

1969-1970 V.P.W.L. Board  
 Back Row: L-R  
 Denise Mohle, Ginny Wilfahrt, Bobbie Edson,  
 Carolyn Reichert, Charlotte Salkin  
 Front Row: L-R  
 Sally Briggeman, Dorothy Potter,  
 Sherry Zakowicz, Barbara Hemker

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VP PAST PRESIDENTS—Eight past presidents of the Villa Park Women's League attended the Installation Luncheon in May. Pictured from L. are Sherry Zakowicz, 1969-70; Carolyn Ehrler, 1973-74; Martie Stevenson, 1975-76; Mary Sitzel, 1977-78; Cathy Wells, 1980-81; Karen Christensen, 1981-82; Judy Johnson, 1982-83 and Lorraine Glenn, 1983-84. Present but not pictured was Anne Frackelton, president in 1979-80. Photo by Caryl Smith

THE STORY OF THE GAVEL

Meetings of the Villa Park Women's League are usually opened by the chairman tapping on a table with a gavel that holds many memories for the founding members. This seemingly common piece of organizational equipment truly had an uncommon beginning. The wood itself was personally selected by the then Mayor of Villa Park, James Workman, from his grove of orange trees that had been a part of the area for many years. It was then carved into a gavel by Bill Petty, the President of Property Owners, and Ed Tavener, a member of that group.

This specially made gavel was formally presented to the Villa Park Women's League at its first organizational meeting on September 30, 1969, as a gift from the Villa Park Property Owners' Association. Dorothy Potter, the Secretary of Property Owners' Association (as well as First Vice President of the Women's League), made the presentation to Sherry Zakowicz, the founding President. The gavel stands today as a symbol of community enthusiasm, unity, and accomplishment.

**FIRST BOWLING LEAGUE**



TOP LEFT: Marion Divola, Cherrella Monteith, Glenda Mastal, Marilyn Lombardo, Virginia Knudsen, Iris Fischer, Eleanor Twitchell, Carol Shearer  
 CENTER: Jane Parker, Mary Lou Anato, Sara Laub, Sherry Zakowicz, Carol Amster, Marilyn Dunger, Betty Barr, Denise Mohle  
 BOTTOM: Kathy Langwell, Shirley Ralston, Fran Strahan

*Villa Park Women's League To Be Organized Sept. 30*



A group of civic-minded women in the Villa Park area are forming a Villa Park Women's League. An organizational meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m. in Cerro Villa Junior High School.

The League will be a non-profit organization, its purpose to work toward community improvement with emphasis on schools, safety, community beautification, communication and social fellowship.

A slate of pro-tem officers has been named including the Mmes. William Zakowicz, chairman; Dorothy Potter, vice chairman; Thomas Hemker, secretary; Ross Escalante, treasurer; Dorothy Potter, ways and means; David Edson, community beautification; James Dunger, publicity; Maurice Jennings, schools and safety; James Reichart, Friends of the Library; Fran Strahan, activities; Arthur Stone, social.

Additional information may be had by calling Mrs. Zakowicz, 637-4866, or Mrs. Dunger, 637-3828.

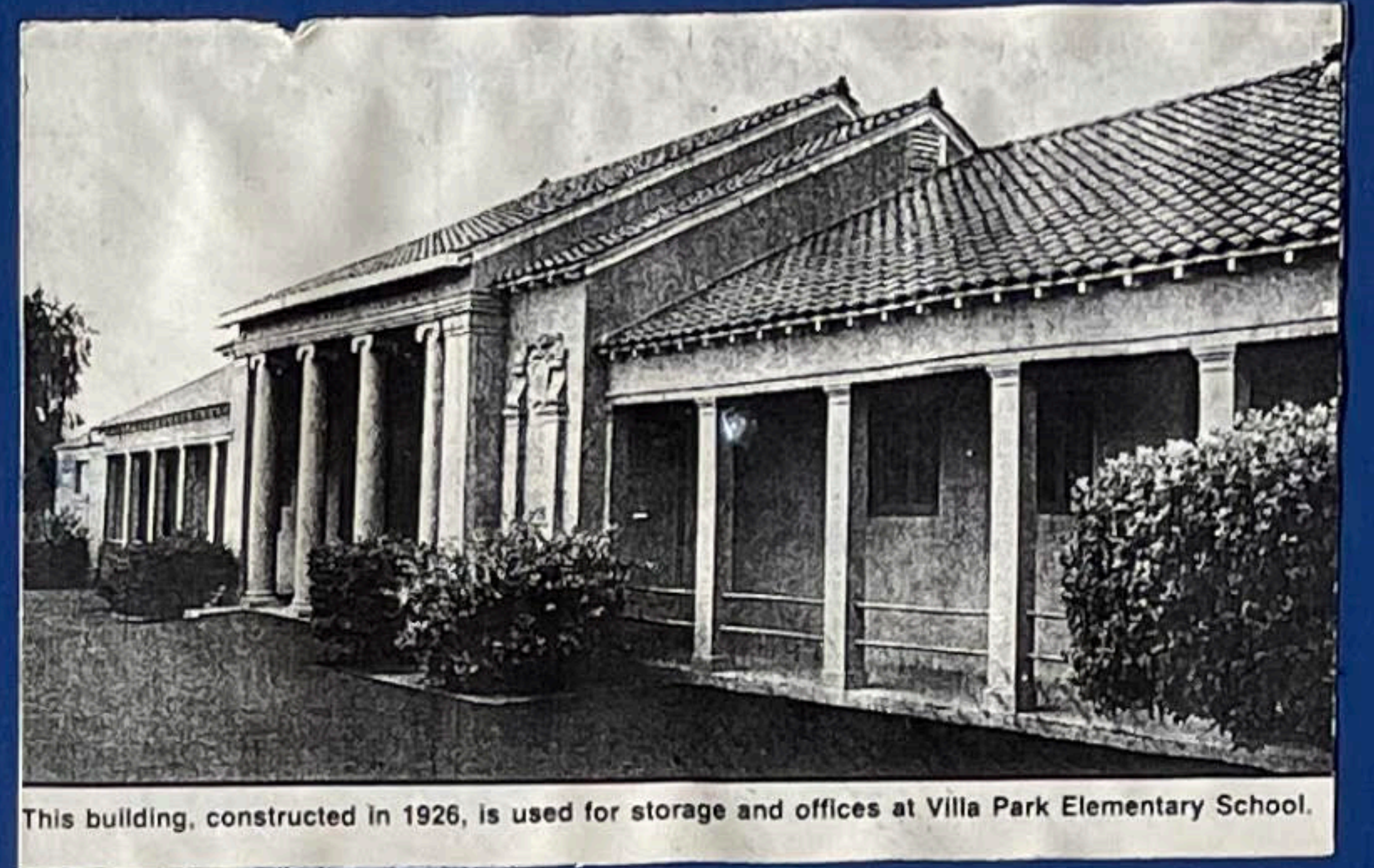
**WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**  
 Louise West, Editor  
 C1 The REGISTER Friday (e) August 22, 1969

VILLA PARK OFFICERS — Among the officers pro-tem for Villa Park Women's League, now in the organizational stage, are (from left) Mrs. James Dunger, publicity chairman; Mrs. Thomas Hemker, secretary, and Mrs. William Zakowicz, president. Organizational plans will be completed Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. in Cerro Villa Junior High School. (Register photo)





