

## ORGANIZATIONS

Sylvania is blessed with a large number of civic clubs and other organizations which are concerned about the progress of the Community and try to do something about keeping Sylvania a Champion Home Town.

Included in the organizations which have contributed to progress down through the years, and which have been responsible for much of the special effort made to improve Sylvania during the past three years when we have been entered in the Georgia Power Company's contest are Rotary, Lions, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Woman's Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Masons, Shriners, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Parent-Teachers Association, Farm Bureau, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs, and the League of Women Voters.

This year's entry in the Contest is co-sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Woman's Club. Each of these organizations has been a sponsor of the Contest in Sylvania for at least two years and this is the third consecutive year the Junior Chamber of Commerce has been a sponsor.

The Champion Home Town Contest is just one of many projects on which all the clubs and organizations cooperate. At Christmas all the clubs cooperate to stage the annual Community Christmas Tree. This is a custom of long standing in Sylvania. Every child in the County is invited to attend the program presented each Christmas afternoon. There are Christmas carols, other entertainment, and a gift for every child present from Santa Claus.



The Christmas Tree is not a program just for underprivileged children, although for many this is the only thing they have to make Christmas pleasant. Originally, the project was started to provide some pleasure for those children whose parents are unable to buy gifts for them at Christmas. The originators of the idea felt they did not want any child to feel that he was being given a "hand out" or that he was underprivileged. So, all children in the County are invited and a sincere effort is made to have all economic classes represented. Never in more than 20 years the custom has been followed, has the crowd failed to fill the auditorium of the school building to capacity. The business people of the community provide the money and the members of the civic clubs do the work.

#### LEONS CLUB

For the second consecutive year the Sylvania Lions Club has purchased accident insurance on the members of the football team of the Screven County High School. Should a member of the team be injured in play, the insurance policy takes care of his medical treatment and hospitalization. Premium on the policy amounts to \$115.00 a year and last year some \$350.00 in medical expenses was paid.

Another project in which all civic organizations co-operate is the annual Halloween Carnival, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association. Each civic organization is asked by the P.-T. A. to be responsible for one attraction at the carnival. The money made in the enterprise is turned over to the P.-T. A. for its work in school improvements. The Lions Club always joins other clubs in doing its share in this undertaking.

The Lions Club also does considerable work in the field of sight conservation. Through cooperation of the Department of Public Health, every school child in the County is given an eye examination. Any defects found are reported to the child's parents. If corrective measures are needed and the parent is unable to provide the glasses or treatment, the Lions Club pays the bill. So effective has the work been along this line that last year the amount spent on glasses decreased



from \$500.00 to \$150.00.

Civic organizations in the County this year started a movement to have the public streams of the County restocked with fish. This County is noted for the good fishing available and the citizens of the County are anxious to keep the fishing good. The State and Federal governments have been asked to make provisions for stocking public streams from government hatcheries.

One of the high points in the year for the Sylvania Lions Club came at the annual convention in Columbus, Ga., when a member of the Sylvania Club, M. S. (Red) Moncrief, was named governor of District 18-B. Although the club in Sylvania is only five years old, Mr. Moncrief's contributions to Lionism have been so noteworthy that he was accorded this state-wide recognition.

#### ROTARY CLUB

Members of the Sylvania Rotary Club are unofficial God Fathers for the 4-H Clubs in the County. All the fines collected from members for failing to attend meetings, etc., are given to the 4-H Clubs for their work. This amounts to approximately \$150.00 a year.

One of the biggest helps in creating a good spirit of co-operation between rural and urban people of the County is the Rural-Urban Program of the Rotary Club. This year four rural-urban meetings were held. In these meetings the Rotary Club goes into some rural community for its regular weekly meeting. Some women's organization in the community prepares the meal which the Club pays for and each member of the Club invites some rural person from the community to be his guest at the meeting. A program of particular interest to the rural people is planned. At these meetings, fines, which usually average \$1.00 per member, are given to the organization serving the meal.

The Rotary Club also sponsors a cotton contest each year for Screven County farmers. Prizes of several hundred dollars are made available by voluntary contributions by members of the Club.



