Seminole Chronicle

<u>Lifestyles</u>



## PRESEN

The Oviedo Woman's Club legacy lives — and gives — on

By Kelly Allen

OVIEDO — When six women got together in 1906 to start the Oriedo Magazine Chub, they intended to increase their knowledge through reading and help the community.

More than 100 years laces, the group of womens — now known as the Oriedo Wennam's Chub — has a rich history and a flourishing present, making it a lot more than a magazine chub.

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The woman's Chub, having raised more than \$40,000 last year for local charities and archedorships.

The club's first recorded philanthropic act took place in 1912 when the club raised money for sidewalls in the clty.

"Seek in those old days they had the pigs running loose in the city" said Peggy Orborne, the club historian. "So they captured the pigs, and then they sold them back to their hasbands, whose pigs they were — and they but sidewalls with the money."

Although current members lough about the club's early artics, the willingness to help is still the group's driving force.

Delaine liftin, a member since 1998, said the way the club reached out to her is what caused her to join.

"When we came in 98 and our granddoupther had leukemia and had passed away ... at that time the club had been so good on un family."

They had given groceries, they sent Santa Claus by on the



Effin said.

"They had given groceries, they sent Santa Claus by on the fire truck, they were there to balyait, to do anything to help. I just thought that was wonderful."

It didn't take long for Effin to get in on the giving. She started a weekly sewing group that makes gowen and blankets for Operation Smile, an organization helping children with cleft palate.

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Sende, an organization helping chicken with circl palace.

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how much the woman's club does. "I can't tell you how many women I most who say they thought we were a tex club or a coffee club or a whatever, and no one really realizes how much we really do,' Balae said.

The club raises funds through its two main events each year: Great Day in the Country and the Tasting Luncheon. While the proceeds of the luncheon po toward operating costs for the club, almost all proceeds of Gerat Day are given away.

The club press about \$56,000 in scholarships to Ovicedo and Hagerty graduates last year, a fact Blake says most people aren's aware of. They also give to Blogs Town, Camp Boggy Creek, Elizabeth House, Safe House, Head Swrt, and many others.

"We try very hard to keep what we can in our community in Sentinole Country." Blake said. The club also volunteers at Sentinole Country shoots and partners with the Ovicedo police department.

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Squadrito said. "Those ladies know how to do everything."

Squadrito decided to join after trying out a meeting with a friend. "I had heard about the women's club, but I didn't really know what it was so I made my friend Marcia go with moe," Squadrito said.

Both women joined immediately after the meeting. "We could see right away that if you've going to be involved in service that 'the place to do it," she said. Now. Squadrito balances her caseer, her family and her responsibilities as fourth' to join six years ago.

"I have to say that [women Join because when you get there you are made to feel very welcome," Blake said. "You go to this club and you won't sir in the corner.

Somebody will come over and talk to you, they'll ask you to

III Plone see WOMAN'S CLUB JAS

CLUBHOUSE





te spring day in 1986, six liadies met to form the Oxledo Magazine Club. Their purpose was to



in 1914, the first dublins was built, which also



election of Woman's Clubs in 1923. While ng the clubhouse was no less CLUB CONTINUES TO GROW



The present dubhouse was built former member Mrs. R.L. Croom

## Young, old work together in woman's club

From WOMAN'S CLUB | A8

sit at their table. It's that feeling of friendship and camaraderie that you get immediately."

The diversity of the group is also attractive to many members — although some women are surprised by it.

"When you look around and you see the wide variety of people that are really in there, it changes your whole perception," Squadrito said. "There's a whole different wave of younger people coming in, which can be a good thing, which can be a bad thing. I wouldn't want the older members to ever feel like they were being pushed out because they're the ones that set up the club, set up the procedures."

Osborne, who joined the club in 1991 after moving from New York, said she enjoys the diversity of the club. "The thing I like about the club is it has women of all

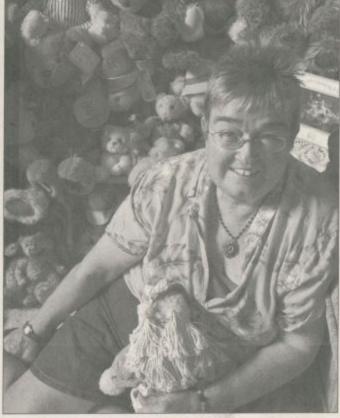
ages and it was really different," she said. "I got to learn a lot about Oviedo."

The woman's club will hold its annual Great Day in the Country in November and its Tasting Luncheon in March. If you're there, don't be surprised to find 140 women busy at work and having a blast.

"We all have the same goal, and we work very hard at that goal and keep sweet and bless the community," Eflin said.

## Oviedo Woman's Club Timeline

- 1906-The Oviedo Magazine Club began and exchanged magazine subscriptions.
- 1912- \$1 dues were instituted. The club raised money for sidewalks and held a Fourth of July program on Lake Charm.
- 1914- The club started construction on its first club house, with a total cost of \$1,500.
- 1917-The club house housed the local Red Cross Unit to aid troops in Word War I.
- 1929-With a depleted treasury, the dub worked to create new fundraising strategies.
- 1941-The dub participated again with the Red Cross, this time during World War II.
- 1946- Now consisting of 75 members, the dub focused on food drives and Red Cross efforts.
- 1950-The club began work on a swimming pool and benches for Sweetwater Park.
- 1961– Having sold the original dub house for \$200, the dub built their new dub house—still in use on King Street—for \$5,324.
- 1964- The club paid off its mortgage and burned the papers.
- 1968-The club started a city beautification program.
- 1971- Continuing focus on the city, the dub worked on the city's first library and erected Welcome to Oviedo signs.
- 1975–The club split into six departments and donated to the Oviedo Historical Society, the Oviedo Rescue Van Fund and Hacienda Girls Ranch.



Courtney Shapiro | The Chronide

CLUB COLLECTOR: Club historian Peggy Osborne shows off her bear collection at home.

Osbourne, the club historian, became a member after moving to Oviedo from New York.