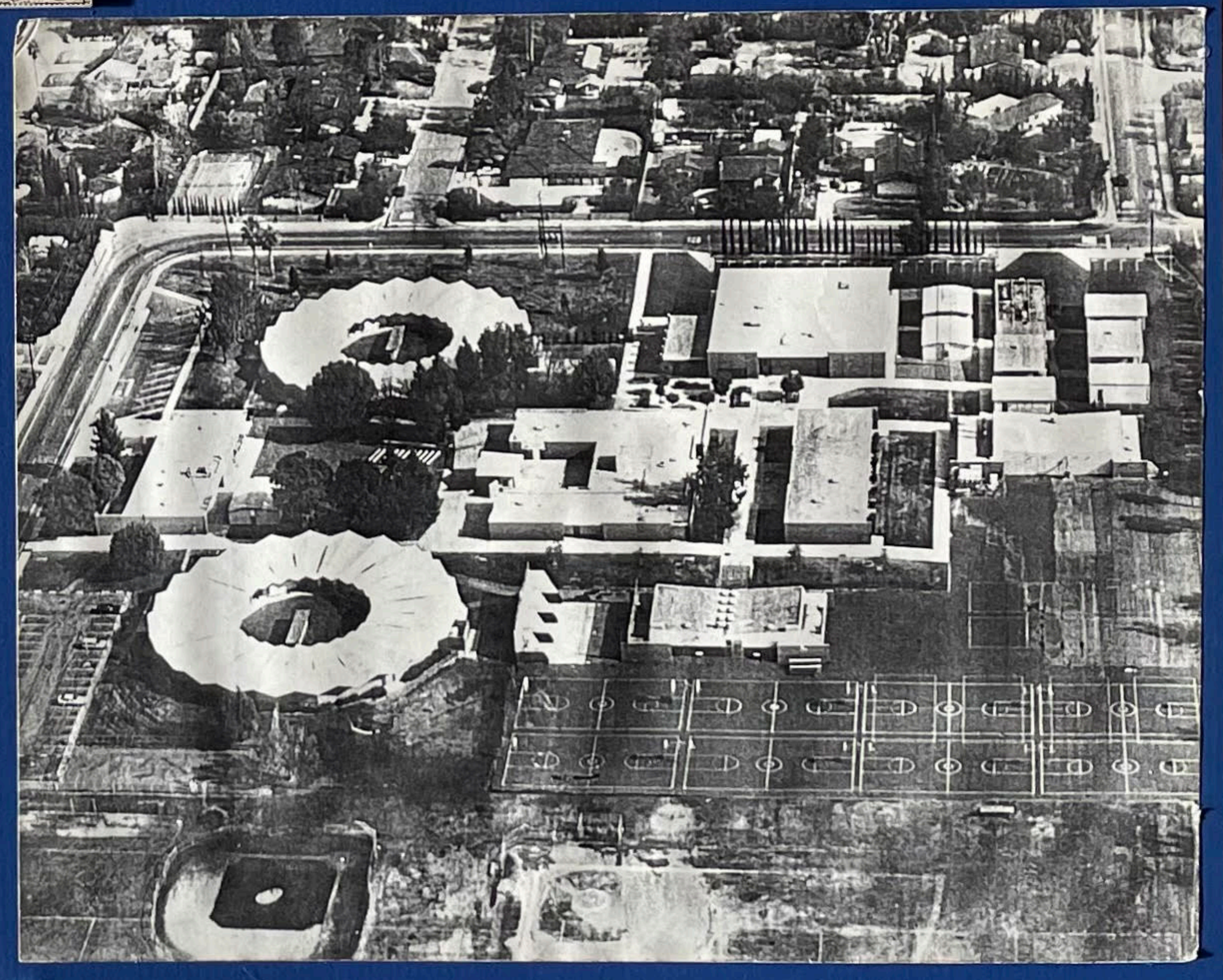
1883—1983



This building, constructed in 1926, is used for storage and offices at Villa Park Elementary School.



Diploma from Villa Park Elementary School from the family of Bill Morrow, The City Director of Public Works



## VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY

The first school in Villa Park was established in 1880 in a small shed on the Smith ranch. The beautiful mountain panorama east of the site inspired the the school name of Mountain View. The original school began with only four pupils. By 1882, with an enrollment of twenty students, the need for a new school became obvious to the Board of Trustees.

The new grey wooden building with a bell tower was completed in 1883 on the current Villa Park Elementary site at Lincoln and Center. The school building was composed of two rooms--the "little" room for the first five grades and the "big" room for the last four. Each room was heated by its own cast-iron wood stove. The name of the school was changed to Villa Park in 1910 to correspond with the postal address. Several of the pepper trees planted on the school grounds during this era still remain.

A two room Spanish style stucco school was built to replace the wooden building in 1919. An addition of a primary room was made in 1924. A fire destroyed the main building in 1926. Insurance money was used to replace the building on the old foundation. A small library was added at this time.

There were about 100 students in the four room school in 1937. In 1954, when the school merged with the Orange Unified School District, there were seven teachers and more than 150 students.

The town of Villa Park began to grow and so did the school! The enrollment really swelled during the mid-seventies. Portable classrooms were installed to accommodate over 700 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Today, in the centennial year, the student population is only about 370.



# Chronology of a city

During its 25 years of incorporation, and even before, Villa Park has been thriving with activity as the community grew into what it is today: a 2.6-square-mile city with a rural flavor that recalls an earlier time.

- 1880: The first school is established in a small shed in Villa Park, known as Mountain View School. The name later is changed to Villa Park Elementary School.
- 1883: A permanent, two-room schoolhouse is completed on property at the corner of Lincoln Circle and Center Drive.
- 1887: Blight strikes Villa Park's vineyards, wiping out the grape/raisin industry within two years.
- 1903: Orange High School is built and in 1904, Helen Mae Billingsley of Villa Park becomes the first graduate.
- 1912: The Villa Park Orchards Association is organized and the Central Lemon Association is registered with the Orange County Fruit Exchange.
- 1913: The first deep well is drilled to a depth of 450 feet, located on the Handy property on Villa Park Road.
- 1919: Ranchers begin converting crops from berries, vegetables and apricots to Valencia oranges.
- December 1927: The Santiago Well Co., the Gray Tract Well Co. and the Cerro Villa Mutual Water Co. consolidate to form the Villa Park Mutual Water Co.
- 1954: Villa Park becomes part of the Orange Unified School District.
- 1955: The Villa Park Property Owners Association is organized.
- 1960: The Central Lemon Association membership votes to dissolve organization because of poor profits and the uncertain future of old groves, as well as the rapid building of housing tracts in the area.
- May 4, 1961: Members of the Villa Park Property Owners Association vote 61-4 to move toward incorporating Villa Park to roughly coincide with the Serrano Irrigation District, which comprises about 1,350 acres.
- Jan. 3, 1962: Villa Park residents, by a vote of 246 to 134, approve cityhood and select a City Council. The city has approximately 830 residents.
- Jan. 11, 1962: Villa Park officially becomes Orange County's 24th city and its first City Council takes office. Arthur Craft is selected as mayor; councilmen are Carl G. Hays, Don Hein, Walter Schniepp and James T. Workman.

- 1963: James Workman is appointed the city's second mayor.
- 1967: The Corona fire comes over the hills and destroys several houses in the Villa Park hills.
- 1968: Heavy rains flood the Villa Park area and wash out Villa Park Road and the bridge over Santiago Boulevard, the city's connection with freeways on the west and its link to the Orange Park Acres community to the east.
- 1969: Villa Park Women's League is founded.
- 1970: Walter Schniepp is appointed the city's third mayor.
- 1970: The city's first, and only, shopping center opens and includes a civic center.
- 1971: Frank Knudsen is appointed the city's fourth mayor.
- 1972: Donald Winn is appointed the city's fifth mayor.
- 1975: Robert Dunn is appointed the city's sixth mayor.
- 1976: Harold Tipton is appointed the city's seventh mayor.
- 1978: Bernard Houston is appointed the city's eighth mayor.
- 1978: Villa Park Road, rebuilt after the 1968 flood, washes out again due to heavy rains.
- 1980: Carol Kawanami is appointed the city's ninth mayor and the first woman to hold that spot.
- 1980: Villa Park Road again washes out due to flooding. It is rebuilt for the third time.
- 1981: Robert Helton is appointed the city's 10th mayor.
- 1982: Robert McGowan is appointed the city's 11th mayor.
- 1983: William Odium is appointed the city's 12th mayor.
- 1984: Wayne Silzel is appointed the city's 13th mayor.
- 1985: Carol Kawanami is appointed the city's 14th mayor.
- Dec. 11, 1985: Chicago Insurance Co. refuses to renew Villa Park's liability insurance policy.
- Feb. 14, 1986: Villa Park secures liability insurance by becoming the 48th member of the Southern California Joint Powers Insurance Authority.
- Jan. 11, 1987: Villa Park officially turns 25. City has approximately 7,000 residents.
- 1987: William Odium is appointed the city's 15th mayor.
- April 5, 1987: Villa Park will celebrate its 25th birthday with a daylong celebration.

— Compiled by Josie Cabiglio

## Lack of candidates cancels city election

Incumbents to retain seats in uncontested Villa Park race

By Pattie Coladonato  
The Register

When Villa Park voters receive their sample ballots in the mail later this month, they might notice something missing: the ballot for their local election.

For the first time in the city's 22-year history, the city council election has been canceled due to lack of participation.

Two council seats — held by Robert McGowan and Mayor William Odium — were up for election this November. But because no one filed to run against them, the city took advantage of a new state law allowing cities to cancel elections under such circumstances.

"We've never had this happen before in the city," said Carolyn Verege, Villa Park city clerk and assistant city manager.

"I guess this year, residents are happy with the way the city is being run," she said. "You get people running for election when they are not happy with the level of service being offered when things are going well, people tend to sit back and relax."

According to Martin and Chapman, an election consultant firm that supplies ballots and election material to most Southern California cities, Villa Park is the only city not holding a November election because of a lack of candidates.

"I can remember four or five times in the last 10 years when there was an election held that only had as many people running as seats available," said Paul Marshall, election consultant for Martin and Chapman. "But this is the first time a city has canceled an election because no one was running."

Marshall said in the past "cities had to hold an election, even if only one person was running for each seat."

