

Buffalo Branch
85th Anniversary

1890



1975

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1975

THE BUFFALO CLUB

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN 1890-1975

On a sunny October afternoon in 1890 a stylishly dressed young woman stepped from her carriage and gathering her skirts in one hand, hurried up the walk to a home on 7th Street. Mrs. Lena Hill Severance was hostess, and five college women met in her living room to form a Buffalo Chapter of the Collegiate Alumnae - the 11th Branch in the United States, later to become the American Association of University Women. Their goal was to establish a \$500 fellowship "For the purpose of enabling young women to continue their studies at European Universities." As recorded in the minutes ---

"Women have shown that they can take a college course without injury to their health, and with great benefit to their intellectual powers. It remains to be proved that a college course will produce its natural fruits in at least a handful of women who shall take a proper share in the intellectual activity of their countrymen."

Membership in the Branch increased rapidly. Soon more than "a handful" of women were taking an active interest and the Branch continued to build the Fellowship Fund, award scholarships, establish libraries. It was through their efforts that the Buffalo Board of Education was established. By 1918 they were campaigning for higher salaries for women teachers. During the war years the members served on War Relief and Defense Committees. The U.S. Government presented the Buffalo Branch a special citation because through their efforts more than one million dollars in Bonds were sold during WW11.

Following the war their interests turned to international issues, and they sponsored a Symposium for Peace. Their influence was felt in many areas--- education, art, politics, conservation, law, social welfare, and many more. The Branch has continued to study and lend their support to each of these efforts for the betterment of the community.

Today with ever broadening horizons, they face even greater challenges. But with 85 years of dedicated work behind them, the women of the Buffalo Branch will surely face the future undaunted, and with continued success.

Olga Murray Lindberg

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PROGRAM

Presiding

Mrs. Thomas D. Huestis, Jr.

Invocation

Mrs. William G. Hutchinson

Recognition of Honorary Life Members

Introduction of the Speaker

Mrs. Richard A. Carier

Global Reminiscences

Dr. Marjorie Bell Chambers

President AAUW

Summing up for the Future

Mrs. Robert T. Morrison