

Lancaster Magazine Clubs of the Nineties

By D. B. LANDIS

THE topic of magazine clubs in this locality is a new one for historical observation and reference. Not one of the numerous papers in the last thirty odd years, presented before The Lancaster County Historical Society, contains an account of the various clubs formed for obtaining and exchanging popular literary and scientific magazines—about the period when first this Society launched forth to gather and publish its diversified and instructive sketches of history.

In my contact, as a printer, with well-known men and women figures, during the latter decade of the past century, and at the beginning of the present one, I had occasion to issue numbers of lists for them, giving rules for holding and exchanging monthly and quarterly magazines, or books, among their members. These printed sheets of about $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size contained not only rules for guidance, but a complete registration of subscribers' names, together with blank columns for noting dates of receipt and passing on to others; besides, on some lists, having space for fines in case of non-delivery to co-members.

Lancaster city has been very prolific, indeed, in its many clubs and societies for promoting useful knowledge, and these have been treated from time to time, particularly by our versatile compiler, Mr. William Frederic Worner. It naturally gives one pleasure to add this additional subject to the Society's vast collection of historic pamphlets.

Prior to the nineties, there were circulating clubs for magazines among the energetic school teachers of this city. One of these existed in 1888-89, in which six ladies participated, each keeping a magazine for a week and passing her copy on to another member.

A rule of theirs was that "Members will please note carefully date of receipt and transfer." Each member, at the proper time, received as her share copies of the magazine after all the other members had read them.

The teachers were:

Miss Kate Buckius
Miss Emme Brimmer
Miss Belle Weitzel

Miss Bertha L. Cochran
Miss Mary Neeper
Miss Kate Clifton

One of the early lists which I printed was for The "All Around" Magazine Club. Its rules embraced the following:

"Note date of transfer in ink.

"Pass to next on list.

"Return all books to the secretary.

"Keep six days."

The Club consisted of:

Miss Frazer

Miss Breneman

Miss Carpenter

Miss Palmer

Miss Bursk

Miss Downey

Everyone of these well-remembered ladies was of a reading and cultural disposition and took great pleasure in their regular exchanges.

The Lancaster Camera Club was quite ambitious in its field and had more specific rules for its large membership, from which I quote:

"This may be kept days and must then be passed to member whose name stands next on the list. A fine of *five cents* for each day's detention beyond the time allowed.

"Members will note in ink the date of receipt and transfer.

"The member whose name is *underscored* will return this to the librarian.

"Members desiring a second reading can obtain the magazine on application to the librarian.

"Members are requested to copy formula from the magazines to avoid soiling the same by compounding solutions from the book direct."

The full membership follows:

W. A. Heitshu

Leon R. Miller

F. A. Demuth

Wm. D. Zell

Chas. Sauber

Dr. W. H. Lowell

Redmond Conyngham

R. P. McGrann

F. Williamson

Chas. F. Wilson

W. S. Gleim

Dr. Geo. R. Rohrer

Fred. S. Franklin

P. H. Schaum

R. L. Taft

G. H. Werntz, Librarian.

Who knew Mr. Taft? A number of these men were expert amateur photographers, and all of them made use of rigid tripods as accessory in taking scenery, old buildings and their surroundings. They also carried generous supplies of 4 x 5, 5 x 7 and

larger glass plates with them on their periodic hikes over hill and dale, throughout Lancaster county and its borders.

At a later period the Lancaster Camera Club added some new regulations for exchange of periodicals, among such being:

"This magazine may be kept two nights and must then be passed to the member whose name stands next on the list.

"If received on Friday, it may be passed on the following Monday.

"Members must note in ink the date of receiving and passing.

"The member whose name stands last on the list must pass to the Club library, 23 East Orange street, where magazine may be had for a second reading upon receipting for the same.

"A fine of *three cents* must be paid for each night's detention beyond the time limit.

"Fines will be entered in a book in the Club library and must be settled monthly."

The membership at that time consisted of:

W. D. Zell	F. A. Demuth
G. H. Werntz	W. A. Heitshu
Dr. G. R. Rohrer	R. Conyngham
Dr. W. H. Lowell	C. A. Sauber
W. S. Gleim	F. Williamson
S. G. Johnston	D. W. Miesse

G. Steinman

The extensive photographic supply house of the Darmstaetter's, is an outgrowth of G. Howard Werntz's original effort. Mr. Werntz died in California within the past two years.