## ELECTION: This year there won't be one in Villa Park

FROM 1

But a new law, which went into effect in January, states that if only one candidate for each office files, the governing body of that city may appoint that candidate to the office and avoid the expense of an election.

The city must publish its intention to appoint the candidates in the local newspapers. Appointments must be made 50 days before the scheduled election date.

Robert McGowan, a Villa Park councilman up for his second term of office, said he was surprised by the turn of events.

"I had mixed emotions about it," he said. "You always hear that there are people around town thinking of running, so when nobody shows up, it's a little bit of a let down. You think either people must be completely satisfied or they're lethargic about local government, or a little bit of both."

William Odium, Villa Park's mayor whose seat was also up for election, believes voter satisfaction is the reason no one chose to run against the incumbents this year.

candidate. My perspective is that people are happy with the level of service we have been offering them."

Villa Park will save \$3,000 by not holding a November election, city officials said.

The canceled election will save Odium about \$300 he said he would have spent for fliers and campaign literature.

"I guess it's sort of unique not having an election because no one is running against you," said Odium. "I know some council people in other cities that are a bit envious of us. I look at it as a vote of confidence." 1982



ELECTION TALLY—Newly elected councilmen Donald F. Hein (left) and Arthur F. Craft, watch the tabulation of the ballots Tuesday night in the incorporation election of Villa Park. With 86 percent of the registered voters casting ballots, the cityhood issue easily passed. (Register photo)

Members of Villa Park's Volunteer Fire Dept. Serving Beer at the 10th Birthday Celebration



PREVIEW LOOK — City Administrator Tom Scott and Councilwoman Dorothy Potter look approvingly at section of new Villa Park civic center, Santiago and Wanda avenues. Movement of city records into the \$60,700 structure will begin this week, and newly-purchased furniture is due to arrive Wednesday. New complex, containing 4,500 square feet of floor space, will include an Orange County branch library, municipal offices and a council-community meeting room. Last city council meeting in the present city hall, at 18401 Villa Park Road, is scheduled March 16. The Serrano Irrigation District-owned structure will eventually be razed.

## Villa Park Election Upholds Predictions Of Proponents

With 86 per cent of the registered voters casting ballots Tuesday, the quiet little community of Villa Park awakened this morning to find itself a city.

When final figures were tabulated late Tuesday night in the auditorium of Villa Park School, 383 persons had voted in the incorporation election—246 in favor and 134 against. Only a simple majority was needed to carry the issue.

Orange County Clark's office held a special counting Tuesday night of 11 absentee ballots, all which were in favor of cityhood.

Voters also named five men to the City Council of the 1,800-acre community, located just to the north and east of the city of Orange.

Councilmen are: Arthur Craft, 45, 19112 Mesa Dr. building contractor; Carl G. Hays, 41, 10332 S. Center Dr. partner in the Manchester Feed & Milling Co. of Anaheim; Walter Schniepp, 46, 9711 Center Dr. orchard contractor; Donald F. Hein, 35, 9502 Dodson Way, co-owner of Feathercrest Farm; and James T. Workman, 53, 18851 E. Santiago Blvd., assistant to the president of Byron Jackson Division of Borg - Warner Corp. in Vernon.

Villa Park will be officially certified as Orange County's 24th city in approximately 30 days. Board of supervisors will canvass the ballots Monday, then pass a resolution, draw up a map and send all the information to the California secretary of state.

Certification by the secretary of state is expected by the first of February and Villa Park will be operating as a general law city. Present plans call for only one city paid employe, a city clerk, with all other services being contracted from the county.

Confident and Happy Reaction from the newly elected council members was a strong feeling of happiness and an even stronger feeling of confidence that they had expected the incorporation to pass easily.

"This is a real birthday present for me," said Craft, "because today I'm 45-years-old. There was no doubt in my mind on what the outcome would be; in fact, we had it figured down to within five votes. I'm quite sure that a lot of this hard feeling will vanish and our city will become united in our efforts."

Workman, a strong proponent of incorporation and president of the Villa Park Property Owners Assn., said, "It was a long hard battle and I am very gratified

by the results. I hope that those who were opposed to our action, will now join us in making this a successful venture. As far as the property owners association goes, it will remain intact and more - or - less act as a sounding board for our city."

"Strong Vote Good" "It is quite clear to me what the people want," said Hein, "after yesterday's strong turnout at the polls. They want to keep their 20,000 - square - foot zoning and operate out city on a minimum expense. The strong vote was good I believe that it gave a very good indication how the people feel and really shows they have an interest in the future of their city."

Hays was somewhat belated about the passage of the incorporation, saying, "It was the difference between me moving and staying in the community. If we had not been able to form a city, I'm quite sure that I would have moved to another part of Orange County. There's going to be a lot of work to do right now and I'm ready to do my share. I really don't think the opposition was too strongly against us and they will join us in our overall plans for the future."

"I'm happy that the election passed with such a large majority and I am sure we are going to have a successful city," said Schniepp. "I would like to thank those people who voted for me," he continued, "and let them know I will give them my utmost. We are going to have to build a city and there is going to be a lot of work to do. I'm ready."



# Villa Park: It's Small, Countrified, Satisfied

BY HERMAN WONG  
 Times Staff Writer

Villa Park is a small, tranquil community of countrified affluence. It is like no other city in Orange County and its people have firmly—even tenaciously—acted to keep it that way.

The life-style doctrine of this city of 3,700 is simple enough. It wants little or nothing to do with industry, shopping and office complexes, apartments, mobile homes, boulevards or even sidewalks.

It wants to perpetuate itself as a rural-like sanctuary where fine homes, spacious lots and unblemished woods and meadows are the rule, not the exception.

It wants to remain municipally small and to let other cities compete for the territorial or population sweepstakes.

In short, Villa Park—as a city—wants nothing better than to be left to itself.

## Keep Itself Safe

And since becoming a city in 1962—which it did to keep itself safe from the more aggressive forms of urbanization—Villa Park has officially practiced what it had long preached.

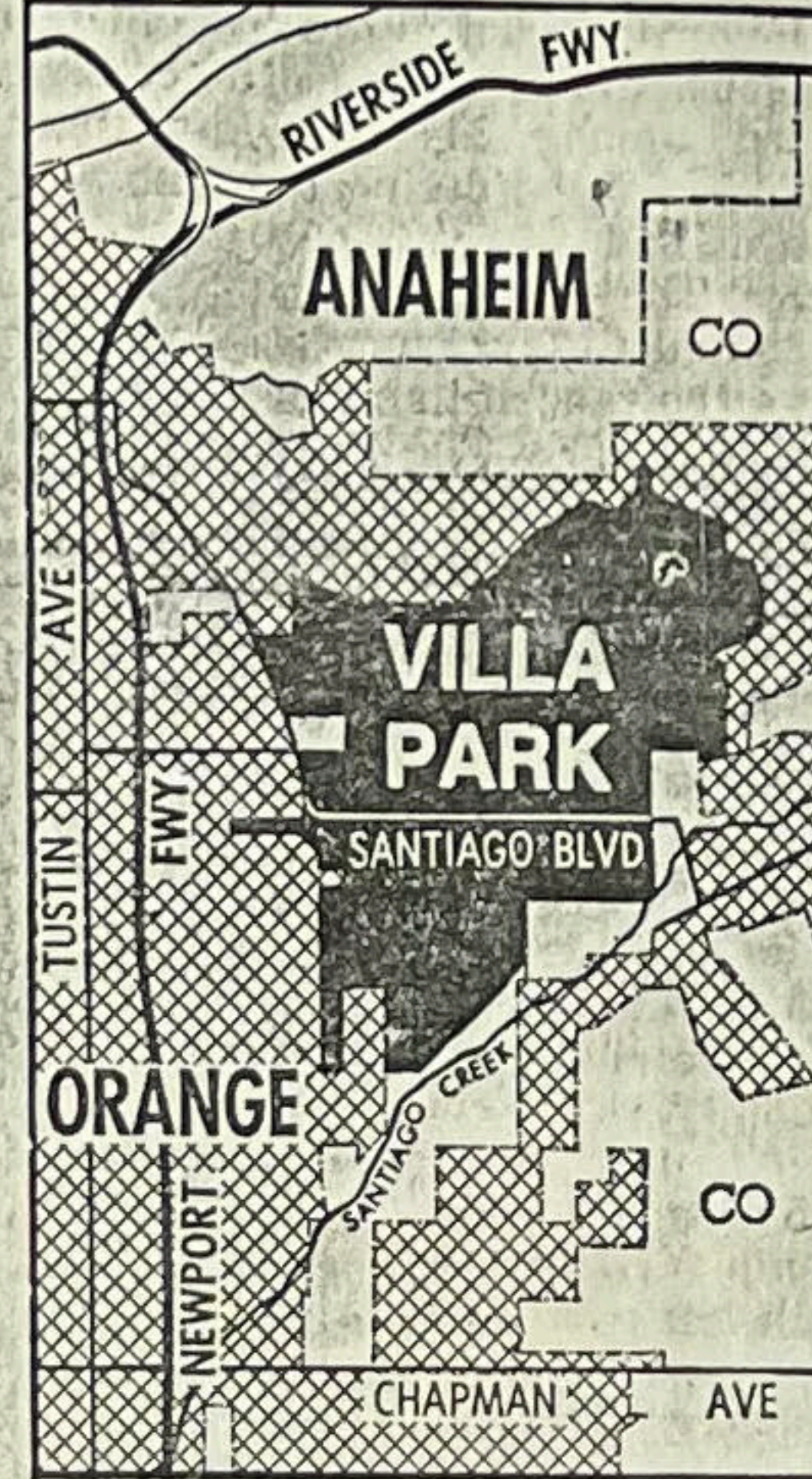
It expects to reach its "ultimate" growth—7,000 persons in an area of 2.8 square miles—in only three years. (Only La Palma is smaller in area among the county's 26 cities.)

