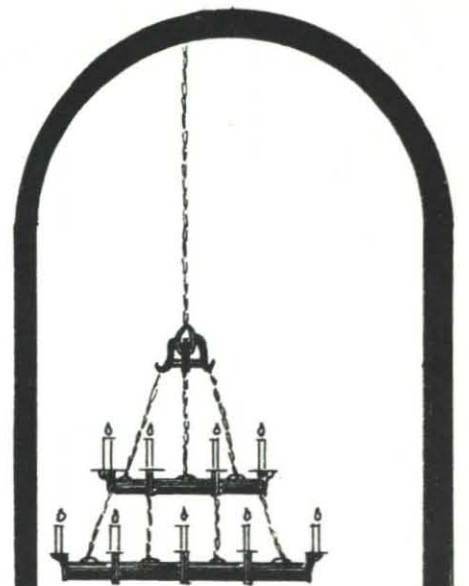
The purpose of the workshop is to provide a showcase of ideas for Christmas and the holidays. We are looking for OWC members to share their special holiday ideas with us. We want to have a varied display of decorations and gifts for Christmas giving, as well as the necessary instructions to make them.

It will be necessary that those who have an item to display contact me, Meg Sharp, 394-6635, as soon as possible. If you know of anyone with a flair in this field, please speak up. Or if you would like to participate and need a project, contact me as I have a file of ideas waiting to be made.

This program is planned strictly as a workshop and not as a bazaar . . . no items on display will be for sale. All items displayed are the property of the contributor and will be returned to them, therefore the OWC will not be responsible for the cost of making any item.

The workshop is planned for September so those attending will have time to utilize the ideas they like for this Christmas. So if you make your Christmas gifts, cards or decorations, please start now and share your ideas.

—Meg Sharp



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