

# HISTORY OF THE CORNELIA KIWANIS CLUB

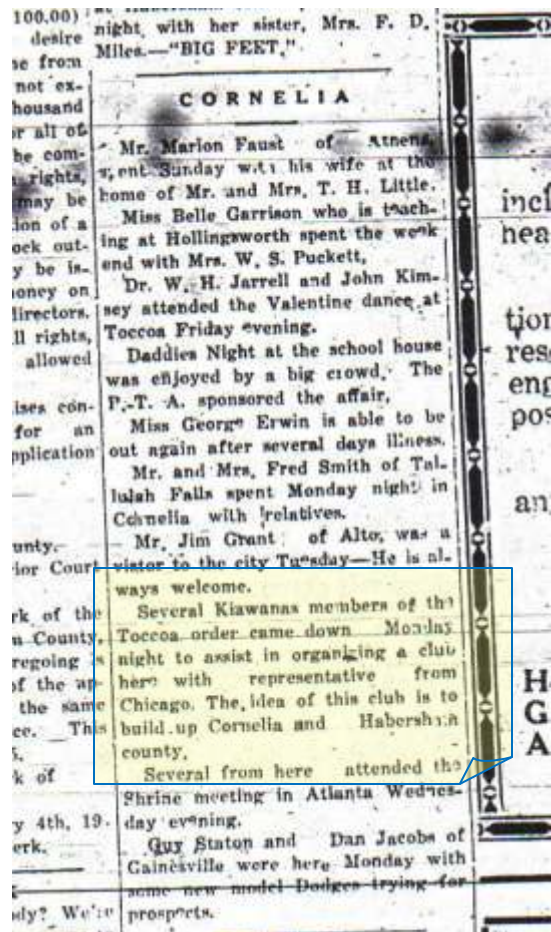
by Charter Member Cliff Kimsey

The following excerpted account of the history of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club was written on April 14, 1980, by Charter Member Cliff Kimsey. Even though it is very long, we think it is very interesting to the people of this community and hope that you will read it in its entirety.

"It is very fitting that we look back on our history and accomplishments over the 55 years of our existence. Before the Kiwanis Club was organized we had the Habersham Club and what we called a Chamber of Commerce and other organizations but the interest lasted for only a short time and then it was over and the organization died.

"My brother-in-law from Toccoa was visiting our home one Sunday and mentioned the Kiwanis Club of Toccoa. He said the magazine, the visits with other clubs and exchanging ideas kept up the enthusiasm and they had lots of fun. I expressed an interest and very soon thereafter, a man was here from Kiwanis International Headquarters hoping to organize a Kiwanis Club in Cornelia. Instead of the minimum of 25 members to organize we were chartered on April 14, 1925, with 45 members, after organizing on February 26, 1925. Our charter was presented to us on April 24, 1925 by the Georgia District Governor, W. W. Mundy, of Cedartown, Georgia.

"The new Kiwanis Club became very active from the very first. We had lots of fun, visited with other clubs sharing ideas and work, had Ladies' Nights frequently, and did a lot of singing. Our Division at that time included clubs in Elberton, Athens, Monroe, Winder and Commerce as well as the ones in our present Division, but we visited all of them.



**BIG RED APPLE UNVEILED IN CORNELIA LAST FRIDAY**

Thousands of people from all over this section gathered in Cornelia last Friday, to witness the unveiling of the big red apple, which stands on its pedestal near the railway station.

Mr. J. Frank Beck, of Atlanta, who owns several apple orchards in Habersham county, originated the idea of erecting this monument to one of Habersham's greatest industries, apple culture.

The Southern Railway System, the Georgia Railway and Power Company, Cornelia Kiwanis Club, and other individuals of North Georgia, cooperated to make the project a great success.

The apple, which is made of concrete, weighing 5600 lbs., is mounted on a concrete base, bearing the inscription, "Habersham County, the Home of the Big Red Apple."

An elaborate program was carried out, with Mr. Beck, as master of ceremonies.

The monument was unveiled by Miss Sallie Lee Hill, of Cornelia.

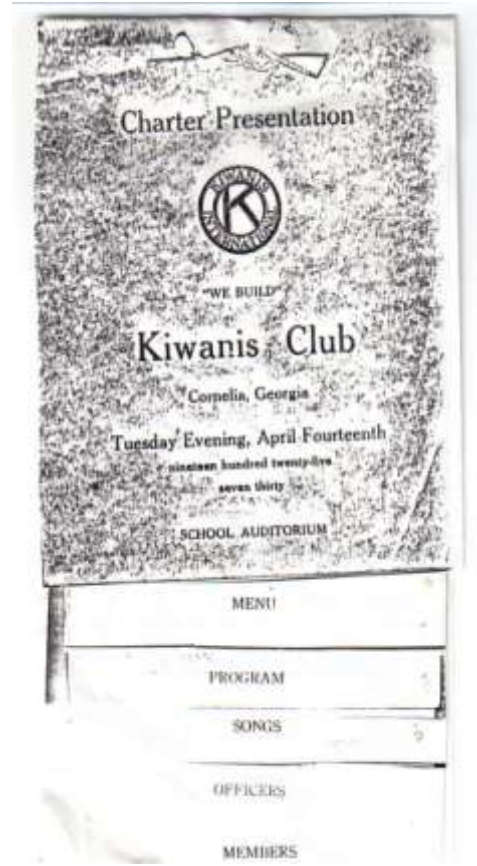
Among the prominent speakers for the occasion were: Preston S. Arkwright, president of the Georgia Railway and Power Company; R. B. Pegram, vice-president of the Southern Railway; Judge M. J. Yeaman, president of the Consolidated Apple-Growers' Exchange; Chancellor, C. M. Snelling, of the University of Georgia; Will E. Fort, Mayor of Cornelia, who delivered the address of welcome; Judge J. F. Gray, who welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club. Other prominent Georgians gave short talks, in tribute to one of the greatest assets of this section--THE BIG RED APPLE!

