

# Negro Women's Civic

The Negro Women's Civic Club was organized on June 11, 1950, by a small group of civic-minded women who were dedicated to a common cause — being of service to the needs and causes of the community.

Therefore, the motto or slogan "A Better Greeneville" was adopted.

The founders of the organization were Mesdames Lena B. Lee, Carris Robinson, Georgia B. Campbell, Evelyn Perkins, Hannah Crum, Annie Carter, Ezelle Gillespie and Lucille Martin.

Mrs. Lee was given the recognition by the members for creating the idea of such an organization and served as club counselor.

Mrs. Carris Robinson was the first president.

The club was granted a charter on April 2, 1951, less than a year after it was organized with 36 members.

To become a member, one must be 21 years of age, willing to abide by the rules and regulations of the organization, support its programs and be willing to render service in the community.

Since the very beginning, the club has been actively engaged in serving the community. A few months after its organization, the first agency the club supported was the Mother's March in January of 1951, in the Infantile Paralysis Fund Drive.

Each year thereafter found the members sharing



The Mother's March for the March of Dimes, the Red Cross, Easter Seal Appeal, Crippled Children's Fund, and the Freedom Foundation are only a few of the causes backed by the Negro Women's Civic Club. The organization has donated to the Library Fund, and helps the sick and shut-ins during the holidays. Club officers are, left to right, seated, Mrs. James Knuckles, president; and Miss Audrey N. Cates, vice-president. Standing, left to right, are Miss Annie Lee Manuel, chaplain; Miss Elizabeth Anderson, executive secretary; Miss Grayce Bradley corresponding secretary; Miss Georgia M. Farnsworth, treasurer; Mrs. Jerry Bowers, reporter; and Mrs. William Crum, program chairman.

in this effort, along with other causes, including the Red Cross Drive, Easter Seal Appeal, Cripple Children's Fund, Crusade for Freedom Foundation, Lioness Calendar Drive and other worthwhile causes.

Recent donations have included Greene County Library Fund and monetary gifts at Christmas time for the sick and shut-ins, Senior Citizens and other community needs.

The club is a member of the Greeneville Chamber of Commerce.

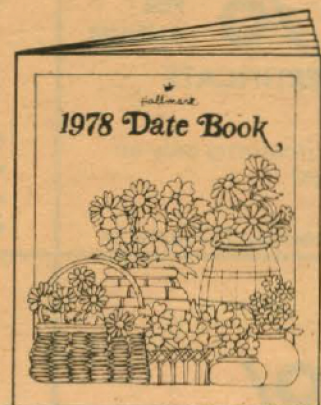
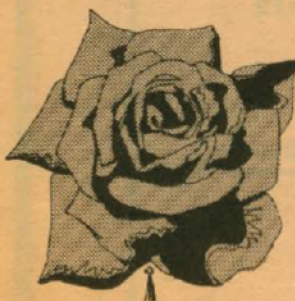
In the beginning, the major emphasis of the club was focused on the youth and their need for recreational facilities. Hence, the idea of a swimming pool and playground was uppermost in the minds of the women. This project did become a reality.

Throughout the 27 years, the club has continued to hold much interest in the youth as it has tried to in-

spire them to become worthy citizens. The members have also been actively engaged in the affairs of the city and willing to lend support when called upon.

Several members of the club helped in the Walk-A-Thon for the March of Dimes, held October 15.

The club now has 40 members. The present officers are Mrs. James Knuckles, president; Miss Audrey N. Cates, vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Anderson,



# Club

executive secretary; Miss Grayce Bradley, corresponding secretary; Miss Georgia M. Farnsworth, treasurer; Mrs. Lewis Jones, historian; Miss Annie Lee Manuel, chaplain; Mrs. William Crum, program chairman; Mrs. Hannah Crum, clubhouse chairman; Mrs. Oscar Charles, amenity chairman; Mrs. Rollin Hamilton, finance chairman; Mrs. Georgia B. Campbell, parliamentarian; Mrs. David Barner, membership chairman; and Mrs. Jerry Bowers, reporter.

The meeting time is at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the civic clubhouse on Davis Street. The club flower is the American Beauty Rose, and the club colors are red and white.

For the enjoyment and social pleasure of its members, the club has an annual spring luncheon in May, a



**Mrs. JAMES  
KNUCKLES**

family picnic in July and the annual Christmas party during the Yuletide Season.

The club creed is:

“May the spirit of loyalty be ours that we may make the most and the best of life in the future. We hope to remain loyal to our convictions, which impart strength of character and create the straight path of action. Inspired by the spirit of loyalty, we shall walk, not in the darkness of indecision and weakness, but in the light, as loyal followers of Him who is the light of the world.”

Negro Women's Civic Club 1977, October 25, 1977. The Greeneville Sun, Negro's Women's Civic Club.