



**MODELING THEIR 'FUR' ATTIRE** at a Christmas party in 1982 (above) Fraker, Enid Anderson, Opal Bryan and Erlene Schroer. Trimming a tree were members of the Zeta Nu Club. Front row (from left) Mildred Waldo, (below) for one of Zeta Nu Club's projects at the Last Indian Raid Museum were (from left) Joy Votapka, Verna Byarlay, Marie Jean Vavroch and Enid Hamilton. Back row: Charlotte Meints, Chris Taylor, Ann Ooton, Marian Anderson.

# Club celebrates 60 service years

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"South Pacific" was on Broadway; Gene Autry was singing "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"; Silly Putty, the samba and Canasta cards were popular pastimes; pony tails, flared skirts and sweater sets were in fashion; and "The Lone Ranger," with his famous, "Hi-ho Silver, away!" began on television the year Zeta Nu Club organized in 1950.

Members will gather for a 60th anniversary luncheon on Thursday at the LandMark Inn to reminisce and mark the occasion.

The idea for the club was sparked by Edna Artery and her daughter, Patty Nicholson, who thought it would be nice for young wives and mothers to have a club of their own. Mrs. Artery and three other members of the Alpha Kappa Club, Lucille Kyte, Neva Page and Jeanette Pollara, took the idea to members of their club, who decided to sponsor the new club.

The group chose the motto "Sincerity and Ingenuity," the flower, gladiolus and club colors of yellow and lavender. The chosen course of study was "to encourage the development of ourselves and our community, socially, democratically and intellectually." The club theme was "Building a World Community."

First officers of Zeta Nu were Dorothy Avery, president; Mrs. Nicholson, vice-president; Pat Ottoman, secretary-treasurer; and Mirla Olson, corresponding secretary. Other charter members included Mary Waldo, Ella Betts, Bertha Macy, Lois Fredrickson, and Eva McGee. The club voted to become a member of the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs.

Over the years, many worthwhile projects have been launched by the group, including serving the barbecue and operating the Sinko game and helping at the train ride at the Decatur County Fair; assisting and providing food for the Bloodmobile; serving ice cream for Miss Frontier Days, entertaining and serving for birthdays at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center and Cedar Living Center; helping with the after-prom parties; decorating a Christmas tree at the museum; sponsoring the Alif Be Khe Club; and supporting the Angel Tree project.

Many also cherish memories of the "Parade of Fur Coats" at Christmas parties. This started when one member showed up at the December meeting wearing fur.

"I opened one of my presents early," she said, "and see what my

husband got me for Christmas."

"Since the room was quite dark," Mrs. Meints and Mrs. Fraker recalled, "no one thought anything about it, but when they all went from there to the Frontier Cafe to eat, Capitola Warren saw her come in and noticed right away that the back of the coat was worn out and said to someone, 'Are they having financial problems? It looks like he could have bought her a better coat than that.'"

"Of course, the woman admitted it was all a joke, and from that time on, members spent many hours in thrift stores so they could all come to their annual Christmas parties in fur coats."

Members never exchange Christmas gifts, but instead help needy children have a nice Christmas by choosing names from the Angel Tree and purchasing gifts for them. A special project of members for many years was "adopting" Glenda "Susie" Edgett, a resident of Cedar Living Center, and remembering her on special occasions.

Many remember the year that Mrs. Meints had the club meeting at her country home and a Kansas blizzard came up. Some stayed all night and others were rescued by their husbands after making a wrong turn into an oil field.

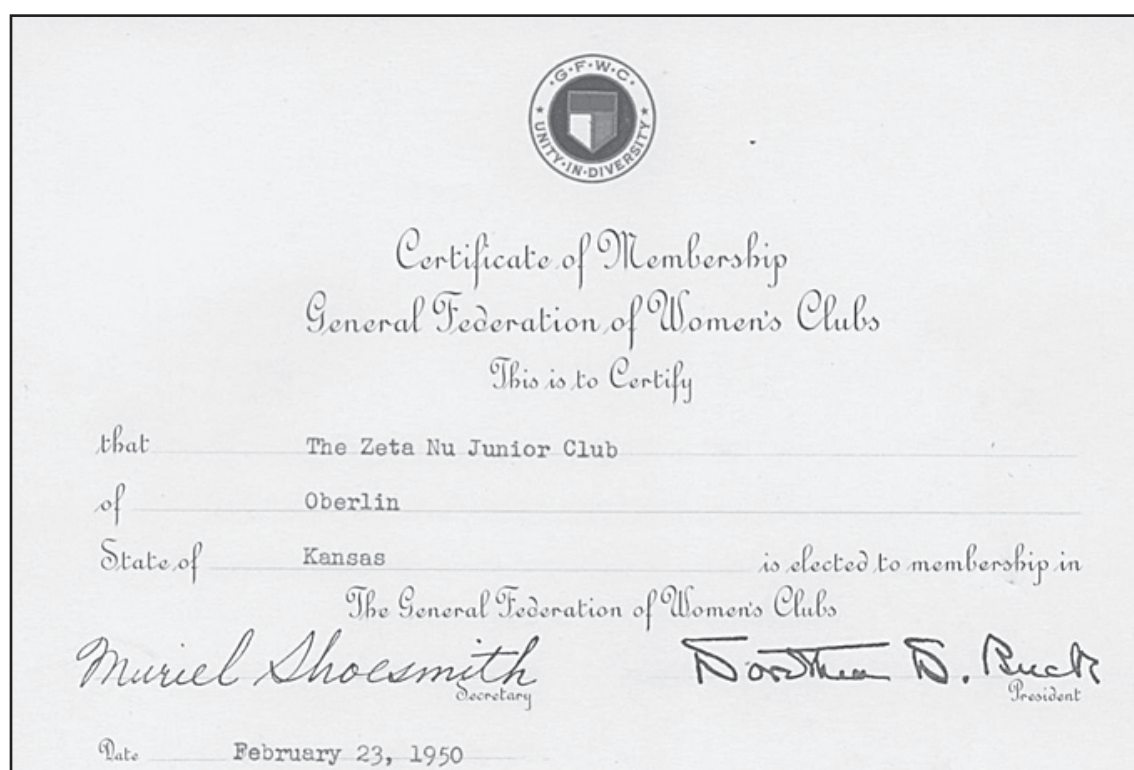
One carload of women also got lost trying to go to a meeting northeast of Oberlin at the home of Mrs. Betts when it started snowing and they ended up in Nebraska.

"The last rummage sale we had was on the day President John F. Kennedy was shot," Mrs. Fraker, Mrs. Marcuson and Mrs. Meints recalled. "We had an embarrassing incident happen at one of those rummage sales when we sold the purse of one of the customers, then had to run down the person who bought it."

Today, Mrs. Waldo is the only active charter member of the club. She said when the club celebrated its 50th anniversary, "Club members have enjoyed many fun times together, but also have been there for each other for the sad moments, too."

Officers this year are Mrs. Votapka, president; and Eloise Smith, secretary-treasurer. Other members include Mary Ann Amack, Norma Anderson, Dorothy Cochran, Judy Davis, Mrs. Fraker, Gladys Geis, Mrs. Marcuson, Joan Larue, Ruth Miesner, Mrs. Meints, Angie Wilson and Janice Winters. Mary Hensel is an associate member.

Two former charter members also plan to attend the luncheon: Mrs. Avery of Norton, and Mrs. Betts.



**THIS CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP** to the General Federation of Women's Clubs was issued to the Zeta Nu Junior Club on Feb. 23, 1950.