

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 20 1984

date entered SEP 20 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Minerva Club of Santa Maria

and/or common Minerva Club of Santa Maria

2. Location

street & number 127 West Boone St, N/A not for publication

city, town Santa Maria N/A vicinity of

state California, 93454 code 06 county Santa Barbara code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Clubhouse

4. Owner of Property

name Minerva Club of Santa Maria

street & number P.O. Box 881

city, town Santa Maria N/A vicinity of state California, 93456

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number 105 E. Anapamu

city, town Santa Barbara state California, 93102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None Known has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u> N/A </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Minerva Club Building was constructed in 1928 by O. C. Marriott, Contractor, from plans by the noted architect, Julia Morgan. The building is a low, one-story, wood-frame California bungalow, sheathed in stucco and with a low gabled roof. The long axis parallels Boone Street with the main entrance located beneath a covered porch (created by an extension of the roof in 1952) supported by four pillars. Wooden sash casement windows are used throughout. The building is simple in design, lacking exterior ornamentation. The major alterations were made in 1952 with the extension of the roof to create the porch at the main entrance, and with the addition of a tea room and a kitchen extension at the rear. The only other addition was the installation of a small handicap-access ramp adjacent to the main entrance. The Minerva Club is located on a landscaped corner lot in a residential neighborhood just south of downtown Santa Maria.

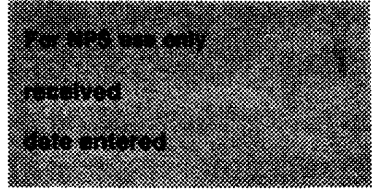
The plan is formal, being symmetrical, about two axes, both of which are centered on the large (32' x 43') Assembly Room. Aligned on the major east-west axis are a raised stage at the east end, flanked by dressing rooms, and a 20' by 24' Director's Room at the west end. On the south side of the Director's Room are the entry foyer and two coatroom/laboratories, which are balanced by the kitchen and storage areas to the north. Centered on the minor north-south axis are French doors leading to an entry porch on the south and to a grass terrace on the north.

In 1952, the major alterations were made. The roof was extended as a portico on the south, and the large pair of doors between the Assembly and Director's Rooms were removed. As a result of the roof extension which required the addition of porch supports, the original planting urns were relocated to the bottom of the entry steps. A 25' x 35' tea room was added to the north, over the original grass terrace, and a small (10' x 10') extension was added to the kitchen and storage areas. These additions balanced the south roof extension, and did not interfere with the basic symmetry of the plan. (Both additions were constructed by O. J. Reiner, General Contractor.) At the same time, the small exterior windows on the dressing rooms were replaced with doors to comply with exit code requirements. The only other change to the original building is the addition of the handicap-access ramp at the east end of the entry porch. The original French doors on the north side of the Assembly Room were retained, and the same muntin arrangement was used in the new exterior door and windows. The two new exterior walls of the tea room were given full-width window treatment in order to retain the original concept of cross-lighting in the main Assembly Room. The carved, panelled entry door is original.

The major interior feature is the ceiling in the Assembly Room. Two large trusses spring from the wall at the side of the platform proscenium and in turn support spaced beams with carved struts and exposed bolts. The wall between these trusses above the platform proscenium opening is treated as an extension of the truss, and a colored carved motto is cut into the wood beam over the platform opening. Carved wood railings and benches supported by corbels flank the platform, and the original oak floor is still intact, although it has been

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covered by carpeting in the main rooms. The roof sheathing is 2" by 8" tongue-and-groove planking and is left exposed. Similar exposed ceiling materials and spaced beam construction are used in the tea room. The smooth plaster walls are capped wood ogee picture molding at the ceilings and a two piece base at the floor. A wood chair rail is used in the Assembly Room and is repeated in the tea room.

The Director's Room contains the club's only fireplace. It is centered in the west wall and flanked by tall windows. The fireplace is highlighted with colored tile facing surrounded by dark wood panels and mantel.

The original blueprints are located at the clubhouse.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <i>Women's history</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** O.C. Marriott/Julia Morgan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Minerva Club has been a major influence in the social history of the local community since it was founded in 1894 as the Ladies Literary Society of Santa Maria. It is also important as the work of a major California architect, Julia Morgan, noted (among many other achievements) for her prominent role in the design of facilities for women's organizations throughout the West.

The Ladies Literary Society of Santa Maria was founded October 5, 1894. The name was changed to the Minerva Library Club of Santa Maria on March 2, 1906. The club was formally incorporated July 6, 1906; its name was shortened to the Minerva Club in 1954. This dynamic club was founded to improve the members and their community. Throughout its 90-year history, the organization has stood for "learning, helping, giving, caring, entertainment, and most of all, love." (Minerva Club, 1894-1983, p. 30). The club has been a leading factor in the development of Santa Maria. Its local, national, and international efforts in the expenditure of time, money, and materials have included war and peacetime humanitarian activities (Red Cross, YWCA, dental, clinic, blood bank, milk funds, child welfare, flood and earthquake relief, scholarships, USO, PTA, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, and other local charities), civic improvement and beautification (library, swimming pool, city incorporation, tree and flower planting, films for children, flower shows), political efforts (women's suffrage, child welfare, letters to Congress), and other contributions to local education and entertainment. These areas are detailed in Appendix B.

The club was a moving force in establishing a local Carnegie Library, having started their own library for community use in 1896. Property was purchased by the club in 1906 for a city library, but the library was built instead on a city lot. The club sold its lot in 1922 to the Methodist Church. In 1925, a site was donated to the club with the stipulation that it have \$12,000 on hand by January 1927 to build a clubhouse. This was accomplished nine months ahead of the deadline. The building contract was signed June 9, 1928, and the club moved in during October of that same year, holding a grand celebration. The Minerva Club has occupied the building continuously since that time.

The Minerva Club by Julia Morgan is one of only two buildings in the Santa Maria area which are known to be works of nationally known architects, the other building being St. Andrew's Methodist Church by Richard Neutra. Miss Morgan, the first woman architect to graduate from the prestigious Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, was known primarily for her design for San Simeon for William Randolph Hearst, and for her commissions for the YWCA in the West.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .4

Quadrangle name Santa Maria

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	7	3	4	1	6	1	0	3	1	8	7	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing										

B

Zone			Easting						Northing										

C

Zone			Easting						Northing										

D

Zone			Easting						Northing										

E

Zone			Easting						Northing										

F

Zone			Easting						Northing										

G

Zone			Easting						Northing										

H

Zone			Easting						Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification Building occupies its original lot, an irregular parcel measuring (in a clockwise direction from the northeast corner of Boone & Lincoln Sts.) 114.96' x 138.76' x 130' x 126.96'. Assessor's parcel number 123-135-09.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Robert Klein - Chairman

organization Minerva Club

date (OHP Staff Revision, 5/84)
7/11/83

street & number 13-1 E. Fesler

telephone 805-925-9458

city or town Santa Maria

state California, 93454

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marion Mitchell-Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/13/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-20-84

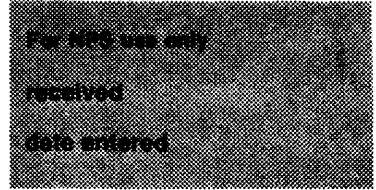
for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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She maintained a close association with women's organizations throughout her career, designing a number of buildings for Mills College, as well as numerous clubhouses for women's clubs throughout the state. According to the noted Julia Morgan authority, Sara Holmes Boutelle:

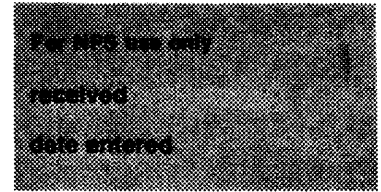
"The Minerva Club of Santa Maria is a very good example of Julia Morgan's architecture and interior design for a small women's club. It has been included in my forthcoming biography of Julia Morgan, which is now at the publishers and should be published soon. Therein, I have noted her treatment of the interior. The ceiling trusses are a distinctive feature of Julia Morgan's work. Also, her use in the Minerva Club interior of natural dark wood, both decoratively and functionally.

"The beautiful colored carving over the stage is typical of her use of decorative carving and adds contrast to the ceiling design. The long and narrow windows make another point of interest and are found in many of her other designs. The colored, handcrafted tiles in the fireplace are another distinctive Julia Morgan feature".¹

¹Telephone interview, May 4, 1983.