"One of the first things we did was to sponsor and organize Boy Scout Troop No. 24, which is still sponsored by us and is going strong under the excellent leadership of Kiwanian Max Miller. The next thing we did was to help get the Big Red Apple to call attention to Habersham's great apple industry at that time. The Big Red Apple was unveiled on June 4, 1926, at a ceremony including Senator Walter F. George, President Preston S. Arkwright of Georgia Power Company, Vice President Robert Pegram of Southern Railway, and Chancellor Snelling of the University of Georgia. Music was furnished by Georgia Power Company band and the city was full of visitors.



Our Kiwanis Club also sponsored the tower up on Chenocetah and as a representative of the club; I acted as Master of Ceremonies at the dedication. We had a large crowd of State and Federal Forestry representatives.

“Just another word about our Charter Presentation Program. We just had lots of fun preparing our menu such as Toccoa Delight, Hearts of Sanford with Edam, Cline Pickles, Flappers a la Habersham, Unicoi Hopinjohn, Sautee Chippis, Love Apples a la Cedartown, Atlanta Hot Air Buns, Gainesville Combination, Kiwanis Blocks, UDC Slices, Cornelians, Eine Tasse Tallulah and Georgians. You can guess from the menu that we expected guests from all over. We had Lambden Kay from WSB Atlanta, about the most popular man in town at that time. Also Robert H. Jones, Jr., from Atlanta and delegations from all other clubs in our division. Nearly all of the members of the Toccoa and Gainesville clubs were here....



“The Charter program was held in the upstairs auditorium of the old school house. There was not a restaurant in Cornelia large enough to hold our meetings. We met in churches, schoolhouses, up on Chenocetah Mountain, at the well and Fern Springs and most of the time upstairs in the Ivey Building on North Main Street. We felt the need of a place for our meetings and we made and saved up \$2,000 for a building fund. Most of this was done by presenting Womanless Weddings and Donkey Ball games.

“At this point I want to give you a little of the history of Habersham County. In the late 1800’s we had a colony of Swiss people come here. Instead of farming as our people did, they grew grapes and cherries for wine. This did not catch on too much. Then in the early 1900’s Colonel John P. Fort of Albany, Georgia, made a survey and found that our climate and rainfall were ideal for peaches and apples so he started planting and growing both. Very soon we had other fine people come here from Canada, England, Yankee country and other places to get in the peach and apple business. Our apples won blue ribbons at national shows, so we were sitting pretty economically. Then in 1930 two counties in South Carolina decided to get in the peach business and these two large counties planted enough peach trees that their production was even larger than the production for the whole state of Georgia and they went on the market at the same two weeks our peaches had to

be marketed, so the peach bonanza was doomed in the market for us. Apple men carried on until the great depression of 1933 when the crop could not be sold and most of it was placed in cold storage in Atlanta thinking by March there would be a market. There was no market and the apples did not even bring the storage cost. Everyone lost the entire expense of making the crop. The peach and apple demise left hundreds of our people out of jobs more than surrounding counties. The government came to our rescue and sent people in there to hire the unemployed to do something. At first they had them raking leaves from one side of the road one day and raking them back the next day...

"It was at this time that our Kiwanis Club members began working with the ones sent here to find work for the needy. We suggested work on school grounds and other public places. The government employed a young man who had graduated as an architect and sent him to our county. He fell in love with one of our fine Cornelia girls. This young man, Dave Cuttino, learned of our desire for a club house and the fact that we had \$2,000 which could be used in matching funds, he knew he could count on us for other help so he designed this building (The Cornelia Community House). The government would pay for all the labor and in accordance with the total labor cost would furnish money for materials. It was thought we could furnish the rocks and slabs and we did. Every sawmill in this section gave us their slabs. We hauled the slabs to this spot and more labor was required to debark them for use.

"We thought there were enough rocks in our pastures and fields to do the job and tons and tons were picked up and hauled to this spot. We were busy, we were enthusiastic. Everyone in the community who had a truck furnished it for hauling rocks. Henry Stovall literally wore out two or three trucks. If you have looked at the backside of this building you may have realized that it took many rocks to do the job. We had to go to Rabun County, Stephens County and as far away as Elberton to get enough rocks. The rocks had to be shaped as well as placed, causing more labor. As the building progressed we and the entire neighborhood became more interested. We took in new members nearly every time we met. It was hard times, depression years and we swapped membership fees for the large logs you see holding up the roof. Dave made reports telling us that with all our work, hauling and other contributions it would take a little more money on our part, next week a little more, but we were so enthusiastic it made no difference so we just said carry on. The land belonged to the city, but the city could not borrow money on buildings and it was our work anyway. We got the city to deed the property to our club so we could borrow money on it. We borrowed \$9,000 from Habersham Federal Savings and Loan Association and every member of the club endorsed the note. After borrowing the money and giving a lien on the property, we deeded it back to the city, subject to the loan, and they gave us a twenty-year

lease ... in addition to all of the hauling, love and work we did put in \$11,000. Our membership climbed to 77 as I remember. (We did this again later when we borrowed \$4,888 for repairs.) We also sponsored the swimming pool. Although we were in a great depression, we were having fun. We were the envy of all the clubs in our division. People would come into the building and look at the pretty slabs and their eyes would get large as saucers.



