



MORGAN COUNTY YESTERDAY

Likely Literary Club Is Oldest Club in Mooresville

BY DALE DRAKE

Mooresville's Likely Literary Club, still active today, is the oldest women's non-church group in that town. It was founded in 1890 by Elinor Palmer Mills, who came to Mooresville as a teacher in 1886. She was a close friend of India Parker Likely, who enjoyed good literature and had an exceptional private library. Mrs. Mills, Mrs. O.E. Rooker, and Mrs. J.E. Overton met informally to read and discuss books for some time before deciding to organize a regular literary club.

At the first meeting, called the Reading Circle, 15 women enrolled as members, led by India Likely. The first president was Malissa Ritter Thompson; the second was Mrs. William Moore. The club met once a week, devoting one hour to study and a second hour to an original paper. The membership was later increased to 25, with the wives of pastors included as honorary members. In 1893 the name of the group was changed to the Likely Club and the motto "The World Advances With It" was adopted.

For the first eight years of the club's existence the members studied history. Then for 13 years Shakespeare was studied, including 25 of his plays. At the first meeting of the 1917-18 year India Likely gave a history of the club and the club decided to dispense with programs and devote their time to Red Cross work. India Likely was the leader of the group until her death in 1928, at which time Mrs. Mills became the leader.

In later years the programs covered lighter topics; the general theme for 1934 was "Skyward." The members organized a historical pageant in that year to celebrate 44 years of organization, dressing in costumes of the 1890s.

The current club, headed in 1994-95 by Clela Dalton, is less structured than in the past. The programs this year will be chosen by the members each month. Two years ago the club worked on their genealogies, and last year they chose comedy as a topic. Monthly meetings included Comedy on TV, Old Radio Comedies, and Indiana Comedians. Martha Fisher, 1993-94 president, says that the group is more a social group than a formal literary society now. They meet eight or



The two early photos of the Likely Literary Club were in Becky Hardin's collection. The members are listed on the back of the later photo on the right: back row, Emma Mills, India Likely, Noris Hadley, Cassie Hadley and Almira Hadley; second row, Lena Sage, Lizzie Cox, Isa Wilson, Edna Macy, Tide Thompson and Jane Gregory; third row, Dora Sheets, Ethel Hadley, Mattie Searce, Lillian Branch, Nettie Macy and Nellie Barnett; front row, Alpha Edwards, Lenore Lawrence, Edith Mills, Dora Henley and Marie Wilson. The older photo on the left is unidentified, but India Likely is the fourth person from the left in the front row. Can anyone identify any of the other women, or help date either photograph? Call Dale Drake, 996-3553.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Computer Expert Fascinated by Images That Mimic Nature's Chaos

THE NEWS-SENTINEL, FORT WAYNE

LEO, Ind. (AP) — Larry Kilgore was seduced by a triangle.

Three years ago on a Tuesday night, Kilgore had just poured himself a rum-and-Diet Coke and switched on "Nova," a PBS science program.

A recreational mathematician/physicist/geologist who's part of the elite three-man team that oversees Lincoln National Corp.'s vast computer network, Kilgore looks forward to "Nova" the way some guys anticipate "Monday Night Football."

This particular episode opened with a scientist scrawling a seemingly ordinary triangle on a tablet.

"We're going to show you how to play the chaos game," the man said.

Kilgore, a lover of puzzles, watched closely as the TV scientist closed his eyes, waggled the pen in the air and then plunged it down to repeatedly mark a random point on the page. The scientist then began rolling dice to help him plot more random points, each halfway between the previous point and a corresponding corner of the triangle.

Eventually — if you played the game long enough — you'd expect the triangle to fill with dots.

Instead, as Kilgore watched a speeded-up computer simulation on his TV that night, a remarkable thing happened: An intricate, Indian-blanket-like pattern of miniature triangles appeared inside the walls of the original triangle.

Using a computer to electronically magnify the smallest of those triangles reveals still smaller triangles, arranged in the same Indiana-blanket pattern. Within those, you'd find even smaller triangles. On and on it goes, triangles nestling triangles, into infinity — all carefully layered inside the walls of a geometric shape we thought we understood centuries ago.