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Minerva Club

Minerva Club Minutes, 1894 through May 1983.

Minerva Club Scrapbooks, 1930 through May 1983.

Santa Maria Times (newspaper), August 21, 1922; August 23, 1923;
April 26, 1923; October 27, 1928; January 24, 1931; March 9, 1932;
September 26, 1932; November 6, 1933; September 3, 1942; October 7,
1944; October 25, 1949; March 18, 1951; February 20, 1961;
October 5, 1963; February 16, 1964; November 8, 1965; May 8, 1973;
October 2, 1973; October 27, 1980.

Free Advertiser (newspaper), October 3, 1931.

This is Our Valley, (pages 177 to 183) Published in 1959 by Santa Maria
Historical Society.

Gertrude Rice France - Oral interview on May 3, 1983. Minerva Member
since 1915.

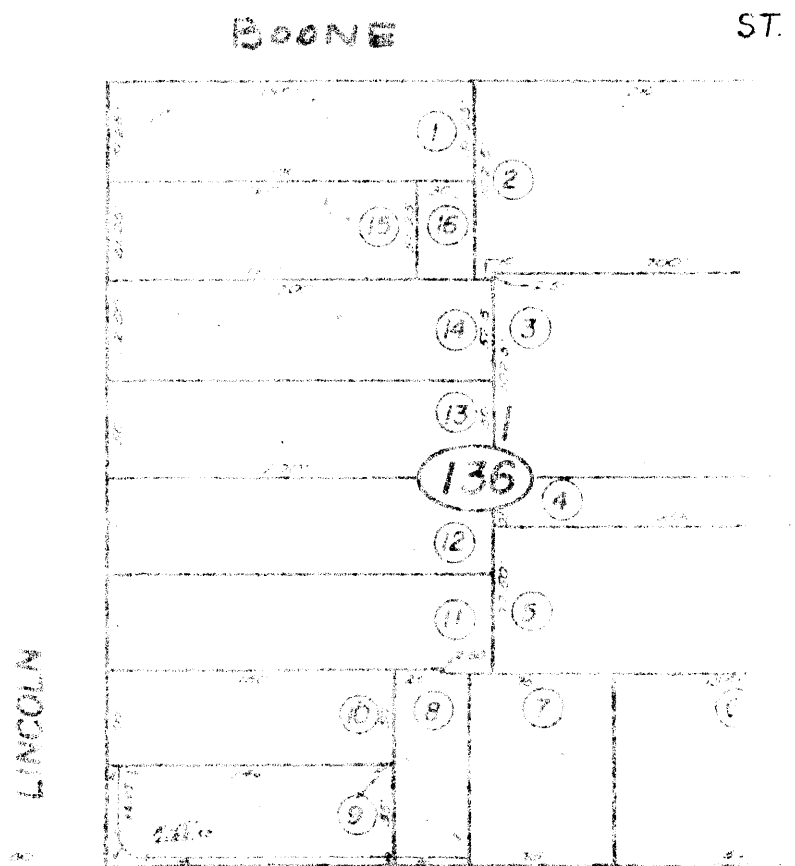
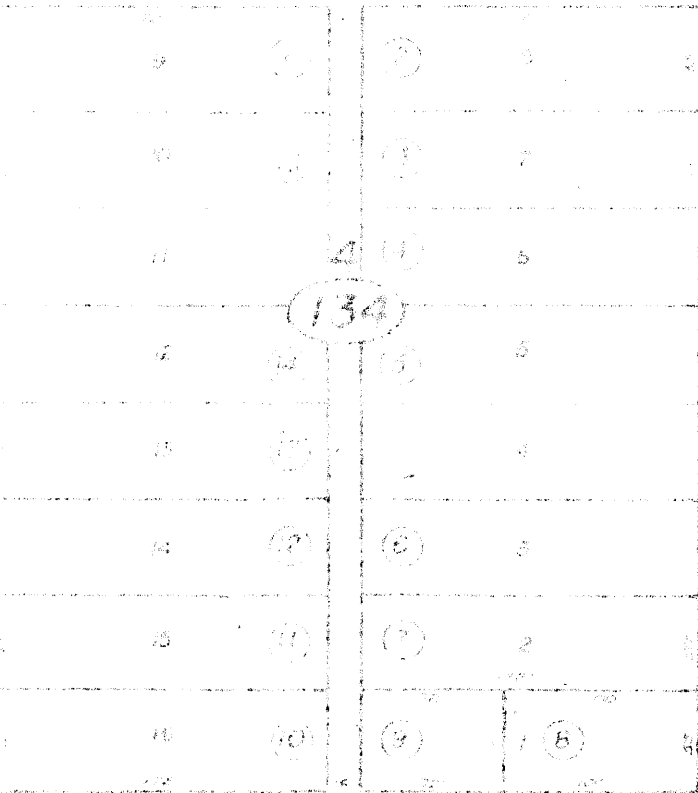
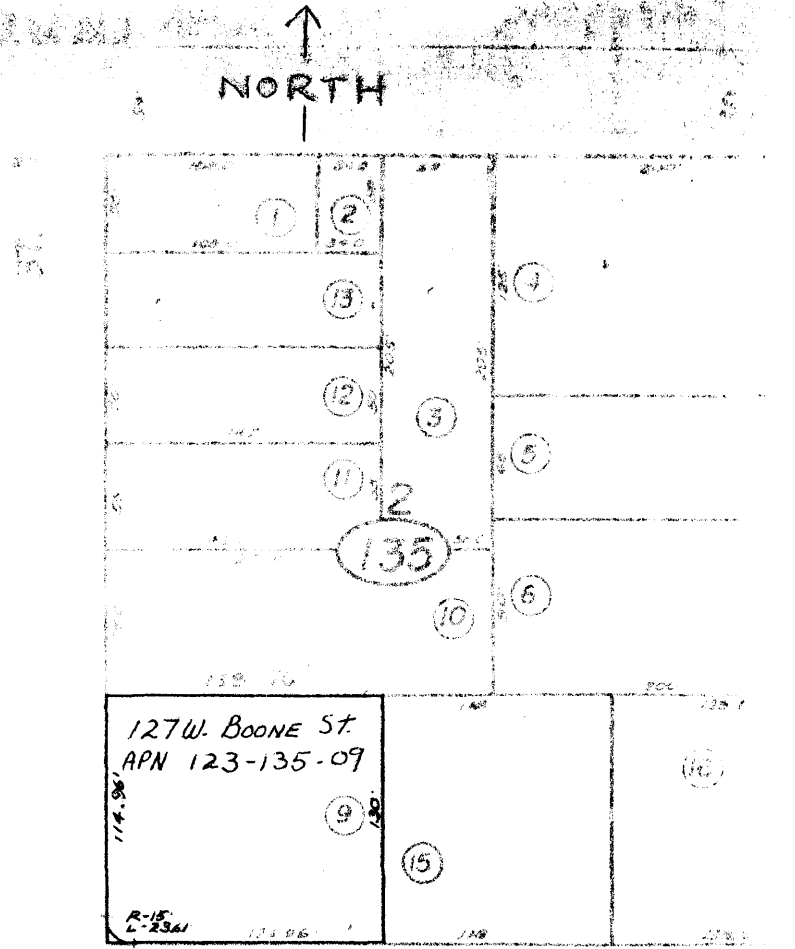
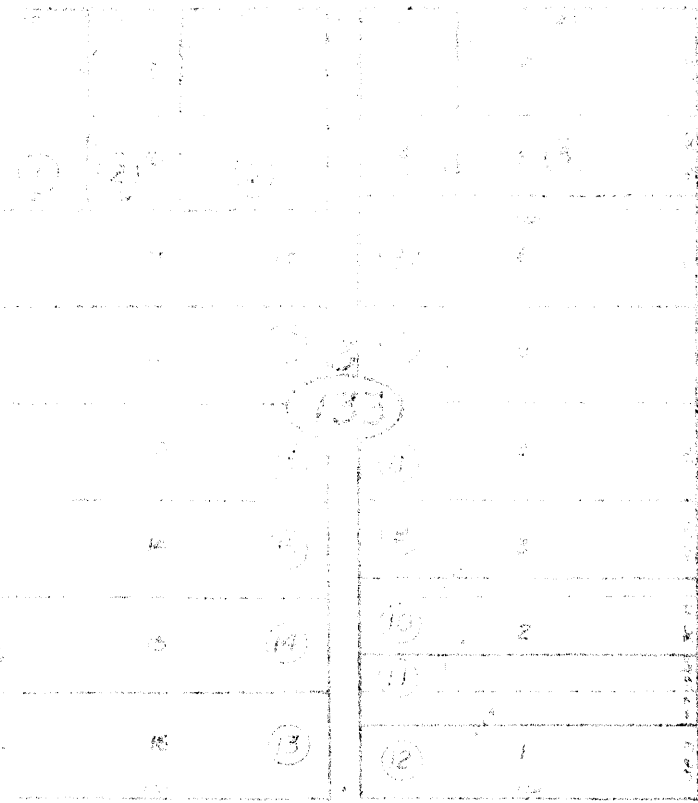
Julia Smith - Oral interview on June 8, 1983. Minerva Member since 1927.