The Penn Magazine Club had an active exchange for some years. Among its rules were:

"This may be kept days, and must then be passed to the member whose name stands next on the list. A fine of *five cents* for each day's detention beyond the time allowed.

"Members will note in *ink*, after their names, the date of receipt and transfer. A fine of *ten cents* for every neglect in this direction.

"Members desiring a second reading can obtain the magazine by application to the secretary.

"The member whose name is *underscored*, will return this to the secretary."

The following twelve names appeared on the printed lists:

W. R. Wilson	Dr. O. Roland
Chas. R. Kline	John B. Miller
I. C. Arnold	Ed. M. Gilbert
Ira H. Herr	Wm. R. Gerhart
A. B. Hassler	J. W. Denlinger

Geo. A. Lane, Secretary.

It will be noted that this Club was made up of prominent professional men of Lancaster, some of whom are no longer with us.

An organization composed of sixteen men and women was called The New Century Book Club, of Lancaster. Its regulations were:

“Each member may keep a book *two weeks*, and will then pass it to the next person on the list.

“All books must be returned to the secretary, Miss Mary Grace Downey, 150 East Walnut street.

“A fine of *five cents* will be exacted for any failure to pass the book at the right time, or to date receipt and transfer.”

The names of members follow:

Mr. C. E. Downey	Mrs. S. B. Downey
Mr. Pyfer	Miss Harrah
Miss Palmer	Mr. Fry
Miss Carter	Mrs. Grant Eichholtz
Mrs. Duff	Mrs. Chas. Kline
Mrs. Baker	Mrs. Baumgardner
Mrs. McClellan	Mrs. Todd
Miss Marion Downey	Mrs. Fritchey.

Many of these persons will be recognized at this later period, even when their names were not given then in full.

There were two medical clubs in Lancaster, the first of which was called Lancaster Medical Library Association. Its numbered rules were as follows:

“1. Forward to next member on the list upon the expiration of the number of days allotted.

“2. Any member desiring a second reading will mark an X in the margin opposite his name; in which case it will be passed to him by the secretary after it has completed its round.

“3. Note in ink when received and when delivered.

“4. The member receiving the journal will return the journal to the secretary.

"5. Any member keeping this journal over four days will be fined five cents for each day over time. Keep this 4 days."

The doctors' names appended were:

Davis, M. L.	Breneman, P. P.
Underwood, A. M.	Shirk, J. K.
Cassel, G. L.	Sultzbach, H. M.
King, Geo. P.	Secretary.

Dr. Davis, perhaps, was best known for his interest in establishing Lancaster's crematorium for disposal of the dead, which is now no longer in use.

The second medical club was entitled The Medical Library Association, and it had similar rules for guidance as the first-named one.

The membership was slightly larger in numeric strength:

Alleman, F.	Herr, Wm. H.
Alexander, G. L.	Stahr, C. P.
Appel, T. B.	Underwood, A. M.
Bitzer, N. E.	Weidler, W. B.

Dr. Weidler afterward removed to New York city. I notice that the secretary's name was not given in the latter list.

The Mutual Benefit Club, also of Lancaster, among its rules stipulated that:

"..... may be kept *seven days*, and must be passed to the member whose name stands next on the list.

"A fine of *ten cents* for every neglect in this direction," etc.

Ten names are noted in the Club's makeup:

Wm. A. Heitshu	A. C. Kepler
C. N. Herr	E. J. Ryder
Milo B. Herr	I. H. Herr, Secretary
T. P. Guthrie	Misses Lichty

Miss Stamm

Mr. Ryder is now the president of the Northern Trust and Savings Company, of Lancaster.

In the local legal profession, The Central Circle had an exchange for some years. Its rules were somewhat similar to others, having fines of "five cents for each day's detention beyond the time allowed," and of "*ten cents* for every neglect" of transfers, etc.

Eight names appear each time on different yearly lists, the first one I printed containing the following:

D. McMullen
A. F. Hostetter
John M. Groff
B. Frank Kready

Wm. R. Harnish, Secretary
Wm. N. Appel
B. J. Myers
Chas. I. Landis

Of the above Judge McMullen and Attorneys Hostetter and Harnish have finished their earthly career.