Each year the Club give a \$100.00 college scholarship to some worthy member of the high school graduating class.

This year, the Rotary Club bought uniforms for the midget football team. This team played in the Midget Bowl in Waycross last winter.

As a part of its contribution to 4-H Club work, the Rotary Club entertains the officers of all 4-H Clubs in the County once a year when a training course is held to instruct these boys and girls in the duties of their office.

#### JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

During the past twelve months, the Junior Chamber of Commerce has seen the efforts of the members to obtain an adequate number of subscribers to insure a new rural telephone system for Screven County, under the Federal Rural Telephone Administration, bear fruit. The Jaycees, with the Farm Bureau and the cooperation of several other civic groups, contacted, in person, several hundred prospective rural telephone subscribers. More than 400 persons signed contracts as a result of this combined effort. On the basis of these contracts, a loan has been granted to build the telephone lines.

The Jaycees cooperated with the P.-T. A. in the annual Halloween Carnival by operating the hot dog stand at the carnival.

Cooperating with other civic organizations, the Jaycees assisted in the annual Christmas Tree program which provided entertainment and gifts for every child in the county.

For the second year, the Jaycees staged a Beauty Pageant, giving a local girl an opportunity to vie for all the awards offered through the annual "Miss America" pageant.

In the annual City Election in January, the organization conducted a "get-out-the-vote" campaign, using handbills and a jeep equipped with a PA system.



The Jaycees sponsored the performance by the Little Theater of "Able's Irish Rose" and made a profit of more than \$250 on the venture. The money is to be used to promote Boy Scout work which the Jaycees sponsor in Sylvania. Members of the Jaycees also worked as production managers and stage hands when a benefit performance of the play was presented in one of the Negro churches and at two performances given at community schools in the County.

This year the Jaycees won the first place award for "Civic Improvement" at the Georgia Jaycee Convention in Savannah in June. This was the third straight year the local Jaycees have brought home this award.

#### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

##### WOMEN'S CLUB

Only two years old, the Business and Professional Women's Club has already made its presence felt in the Community in many worthwhile projects.

This year the Club decided to do something about providing permanent markers for the Streets of Sylvania. To raise funds for this project, the Club sponsored a play and as an indirect result of this effort, the Little Theater came into being in Sylvania. The Club made \$425 for the street marking project and the job would have been completed already except for delay in receiving the concrete posts from the manufacturer. However, a start has been made on the installation. It will be completed as rapidly as the posts are delivered.

The B. and P. W. Club joined with other civic organizations in supporting the Healthiest Program, both financially and by doing clerical work during the survey. The Club made a cash contribution and members of the club assisted in the survey by filling out forms, typing, etc.

Not content with providing street markers, the Club asked the High School to permit the members to furnish the ladies' lounge at the new High School building. Already, they have installed Venetian blinds and plan to place comfortable chairs and a dressing table in the



lounge.

In an effort to promote world understanding, members of the Club contributed to a fund sponsored by the National B. and P. W. Club to help educate students from other countries at American Colleges and Universities.

To help promote better understanding between employers and employees, the Club sponsored a "bosses night" at which each member of the Club had as her guest at a club meeting, her employer. At the meeting they discussed mutual problems with their employers.

Every member of the organization is a registered voter and always takes part in every election, municipal, county, state, or national.

#### SHRINE CLUB

An infant among the civic and fraternal organizations in Sylvania is the Shrine Club. It is an infant in age, but not in the field of community service where it reaches its maturity at an early age.

The Club was organized in February of this year with 17 members. Its first project was to entertain the Shriners of Alee Temple for their Spring Ceremonial which was held in Sylvania in May. This attracted more than 2,000 persons to the City for the day. A class of more than 60 was initiated into the organization. There was a parade which the entire community enjoyed. Lunch and dinner were served the Nobels and their wives and they were entertained at a dance in the new High School Gymnasium.

Following this Ceremonial, the membership of the Sylvania Shrine Club was increased to 42.