Charlotte Radke - Oral interview on May 31, 1983. Minerva Member since 1928.

Winnie Adams - Oral interview on May 24, 1983. Minerva Member since 1935.

Sara Holmes Boutelle, Julia Morgan Association, Santa Cruz, California - Oral
interview by telephone on May 4, 1983.

B-2243H



Minerva Club of Santa Maria
 127 West Boone Street
 Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, CA.

Assessor's Map 51.123-f
 County of Santa Barbara

JULIA MORGAN
(1872--1957)

Many artists say of themselves "I do not speak; my work speaks," but the degree of isolation often spells the obscurity they must endure. Julia Morgan succeeded too well in her aim and was relatively unknown in her own time. Historians, who have not deliberately overlooked her, have little to write about her. Her preference for privacy, her total lack of personality, her few preserved papers, make the mute achievement--her buildings--inaccessible to most people.

Julia Morgan was born January 26, 1872, in San Francisco, California, the second child of Charles Bill Morgan and Eliza Woodland Parmalee Morgan. She had three brothers, Parmalee, Avery and Gardner, and one sister, Emma, who married Hart North. Her maternal grandfather was a prosperous cotton broker.

In the late 1870s the family moved into a large Victorian house in Oakland, California. There followed music lessons, trips to the East Coast, and summers in Monterey.

In 1890 Julia Morgan graduated from Oakland High School. She became interested in architecture at that time through a cousin, Pierre LeBrun. However, as there was no school of architecture at the University of California, she enrolled there in engineering. In 1894 she was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, one of the very first women to receive that degree from the University of California. She then enrolled in a course there with Professor Maybeck in descriptive geometry and architecture. With Maybeck's encouragement she set off in 1896 to enroll at the Great Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. At first she was unsuccessful in her efforts, since no woman had ever been accepted there as a student. However, in 1898 she was accepted, the first woman to be enrolled in two-hundred fifty years. She ranked thirteenth out of three hundred ninety-two students in her admittance application examination. From 1898 to 1901 she attended classes and won medals for mathematics, architecture and design. She left at age thirty, the outside age permitted. She then worked in Paris as an architect, and designed a building in Fountainbleau in 1901. The designs for this building are preserved.

By the end of 1901 she had returned to California and went to work drafting for John Galen Howard, a Berkeley architect. She worked under him on such jobs as the University of California Greek Theater, and the University Hearst Memorial Mining Building.

She then set up private practice in San Francisco. Her first important commissions were the bell tower at Mills College in Oakland in 1904, and their library in 1905. Following the 1906 earthquake, she was assigned the commission for structural repairs to the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

A succession of important jobs followed: St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, King's Daughters Annex in Oakland, and a number of Y.W.C.As all over California, Asilomar in Monterey, etc.

In 1918, the William Randolph Hearst project at San Simeon captured the imagination and skills of Julia Morgan. It was her most important project, and demanded much of her time for twenty years. In the 1920s, Y.W.C.As were also designed, as were churches such as the Berkeley Thousand Oaks Baptist Church and the Hearst Women's Gymnasium at the University of California Berkeley. She had a serious mastoid operation at this time, which left her face unsymmetrical and her gait uneven.

The great Berkeley fire in 1923 destroyed about six hundred homes, many of her design. Afterwards she had many more commissions. She used less redwood and shingles and more concrete in her later designs, and built many country houses in this period.

In 1929, President William Wallace conferred a LLD from University of California Berkeley on Julia Morgan, citing her as a designer of buildings and of simple dwellings and stately homes.

At the peak of her work in the 1930s. Julia Morgan designed the Berkeley Women's City Club.

By the following decade she had cut down on her practice and did a great deal of traveling through Europe and South America. In 1950 she closed her office, burnt her files and retired. She then took up calligraphy as a hobby.

Julia Morgan died February 1, 1957, at the age of 85. Her major monuments were to be Asilomar at Monterey, and the Hearst Castle at San Simeon. She devoted her entire time and energy to her career. She never married, and seemed to have little social life. Miss Morgan was one of California's first women engineers and architects. She was known for the strict personal supervision of all stages of the construction process, even in her old age. The excellence and wide range of her accomplishments will speak for themselves in the years to come.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Julia Morgan

1. Montclarion - Newspaper, February 27, 1980.
2. Los Angeles Times - Newspaper, February 1, 1981.
3. Art News - Magazine, January, 1981, p. 6.
4. Montclarion - Newspaper, May 28, 1980.
5. P.G. & E Progress - Pamphlet, June, 1981.
6. San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner - Newspaper, August 24, 1975,
pp. 24-31.
7. Piedmonter - Newspaper, May 1976.
8. University of California Monthly - Magazine, April, 1976, pp. 12-14.
9. Santa Maria Times - Newspaper, April 24, 1981, p. 6.
10. Oakland Museum Council of Architecture - Pamphlet, January, 1976,
p. 9.
11. Santa Maria Times - Newspaper, February 27, 1976.
12. Riverside Press Enterprise - Newspaper, June 13, 1982.
13. Oral Interview - May 5, 1983, with Suzanne Reis, Senior Editor of
Oral History of University California Berkeley.
14. Eminent Women of the West - Book by Eleanor Richey. Howell North
Books, Berkeley, California, pp. 237-262.
15. Telephone (oral) Interview May 4, 1983, with Sara Holmes Boutelle,
Julia Morgan Association, Santa Cruz, CA.
16. National Encyclopedia of America - Biography, Vol. B (1943-1946).

Appendix B

The Minerva Club was founded on October 5, 1894 by 25 women in Santa Maria. Their purpose was to bring the ladies of the community into closer relations socially, to help their community to grow culturally, and to expand their knowledge through study.

In the early years, they held four to eight entertainment events per year for the community consisting of lectures or music. The entertainers were well-known personalities who were brought to Santa Maria by the Minerva Club to the delight of all the community.

They started the first circulating community library in 1896 and were responsible for the erection of a Carnegie Library in 1909. When the library was opened, the Club donated 600 books to be used.

In 1903, the Minerva Club helped improve a community park. Finding the carrying of water to keep plants they had purchased alive was a time-consuming task, they approached the job of getting a water line installed. The city council informed the ladies that the community would have to vote to incorporate before any action could be taken (two previous votes had failed). So the Minerva Club set about campaigning for incorporation and, in 1905, another vote was taken and Santa Maria became a City of the sixth class.

1906 found the Minerva Club helping with San Francisco earthquake disaster relief.

In 1907, the Minerva Club started a Floral Fair. This was to be an annual event. In later years, when the Santa Barbara County Fair was started in Santa Maria, the flower show was incorporated into the fair and is still an integral part of their activities.

In 1914, they began an annual "Clean-Up Our City Day". Through the years, they worked to beautify Santa Maria by planting flowers in vacant lots and trees in parkways. Finally, in the early 1960s, the Santa Maria Valley Beautiful Club was formed and still carries on the jobs the Minerva Club had done all through the years.

1916 found the Minerva Club helping the needy families in Santa Maria. They worked hard to help their neighbors.

World War I found the Minerva Club helping the Red Cross, buying Liberty Bonds, helping the California Division of War Victory Commission, and donating supplies.

1919 found the Minerva Club holding dances for the older grammar school children. They also helped the schools through the years in any way they could, and for their years of effort they were presented an Honorary Life Membership in the Santa Maria Valley PTA in 1961.

Also in 1919, they began an alliance with the Red Cross. Over the years, they would donate clothes, money, and work. They sponsored a permanent unit to be formed in Santa Maria in 1940. And from then until 1949, they worked very hard to support the unit.