"The building was dedicated on May 13, 1937, by Past International President Carl B. Endicott at a program which was attended by the district governor, past district governors, the secretary of the treasury as well as other dignitaries from Atlanta and nearby cities as well as the representatives from all the clubs in our division.

Tri-County Advertiser, Thursday, March 18, 1937

## The Beautiful New Community House at Cornelia

### VELIA COMMUNITY CLUB HOUSE SHOW PLACE OF NORTH GEORGIA

It's handsome new construction, just completed is one of the most attractive buildings of its kind in this state, and would be in a city several times the size.

It is an especially - ornate home to the Cornelia Club house, which is one of the finest in the state. The house is set in a grove of oak and pine trees.

The house is set in a grove of oak and pine trees. The grounds where the house is set are well kept and the view is one of the most beautiful in the state.

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View of Cornelia Community Club House from the side which overlooks the City Park and the site of the municipal swimming pool, work on which will begin at an early date. Stone pillars mark entrance to the grounds on either side of handsome new building which faces Cornelia Mt. City highway.

### A New Partnership

By LEE S. TRIMBLE, Executive Vice-President & Manager Chamber of Commerce, Macon, Ga.

To describe a new partnership between agriculture and chemistry, scientists of today have coined a word, "Chemtrig." What this new word means is easily explained but what

### "ANYTHING ELSE"

It is a common custom for clerks to ask customers, "Anything else?" Jew's does a rather considerate inquiry. Or what are you in for?

If the customer wants anything else, he knows it and has intelligence enough to ask for it.

And further, under the delusion that the whole is less than the part, we often place men in charge of our public affairs whom we would not trust to run our greatest assets.

What feels we mortals but - and isn't it about time to stop allowing ourselves to be governed by the foolishness of human mismanagement, and turn ourselves to the study and

MARSHESHAM COUNTY

"Our Club has sponsored the Star Pupil and Star Teacher in our county since its inception by the State Chamber of Commerce. We have a very active Key Club. It has been, and is, an inspiration to see the good work of the Scouts, Key Club members, and the Star Pupils year after year, and other youth organizations. This club has been active in and helped in nearly every good project for our city and county ...

"Our motto has always been "We Build". Our work has been first with young people but also for the betterment of all our people, our schools, our churches, our institutions of all kinds and to keep our industries happy...."

**Kiwanians Endorse Plans for City Improvement**

THE NORTHEAST GEORGIAN, Cordele, Ga. NOVEMBER 21, 1940

Following recommendations of their Community Planning Committee the Cordele Kiwanis Club unanimously adopted at their last Thursday meeting a set of plans for improvement of traffic conditions and other community betterment in and around Cordele. Members of the Planning Committee are H. K. Stewart, chairman, E. W. Carrington, J. Herbert Ortega, C. H. Kinsey, and S. P. Wood.

The detailed report presented to the club and approved by all members present makes the following suggestions:

**TO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

A. That the City Commission is urged to:

1. Take immediate steps to relieve traffic congestion in the business district by providing convenient parking space of the streets and alleys. It is suggested that consideration be given to:
- a. Changing to grade and level the lot at the intersection of North Main and Charleston Streets, now owned by the Presbyterian Church, to return for permission in appropriate use of this space for parking purposes until such time as the Church may be ready to proceed with its plan to erect a new edifice thereon.
- b. That a similar proposal be made to the owners of the vacant lots below the old Post Building.
- c. That the space between Irwin Street and the Railroad, west of Wells Street, be graded and leveled to be used for parking purposes.
- d. That parking on Hodges Street between South Main and Wells Streets for any purpose other than loading and unloading be prohibited between the hours of seven A. M. and six P. M.

2. Improve and pave North Street from Laurel Grove Road to Wayside Street as an immediate alternate route from the business district in the West and North.
3. Open, improve and pave North Main Street from Wayside to the City Limits and urge the County to extend a paved road to connect North Main Street with the Charleville Highway at a suitable point south of Cordele.
4. Improve and pave Myrtle Street to Charleville Road.
5. Open, improve and pave Wells Street from Second Street to Front Street via an overhead bridge and pave Second Street to Third Street in order to provide better connection between the north and south-west ends of the city.
6. Obtain an underpass beneath the Southern Railway tracks at a convenient location for pedestrians.
7. Widens, improve and resurface Main Street, and its adjacent sidewalks, north from the intersection with State Highway 11 to Wayside Street.
8. Install White Way lighting from Highway No. 11 to Wayside Street on Main Street and from Wells to Main on Hodges Street.
9. Erect, and rigidly enforce, ordinances governing the erection and maintenance of buildings, such as zoning and minimum building codes.
10. Designate certain areas, which may now be partially developed, as future business areas and proceed to widen, resurface and improve streets, alleys and sidewalks in that section to attract new business and to provide the facilities for the traffic that may be imposed thereupon. It is specifically suggested that this area be located apart and away from the railroad tracks and that it be located on a terrain readily adaptable to the purpose and which would maintain both the convenience and aesthetic sense of the community.
11. All open streets, with the municipal limits, be clearly marked at all intersections, all tracks be fully painted and owners of such lots be requested to post clear and distinct numbers on the major buildings located on such plots.
12. Provide and maintain public restrooms at a convenient location, more especially for women, and that adequate provision be made for maintaining these restrooms in a neat, clean and orderly condition and that an attendant be retained on the premises all day long for the added comfort and convenience of travel shoppers visiting our markets.

**CITY MAIL DELIVERY RECOMMENDED**

B. That this Club offer its services to the Postmaster of the Cordele Post Office in the interest of providing house-to-house mail delivery service and that the Club follow this project through to a final conclusion.