At the western edge of town are two concessions to the urban times: a historic packinghouse, which is the city's only industry, and a new shopping center, which was allowed in as a shopping convenience and tax relief for Villa Parkians.

In that same border zone next to Villa Park's onetime arch-foe, the city of Orange, is a small "buffer" area zoned for higher density developments (8,000- to 12,000-square-foot home lots).

Otherwise, the city is predominantly zoned for half-acre (20,000-square-foot) minimum home lots, a policy unique among Orange County cities.

Villa Parkians believe the community's specialized character depends on that half-acre minimum. Higher



ENCIRCLED — Tiny Villa Park is surrounded by its ex-foe, the city of Orange.  
 Times map by Gus Keller

density, to them, would mean opening the door to crowded housing, more traffic and other vanguards of major urbanization.

"That half-acre law is why we're a city at all," said one longtime resident. "To be against that law would be heresy in this town."

Nearly all the disputes since incorporation have grown from a test of this large-acreage philosophy and the corollary of preserving the rural-like quality.

Such disputes have ranged from the proposing of a mobile home development to the placement of a vending icebox at a service station—both rejected by the city as being un-Villa Park.

Such strict zoning standards, along with the higher levels of income and education and the preponderance of expensive homes, may

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 give Villa Park the image of being elitist.

The city's own general plan describes the community as "prized" and blessed with a "peaceful and superior environment."

One longtime resident sized up the recent influx of \$50,000-and-up tracts to the city with a quip: "You know what they (the newcomers) are after? An instant Beverly Hills."

But tract dwellers feel any such reputation is unjustified.

Most of these families are living in their second or third home. Their breadwinner is in the 35-to-54 age bracket and successful in his profession (e.g., attorneys, architects, doctors, dentists, airline pilots). They are weary of the cramped lots, crowded streets and asphalt landscapes of the typical city.

## Raise a Family

"We love it here because it's a wonderful place to raise a family," said one resident who moved to Villa Park three years ago.

"The people we know here weren't born with any silver spoons in their mouths. They all made it on their own. These people are doers and not the kind who are easily impressed with themselves."

The quest for life-style privacy and spaciousness and the willingness to pay the price are part of the origins of Villa Park as a city.

Villa Park grew out of a farming community of citrus and other crops that lay east of Orange and south of the Santa Ana River. Its identity was first anchored by a school district, a post office and a rail station in the 1880s.

All social life later centered around a one-story, frame community hall built in 1904 on land donated by the Serrano Irrigation District. Shakespearean plays at the hall were highlights of the season. In 1912 the Villa Park Orchards Assn. built the packinghouse that still operates off Santiago Blvd.

## Unruffled Pace

The leisurely, unruffled pace continued well into the 1950s, until the urbanization boom pressed to the gates of Villa Park—still an area only of orchards and a scattering of homes and still unincorporated.

At first the concern of the newly formed Villa Park Property Owners Assn. was to protest any expansion of nearby gravel pit operations and the smoke from burning trash at the dump.

Later it fought against anything less than half-acre residential zoning of Villa Park, whether by county or by any potential municipal government.

The county agreed to the "small estates" zoning. But neighboring Orange, which long coveted Villa Park for its own, had developed up to Villa Park's unofficial border with higher-density homes.

"We really didn't have much of a choice," said James Workman, a pro-incorporation leader and later mayor of Villa Park. "Orange obviously wanted to annex us. But the City Council in Orange had changed hands and we were no longer certain Orange would let us keep the larger lots."

## Put on Ballot

Despite strong opposition from some major landowners who feared higher taxes and loss of flexibility to develop their lands, the pro-incorporationists got the cityhood issue on the ballot.

The vote on Jan. 3, 1962, was 246 for and 134 against incorporation. About a week later, Villa Park became Orange County's 24th city, with a population of 830 and an area of 2.06 square miles (about the same area as today).

"Most of us could care less about being a bigger city and trying to annex something," said former Mayor Walter Schniepp, who (with Workman) was on the first City Council.

"We did what we set out to do—to stop Orange and keep out that higher density. And that was it."

Orange since has grown to encircle Villa Park, leaving Villa Park as a kind of Switzerland among cities with far more aggressive development, such as Orange and Anaheim.

## Home Bonanza

The past year, according to city officials and to realtors, has been a bonanza for new tract homes in Villa Park, despite the minimum price of \$50,000 to \$60,000 or higher.

"They're selling like popcorn," said one local realtor. "And we're selling to increasingly younger families."

For example, one 40-home tract broke ground last January and was sold out nine months later.

City officials say the pace shows no signs of slackening, as Villa Park becomes more known on the higher-priced housing market. For this reason, the city expects to be virtually built out within the next three, possibly two, years.

This sales success and the marketing accent on younger families and five-

bedroom houses have taken many Villa Parkians by surprise.

The feeling is that the pro-incorporationists had envisioned a far slower development pace and a market aimed chiefly at middle-age couples (with one or two children still at home) seeking a smaller home in the countryside.

## Stand Supreme

But the half-acre residential doctrine and the rural-like way of life still stand supreme.

(The keeping of horses, now estimated at 220, is gaining in popularity as the hillside sites are increasingly being developed.)

The most recent challenge, a proposed conversion of 40 acres of farmland to a mobile home park, was soundly defeated. Newcomer families, in particular, objected to the project. They feared the influx of retired persons who might tend to vote against school tax and bond measures.

(The Orange Unified School District has two elementary schools, a junior high school and a se-

Such community consensus over development policy and homogeneity of life-style tastes leave Villa Parkians with little to

fight about among themselves.

However, there was the city hall tempest.

That 1904-built community hall along Villa Park Road was—until it was torn down this year—the city hall.

To the "oldtimers," the hall was a historic, integral part of the community and symbolic of a casual, rural attitude toward running a city.

But the tiny, cracker-barrel city offices and the aging, drafty meeting rooms did not enchant most newcomers.

"Really, it was pretty dumpy," said Mrs. Sherrie Zakowicz, a founder of the Women's League of Villa Park, a 3-year-old organization that is now the most active and powerfully vocal group in the city.

So the City Council last November voted 4 to 1 to build a combined city hall and library on a site in the Santiago Blvd. shopping center. The opposing vote was cast by Walter Schniepp, the only "oldtimer" resident left on the council. Cost of the one-story project: \$60,000.

## Aide Fired

Another dispute at the time had undertones of the same division. John Girona, after 4½ months as city administrator, was fired last November by a 4-1 City Council vote, with Schniepp the lone dissenter. (Girona has since been replaced by Thomas Scott.)

Then-Mayor Frank Knudsen said Girona was fired because of "unsatisfactory performance," while Girona said the problem was that Knudsen kept "meddling" into day-to-day functions and tried to run the staff.

But such disputes are rare.

More typical are the rear-guard skirmishes of homeowners keeping a vigil against the threat, or hint of a threat, to what they view as the Villa Parkian way of life.

These residents—many of whom are associated with the Women's League—see such a vigil as based on the experiences of other cities, where seemingly minor zoning deviations have opened the way to major policy reversals.

Others hold a caustic attitude toward these skirmishes. "It's a dispute-of-the-month club," said one longtime resident of this homeowner faction. "It's a lot of nitpicking."

The most durable example of this type of dispute is a running battle be-

tween some residents and the Santiago Blvd. shopping center.

These residents—most of whom live in a tract to the southeast of the 3-year-old shopping center—regard the center as, at best, a necessary evil.

"Sure we need it (the center) but we don't have to accept everything about it," said Woody English, a resident of that tract neighborhood and a member of the City Planning Commission.

"The center never really followed the nice plans that were originally discussed for landscaping and building design. I think the city was a little too anxious to bring it in."

In the past three years this resident faction has kept after the supermarket, service station and other firms to display salesmanship restraint, befitting the rural-like atmosphere. The faction has successfully protested such matters as sign size and placement and persuaded Union Oil to put "Welcome to Villa Park" on the brick wall of the corner service station.