1922 found the Minerva Club succeeding in a job they had been working on; "Better Films Week" was a reality. They have continued to work for better films for young people. They were successful in the starting of Saturday matinees for children.

In 1924, the Minerva Club started a Camp Fire unit. They obtained a meeting place for the girls and also paid a lady \$10 a month to be the leader. Over the ensuing years, they would also sponsor individual groups.

1925 was the start of another tradition, the Honor's Luncheons. Each year, honor students from the high schools and the junior college are entertained. 1983 marked the 59th luncheon. The Club also began awarding scholarships in 1952 and to date have awarded a total of approximately \$45,000.

1925 found the Minerva Club donating \$500 toward a community swimming pool.

Benefit Bridges were begun in 1925, with the proceeds going to local charities. They are still being held.

A debt-free clubhouse designed by Julia Morgan was proudly shown to the members and the community in October 1928. Because of lack of meeting facilities in Santa Maria, the clubhouse would be rented to churches, schools, and other organizations until 1963.

On September 9, 1929, they finally were able to dedicate a monument to John C. Fremont and Benjamin Foxen in Foxen Canyon. This had taken many years of work. The meeting of these two men in 1846 was the turning point to California being ceded to the United States on January 13, 1847.

1931 found the Minerva Club beginning many years of help to the newly formed Hi Y Society.

Boy Scouts became another project to help in 1932. And the Minerva Club would donate time and money for many years.

World War II found the Club buying War Bonds, helping the Red Cross, holding classes for first aid and for Red Cross sewing, manning air raid lookout posts, helping to open a USO building, furnishing refreshments and hostesses for the USO, backing a blood bank, sponsoring and supplying a day room and a library at the Santa Maria Air Base, and hostessing and furnishing refreshments at Camp Cooke.

In 1950, the time of the Korean War, the club was again busy with the USO and running a canteen at Camp Cooke.

In 1955, the Minerva Club became the first Life Member of the newly formed Santa Maria Historical Society. Help in time and money was to follow for many years.

1980 found the Minerva Club supporting the "Friends of the Library" organization by becoming charter members.

By 1983, the Minerva Club celebrated its 89th birthday and is proud to say it has been active since the day it was started. There are 550 active members, plus 22 courtesy and honorary members. There is also a waiting list.

These are just a few of the highlights taken from the enclosed Minerva Club History, 1894-1983. The bibliography for this information is on the last two pages of the enclosed Appendix C.

MINERVA CLUB 1894-1983

On October 5, 1894 in the small community known as Santa Maria in the great state of California, twenty-five women gathered at the home of Mrs. Mollie Smith for the purpose of organizing a ladies society. These women were hungry for knowledge to help themselves and to better help their community to grow and prosper.

Santa Maria consisted mostly of farm families with just a few store keepers. The social life centered around church gatherings and school activities. The women were confident there was much more that could be acquired.

The twenty-five who assembled on that Friday in October were: Mesdames L.E. Blochman, E.T. Bryant, Sallie Curryer, Chaffin, Cora Dickes, J.E. Goodwin, Hosmer, W.A. Haslam, Rueben Hart, H.H. Harris, T.A. Jones, A.E. Lutnesky, W.T. Lucas, O.W. Maulsby, John McMillan, Emma McKenzie, Minnie Stearns, A. Stanley, L.M. Schwabacher, Mary Smith, Caleb Sherman, Minerva Thornburgh, Victoria Thornburgh, C.H. Weaver, and John R. Weeks. Their interest was apparent since the only way they could attend this meeting was after their chores were finished and then to travel by walking, or on horseback, or in a carriage or wagon.

They decided to call themselves the Ladies Literary Society of Santa Maria. They chose society instead of club as the latter was used only for men's organizations and in that time it would have been highly improper to use a masculine name.

They were very excited about the prospect of learning new and wonderful things to share with each other, their families and the whole community. So they set the object of the society as to bring the members into closer relation socially, and for the thorough study of reforms necessary to their progress at home and in society, by reading and discussing of English Literature and the Bible.

On October 26, 1894 an advisory staff of five men was chosen to assist with the selection of Lectures. What better way to have the support of the men for this new venture than to ask for their help.

The first five advisors were: Mr. Sam Slade, Mr. A McNeil, Dr. W.J. Marsh, Rev. Lawrence and Prof. Hummell.

After serving on the Lecture Committee for one year the ladies made them honorary members. In that way they would not lose their expertise.

Besides the Lecture Committee, that had the task of securing professional talent for community programs, they also appointed a Literary Committee to handle all the readings for the meetings of the society.

Interest grew rapidly in the society and at the end of 3 months there was a membership of 53 ladies.

The meetings were held in the homes of the members on each Friday at 3:30 or 4:00 P.M. And though most of them had to walk to the meeting, very few were cancelled because of inclement weather during the early years.

Officers were elected every three months with minutes being taken from the first meeting. Dues were wavered, which made their job even more difficult.

Members took turns with the readings and poems at each meeting. The readings from books could take several meetings. Sometimes they used articles written by their own members and other times it could be a magazine article. But what they seemed to enjoy most was the discussions held after the readings. The exchange of thoughts and ideas was always stimulating. They also liked to end their meetings with a musical rendition sung or played on the piano by one of their gifted members.

On December 4, 1894 they presented their first program for the community. It was a musical and literary entertainment held at McWilliam's Hall. Admission was 10¢ per person with children under school age admitted free. There were 170 people plus children who attended. Thus the gross of \$17.00 was realized and after expenses \$10.50 was the net. A start for the ensuing programs.

The Lecture Committee was quite sharp at persuading artists to appear during the Society's first year for only train fare and hotel bill, but with a promise to have them back at a later date when they could pay the performer.

During the early years they held between 4 & 8 events a year open to community attendance. These high class entertainment's consisted of lectures, music, or an evening of recitations. Sometimes the artists were provided by the Lyceum courses and sometimes they were contracted with great effort by the ladies. Some of the artists were world famous orators such as; David Starr Jordan, Joaquin Miller, Dr. Anna Shaw, Charlotte Perkins Stetsin, W.J. Bryan or John P. Irish. Sometimes they presented local talent in beautiful productions. But whatever the program it was always deeply appreciated by all of the community who attended. Santa Maria was having an evening of culture through the efforts of the Ladies Literary Society. Admission was never placed too high so that people would be excluded because of cost. The society was just glad to break even.

Also in December 1894 they incorporated travelogues into their meetings. What better way to learn about the world than to have a descriptive visit to another place.

In January 1895 it was decided to have a Bible reading and discussion to be given one afternoon each quarter. Their thirst for knowledge knew no bounds.

February 1895 brought about the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws. The Society had grown to the extent the guidelines were needed so there would be rules to state the purpose of the organization and the duties of the officers and committees.

On March 7, 1895 they sponsored an Art Loan Exhibit that was on display for 2 days for the people of Santa Maria to visit. They interested people from the community and surrounding areas to contribute pictures, laces, embroideries, miniatures, carvings, and other heirlooms to be shown. The Old Spanish families contributed some beautiful objects of art. A vast amount was gathered and shared with everyone.

By May 10, 1895 the membership had grown too large to hold the meetings in members homes. They found it necessary to ask for the use of the Masonic Hall. Since there would be a charge for the rent of the Hall, and since there were no dues, it was decided each member would donate 5¢ at the first meeting each month to defray the expenses. And on May 18, 1895 the first meeting at the Masonic Hall was duly called to order.

By July 5, 1895 it became necessary to begin to have a dues levied on all members. So it was voted that 50¢ a year be charged payable semi-annually starting October 1, 1895. To help with the expenses until that time, each member was assessed 12½¢.

It was also decided that the opening meeting each year would be a social evening. Husbands and the public would be invited by invitations. Refreshments consisting of sandwiches and coffee would be served.

The ladies were very interested in Women's Suffrage. They sent delegates each year to the Women's Congress and also had guest lecturers from the Congress.

Monies earned by the programs held the first year were used to start a Library Fund. It was the Society's hope to one day have a community library. At the end of the first year the fund had reached a grand total of \$79.09.

The start of the second year they had reached a membership of 63. And by December 1895 they started the charming routine of having roll call answered by quotations.

On December 31, 1895 they held a lecture in the Methodist Church, after which they served refreshments and welcomed the New Year. A community enjoying one another.