**IMPROVE APPEARANCE OF COMMUNITY**

C. That the Club undertake as major projects to be diligently prosecuted:

1. Promoting a higher level of citizenship among the citizens of Cordele and instilling a greater and more widespread appreciation of the uncounted natural attractions with which we have to work; this project to be relentlessly pursued over an indefinite period.
2. Manifest an aggressive attitude toward the aesthetic appearance of the Community, thereby providing leadership in promoting the objectives stated in the preceding paragraph by:
- a. Using the machinery and influence of the Club toward having the grounds of the grade school landscaped and beautified.
- b. Encouraging business men to provide, redecorate, and maintain attractively clean and inviting premises.
- c. Carefully select the site of a new and modern Hospital to be erected in or near Cordele.
- d. The erection of an attractive and modern four-story high school building as one of the most roomy and beautiful cities available; grounds to be beautifully landscaped.

# east Georgia

WGA, GEORGIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1952



REV. J. E. CONNETTE

## New Pastor Of Level Grove Plans Program

Rev. J. E. Connette, who recently accepted a call to pastor of Level Grove Baptist church, outside here, has announced his program of work for the coming year.

An increase in attendance is to be first thing the new pastor hopes to accomplish, and he is especially interested in youth work. In Marietta, where he served as pastor of the Woodstock Baptist church, youth work was his main activity, and he was chairman of the youth study committee.

A recent addition to church members was a financial gain, which is now in the hands of the church. Other improvements are being planned for the future.

Rev. Connette has been a minister for twelve years, with his main work being done in Cobb county.

The Connettes have three children. They are married, and a third child is expected in Marietta.

We are sorry that it was necessary to omit several news items that were due to

## Kwanis Officers Announced At Annual Dinner

The Cornelia Kwanis Club observed its annual Ladies' Night last Thursday night, November 6, at the local Community room, when officers for the coming year were announced by retiring president Harry B. Parvis.

They are: Louise Hamilton, president; Clara Stewart, first vice-president; Loretta, Ed Bell, second vice-president; Miss Jackson; Jack Adams, Joe J. Anderson, Douglas Bennett, Sam Hunt, Elizabeth, Frank Jackson, Cliff C. Kinney, J. W. Higgins.

The Rev. Charles O. Erickson of Decatur gave the invocation, and president-elect Sam Hunt presented the guests and visiting Kwanians. Dr. J. T. Grant gave the address of welcome to the ladies.

The Club will observe its 20th birthday in February, and President Parvis recognized five charter members who were present Thursday evening.

Cliff C. Kinney, Lt. Governor elect for the 10th Kwanis District for 1952, introduced Miss Alice Crawford, widow, and Ernest Edwards, pastor, of the University of Georgia, Miss Crawford gave two interesting addresses, accompanied by Mr. Edwards, who also gave two interesting addresses.

A. L. Crawford, chairman of the program committee, introduced Clarence Walker, business manager of the Berry School, who gave what was described as "one of the most interesting addresses ever heard by the Cornelia Club."

The meeting closed with the song "Kiss Me Long Bye."

## Cornelia Midgets Down Clarksville On Local Field

The Cornelia Midgets won over Clarksville last Thursday afternoon by a score of 20-

## Three Collis

### Edwin C. Listed In 'Who's Who's'

Cornelia in Hyde, Maryland will have a net worth of \$100,000. The book has just been published.

The public relations firm and its headquarters is located at the address of those who are listed in the book.

Mr. Hyde, who is in the United States Army, is a commander.

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## Cpl. Hig Speaks Driving

Here, on the way to Highsville's headquarters, a Tuesday afternoon, the vision of the day is reported to have been

... ..

# Northeast Georgian

CORNELIA, GEORGIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1931

## Habersham County 4-H Club Corn Champs Receive Awards From Kiwanis Club Here

The winners in the fourth annual corn contest sponsored by the Cornelia Kiwanis Club, were awarded their prizes at the regular meeting of the Club last week.

Johnny Foster, Cornelia, received first prize of \$25 from Harry Purvis, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club, for his winning crop, yield of 102 bushels per acre.

John Harris, also of Cornelia, received second prize of \$15 for his yield of 100 1/2 bushels per acre, and Russell Arnsdale of Clarksville, was given third prize of \$10, having produced 98 1/2 bushels per acre.

This contest was started by the Kiwanis Club in 1927, and is designed to stimulate interest in corn raising and interest among 4-H Club members. E. C. Gorman, county agent, says the contest yields in Habersham county have increased steadily since this project started. Prizes awarded in 1927 were for yields of 81, 75 and 79 bushels per acre.

Johnny's winning yield was matched with 102 1/2 bushels per acre, harvested with 10 1/2 bushels of manure. His 412-12 corn plants fertilizer and 200 lbs. of lime. This is his third year as a champion corn producer. He was 1926 state winner in 154 corn contest sponsored by the Georgia Power Co. with 141 bushels per acre, and was second place winner in the Kiwanis Club contest in 1928 with a 142 bushel yield per acre. He has been a member of the Georgia Agricultural Club for two years and is eligible for membership this year.

Johnny will also receive a prize of \$25 as second place winner in the State Corn Contest 4-H Club contest.

Johnny has done outstanding work in other 4-H projects such as forestry, general poultry and wildlife, as well as acting as a leader in the local club and the county contest. He is busy with preparation of the Habersham County and Cornelia this year.

## Cornelia GOC Completes Training

The Cornelia Unit of the United States Marine Corps, part of the national defense program, completed its initial training last Thursday, it was announced by Mrs. Edna R. 22, unit, assistant director.