## Some Changes

But all residents believe that urbanization—no matter how slowed or sidetracked in Villa Park—has reached and changed the community.

The loss of a countryside look and close-knitness is a common complaint of such "oldtimers" as Harold Brewer, who recently sold his 20-acre prime site of hillside orange groves for tract development.

But even newer residents feel the tract boomlet in Villa Park has deeply affected the atmos-

"We've been here about 4½ years and already it's lost a lot of that rural look," said Mrs. Carolyn Reichert, whose husband, James, is a city councilman.

But the Reicherts, as do other Villa Parkians who have arrived since 1962, believe that change or not, Villa Park remains a small-town refuge.

"You still have a community closeness here that's lost in other cities," said Mayor Donald Winn. "When one block here gets upset, believe me, we (the council) hear about it."

So far the city's operating budget is also small town.

Administrative and maintenance costs are

kept to a minimum. The major expense by far in the 1972-73 operating budget of \$331,000 is for county-contracted police protection (\$84,546).

The city's 98-cent property tax rate accounts for the lion's share of revenue (\$117,000). Otherwise, the city relies mostly on state gasoline tax (\$36,000), motor vehicle allocations (\$30,000) and development-engineering fees (\$30,000). Sales tax accounts for only \$6,000. (The property tax rate is \$1.29 in Orange and \$1.05 in Anaheim.)

But the budget pressures of growth, even in a Villa Park, are being felt.

It is seen in small, but telling, signs.

The city is studying whether to give up its basically no-sidewalk policy in the face of schoolchildren-safety demands from parents. It has already put in its first traffic signal (a flashing control at Center Drive and Villa Park Road).

More ominous are the projected massive higher-density developments planned in Orange and Anaheim tract areas surrounding Villa Park. With them are projected traffic expansion, flood control, policing, schooling and other costly urbanization problems.

And Villa Park's treasury, now skimpy in commercial or industrial resources, may eventually be faced with hiking the tax bill on residents with special taxing districts or an increased city property tax to meet internal and external growth demands.

But most Villa Parkians—who the 1970 Census said have an annual income median (\$21,422) just below San Marino but above Beverly Hills—seem willing to pay the price.

"We still don't want any industry or stores or any of that," said one resident. "We want to stay as we are for as long as we can."



1974

# Villa Park Woman's League: Community Spirit At Work

by Cary Nederman

The development of "community spirit" in any city tends to be a difficult task, and although many groups on many different levels have expended much time and effort towards that end, success is generally rare and often short-lived.

But one of the few exceptions to this rule is the Villa Park Women's League, which over the past 5 years since its founding, has been largely responsible for many of the unifying social and civic activities within that community.

Outgoing publicity chairman for the organization Katherine Wells explains that the Women's League is "a great group of people, enthusiastic, active and responsive."

Numbering over 400 members and standing as the city's chief community-oriented organization, the Villa Park League was created in 1969 by a group of 60 women who were committed to "the organization of a club for those interested in becoming active outside of the home."

The League was formed largely through the efforts of Mrs. Sherrie Zakowicz, who also served as the organization's first President, with three specific purposes in mind: beautification, community safety and communication.

From a civic standpoint, the first half-decade of the Woman's League has been quite fruitful, and Mrs. Wells points out that the club has sponsored such activities as the city planting along right-of-way, support of the El Modena Community Center and assistance to the Villa Park Library.

"When the group first started its beautification program," recalls Mrs. Wells, "we used to get out with some shovels and plant the trees ourselves. But more recently, since we have expanded so greatly, the League donates the plants and city crews put them in the ground."

She adds, "You know, most of the street-side planting not on private property was provided by the Women's League at one time or another."

In terms of beautification, the Villa Park League is looking forward to several projects in the near future, including the extension of the island concept from the Orange city limits on down Villa Park Road to the east, and the possible planting of the railroad right-of-way near Wanda.

The League also recently voted to expend \$1600 for the redecoration of the community room of the Villa Park City Hall, which will add to the existing contribution of a kitchen given when the

municipal complex opened several years ago.

Another priority with the Villa Park Woman's League has been the city's library, which has

received a display case, a bulletin board, many children's and reference books, and a movie projector and screen because of the group's generosity. Women from

the organization also handle the display of pictures on the library walls.

"They have done a marvelous (Continued on page 6)



BEAUTIFICATION - As a part of the Villa Park Women's League dedication to civic improvement, the organization has donated and planted in city right-of-way a number of trees and other shrubbery, including that on Taft east of Lemon shown here. (News-Times photo by Cary Nederman)

wednesday, July 31, 1974

## CIVIC PRIDE

### League Supports Their City

(Continued from page 1) marvelous job for us," says librarian Jean Thompson.

The contribution of the film equipment has allowed us to show monthly films on Saturday morning to children in the city."

But perhaps the most important civic contribution which the League makes is the publishing of a monthly "Village Voice" newsletter which discusses in detail local events, as well as organization activities.

Although the paper is only delivered to League members, many residents look forward to its publication and it has become what Mayor Don Winn calls "one of the most effective means of communication in Villa Park."

such novelty items as Villa Park city seal decals and coffee mugs.

However, the Woman's League has also recognized a commitment to offer social happenings as well, and Mrs. Wells notes that there is a great diversity of standing activities available to members, ranging from sewing, to golf, to great books to gourmet food (for couples). The latter group is currently the most popular with the Women's League membership, although Mrs. Wells says that the number and variety of activities is always changing with the interests and needs of the members."

The major fund-raising event of the League in recent years has been a fall "Home Tour," which allows citizens to visit some of the more well-designed structures in the community.

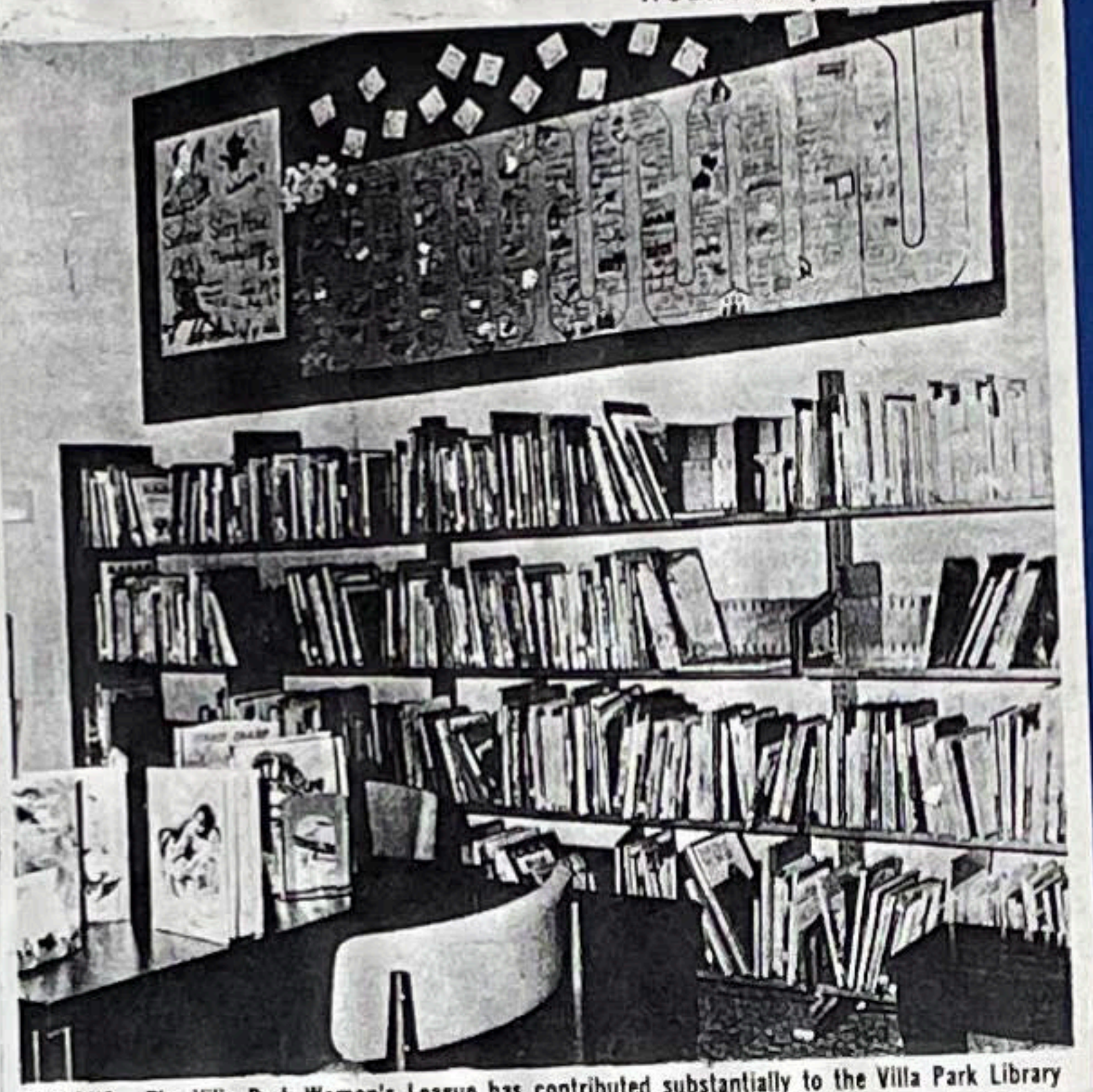
"It's really a ready-made project for Villa Park,"

observes Mrs. Wells. "There is really very little overhead and people have been very gracious in opening their homes to the tour."