1896 saw meetings held at members homes and at the Masonic Hall. And in March a Library Committee was formed to find a place for their books to be placed for a circulating library. Then on April 3, 1896 rules of governing the circulating library were formed. So now they were ready to begin.

On April 3, they also voted to become a member of the General Federation. There was no State Federation at this time. To pay for the charter each member would be taxed 25¢. But the Society only stayed in for one year.

But most important, on April 3, the Motto - "Higher Knowledge and Better Morals", the Flower - "Sweet Alyssum" & the Colors - "Purple and Gold" were adopted. Also Mrs. Minnie Stearns designed

a seal - "A Lighted Torch over an Open Book".

July 1896 saw a hope materialize. A Bookcase was purchased and placed in a corner of T.A. Jones's store with 90 books proudly displayed. \$66.99 had been spent for books. Library cards were sold to the community and the revenue was used towards the purchase of more volumes.

The study sessions at the meetings were expanded to include Parliamentary Law. The Society had grown and established their by-laws and the ladies were desirous to know the proper ways to make motions and carry on their business. They devoted some of their meetings to practice the new skills they were learning.

August 7, 1896 a new feature was added; a Critic to be appointed at each meeting by the President. The duties of the critic was to listen to everyone and make constructive criticisms on readings, pronunciation, etc. and to report at the following meeting.

To further enhance the meetings, on October 30, 1896 they decided to answer roll call with a current event along with the quotations already in use. The ladies kept this practice until 1905. By this time the membership had grown so much that roll call was dispensed with but they kept current events and quotations in their meetings.

The ladies spent their efforts in trying to provide a worthy library with good quality books and to bring first class programs to the community. So to save money they stopped meeting at the Masonic Hall and started to meet in members homes again in November 1896. But as membership was still growing they approached the Masonic Hall again. With much talk they returned to the Hall for their meetings on May 7, 1897 at a reduced rental rate.

One of the papers read on July 23, 1897 was "The Status of Woman, Past, Present and Future." A paper on the subject of "Can women best improve the conditions of her dwelling place by devoting herself exclusively to its interests, or will she be the best house and home keeper who strives to benefit also the community of which her family forms a part," was also read. After the reading a discussion followed and ensued for 3 meetings.

On September 3, 1897 the ladies felt they should broaden their study courses. So they decided to add American History, Literature, and Art.

March 4, 1898 found 181 books now were in the circulating library. But they still hoped and planned to increase this number.

And as they progressed in their knowledge of Parliamentary Law, they decided to adopt Robert's Rules of Order on May 5, 1898. It is still the governing reference for the organization.

October 7, 1898 the Society had discussed at great length the changing of their name. After much thought they changed it to the Ladies Literary Club. They were no longer afraid it would be too masculine.

April 7, 1899 found the library thriving with 268 books to lend and the community coming regularly. It had blossomed into a full time job. So they found it necessary to hire a member as librarian. After all, you could not ask someone to volunteer the hours that had to be put in serving the community. The librarians wage would be \$1.00 a month and would stay at that rate until 1903 when it was raised to \$2.00 per month.

The general discussion held on June 3, 1899 was a topic that still is important today. It was on the effects of alcohol on the brain. The ladies were always interested in health and medicine. They had many Doctors speak to them on different subjects. To understand the problems and how to handle them was of utmost interest. In fact, they read and studied everything but cooking and sewing, that they could learn at home.

August 10, 1900 the ladies had the opportunity to move the circulating library to the Post Office. It took a lot of work but was a wonderful location. When the people of the community came in for their mail, the books were handy for lending.

By October 1900 the membership had declined in the Club. So it was no longer feasible to pay rent on the Masonic Hall. The Club once again began meeting in members homes. Even though there were less ladies to work, they still put on the evenings of entertainment for the community. And the community still came in great numbers, thankful for the opportunity to see some programs such as were shown in large cities.

It was also decided at this time to elect officers every 6 months. In that way they felt the officers would have a better chance to perform their duties with the extra time.

1901 started their investigation into the State Federation of Women's Clubs. After a thorough investigation they sent their application in and were accepted on March 22, 1901. Thus began the task of sending delegates to the Annual Convention of the Federation. The delegates would return with news of activities of other clubs and the Ladies Literary Club would grow in new ventures.

Still hoping for a community library, the ladies wrote to Andrew Carnegie for help. The first letter was sent in March, 1901 and several more would be sent in during the next few years.

The Club had been meeting all year until now. The ladies decided not to meet in the months of July and August. But would still read at home so when the Club convened in September they would have many things to share.

September 13, 1901 the discussion at the meeting was a very sad one. It was on the evil which led to the assassination of the loved President McKinley.

Interest in all that happened in Santa Maria brought the problem of ventilation, light and heat in schools to their attention. Feeling this to be a situation that should be corrected for the good of the students, a committee was appointed to meet with the teachers and school trustees in November 1901 and try to formulate a solution.

And as soon as was possible, the requests were rectified.

January 31, 1902 the price of admission to the open lectures and entertainment was raised to 50¢ for a seat, 35¢ general admission and 25¢ children. And refreshments would consist of the usual sandwiches and coffee plus ice cream and cake to be added.

May 23, 1902 a committee was appointed to investigate the price of a suitable location for a clubhouse. This was the desire of the ladies to have a permanent home. It would be many years before this would finally come to past.

The need for more money to pay for the Club's expenses made it necessary to raise the dues to \$1.00 per year on October 3, 1902. And they also voted to have the President's tenure of office be 1 year.

Starting in November 1902 through the generosity of Mrs. Stearns, the Club would meet in her studio. It was a lovely place to meet as Mrs. Stearns was a talented artist and had many beautiful pictures and other artistic objects around the studio. They met at the studio until 1907 and to thank Mrs. Stearns through the years they would present her with a ½ cord of wood several times.

By December 1902 it was thought to be difficult to have meetings every week so the ladies voted to have meetings on the 1st and 3rd Fridays.

The men of Santa Maria had established a park, Buena Vista on land donated to the community. In their efforts to help beautify the park the ladies held a "Calico Ball" on April 3, 1903. Admission was \$1.00 per person plus 25¢ for supper. Supper consisted of sandwiches, pickles, salted nuts, coffee, lemonade and cake. \$285.18 was the sum raised for the Buena Vista Park project.

On April 23, 1903 the regular meeting was held at the park so they could decide where to use the money they had earned. They decided to dig an existing well deeper and to repair the existing windmill and tank. Also they decided to plow the ground and plant trees, shrubs and flowers. Their desire to make a beautiful place where everyone could gather for picnics and holidays was most urgent.

The work completed they found the well would not work and they proceeded to carry water to nourish their plantings. You could see them walking or going in carriages with water in their demijohns to save the flowers. This turned out to be quite a time consuming job. So they called an open meeting with the men of the community to see about securing a permanent water supply. During the discussion it became known that the title to the Park could not be secured unless the community incorporated. Therefore it was useless to spend money on a better water supply. And also it was a fact that 2 previous elections held on incorporation had already failed.

The Ladies Literary Club were determined to have the town incorporate so agitation of the question never stopped until another election was called and Santa Maria became a City of the sixth class in 1905. Five months later the title of the Park was cleared and given to the city. Shortly thereafter a water line was installed.

May 6, 1904 found another move for the circulating library to Mr. Mau's hardware store. This was just another of the many moves the ladies had to do. Twice, it was housed in a dental office's reception room, once in an upper room of the Heller Building and other places not specified.

It was decided on October 21, 1904 to start a clubhouse building fund with the proceeds of the next lecture. To help the fund Mrs. Sophia Jones donated \$65.00 on January 23, 1904. She would be only the first one of many to help through the years.

The ladies of the Club decided to change the name of the organization again. So on March 2, 1906 they changed it to the Minerva Library Club of Santa Maria. There has been questions as to the origin of this name. So all I can do is relay a statement taken from a history of the Club written in 1919, by Mrs. Susan Lincoln, President of the Club 1906-07 and 1907-08.

Quote - Minerva, out of respect to Mrs. John Thornburgh, much better known as Aunt Minerva Thornburgh, a woman of gracious dignity, high intelligence and a founder of the club. So it is a mistake to put the classical head of the goddess of wisdom on any of our documents. Unquote.

