

1944 - 1945

The year 1944-45 brought increased responsibility to war projects, but with a healthy balance in continued interest in our hilltop community, its gardens and its people.

Foremost in service was the downtown canteen of the U.S.O. It grew until it was serving 2400 men daily. We served one day a month providing homemade sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee. This we financed by a Valentine benefit, \$400 going to U.S.O. and \$150 to the Riddick Youth Center. This building was moved from its location on the Overland hill where it was an Army observation post to be near Overland School. Fathers in our area helped with manual labor in the project.

Our Red Cross donations went into their rehabilitation program. Mrs. Spencer, a member, was head of the Ration Board in Culver City and enlisted helpers from the Club. Shoe boxes were filled with gifts and sent to the Christmas program for service men. We were asked to staff one day a week at the Birmingham Hospital in the valley, but after a few months it proved to be too far away to continue. The 440 hours at the U.S.O. was enough to manage.

Plans began progressing for the transfer of the old Rancho golf course from the federal government who held it for unpaid taxes to the city in exchange for Reeves Field at San Pedro. Oil drilling near McConnell Avenue was turned down.

We returned to having our spring dinner dance, this year at the Westside Tennis Club. Our tour of members' gardens was followed by tea in Mrs. Crawford's garden.

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