In conjunction with this year's "Home Tour," a country store-type sale will be conducted, using home-cooked, baked and canned foods donated by League members.

"The Villa Park Women's League is not a women's organization in the traditional sense. It was formed by some of the more active members of the community, and the membership tends to be progressive, in the sense that they want to see civic growth and improvement," says Mrs. Wells.

As the main social as well as community group in Villa Park, the league seems to be more than reaching its original objectives for the upgrading of civic life.



PATRONS - The Villa Park Women's League has contributed substantially to the Villa Park Library located in the civic center, with gifts including books, a display case and the bulletin board seen here. (News-Times photo by Cary Nederman)



# SHOW TIME VILLA PARK



Presented By  
The Villa Park Women's League  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 8:00 P.M.**  
**PLUMMER AUDITORIUM**  
(Corner of Chapman & Lemon, Fullerton)

Happy Holidays!

# Orange City News

Wednesday, December 26, 1984

Working towards your sense of community...

25 cents  
Vol. 17, No. 48

— serving Orange, Villa Park, Nohl Ranch, Orange Park Acres, Orange Hills, Anaheim Hills, and Crawford Canyon.

## Villa Park parades

by Chris Chandler OCN

Villa Park Yachtsmen and women launched their third Annual Unofficial Non-Sanctioned Villa Park Dry Land Holiday Lighted Boat Parade Festivity Dec. 16.

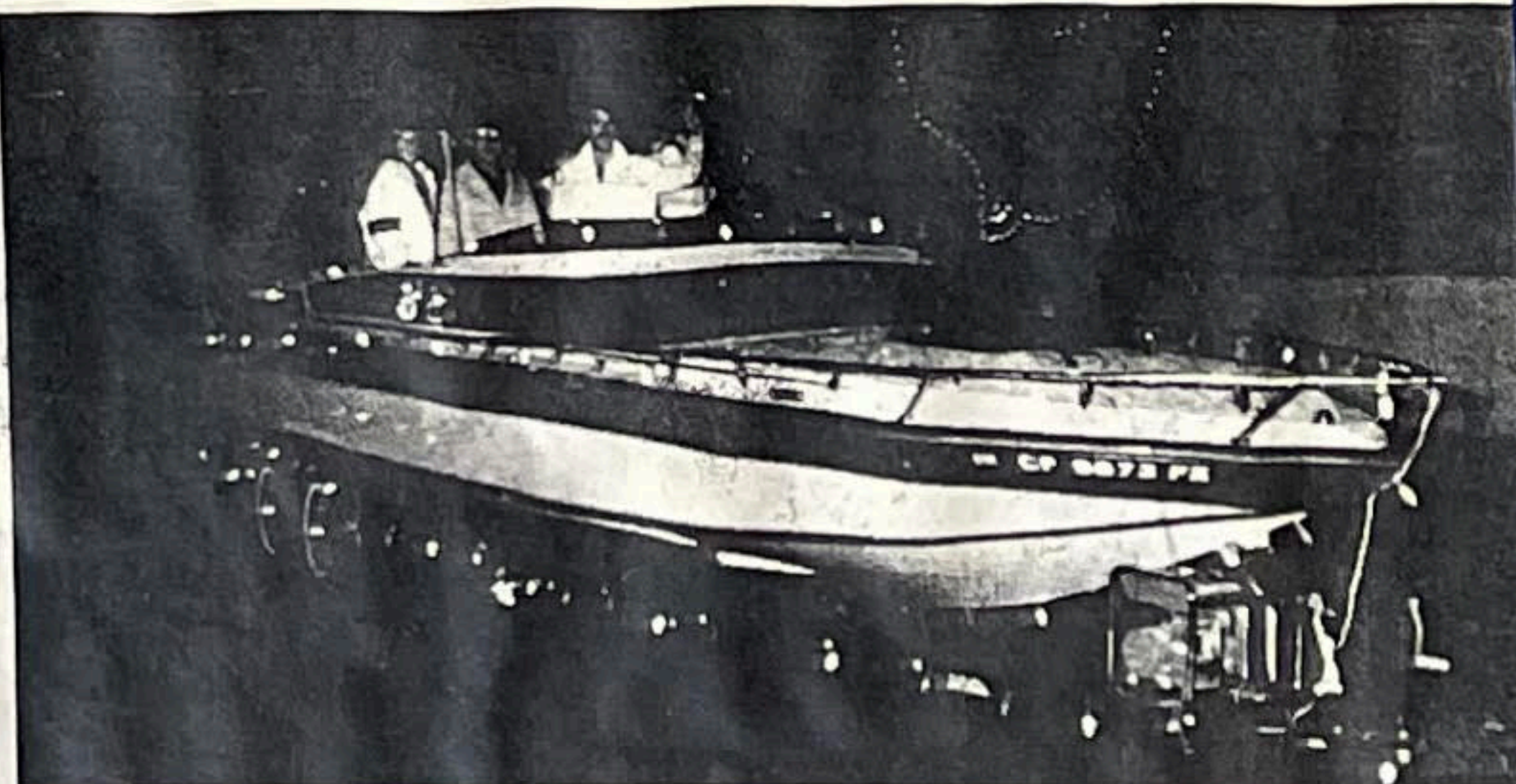
The final number of entries was 50, down 21 from last year's parade total. The decrease, said Commodore Chuck Beesley, was probably due to "not enough publicity. Last year we distributed flyers, and this year we didn't." In fact, the event was almost cancelled due to lack of participants. But about four weeks before the parade date, interest picked up, and the gala event was on.

The parade lasted from 6:10 to 8:15 p.m. Grand Admirals Charlie and Harry from radio station KMBQ AM rode in a 1949 Bentley that broke down twice and had to be pushed. The vintage auto was built for Ian Fleming, producer of several "James Bond" movies. One especially nice thing about this year's parade, according to Commodore Beesley, was that he got to ride in it. Other years he had to stay on the sidelines and direct the festivities.

Unfortunately, the dinner was scratched, also due to the lack of publicity. However, private parties were organized instead. Distinguished VP residents who

rode in the parade included Villa Park Mayor Wayne Silzel and several City Council members. The head of the Orange Transit District also took part in a vintage yellow OCTD steamer bus affectionately called "Old Yeller."

Although the parade's participation was down in number, a rollickingly fun time was had by everyone. A New Year's resolution for the event is to plan earlier. Commodore Beesley, and First Mate Peggy, and parade staffers are going to "start planning in January." Anyone wanting to help with the planning, and who has ideas to "make it better," should call 261-7587 or 998-2865.



Dryland yachtsmen in the Villa Park Boat Parade maneuvered across calm asphalt seas. Photo courtesy of Commodore Chuck Beesley





Paseo Grande Fire  
October 30, 1967



Sta. 23  
Paseo Grande

Villa Park - about 1892



Villa Park - about 1968







*Handwritten notes:*  
 City of Villa Park  
 Ribbon Cutting  
 April 11, 1982  
 11:30 am

# At Long Last



The Villa Park Women's League  
 invites you to the  
 Champagne Dedication  
 of the  
 Villa Park Entrance Marker