On April 18, 1906 a terrible earthquake and fire destroyed much of San Francisco. So on May 4, Minerva Library Club was contacted to help supply some nurses uniforms if possible. The ladies got to work immediately in cutting material and sewing on six complete outfits. They were sent off as soon as they were finished, and on May 18 only 2 weeks later they already had a thank you from San Francisco. But that didn't stop their help. With money donations from workers in the oil fields, the Citizens Relief Committee and members, they bought more material and made layettes, blankets, underwear, children's clothes and ladies dresses. These were sent to San Francisco and to Pismo Beach where many of the refugees were given shelter. The ladies also held a Flower Fair to help raise money for San Francisco. After all the bills for material were paid they had \$47.70 which they sent to Relief of Nurses of San Francisco. All the tiny hand stitching put into the articles made was done with great care and teh ladies were thankful they could be of service.

The ladies found they could not buy real estate unless they were Incorporated. So they set on the task of compiling a Constitution and By-Laws with the help of a local lawyer. After the membership accepted the documents they were sent to the Secretary of State for the State Seal and ratification. On July 9, 1906 the seal was affixed and Minerva Library Club had advanced another step in their progress.

And with the new Constitution and By-Laws they appointed their first Board of Directors. The Board held meetings before the regular business meetings on the 1st Friday of each month.

To make the opening meeting of the Club year, September 1906, a little more interesting, it was decided to serve tea and wafers. Each member was asked to bring their own cup. The ladies found this to be such a delightful way to end their meetings they continued the practice from then on. This was the beginning of the traditional teas held after each General meeting today.

In September 1906 they felt they must have a permanent place for their books. So a committee was appointed to find a Library Lot. A lot was offered to the Club by a member. It was located at the northwest corner of Cook and Broadway. The size of the lot was 57ft X 75ft and the cost would be \$750.00. The ladies made an initial payment of \$250.00 and were now eager to have a library built on this property. So in April 1907 a delegate from Minerva was appointed to go to the City Council in regard to a public library. The City Council was all in favor of the proposition and had a committee appointed to work with a committee from Minerva to investigate the possibilities.

The ladies felt sure something good was bound to happen. They had a lot, the City Council was helping and they were still trying to negotiate with Carnegie.

April 1907 also found the start of a Floral Fair conducted by the Club. It became an annual event and grew to be a large exhibition. At this first one they commissioned their artist member, Mrs. Stearns to hand paint 1 dozen china plates at a cost of \$12.00. These were to be used as prizes for the flowers entered.

The ladies were working hard to earn the money for the balance on their lot. On September 6, 1907 they paid the second payment of \$200.00.

December 20, 1907 an article was read on the subject "of whether it was best to pay your children for their labors performed at home or make them a regular allowance". The meeting was open to discussion on the matter. The exchange of thoughts was so long it was left for further discussion on January 17, 1908. At this meeting the subject was opened again and after further discussion a motion was made to table the decision indefinitely. And so of today it has never been reopened. A very wise group of women.

In January 1908 the ladies resolved to borrow \$200.00 from the bank and pay off the balance of the Club lot. And now they had a deeded lot in the name of the Minerva Library Club. Although they had planned to use the lot for a library, Carnegie decided to build a library in Santa Maria and it was placed on city property. The Club's dream of a public library was finally coming true. And their other dream of a clubhouse might be in the offing. At least, they had the lot. And the \$200.00 they borrowed for final payment was repaid in 5 months by concentrated effort.

And now the community joked about how long it would take the Club to mortgage their property and purchase an automobile. It seems quite a few people were doing that to be able to have the luxury of a car. But the ladies had better plans for their property.

On February 21, 1908 a communication was sent to Carnegie from the Club, Quote - The Minerva Library Club of Santa Maria, California, desiring to express their good feeling and their wish to co-operate with the Carnegie Library Committee in establishing a public library, will be pleased to donate their books to the said library when the building is completed and the committee is ready to accept them. By order of the Board of Directors. Unquote.

After the opening of the library in May 1909 the Minerva Library Club donated 600 books. They had a total of 1,000 books but some had been lost in their many moves and the rest were too worn to donate.

In March of 1908 in a gesture of thanks and appreciation for all that Minerva had done for the community, the Knights of Pythias offered to give a benefit ball. Minerva accepted and received a \$189.00 profit.

Spring was approaching and so was the annual Floral Fair which they now called the Blossom Festival. The admission to the show was 25¢ for adults and 15¢ for children. Potted plants were given as prizes. The net profit was \$93.80 which proves how popular these shows were. They had different categories for flowers and also for flower arranging. They also had special themes each year. All of these would be incorporated into the County Fair in later years. The flower shows at the County Fair are a direct result of the work Minerva started.

Minerva was now a land owner. And as such the job of improving and maintaining their lot was a never ending job. The lot had to be plowed, weeds had to be pulled, sidewalks had to be laid, trees had to be planted and other jobs had to be done to keep the lot attractive. So to help raise a little extra money an initiation fee of \$2.00 was levied.

An interesting program on February 19, 1909, consisted of articles on the flying machine and wonderful uses of electricity.

May 1909 the Blossom Festival was held in conjunction with the opening of the Carnegie Library. Everyone turned out for this grand occasion and the Flower Show netted \$105.30.

In June 1909 Minerva donated \$100.00 to a Band Stand to be built on the Library grounds. As usual, the ladies wanted to help their community.

On June 4, 1909 the Club held their meeting in a room in the new Library. For all the work they had done in acquiring the Carnegie Library a special room was given to them for their use. A home at long last. The Club still continued to pay the Librarian's wages and they also kept the outside and inside clean and repaired. The Library was always and still is of great importance to Minerva.

They also continued to purchase good novels to put on the selves.

October 14, 1911 Minerva Library Club had an open evening meeting. It was a combined Club anniversary and also to discuss the prospects of building a clubhouse. The discussion on a clubhouse had become most important in the past several months. But such a project would take years of planning.

It was decided to become a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs again in March, 1912. They belong to the State Federation. This meant twice as many conventions and meetings to attend. But the delegates always returned with lots of helpful information.

The program on November 21, 1913 consisted of a demonstration by the Midland Counties Electric Light and Power Company. There was an electric oven on exhibition, also appliances for making toast and coffee, and the latest electric fixtures. And they also had an electric iron which when turned upside down and capped by cute little three cornered pots, made individual cookstoves. Refreshments provided by the Electric Co. consisted of toast, cake and coffee, all fixed on these new appliances, which proved electric cooking was very satisfactory.

February being the month of President's birthdays, it was decided to hold a lovely Colonial Ball on February 12, 1914. The people of Santa Maria loved to attend these social functions.

In June of 1914 a committee from Minerva met with City Trustees to ask for their help in holding a Clean-Up Our City Day. June 23rd was designated as the day and a map and work plans were formulated. Each member was to take care of the block they lived on. They were to ask their neighbors to fix their places and also clean-up any vacant lots. This became an annual project for Minerva. To get the young boys interested in helping with the clean-up, they offered a prize to the boy collecting the most cans on Clean-Up Day.

September 1914 found the ladies planning to start a fund to be used to buy cups and saucers. Now that they had a room in the Library they had a place to store Club property.

By March 1915 they had \$5.25 in the fund and they were able to purchase 1 dozen cups and saucers, a tea pot and kettle.

In their efforts to beautify Santa Maria they found the ugly billboards being erected and the cutting down of trees along the highway in 1914 to be of utmost concern. So with their usual exuberance they tackled the job.

World War I was being fought in Europe and although the United States had not declared war yet, the ladies were most concerned with the happenings. Meetings were held with topics to inform them of World News. In their concern they sent a committee to confer with the Chamber of Commerce to see if help could be given to Belgium who was suffering from the effects of the war. Boxes of clothing were gathered and shipped to Belgium.

A new Civics Committee was started on February 5, 1915. Their jobs were to see that the town was beautified by the planting of flowers, to have the people of Santa Maria plant their yards and to plant vacant lots.

Another section was also added. It was called Reading Circle or Literature Study. And study is exactly what they did.

1915 found Minerva giving their support and endorsements to 1. Allowing Bible readings in the schools and 2. the Poll Tax.

May 1915 marked the first time a member was to be made an Honorary Member. Mrs. Fauntleroy was so honored. Also Mrs. T.A. Jones became the first Life Member because of an earlier donation made to the Club.

January 1916 Minerva took on the project of helping needy families in Santa Maria. They would take food and clothes to them, but most important they would also try to find them jobs. They were always ready with a helping hand.

On February 29, 1916 they were to help again. This time it was the Santa Maria Valley Band. The Band was having a Benefit Ball and the ladies donated the refreshments and also helped serve.