Since organization here, the Club has been responsible for providing hospital and medical treatment for two crippled children. One was a Negro boy who was badly burned. When his case was called to the attention of the Shriners, it was only a matter of hours before the boy was in a hospital and under the treatment of one of the best surgeons



in this part of the country. Early treatment was accomplished in a private hospital with the surgeon, who was a Shriner, donating his services, and the Shrine organization paying the hospital bill. Long hospitalization was required, and the child was admitted to a Shrine hospital in South Carolina.

The most noteworthy project accomplished by the Shrine Club was the purchase of a Bookmobile for the County. Members of the Library Board had been working on the project for several months when some members of the Shrine Club became interested in it. At the next meeting of the Club, the project was explained and Shriners were asked to give what they would like to help the Library Board pay for the vehicle. The checks started rolling in and in ten minutes enough money had been contributed to completely pay for the truck, body, and to buy a lot of the extras the Library Board had not even hoped to have.

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Realizing the need for a more enlightened citizenry on matters pertaining to politics and government, a group of Screven County women in May organized the Screven County League of Women Voters. This organization has been most active during its provisional period and in working for full accrediting from the Georgia League of Women Voters.

Miss Johnnie Hilbun, League president, and Miss Dixie Drake, another state officer, have met with the group on several occasions to tell them about the purposes of the League and to assist in forming the local organization.

Since the Screven County League has been functioning, its members have set up a voters' service designed to encourage the citizens of the County to register and become qualified to vote. Provisions for members of the Board of Registrars to visit all sections of the County have been arranged by the League. Machinery for informing the people about platforms, issues, and candidates in elections, on a purely non-partisan basis, has been implemented. The League is making every effort to help the people realize the importance of voting intelligently.



Aware that citizens generally are not too well informed on the functions of government, members of the League have been conducting a study of Screven County government for their own information. They call their study "Know Your County." In connection with the study, members of the League have been compiling information for a political directory for public information. The directory will be strictly non-partisan, as are all activities of the League.

Although the Screven County League is only a few months old, it has also broadened its studies to include activities on a State, and National scale. On the National level, studies have been confined to the United Nations. Each group leader in the League has made a study of this world-peace organization and passed the information she gathered on to the members of her group.

On the State level, the League has concentrated its studies on the Department of Public Welfare. The members have been assembling all information available on the subject of how, why, and under what conditions the State Department of Public Welfare functions.

#### PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

This year, the Parent-Teacher Association turned its attention to improvements in the lunchroom at the Elementary School. Under their auspices, the lunchroom was enlarged, and all furniture and walls were repainted.

The P.-T. A. has placed an order for Venetian blinds for the school auditorium. The auditorium, located in the Elementary School building, is used by both the Elementary School and High School, and by the entire community when a large meeting place is needed.

#### SYLVANIA WOMAN'S CLUB

Members of the Sylvania Woman's Club have concentrated their efforts on service to the youth of the Community. They have sponsored both the Girl Scouts' program and the Teen-Age Club. Members of the



Woman's Club serve as chaperones for parties for the teen-agers, and once each month they plan a special entertainment for them.

The Club also is accumulating a fund to be used for purchasing draperies for the Community House.

#### UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

One of the most constructive projects sponsored by a woman's organization this year was the Book Shower which the members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy had for the Screven County Training School, the central high school for Negro students. The library of the school was destroyed by fire two years ago and since that time several organizations have contributed to establishing a new library. This year the U. D. C., made up primarily of older women, collected more than 100 volumes for the library.

#### DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Members of the D. A. R. are hard at work attempting to acquire the Dell Property, located five miles North of Sylvania, for the purpose of establishing a museum. The Dell Property figured in the famous Dow Legend and it is expected that the home will become quite a tourist attraction when it is restored.

This organization also is working on a historical pamphlet about Sylvania for distribution to tourists. They expect to have the pamphlets ready for distribution during this tourist season.



SCREVEN COUNTY GARDEN

CLUB

The Screven County Garden Club accepted beautification of parks in Sylvania as one of its projects for the year and concentrated on areas adjacent to Highway 301. One of the main areas of attention was a triangular shaped area at the intersection of Highway 301 and the Millen Road.

Some time was required to obtain approval of the State Highway Department of their plans, but near the end of the contest year this was obtained and work has been started grading the area. Grass and low shrubs will be planted in the plot.