By the late 1960s, scientists poring over fuzzy, computer-generated graphs of vast chunks of data — everything from weather readings to cotton-market statistics — began to see it, too:

Order, where they expect disorder. Patterns, where they expected chaos.

Scientists now believe that everything from the Rocky Mountains to human blood vessels to the jarring waves of feedback you hear at a rock concert are made up of webs of such infinitely replicating patterns as the one Kilgore saw inside that triangle three years ago.

Some people — Kilgore included — believe the universe itself may be constructed of such patterns: that if you found the right one, and set up a simulation on your computer screen, you could watch the universe unfold before your eyes.

Thanks to computers, it's now possible to translate mathematical equations into stunning visual images called fractals.

Some, such as the triangle, are in essence as simple as a child's set of nesting cups, resting one inside the other. Others are so vast, and yet so intricate, that they can be viewed only on a computer screen.

The most beautiful — and the most intriguing — of these patterns is known as the Mandelbrot Set, named for the mathematician who discovered it at an IBM research center in the late 1970s.

Now, 15 years later, this image is tweaking the imaginations of people all over the globe — from prestigious scientists to techno-musicians to local 12-year-olds who dial up Geofract, the computer bulletin board Kilgore runs from his home north of Leo.

The Mandelbrot Set is of interest to mathematicians, physicists and other scientists because it helps them visualize what happens near the theoretical line where order crosses over into disorder and back again.

For instance, cigarette smoke flows in perfect even columns, then, seemingly without explanation, shifts course to a wild, unpredictable pattern. Water drips from a faucet in even, measurable drops, then fluctuates before resuming a steady rhythm.

If scientists could understand why these things happen, then maybe they could fathom what prompts the human heart to shift into spasms of wildly chaotic — and often deadly — rhythms.

Maybe then they could understand even more complex physical systems: River currents. Jet streams. The fluid turbulence that makes up most of outer space.

There was a time when Kilgore was caught up in the heady notion that somehow he was going to be part of this new science. That he might, somehow, contribute to this madcap, end-of-the-millennium dash to understand the universe.

"Oh, I had all kinds of grand ideas about how I was going to use fractals to solve the world's problems," he said.

Anymore, he's unsure what to focus his energies on. There are so many mind-boggling ideas out there these days.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Likely Literary Club Is Oldest Club in Mooresville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

nine times a year, with no meetings in the summer. The membership structure continues as in the past; the current club has 25 active members plus pastors' wives and honorary inactive members. New members are added as openings arise. Although the themes have changed to match the changing times, the club continues the literary tradition begun in 1890.

BETHLEHEM M.E. CHURCH

In the late 1930s the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church of Jefferson Township was torn down. The only physical evidence remaining of this church is the cemetery associated with it, but for many years the church was an important element in that community.

Blanchard mentions an early religious group at this location in his Morgan County History: "The meeting house at Crone's has been well attended at times." No de-

nomination was given for this group. The Indiana Magazine of History for June, 1979 gives a brief history of the church: "Sometime before 1880, the Crone meeting house, located in Section 22, Jefferson Township, was replaced by the Methodist Episcopal Bethlehem Church. The adjacent Crone burial ground is now known as the Bethlehem Cemetery. In 1936 or 1937 the church was torn down."

The cemetery card index at Morgan County Public Library says that the cemetery was founded Feb. 10, 1858. William Crone, born in 1772 in Monaghan Co., Ireland, is one of the early pioneers buried in the cemetery; obituaries of his sons indicate that he came to this county around 1858.

We really don't know anything more about this church. Does anyone have a photograph of the church, or any memories about it?