The special Army instructors trained the group of 160 G. O. C. but they would be starting sometime in February for a six-month course. The group will consist of the local, Reserve, National Guard and Civilian units of all ranks. The training will be held at a specified time, on one of a national emergency, the local group will meet the others at all times.



W.P.C. Greta Honson, Cornelia Woman Marine in Inaugural Parade Tuesday

## Cornelia Christian Church Receives Award Of \$100.00

The Cornelia Christian Church this week received a \$100 donation from the McElwee Funeral Home as the church with the largest percentage of membership attending the open house of their new chapel, Sunday. The Deacons Church of God received a donation of \$50 as consolation.

Here they will again utilize the beautiful new chapel and attractively remodeled sanctuary. The spacious chapel will hold 1000 people and the sanctuary seats approximately 250 people. It is a fine addition to the McElwee Funeral Home. The pastor, Thomas McElwee, expressed their kind thanks for the generous contribution of the "unusually large crowd."

## Episcopalians Elect Vestry

A meeting of the vestry of the Episcopal church was held Sunday for the purpose of electing the Vestry. Carroll Millar was elected.

Other members named are J. P. Ballard and Dr. D. T. Simmons. Mrs. J. P. Ballard will serve as secretary of the Vestry.

Services are held at the church on Chatham street each second and fourth Sunday at 9 o'clock. The Rev. H. F. Berry officiating.

Church school services are held each Sunday morning at 11 o'clock with Jack Hootley serving as superintendent and conducting the opening services. He is assisted by teachers Miss John Smith, Mrs. C. M. Berry, and Mrs. Bradley.

## Webster, Burrell To Be Ordained At Level Grove

Local Grove Baptist church will be the scene of the ordination of two ministers, Webster and Burrell, on the afternoon of Jan. 23.

The church will honor Lee Webster, who will be pastor of the River church in Banks county, and Corvus Burrell, who has been called to the Rocky Mountain church near Lake Norman.

## U. S. Navy Civilian Recruiter To Be At Toccoon Jan. 23-24

Miss Dorothy A. Johnson, state representative of the Navy department, will be in Toccoon on Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24, to search for good agricultural and domestic workers in Navy administrative offices in Washington, D. C.

Decorations with the ability to take dictation at 50 words per minute, and typists who are

## PMA Closing Dates

January 31 is the closing date for planting, fertilizing, liming, weeding, spraying, and other farm work. The closing date for the purchase of machinery and other farm equipment is February 15. The closing date for the purchase of fertilizer is February 15. The closing date for the purchase of seed is February 15. The closing date for the purchase of other farm supplies is February 15.

## Georgia Tech Students To Help Plan Progressive Future For Cleveland

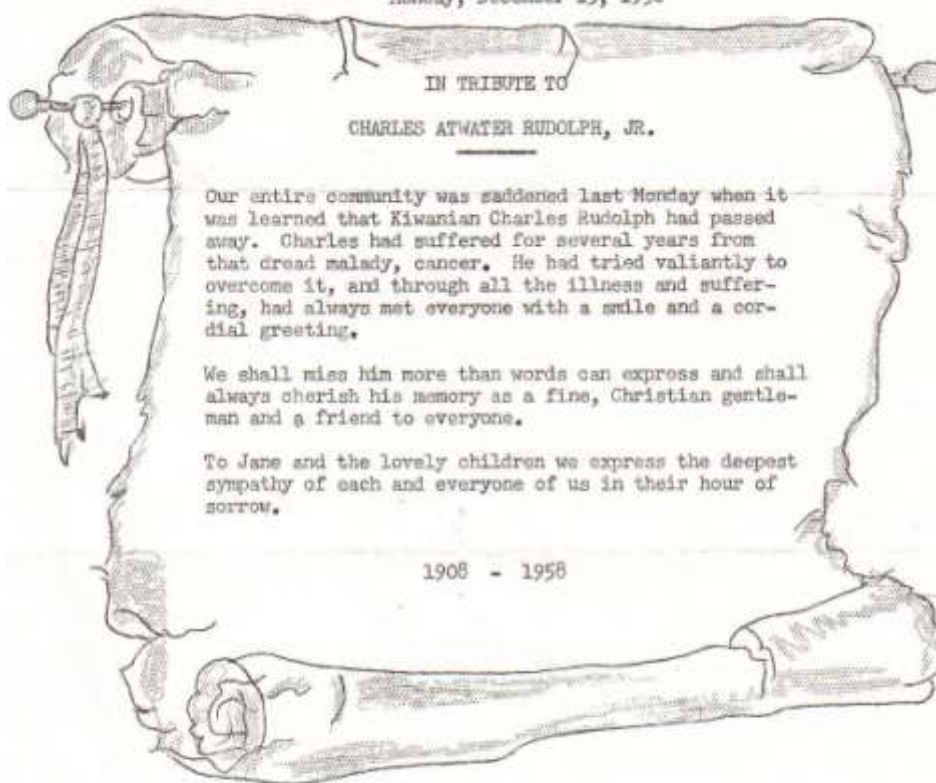
## Habersham County PMA News

Approximately 100 Habersham county farmers have responded to the 1931 ACT program, according to Hugh H. Gorman, county agent. The county PMA Committee, composed of producers and approved of contracts for such farm responding producers under the 1931 ACT program have been approved by the county committee, and these approvals are now in the process of being mailed to each farmer in Habersham county who responded to the program.