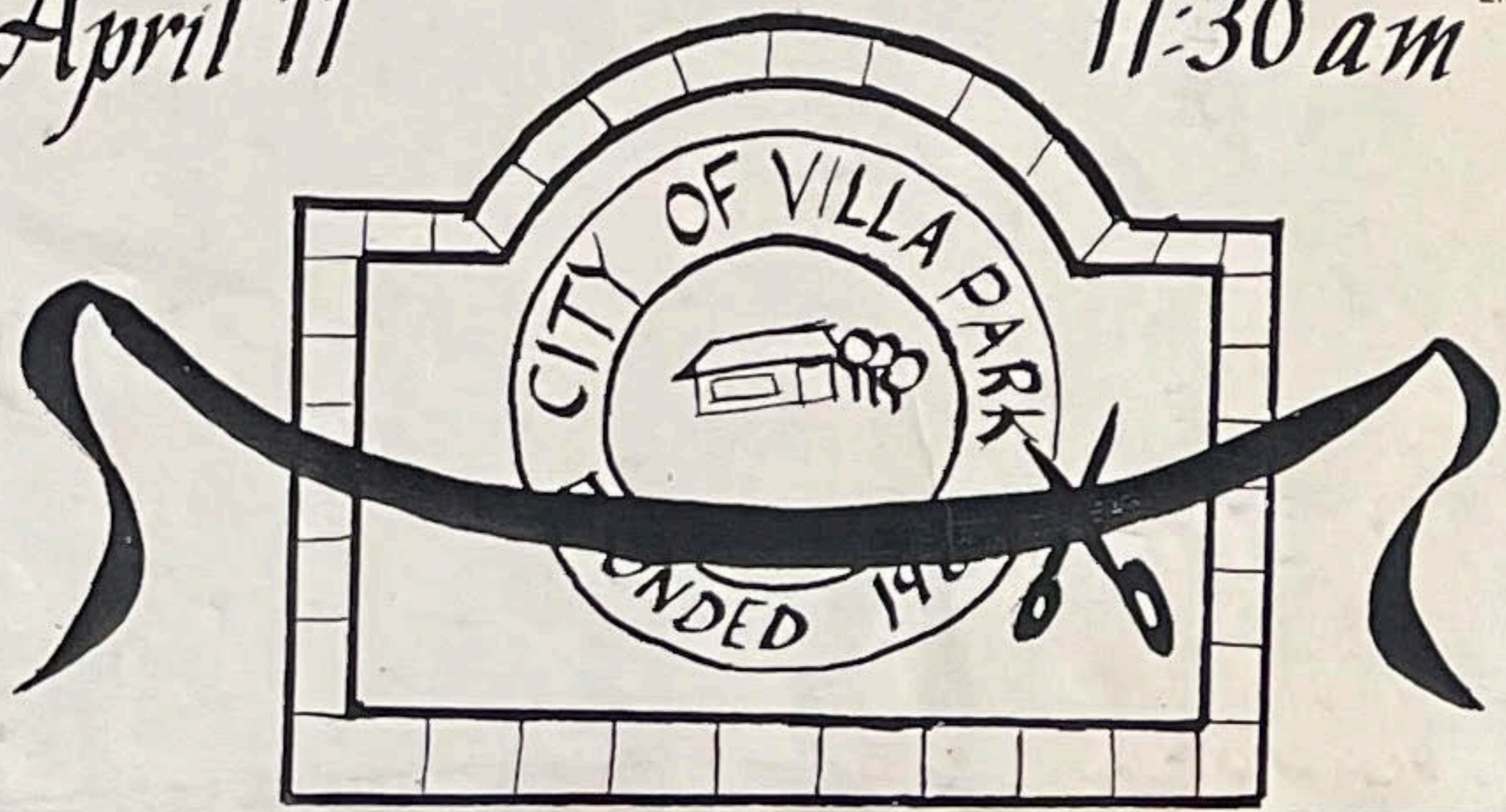
## City's Entry Marker Dedicated

An official "ribbon-cutting" ceremony was held on April 11th to dedicate the Villa Park Road monument. This event was attended by the entire City Council and officials of the Villa Park Women's League.

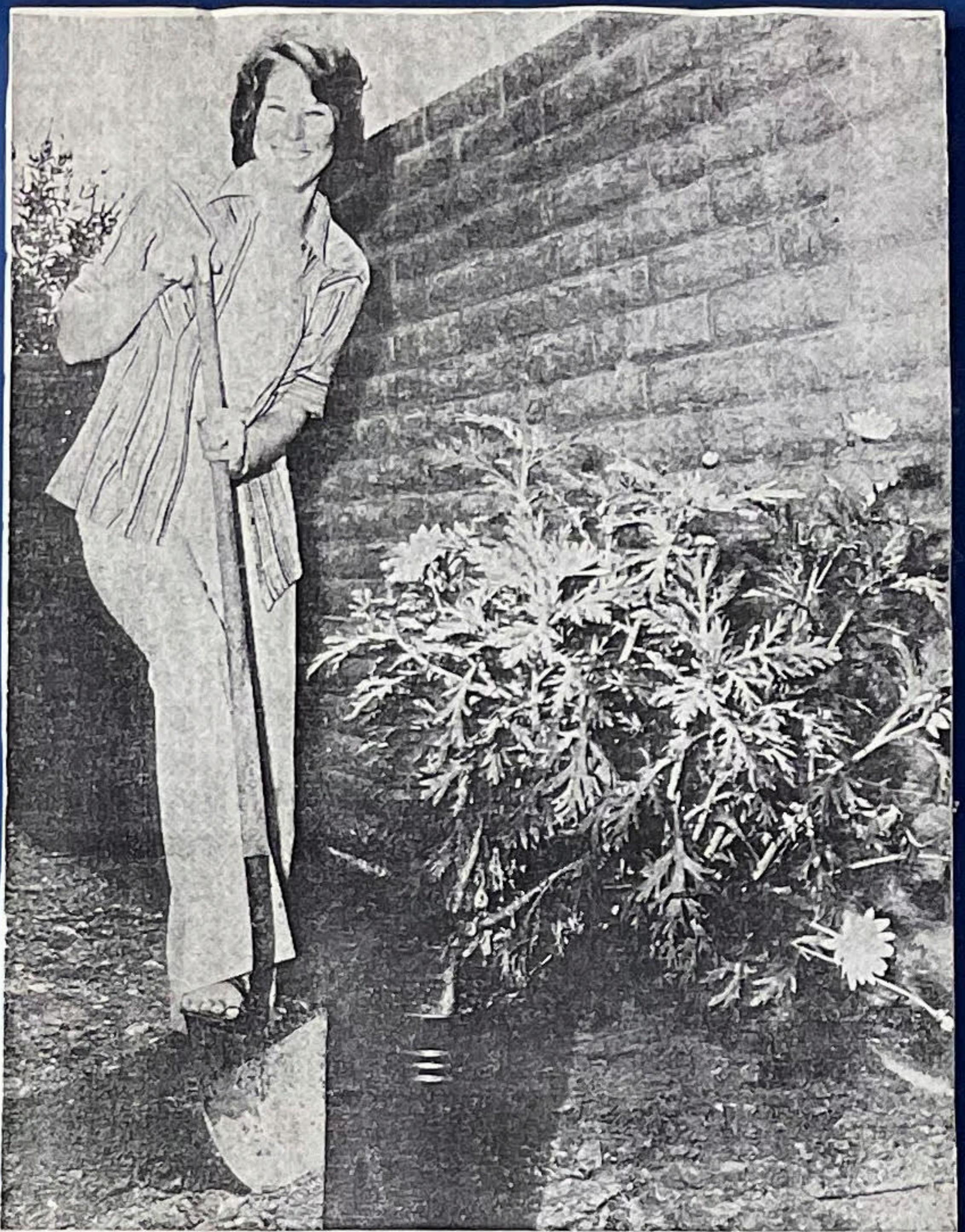
Mayor Kawanami accepted the donation of the marker to the City by Women's League President Catherine Wells and Beautification Chairman Linda Burton.