The second printed list of The Central Circle had T. Roberts Appel's name in the place of A. F. Hostetter.

One of the most unique names for a magazine club was that known as The West End Revolver. Miss Charlotte W. Appel was its secretary and Mrs. E. M. Hartman, treasurer. With the usual fines of five cents and ten cents, for detention or neglect, a final paragraph read thus:

"The penalty for failure to pay the annual dues after the annual fall meeting, shall be forfeiture of membership."

Fifteen familiar Lancaster names were appended to that statement:

Mrs. J. W. B. Bausman
Mrs. T. Roberts Appel
Mr. J. W. Appel
Mrs. Baumgardner
Miss Nevin
Miss Hager
Prof. A. T. G. Apple

Mrs. Dubbs
Prof. Klein
Mrs. Bowman
Mrs. Gerhard
Miss Powers
Dr. Stahr
Miss Appel

Miss Annette Franklin (Bausman), first wife of J. W. B. Bausman, started and named this club "The Revolver." The club is still in existence, after a period covering about fifty years.

I have given all the names in this paper, as they were printed on the different lists. Most of them may be easily identified. While a number of the persons mentioned have passed out of life during the past two or three decades, it is surprising how many are yet in the flesh and more or less actively engaged, in or near our dear Red Rose community.

With the coming in of a popular public library and a number of advanced school libraries, the actual necessity for limited private reading clubs and circles passed off the local stage during the past twenty years. The pleasant hours from time to time, enjoyed by individuals banded together for mutual reading or study of worthwhile magazines, are now largely a matter of record and of the past, like many other passing things of the "good old days."

In the nineties and earlier of the previous century, clear, hand-set printing prevailed in books and magazines, with careful proof-

read lines and pages of matter. The result was proper punctuation and faultless spelling. Then it was quality always, over and against increasing quantity and too frequent inferiority, in this era of haste regardless of finished results. The typographic errors, which are allowed to pass to-day, in some of the so-called better books and magazines, would put to blush even the shades of Gutenberg or Franklin.

Standard monthlies, such as *The Century*, *Harper's*, *Atlantic*, *Popular Science*, *Peterson's*, *Godey's Lady's Book*, and other magazines of the nineteenth century, were most carefully printed; and afterward many were bound into volumes. As the years have gone by, the older folks still treasure them for their meritorious literary value. Some monthlies are kept for their steel plates, fashion pages, or hand-carved wood engravings. The latter became a fine art preceding the twentieth century method of illustrating by half-tone cuts. To-day these are universally used by printers, directly from photographic reproductions, on plates, through screens.

Truly this is a marvelous age of pictures and picture reading. Bright colors are lending all their charming beauty to the drab affairs of everyday existence. Books and magazines, to be read, must attract the sense of sight, to attain extensive circulation in these latter days of speed and accomplishment.

NOTE—Some of the first names omitted on the original printed sheets are herewith appended:

The "All Around" Magazine Club. Miss Susan C. Frazer, Miss Emily Carpenter, Miss Susan W. Bursk, Miss Mary Palmer, Miss E. Louise Downey.

The New Century Book Club. Mr. Fred Pyfer, Miss Mary Palmer, Miss Annie C. Carter, Mrs. F. G. Duff, Miss Mary B. Harrah, Mrs. S. P. C. Baumgardner, Mrs. Emma B. Todd.

The West End Revolver. Mrs. Lillian Baumgardner, Miss Alice Nevin, Miss Kate Hager, Mrs. Jos. H. Dubbs, Mrs. John C. Bowman, Mrs. E. V. Gerhard, Miss Emma Powers, Dr. J. S. Stahr, and Miss Charlotte W. Appel.

Ingenious Inventions of Martin Shreiner

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 15th, 1830, contained an announcement that the friends of home manufactures were invited to be present at Penn Square in Lancaster on the afternoon of Saturday, October 16th, to witness the trial of "a new and elegant engine," of the first class, constructed by Martin Shreiner, Sr., for the Sun Fire Company.

Two years later, the Lancaster Journal of Friday, August

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