## Pepper Growers Meet Friday

Pepper growers who are interested

CORNELIA KIWANIS NOTES  
Cornelia, Ga.  
Monday, December 15, 1958



LAST WEEK: Cliff Kimsy, Sr., was our speaker, his subject being "Kiwans Inventory". Cliff gave us a most interesting history of some of the early years of the Cornelia Club, recounting some of our activities and pointing out many of the "tangible and intangible" benefits. In closing, Vice President Doug Barnett mentioned the fact that some of our most interesting and helpful programs come from our own members and that this particular program was one of the best. We are indebted to Cliff, again for a very, very fine program.

THIS WEEK: We shall have our Lieutenant-Governor, John Pittard, and a group from the Cumming Club. John will install our own Milton Stewart as Lieutenant-Governor for 1959, after which Milton will install our officers for next year. It is hoped that every member will make an extra effort to be present, and certainly every officer and director for 1959 will be present for installation.

SEE YOU THURSDAY NOON AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE!

Mrs. Wilene Holcomb, Judy Holcomb, Miss Ison, Mr. Jack Reeves and Mrs. Charlesville bus-trist.

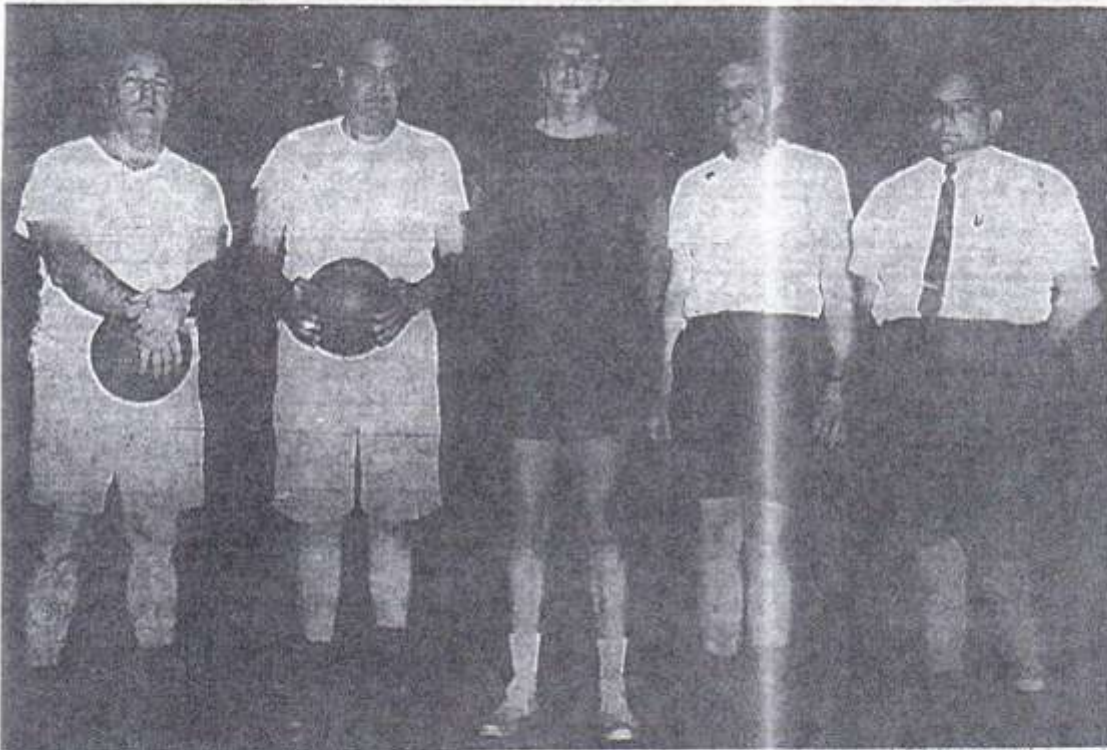
day afternoon to the scene. Chief Eddie Fren, Firemen Phil Brock, Ray Perry, Telford Poole and Edward York answered the call.

Mrs. C. E. Higginbotham, mother of Mrs. J. A. Blair, is a patient in Habersham County Hospital.

It should be noted that this is an ideal show for the entire family and attention is called to the special students tickets at \$1.00.

Julia was fired for Captain Withbanks, and as taps sounded in the background three private planes flew a fly-by in salute to the Air Force hero.

York, the Johnny Kin



The Kwanis Five: C. C. Kinsey, Jr., H. G. Ritchie, Milton Stewart, Jr., Tom Bates and Robert Weaver Are Ready For the Fray

## Kwanis vs. Key Club Basketball [?] Game Friday

Members of the Cornelia Key Club have challenged the South Habersham Key Club to a basketball game, oh my, have had a real one! The game is scheduled this Friday night, 11th, at 7:30 p.m. at

the South Habersham Gymnasium. The Kwanis are starting a rugged, fast and a well-conditioned five consisting of C. C. Kinsey, Jr., H. G. Ritchie, Milton Stewart, Tom Bates and Robert Weaver.

This promises to be the game of the year as mature men will be pitted against a five composed of high school teenagers. A large crowd is expected to witness the Papax manhandle their boys. Proceeds will go to finance the activities of the

South Habersham Key Club, of which Milton Bow is president. No cheating or outdressing will be tolerated from the Papax because two alert athletes will be officiating: Maxine Martin and Warren Willinson.

Admission to this hilarious show of sportsmanship will be 50¢ and pre-school children will be free. (Cameron photo) — Mrs. B. J. Barron is a patient at Habersham County Hospital.

