

When one looks forward fifty years is a long, long time, but with the backward view the years telescope so that that winter of 1908 and 1909 which was the first year of the existence of the Peterson Tuesday Club does not seem too far away. Those were definitely the "horse and buggy days," since the horse and railroad trains (far more numerous then ) were the standard means of transportation. In town, however, not nearly every family had a horse, hence walking was also popular. Our home was a mile from town but the club members thought nothing of walking the mile mostly up the big hill. You may picture us then strolling down the road with our skirts lifted carefully but under no circumstances higher than the fifth button of our high button shoes. We wore no makeup, no lady wore makeup, if she wore makeup she was no lady, it was just as simple as that. I can vividly recall the winter outfit I had that year, a black broadcoat cut on princess lines, a huge black velvet hat with a big white ostrich plume and a large red fox muff. I really fancied myself in that costume.

My mother, Charlotte Kirchner Butler, was the first president of the Tuesday Club and I was the chairman of the program committee. We had some difficulty in finding program material since there was no library in Peterson and we were dependent on private libraries and magazines. Our first program featured some lessons of cultural and artistic nature and some definitely practical. It would not rate with present day program judges since it was not built about a central theme. The copies of our first program have all disappeared but I can recall some of the lessons. I had a lesson on "Stock Raising" possibly because my mother had just given me a farm at Everly, I do not know where I found my material but am sure that any stock man would have shrieked in anguish.

As program chairmen still do I took over some program numbers when the member originally chosen was unable to appear, that is how I gave a talk on "The Appetising Preparation of Cheap Foods." This was Dot Kirchner's lesson and she could have handled it brilliantly, but certainly not I. My mother and I had just returned from two years of travel, more than a year abroad. Prior to that

I had graduated from college and had a year of post-graduate study at Chicago University, my subjects Paleontology, Entomology and Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates, none of which would be particularly helpful under those circumstances. Memory does not serve as to the type of lesson I prepared, perhaps my mother helped me, but at all events I was not expelled from the club so that I must have given a degree of information, or else they gave me "E" for effort.

Among the women who were charter members of the Tuesday Club were many who were brilliant and interesting as well as executive. No doubt it is largely due to their influence that the club lived and thrived as will be related by the succeeding speakers.