April 11

11:30 am

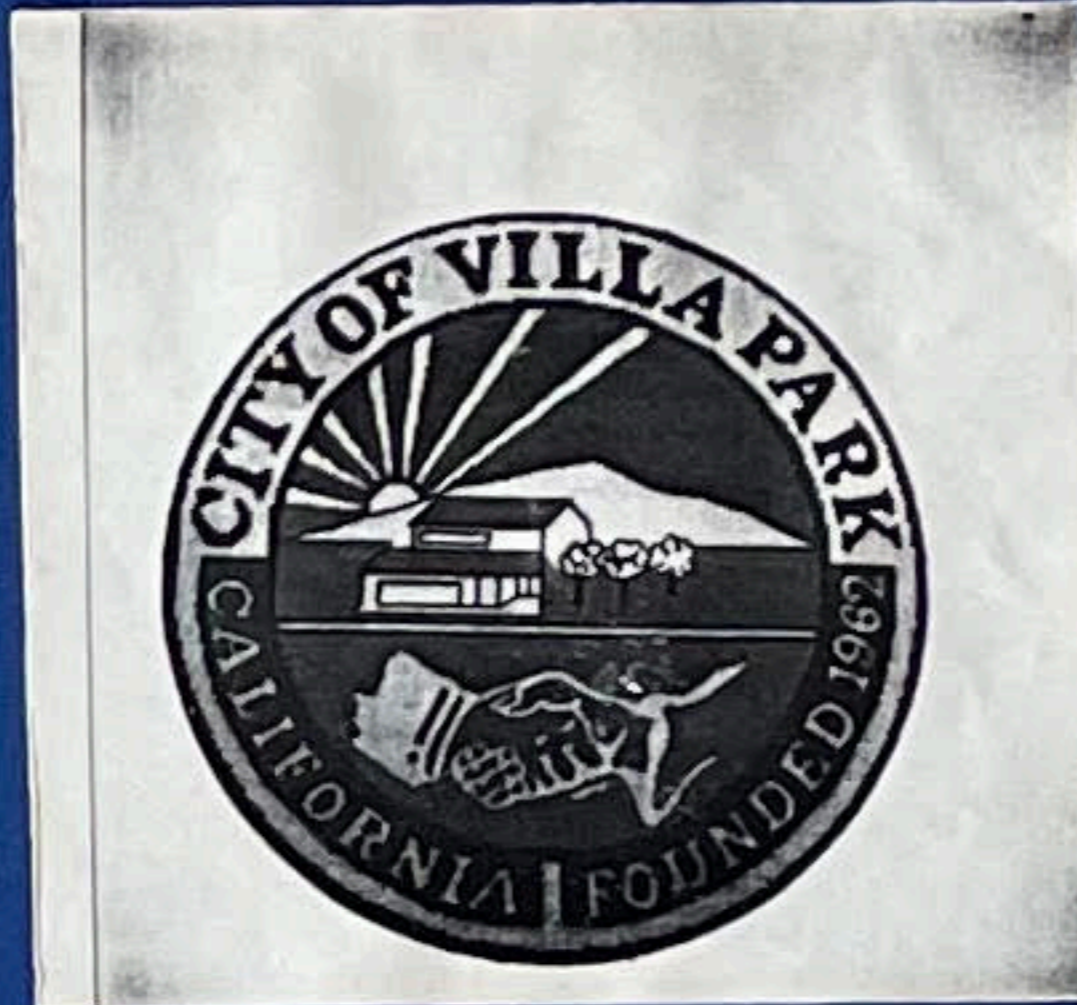


1982



GREEN-IN — Mrs. Diana Kaylor digs into the job of beautification in Villa Park as part of the Women's League's "Cover That Wall" project. The women will begin planting greenery at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 17, to cover blank walls. Mrs. Kaylor, Mrs. Catherine Wells and Mrs. Dorothy Potter, chairman, served on the

beautification committee of the league in planning the project. The Boy Scouts of Troop 143 and their leader Jim Stone will assist with the plantings along with other volunteers. The start of the beautification program was scheduled in conjunction with National Clean-Up Week.



RECIPIENT — Eleanor Twitchell, on the left, 17 year resident of Villa Park, was honored at the Villa Park Women's League Luncheon last month when she was presented the Community Service Award. Eleanor has been the stitchery section leader in the Women's League for the past 13 years. Photo by Bobbi Racco

## Gourmets Create Authentic Foreign Meal

By JO ANN MINER  
 Register Staff Writer

It is difficult to think of a social or recreational activity in American society which does not revolve around, or at least involve, eating and drinking. What fun is a ball game without a hot dog in one hand and a cold beer in the other? A movie without popcorn and a soft drink?

To host an elegant soiree without offering caviar and champagne would be utterly gauche. And what would a cocktail party be without cocktails and hors d'oeuvres? Or a barbecue without something to barbecue and something to sip.

To the gracious hostess, "entertaining" involves, foremost, not what to do but what to eat, what to drink.

Because each society and culture has foods and traditions distinct to its region or country, many people, from the suburban housewife to the amateur chef to the connoisseur of fine cuisine, have become increasingly curious about the culinary customs of other countries.

Thus, a novel style of dinner party has emerged, appropriately termed a "gourmet" dinner group which is aimed specifically for the sophisticated palate.

Perhaps the largest of such groups in the county to hold these formal parties

with a potluck-style format is the Villa Park Gourmet Dinner Group which is comprised of Villa Park Women's Club members and their husbands and boasts approximately 100 participants.

Consuming and imbibing is not the only purpose it serves, however, according to Elsie Everett, chairman of the dinner group. The monthly event provides couples with an opportunity to become acquainted with each other. And most consider it to be a cultural as well as a social experience. It also gives everyone a chance to experiment with preparing and sampling regional foods from throughout the country and exotic dishes from all over the world — and at a nominal expense.

In order to accommodate the large group, yet provide intimate dinner parties, each month's theme is hosted in the homes of several members. To accomplish this, the chairman sets up a rotation system whereby couples are grouped differently each month.

Each aspect of the monthly event is an experience in itself, agreed many of the members. First, there is the extensive research on the background and customs of the region or country selected. Then comes the menu selection

followed by the often difficult search for hard-to-locate specialty food items. Even the planning of a decor demands a flair of authenticity, with the end result being an elegant, all-evening dinner party.

The important thing, according to Elsie, is to experiment with typical foods of each area, not just the exotic.

However, noted Darlene Lundgren, if you're doing a country like Italy, for example, you try to choose unusual foods and get away from lasagna and spaghetti.

Or you might try something really far out — like the ancient-Rome theme Ginger Kleerup hosted.

"We researched what and how the ancient Romans ate and ended up with a dinner where we served only wine and offered no silverware."

Women's libbers would surely frown upon the format of that party. However, it was all done for the sake of authenticity.

While husbands reclined on chaise lounges, the wives rotated amongst the men fetching them food and drink.

"Each woman had one 'master' for each course," Ginger explained, "and the foods served were strictly finger foods — cornish game hens, shrimp and crab, ribs, fruit and cheese."

Sherry Zakowicz, founder and first president of Villa Park Women's Club, is responsible for the gourmet group's inception eight years ago when Villa Park was a relatively new city. She and her husband, Bill, moved to Villa Park from Massachusetts where they had participated in a similar group and found it to be an excellent way for people to get acquainted.

Sherry hosted one of January's Arme-

man dinners during which she explained a few of the rules: The seating arrangement is wife-husband, alternately — but you can't sit next to your own spouse.

If you don't like the authentic wine selected by the hostess, you never ask for a California chablis or burgundy — to do so is considered to be quite "lacky." And if the beverage peering up at you from the demitasse appears a bit murky, you must quietly refrain from requesting coffee with cream and sugar.

In reference to the Slivovitz she selected as an after-dinner drink, Sherry admitted, "I have perfume that tastes better," and switched to an alternate pistachio liqueur.

To further enhance the foreign flavor of the evening, Cindy Lasof surprised guests with her rendition of an authentic belly dance.

Sherry recalled another time when a dozen live lobsters arrived at her home for a New England feast — they were the feast. One guest, however, was unable to eat the sea creatures — the one who brought them. She'd affectionately named them all.

Although the women do extensive research in preparation for each meal, on occasion they opt to reject traditional customs.

Like one gourmet dinner with an African theme.

"They truly do use pure blood from beef," winced Audrey Gustafson. "They have a mechanism to take blood from the jugular vein of cattle which they mix with meal."

But most culinary customs aren't quite so distasteful.

"Sometimes we do get a little timid," Audrey conceded, "but the way I feel, if it isn't good, we won't starve. I'd rather take the risk and try having something differ-

## LIFE TODAY

VIDA DEAN, EDITOR

The REGISTER Mon., Jan. 31, 1977 D1



The Christmas Giving Tree is an annual tradition in Villa Park sponsored by the Villa Park Women's League and Jim Brodsky, owner of the Villa Park Pharmacy.

The tree is trimmed and full of the names of children from the El Modena Community and the Orangewood Children's Home (formerly the Albert Sitton Home).

The public is invited to stop by the Villa Park Pharmacy to see the Christmas Giving Tree, take a name from the tree, and buy a gift for a child.

Gathered around the tree are Jim Brodsky, Pat Fataeux, Philantropy Chairman of the VPWL, her son Robbie, and her daughter Laurie.



late '70's

(Register Photos By CLAY MILLER)

EXOTIC DANCE FOR GUESTS

Fun For Over A Year



(Register Photo By BOB WHEELER)  
 MRS. LOWELL MCBRIDE, COOKBOOK CO-CHAIRMAN  
 She Tries A 'Tasting Spoons' Recipe

## Recipe Book Contributors Have A Taste Of Success

Villa Park Women's League has completely sold out the first printing of its new cookbook, "Tasting Spoons of Villa Park," and is awaiting the second run of 2,000 copies from the printer.

According to Mrs. Lowell McBride, one of the project's three co-chairmen, 1,000 books were purchased by the day after the group's Dec. 6 "Cookbook Kickoff" in her Villa Park home.

Compiled after two years' work, the book has more than 300 pages containing a total of 539 recipes.

"One of the interesting things about the book and its inception is that over lunch one day two years ago, a few of us were discussing a way to do a cookbook and make it a fun thing!" Mrs. McBride says.

The idea developed into luncheons for that purpose were held once or twice a month, and cocktail parties for members and their husbands took place to try out hors d'oeuvres recipes. The best dishes were served at a finale affair for couples, themed "The Best of Tasting Spoons."

Proceeds from the sales of the cookbooks will be used for community enrichment.

Mrs. John Paul and Mrs. Frank DeNardo also served as co-chairmen in charge of coordinating the book.

With the second printing expected the first of 1978, the book and information about its price may be obtained from Mrs. Lowell McBride, 18201 Abbott Lane, Villa Park 82667.