LETTERS: The letter the players those on them were Mike Bruce Barrett, Tu Trench, Lorrallen, Jod Withrow, J Jerry Willbanks, Desren Hardy, John How Mitchell, Kinsey, J bert Prapp Dowdy, El and Ricky. These not ing time is Tommy Lee and Doug J (He has in captain) low Chand Zoe Ann is Kath Beev banks. This not having to resolve Short, Warren Davis, Roberts, B Wanda Lee Boys be solving let Bobby Boyd Ricky Kim and Keith, having em earn letter ham, Dav Bryson, Duff and El All the letters, and Irwin, Sh Reeves, Wa Fowler, De Alice Turk Donna Sh Sharon Bur The onset and gifts Gene Alex, sker, Samn Melvin Dow Trainer J equipment pin were re managers B lip Duff and More that present at was sponsa Athletic Spo

## Kiwanis Hold Ladies Night, Installs Officers

The Cornelia Kiwanis Club held Ladies Night on Tuesday, September 24, at the Cornelia Community House with a special program of installation of officers and a talk by guest speaker, Leo Aikman, columnist of the Atlanta Constitution.

The officers and directors for 1974-75 were inducted into office by Lt. Governor Hughel Harrison. Officers installed are: Clifton Amos, President; Charles Sherwood, Second Vice-President; Durwood Jones, First Vice-President; Bobby Black, Secretary; and Ross Davis, Treasurer; and J. L. Bruce Jr., Immediate Past President. Directors installed are John Barnett, Erford Harrison, Woody McCrea, Warren Wilkinson, Marion Stribling, Fred Hawkins and Walter Gemperline.

Woody McCrea, editor of the Kiwanis News Bulletin was named Outstanding Kiwanian for 1973-74 and will be presented the award at the noon meeting on October 1. Durwood Jones presented the Service Award to Mrs. H.M. Stewart, Sr. for her meritorious service as the club pianist. Walter Gemperline made a presentation of a special award to Aubrey Motz for his diligence in organizing a Circle "K" Club at Piedmont College. The President's gavel was presented to president Clifton Amos by immediate past

president, Jim Bruce.

Guests from out-of-town included retiring Lt. Governor J. Lewis Markham and Mrs. Markham, three members from the Cumming Club along with Lt. Gov. Elect Harrison. Special honored guests were widows of former Kiwanians: Mrs. Lester Benfield, Mrs. Henry Burrell, Mrs. Miller Williams, Mrs. Phil Wade, Mrs. T.B. Little, Mrs. Young Irvin and Mrs. Aldridge Blair.

### Mrs. R. C. Scott Visits Europe

Mrs. R.C. Scott returned recently after spending 3½ months in Europe where she visited Lt. Col. and Mrs. John O. Scott and children in Lons, Belgium. Lt. Scott is stationed at NATO Headquarters in Shape, Belgium.

During her stay in Europe, Mrs. Scott visited several countries including France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland making the trips by auto and visiting points of interest and cities along the way.

She spent two weeks in England visiting in London and Salisbury. While on tour she visited Buckingham Palace and saw the changing of the guard.

## HISTORY OF CORNELIA KIWANIS CLUB

Submitted by Bill Loyd

Some of my earliest remembrances of Kiwanis were somewhat traumatic ones.

I joined Kiwanis in 1977 ... To give you some idea of how desperate we were for members, I started work at Community Bank & Trust on Monday, visited Kiwanis on Tuesday, was voted on by the Board after that meeting, and inducted by Walter Gemperline the next week. (They needed the dues!)

Charles Sherwood, I think, was President and my sponsor ... he really must have been desperate!

## Kiwansians Hold 56th Annual Meeting


The 56th annual meeting of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club was held at the Toccoa Country Club on Tuesday evening, August 26. The activities began at 7:30 p.m. with the invocation by Milton Stewart followed by dinner.

Mark A. Smith, Jr., of Atlanta, was guest speaker and reported on Kiwanis its founding, growth and opportunities for helping the less fortunate. In accordance with a Kiwanis custom, club members by a secret ballot select the one member they feel was most outstanding during the year. President John Jones announced the results of this year's voting and presented a plaque naming this honor to Max Miller.

Other presentations included a plaque to retiring president John Jones, in appreciation of his service and accomplishments during his administration. Key Club President Tom Gale, presented an award to Nancy Barron for outstanding services as faculty advisor. He also presented an award to Paige Black for devoted services as "Club Sweetheart" and an award to Mark A. Smith for his outstanding leadership and inspiration.

Mark Smith installed officers and directors for the Kiwanis year as follows: Bill Loyd, President; Fred Holbrooks, 1st Vice President; Tom Carter, 2nd Vice President; Richard Pletsch, Treasurer; and Don Rickett and Leonard Fletcher as Directors.

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Michael Shirley, left, introduced the guest of honor, Mark A. Smith, Jr., right, Georgia's Immediate Past President of International Kiwanis. Also pictured are Nancy Caudell, second from the left, and Lurine Smith.

Some of the things I remember most vividly about meeting at the old Community House.

It was COLD in the winter – I mean COLD and HOT in the summer – REALLY HOT!

In the winter you would find members huddled together in little groups around gas heaters eating their lunch, and in the summer, most everybody looked for a window to sit by so you could get a little breeze as you ate.

The meals.... We had scrambled eggs and country ham A LOT.

Bob Turpen and his sister-in-law Ola Mae were our faithful food preparers.

Each week we discussed the possibility of an official food-taster/tester for the club because we were reminded of a story Calvin Stovall told. In the early 1970's,

one day the lunch was pork chops. Calvin said he tasted his pork, noticed something a little peculiar and pushed them aside. Others at his table ate their pork without blinking an eye. Later during the meeting, when the program for the day did not show up, CAP CASH made the comment that not only had we lost a program, but we had lost the pork as well. Several of the queasier members were on Ptomaine alert for the rest of the day.

We also had fried chicken dinners to raise money and learned the people won't eat raw chicken!