Refreshments of cake or cookies and tea were all that had been served at the meetings so far. But on March 17, 1916 a lucheon with a St. Patrick's theme was enjoyed by all who attended.

And as though they knew that Minerva would be a Club for many years to come, they decided on June 2, 1916 to preserve a copy of each year book.

In November 1916 they purchased a gas heater to use in their room at the Library during the cold winters. The High School Mothers Club asked for permission to use the Minerva Room for the winter and in their usual generous way, permission was granted.

A concert by the Los Angeles Civic Orchestra was co-sponsored by the Club and the Lyceum Bureau in December 1916 at Santa Maria. A beautiful evening of music.

Dues had been raised from time to time and by March 2, 1917 they were \$3.00 a year.

1917 found the United States in the War. This was a great concern to all Americans. The ladies started their help by buying Liberty Bonds. Then they gave donations to the Red Cross War Relief Fund, the Armenian Relief Fund and the Santa Maria High School Junior Red Cross. They also contributed to the California Division of War Victory Commission toward the establishment of recreation homes for the men in service and to the National Council of Defense.

They also prepared individual Christmas packages for local boys in the service plus other boys. In 1917 they collected 253 packages, 125 were given to the Red Cross and 128 sent to local boys.

June of 1917 found the Club entertaining the entire senior class at the home of Mrs. Goodwin. They were so proud of the young people of Santa Maria.

Even though they were busy with the war effort they never stopped helping the needy families of Santa Maria. They also bought a flag for the Constabulary in June 1918. It cost \$50.00.

The P.T.A. sought Minerva's help in January 1919 to procure trees for the school grounds. And Minerva was happy as usual to give her assistance.

1919 found our boys returning home from the wars. To welcome them back Minerva ladies held a dinner dance in their honor on March 29, 1919. The servicemen and their wives or dates were the guests of honor.

Then in May 1919, they hosted a dinner dance for the boys of the 91st Division. It was as usual, a social success.

Also in May 1919 the Club sent letters endorsing the sentiment of the League of Nations, they felt that our representatives should have an idea of the will of the people.

In the spring of 1919 there were other projects that were of concern to Minerva. For the past few years they had been giving financial and physical help to the Y.W.C.A. and would continue for many years. Also they saw a need for social activities for older grammar school children. So on May 22, 1919 they held a dance for them at the Armory. This was to be the first of once a month dances to be hosted by the ladies. The Constabulary wished to help and so they donated the use of the Armory.

The fall of 1919 saw the ladies turning some of their efforts to the Red Cross Civilian Relief. The Red Cross was to benefit from this help over the years by the receiving of donations, help on their bazaars, help with Red Cross Drives, help with bandage, rolling, and helping in the offices. No job was too big for the ladies to undertake. And they never neglected their own homes.

In their earnest concern for helping the needy and for beautifying Santa Maria, the Chamber of Commerce on January 2, 1920 requested that the Club appoint a committee to work with the Chamber on Civic matters and to beautify the town. This was a wonderful opportunity for the ladies and one they accepted eagerly.

February 6, 1920 found the Club joining the newly formed County Federation of Women's Clubs. This afforded them to meet ladies from surrounding areas with the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas. Many joint meetings were held. Other clubs were invited to visit at the Minerva meetings and conventions were held in Santa Maria in the ensuing years.

In August 1921 another flower show was started. This was a Dahlia show, but they were still holding the spring Blossom Festival.

The latter part of 1921 found the Club purchasing articles to make their teas more lovely. One of the articles were spoons and to pay for them, each member donated 85¢.

1922 - Because of their involvement with the Federated groups (the General, the State, and the County) the ladies found the advantage of having paid speakers and entertainers for their general meetings. Of course, this did not stop them from also using the talents of their members. But the meetings did not consist of readings and study anymore. Those were separate sections that met on other days.

May 19, 1922 Minerva held their first card party. It was after a regular meeting and they would have this sort of entertainment periodically.

Founder's Day, October 6, 1922 was held at Beckers Grove with a picnic to start the day. Mrs. O.P. Paulding had been requested to write a history of the Club. This document was placed in the cornerstone of the High School building.

In November 1922 one of the jobs that the ladies had been working on for several years finally came to a happy event. "Better Films Week" was held from November 12th to the 18th. Their desire was to have suitable films shown to the young people. They worked with the City and County managers of Motion Pictures and in later years were able to procure Saturday matinees for children.

They also started donating to the State Tubercular Society and began sending cookies to the soldier's hospital in Palo Alto. Their desire to help was widespread. And through all of this they were still adding to their Clubhouse Fund.

December 1922 found a change in their plans for their lot. After many months of discussion with members, Club advisors and the people from the Methodist Church, Minerva Library Club sold their lot at Broadway and Cook to the Church for \$5,500.00. The Methodist Church still occupies the property. But now Minerva would have to look for another lot.

The report of the Civics Committee for the Club Year 1922-23 showed the following activities:

1. They worked with the Board of Health for better sanitary conditions.
2. Met with City Engineer for planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers along highways.
3. Have advised with the City Marshal on ways and means to control the public dance hall.
4. Remembered the sick with flowers.
5. Assisted in Armistice Day celebration.
6. Sponsored the campaign of Better Homes in America requested by Herbert Hoover.
7. Have had co-operation with Moving Picture Manager of City for better movies to be shown.

A very impressive year of work and this was only one of the committees of Minerva.

September 1924 the ladies felt there was a need for an organization for the girls in Santa Maria. So they started a Camp Fire unit consisting of 2 groups. One for the older girls and one for the younger ones. This was the start of many years of helping Camp Fire.

The regular meetings were now being held in the Guild Hall and also in members homes.

Founder's Day, October 3, 1924, was held at the Country Club. After a luncheon served on long tables under the trees, the ladies enjoyed playing cards or golf. A lovely social afternoon that was to become an annual affair for several years.

December 19, 1924 another step in the development of the Minerva Library Club. Separate sections were formed. Members could join any or all of these sections. Each section would have their own officers and would meet on other weekdays besides the Fridays reserved for the regular Club meetings. Although these sections would be ruled by their own they would still report to the Minerva Board and also would turn any profits made into the Treasurer. The following Sections were formed at this time: Child Welfare, Pioneer, Books and Plays, Music, Art, and Current Events.

A wonderful offer was made to the Club on March 20, 1925 by Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Goodwin. They owned property at the corner of Lincoln and Boone Streets. A lot measuring 100 X 125 feet was offered to the Club as a possible site for a clubhouse with the stipulation that it would be given to the Club without charge providing that they had on hand, either in cash or United States Liberty Bonds, the sum of \$12,000.00, before January 1927, for the erection of a clubhouse.

Minerva had some bonds, and some money in the Building Fund from the sale of their Cook and Broadway lot, from members donations and from special building fund events, but they would have to work hard to acquire the total amount. As usual they rose to the task before them.

On April 3, 1925 Mr. E.W. Clark, a former resident of Santa Maria, hearing of Minerva's plans for a Clubhouse and of the monies that must be raised before work could actually be started, made an offer that if Minerva could raise \$11,000.00, he would donate the remaining \$1,000.00.

For Book Week in April 1925, the Club members donated books that were sent to the Merchant Marines. They were always ready to supply good reading material.

April 17, 1925 began another tradition for the Club. Honor students from the Santa Maria Union High School were entertained with a luncheon at the home of Mrs. Scott. 49 students were present for the event. This has been an annual affair.

The Child Welfare Section held a Benefit Card party on April 25, 1925. The proceeds of \$80.00 were to be used for a dental clinic at the Grammar School.

Several years ago the Club sponsored several benefits to raise money for a community swimming pool. The Kiwanis Club was now working towards that goal. So on May 15, 1925, Minerva gladly donated \$500.00 to be used for "The Plunge".

It was also decided in May 1925, to allow the Program Committee \$100.00 for expenses to hire outside speakers for programs. As inflation has proceeded so has the amount allotted to this committee increased.

September 18, 1925 the Club has finally secured a room at the Main Street School for the Camp Fire Girls to hold their meetings. The ladies furnished the room and hired a leader at \$10.00 a month. For many years to follow Minerva sponsored the unit, individual groups, gave donations, entertained the girls, help send them to summer camp and side trips.

An earthquake had struck Santa Barbara in 1925. So on October 1st of that year a benefit bridge was held with the proceeds going to the Santa Barbara Earthquake Relief.