ADOPTION RECORDS

Adoption records are now available from the Indiana Adoption

History Program at the Indiana State Department of Health. Applicants will be able to receive adoption records if both the adult adoptee (over age 21) and the birth parent consent. Consent forms are available at county courthouses, local health and public welfare agencies, and the State Department of Health. For more information call 317-466-3900. (From the Indiana Genealogical Society Newsletter August 1994)

AUTO MUSEUM TOURS

As part of its "Year of the Automobile," the Indiana Historical Society is offering two auto museum tours. The first, a bus tour to the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Ind., will be Saturday, Oct. 1, while the second tour will be to the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend on Dec.

10. Each tour costs \$57 per person, which includes all admission fees and lunch, and each leaves from Indianapolis. Contact the IHS Community Relations Division,

317-233-5658 for more information.

SOURCE BOOK VII

The Indiana Historical Society has published "Indiana Source Book VII," a 500-page hardcover book compiled by Ruth Dorrel from information published in "The Hoosier Genealogist" from 1989 to 1990. The book contains standard genealogical information such as marriages, death, courthouse records, newspaper articles, and an everyname index. It also includes special topics: Indiana steamboat pilots on the Ohio River; Hoosiers in Fulton, Ill.; and the Union County Poorhouse. "Indiana Source Book VII" costs \$25 (\$20 for IHS members). Write IHS, 315 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46202, or call 1-800-IHS-1830.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 24: Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Chapter, NSDAR, and Indiana Genealogical Society, New

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Likely club—one of oldest groups in town



by Becky Hardin

Mooreville Literary Likely club celebrated its 90th anniversary in October. Organized by Mrs India Likely, it is the oldest women's non-church group in town. Although Mrs Likely's picture is shown, this picture was taken several years after organization and is shared with The Times by Mildred Mills Justin, whose relatives were members. Shown, from left, are: front row—Dora Sheets, Martha Scearce, Lillian Branch, Nettie Macy, Nellie Barnett, Alpha Edwards, Lenore Lawrence, Edith Mills, Dora Henley

and Marie Wilson; second row—Lena Sage, Lizzie Cox, Isa Wilson, Edna Macy, Tide Thompson and Jane Gregory; back row—Emma Mills, India Likely, Noris Hadley, Cassie Hadley and Almira Hadley. Almira Hadley wrote the first history of Mooreville published in 1918. Lenore Lawrence served on the Mooreville school board and Mrs Sage was wife of the owner of The Times. If anyone knows the date of the picture and location it was taken, they may phone 831-0165.



Likely Literary Club Wed. Times 9-12-90 celebrates 100th anniversary

The Likely Literary Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in October. This is a first of two articles about its founding. One hundred years is a noteworthy achievement for a women's organization of this nature.

The committee for the 100th anniversary tea is chaired by Helen Cook and composed of Anita Platte, Janet Carlisle, Marge Newcomer, Jane Darling, Bertha McCrary, Beulah Patterson, Doris Vaughn, Carole Hochstetler, Ruth Sears and Clela Dalton.

Likely Literary Club

In the early '80's of the last century, Mooresville was a thriving little town, but without electric lights, sidewalks, paved streets, telephones, automobiles or radios. Stock roamed at large and homes had to be protected with fenced yards. The churches and schools stood alone for there were no outside organizations to speak of.

Culture that was brought by the first settlers was nurtured mainly around the fireplace. Development was more an individual than a collective achievement.

However, the hardships of the early period began to soften. Invention simplified labor and there was something contagious in the air that the dawn of a new day had come.

In the long ago a woman's club was as unheard of as the radio. It took the wildest flight of fancy to picture a busy pioneer woman listening to a paper on Cathedrals of England, much less writing one.

As household work was made easier women had more time for thought, study, and social pleasure and a wave of clubbing swept through the 70's, 80's and the early 90's.

Keynote of these early club movements was the creation of a better background to raise the inner tone of life, a richer use of leisure time and a maximum opportunity for development. Mooresville was one of the centers to embrace this forward movement, for there were women here who were well educated and alert.