Mrs. Helen Stewart played the piano for years during our meals and for the singing of America. Her first piece each week was the same –EVERY WEEK – and most if not all of us could whistle or hum the tune she played. One day we asked Mrs. Stewart what the song was and she replied that it was the most appropriate piece she could find to suit her particular audience – It was a piece called "The Donkey Serenade" and she dedicated it to each of us!

I was President of the club in 1980-81. I think John Jones, Fred Holbrook and I were the original "Two-Bit" Presidents. We needed every quarter we could raise. That also gives you some idea of how bad our treasury was at that time.

As a consequence of our low monthly balances and the escalation of the costs of maintaining the Community House, we began to look seriously at how best to dispose of the Community House.

Kiwanis had a very big part in building the Community House during the WPA/Roosevelt era and many of our members were very attached to the Community House – VERY ATTACHED. We felt that we had a big stake in seeing that the Community House be kept us, but we just couldn't afford it. To add more fuel to the fire, we had, through the efforts of Carolyn Stewart, the honor of having the Community House listed on the National Register of Historic Places – and we could NOT let the Community House fall into disrepair.

As I said, my memories are somewhat traumatic ones. While I was President, the Board finally decided that we had to make a move – not only because of monetary burdens and the less than desirable food preparation conditions, but because we couldn't attract new members like we wanted. So we had an official meeting at which time we were to discuss the matter with the entire membership – OPEN FORUM – And then vote by a show of hands whether we should move or not. I will never forget having to preside at the meeting and staring into the eyes of some of our charter members when I raised my hand in favor of moving. You would have thought we had stabbed them through the heart!!

The vote was very close! We elected to move to the Steak House after meeting at each of the restaurants in the area. We began meeting there in 1982 and donated the Community House to the City of Cornelia.

Bill Lloyd has been a member of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club for 29 years. He served and President, Lt. Governor, received the distinguished Hixson Fellowship Award, and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

### History 1982 to present

Without argument, since 1982 there has only been one single event that has completely changed the face of Kiwanis. The Kiwanis of today is a worldwide service organization made up of both men and women who share the vision of community improvement. However, the organization has not always been that way. July 7, 1987, marked a historic day in Kiwanis International History. On that day, delegates at the annual Kiwanis International convention in Washington, DC, changed the very nature of Kiwanis club membership forever. Within the provisions of the International Constitution and Bylaws, Kiwanis clubs worldwide could elect women to membership. The Albuquerque, New Mexico Tribune proclaimed in a headline: "Kiwanis Clubs Go Co-ed."

When the first Kiwanis Club was chartered on January 21, 1915, in Detroit, Michigan, the issue of women membership wasn't even considered. In 1921, not too long after the passing of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was an accomplished fact, provisions for male membership only were inserted into the Kiwanis Constitution and Bylaws. Fortunately, change is inevitable.

It was no easy task for an organization that was 72 years old to make the change lightly. Beginning in the 1970s, at almost every International convention an amendment was presented with the continuing arguments for and against—but with some growing support evident for—the admission of women. One attempt tried to "get a foot in the door" by proposing honorary membership for women. Finally in 1976, a few clubs began to openly admit women. The Kiwanis Club of Great Neck, New York, took such action, as did the Kiwanis Club of Mountain, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Fortunately, Kiwanis International did not turn a blind eye; each club was notified that it had sixty days to comply with the provisions governing membership or its charter would be revoked. Most clubs eventually complied with the provisions rather than having their charters revoked. There was, however, no actual way of knowing how many female members simply became unofficial in character and were never reported to the International organization. In August of

1985, Marcia Baer, supplied by the American Civil Liberties Union, was given the task of bringing a lawsuit against Kiwanis. Baer, stated that she was empowered by the Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, New Jersey, to bring suit against Kiwanis International to strike down the Bylaws provisions of Kiwanis that made Kiwanis an organization for men only. The Board of Kiwanis International asked the New Jersey federal court to stop the Ridgewood Kiwanis club from calling itself a Kiwanis club. Kiwanis was not the only organization to face this issue, Rotary was also experiencing the same issues. The lawsuit began to become expensive and drawn out. Two years later, at the 1987 International Convention, more than 50 clubs had openly admitted women members. The vote to allow women, resolved the problem of the lawsuit. Kiwanis clubs could now officially recognize their female members.

A new era for Kiwanis had begun. The impact of the decision was felt immediately with an increase of more than 3,000 women members in the first six months. The next six months saw an increase in membership of more than 6,000 women members. By 2001, an average of 32% of all new members were women and by 2002, women memberships topped 60,000. In 1993, members witnessed the first woman governor who led the Philippine, South District. Lisa McCoy of Jacksonville, Texas, becomes first woman elected to International Board in 2001.

Not to be left behind, in 1987 the Cornelia Kiwanis Club inducted Helen Stewart as its first female member. She was the obvious choice, as she played the piano for club meetings weekly for many years. In 1988, Pam Fisher became the first female Kiwanian of the Year. She has been followed by no less than eight other women to earn that prestigious title. In 1992, Dr. Linda Brooks became the first female club President. Three other women in that position have followed her. Nellie Snyder, one of the early females inducted into the club, has served as the club Secretary for a commendable eleven years. Today, women account for 29% of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club membership. Kathy Edwards was our club's first Division 10 Lieutenant Governor and Kimberly Griswold was second female



member to serve as Division Lieutenant Governor in 2008. The club continues to encourage and promote female club members.

Just as Kiwanis International has seen revolutionary changes in membership, so has the Cornelia Kiwanis Club. An unknown author once penned, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Most would agree, the changes have only strengthened and enhanced the club's commitment to our community.