An organization meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Rooker in the autumn of 1890. Living rooms were not

so spacious in those days, heating problems were complicated so the number was limited to 15, namely, Mrs. Ellinor Palmer Mills, Mrs. J.E. Overton, Mrs. O.E. Rooker, Mrs. India Parker Likely, Mrs. C.C. Allred, Mrs. D.A. Leathers, Mrs. T.E. Stuckey, Mrs. Benjamin Perce, Mrs. F.M. Hadley, Mrs. J.O. Thompson, Mrs. Almira Hadley, Mrs. B.F. Jones, Mrs. Wm. Moon, Mrs. Charles Thurman and Mrs. J.A. Taggart.

The new organization was named the "History Class" or the "Reading Circle."

Mrs. India Likely was chosen as the "teacher" due to her knowledge of history and literature. She was an able leader. The birth of this new club was an event for women's clubs were not the common occurrence that they are today. This first group of women laid the foundation stones upon which the Likely Club has been erected. The organization was taken seriously from the beginning and opened the door to a world of worthwhile books.

The first recorded membership list is in 1894. The number was extended to 20, but only nine of the original members were on the list. Mrs. J.O. Thompson was the first recorded president. There was a constitution and by-laws. It was the blazing of a new trail. It was pioneering in "Womanhood's New Day."

A more complete organization was formed in 1896. An enlarged Constitution and by-laws drawn up by Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Sage and Mrs. Jones was adopted. The number of members was limited to 25 and the name of Likely Club was chosen with much enthusiasm. The ambition of the club rose to meet the name and Likely Club took a permanent place in the community.

Advancement was the keynote. "The world advances, advance with it" was the motto chosen. The color red and the red carnation were both adopted. The purpose of the club was two-fold "Instruction and Recreation." Much of the success of the club is due to the membership themselves, who were and are honor bound to perform the duties assigned to them to the best of their abilities.

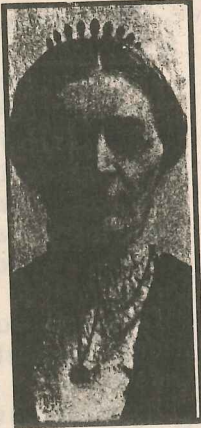
Likely Club has 104th anniversary *Wed. 10-19-94 Janna*

The Likely Literary Club celebrated its 104th anniversary last Wednesday with a meeting at the Mooresville Library.

Club members, limited to 25 members, wore traditional hats and gloves at the meeting. The Likely Club is presumed to be the oldest literary club in Morgan County.

The club was organized in 1890 by Elinor Palmer Mills. There were 15 members and it was first called a Reading Circle. India Parker Likely was in the group from the time of its inception as its instructor. By 1893, the membership had grown to 20, and the group decided to call themselves "The Likely Club" in honor of the instructor. Mrs. Likely was acknowledged as the leader for 38 years.

Twenty Likely Literary Club members and seven guests gathered at the Oct. 12 meeting. The program was presented by Fritz Habig who displayed hats that had belonged to Myrth Hadley, Opal Brown and Helen Cook.



Members of the Likely Literary Club wear hats and gloves commemorating the 104th anniversary of the club.

Cake and punch were served and many memories of Likely Club were shared. Red carnations were presented to honorary members, Dorothy Sellars and Helen Cook.

The next meeting will be Nov. 10 at the home of Bertha McCrary.

Club members include: President -

Clela Dalton; 1st Vice-President - Janet Carlisle; 2nd Vice-President - Susan Reichenadter; Secretary - Pam Undercoffer; Assistant Secretary - Kathleen Jay; Treasurer - Jane Roane; Historian - Martha Fisher; Parliamentarian - Anita Platte; Program Committee - Bonnie Thompson (chairman), Marge Newcomer, Bertha McCrary. Members -

Sharon Biddle, Ruth Connell, Anne Gatts, Carole Hochstetler, Rose Mary Kellum; Vivian Kirby, Sharon Knierim, Ginny Mills, Beulah Patterson, Barbara Prilliman, Ruth Sears, Pat Smetzer, Joan Taylor, Fabian Trogon, Doris Vaughn. Honorary members: Mary Jane Cheesman, Helen Cook, Phyllis Gregory, Helen Harvey, Frances Lichtenwalter, Dorothy Sellars.