On February 10, 1926, a letter was sent to Mr. E.W. Clark informing him that the Minerva Library Club had accumulated \$10,500.00 in the bank and with a generous voluntary contribution by all members the final \$500.00 had been made. And with his contribution of \$1,000.00 they would have the \$12,000.00 required to secure the property offered by Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin.

Mr. Clark sent the money and on March 12, 1926 a letter was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin informing them that Minerva Library Club now had \$12,000.00 in cash and could accept the property.

The Club had met the requirements 9 months before the deadline set. At long last they had a lot and money to finally make their dream of a Clubhouse a reality.

April 16, 1926 the ladies had the suggestion that the minutes of the Club should be kept in some safe place as a good deal of important business has been recorded. How lucky we were that this suggestion was followed.

In May 1926, the Santa Maria Radio Station asked Minerva to put on a program once a month. This was another new and fun challenge that was accepted.

January 1927 the membership was informed that the deed for the property at Lincoln and Boone was out of Escrow and was placed in the Club's safety deposit box.

It was discovered that Mrs. Easton was a friend of the prominent architect Julia Morgan, who later became world famous as the designer of Hearst Castle. Miss Morgan submitted 2 plans for a clubhouse. The Club selected one and paid her \$630.00 for designing the future Minerva Library Club building. Now the job of selecting a Contractor to build was at hand.

But as usual there were still other things to take care of. In May, 1927, money was sent to the fund for relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers. In December 1927, a representative

from Minerva was appointed to serve on a board headed by the County Supervisor to look after the charities of the town. Also at Christmas the Club gave jams and jellies to disabled Soldiers.

January 1928, the Fifth Supervisorial District formed a Welfare Board composed of Presidents from 5 Federated Clubs. The Minerva President, Mrs. M.P. Baker was appointed as chairman of this board.

April 1928, a member of the Club was appointed to serve as a Director of the Red Cross.

Also in April 1928, a memorial tree was planted on the Minerva lot for Mr. James F. Goodwin.

On June 9, 1928 a contract was signed with the O.C. Marriott & Co., Construction Firm to begin work on the Clubhouse. The costs were to be:

O. C. Marriott	\$11,147.42
Heating Plant	700.00
Electrical Fixtures	300.00
Draperies	750.00
Misc.	<u>62.50</u>
(Cleaning windows insurance, etc.)	

for a total of \$12,959.92

The excited anticipation was at it's peak. To know that a clubhouse would finally be built after years of dreaming.

Santa Maria decided to hold a Fair in August 1928. Minerva was asked to incorporate the annual Dahlia show into the event. This was the beginning of what is now the flower show at the Santa Barbara County Fair held each year at the County Fair Grounds in Santa Maria. Minerva also obtained a booth to serve waffles and scotch scones at the Fair. As the years went by, you could see the Minerva booth at the County Fairs where delicious cakes were served.

October 1928 was a month to rejoice. The first meetings were held in the new clubhouse.

On October 19, 1928 a beautiful grand piano was purchased. This piano is still in perfect condition and has an honored place on the Club's stage.

A house to house canvas of members plus some fund raisers helped raise \$3,006.00 for furniture to furnish the Club.

On October 26, 1928 they held an Official Opening Day. All city clubs were invited to attend an afternoon reception and tea. Then in the evening a dance was held for the members and their husbands or sweethearts. Refreshments were served to all. What an exciting day, to be able to show everyone Minerva's beautiful debt-free clubhouse. The building was filled with beautiful floral arrangements sent by other Clubs and friends

to wish Minerva happiness in their new home.

November 16, 1928 the ladies set up a rental plan for the clubhouse. And for the years to follow it was rented for church services, club meetings, dance and music lessons and recitals, school dances and many more activities. But the ladies carefully screened each application. No one was allowed to rent that belonged to a contraversial organization or one who's ideals were not of a high calibre.

January 18, 1929 the program was on a subject that is a major problem today. A paper was read on Narcotic Research. In the discussion that followed it was stated the subject had been taken up at the High School regarding the effects of the "Drug Habit". This subject was still a concern in 1969 when a program was presented on drug problems in Santa Maria.

Later in January 1929 the County Chairman of Motion Pictures wrote approving film's Minerva recommended for viewing by children. Another step in a continuing job.

The ladies felt that it was important for the school children to be able to hear the inaugeration ceremonies of President Herbert Hoover over the radio. So they contacted the schools and provided radios for the classes. The High School was to be open to the public at 8 a.m. so the community could hear the ceremonies too.

September 9, 1929 due to the efforts for the past several years an historial monument was erected in Foxen Canyon dedicated to the meeting of John C. Freemont and Benjamin Foxen. The inscription read "Santa Barbara County dedicates this monument to John C. Freemont - the pathfinder, Benjamin Foxen - the Pioneer. Near this site on the Foxen Rancho in 1846 encamped an American Force under Lt. Col. Fremont. Warned by Foxen of an ambush in Gaviota Pass and guided by him on Christmas Day over the San Marcos Pass, the Americans took Santa Barbara without bloodshed. Three weeks later, January 13th, 1847 California was ceded to the United States. Erected by the Pioneer Section of the Minerva Library Club. Susan E. Lincoln, Chairman, Santa Maria, California, 1926". The plaque was donated by Minerva Club and the stone was donated by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The plaque was stolen in April 1955 and replaced by Minerva. They later found the original, missing for 25 years, in a barn and it is now in the Santa Maria Museum.

As a gift in memory of Mrs. Easton's mother, Julia Morgan gave a Della Robbia wreath to the Club in 1929. It was proudly hung in the auditorium.

Now that Minerva was the owner of a clubhouse, part of their energies were spent in completing the furnishings and equipment needed for the operation of the Club. Also there was landscaping and as the years proceeded, repainting, reroofing, etc. All the joys of a property owner. But the Clubhouse is new now and the pride of the members will keep it in perfect condition forever.

On April 18, 1930 Minerva became a member of the Santa Barbara Social Service Conference by special invitation. To have Minerva sponsor or work for another organization was a sign the job would get done.

New committees were formed; The Club Historians in May 1930, and Decorating in September, 1930.

On January 7, 1931 a benefit bridge was held for Luther Burbank Foundation - to help turn the Burbank house and gardens into a museum and park.

The Santa Maria Theater held a special Minerva Day on April 8, 1931. Just one of many awards of gratitude and appreciation that have been bestowed throughout the years.

Dances for members and their husbands or sweethearts were being held quite regularly now.

September 2, 1931 saw a new section formed - The Social Section.

Then in November 1931 the Club donated money to help with the support of the recently organized Hi Y Society at the local High School. This support lasted for many years.

February 22, 1932 marked the Washington Bicentennial. A George Washington Memorial Grove of Live Oaks and Flowering Japanese Cherry Trees were planted in the County Park in Santa Maria. The Garden Section of Minerva sponsored this celebration. Minerva purchased one Oak and persuaded other organizations to purchase the other trees.

Another Benefit Bridge was held on March 31, 1932. This time the proceeds went to the Boy Scouts.

Because the membership was interested in having more dances, a Dance Section was formed on September 16, 1932. Now dances were held most every month to everyone's delight.

January 1934 saw the start of House Awards. Minerva Library Club would pick a house that was well kept and whose yard was well groomed and tastefully landscaped. An award would be given and a picture and article would appear in the paper. These awards, the tree, and flower plantings and the clean-up campaign are all things that Santa Maria Valley Beautiful carried on when they organized some 30 years later.

September 15, 1933 the first Minerva Library Club Scrapbook, compiled by Mrs. A. L. Merrill, was awarded a plaque at the County Convention. The Scrapbook covered the years 1930-31 and 1931-32.

Some of the things that happened in 1934 were: Donation towards a radio for the veterans home in Sawtell; Arts and Crafts Section started on March 2, 1934, a Fashion Show was presented on March 13, 1934, co-sponsored a film with Captain Hancock that was shown at the High School in September and donated to the Community Christmas Fund.

But on April 20, 1934 the Club decided to withdraw from all Federated Organizations for one year. As time has passed, they have never rejoined.

January 6, 1935 found the Club going on record as sponsoring the erection of a new and larger library.

Early in 1935 the O.C. Marriott Co. was contracted to remove the window in the back of the stage. To pay for the work, \$300.00 was obtained from a 3 year Federal Grant, payable \$9.59 a month.

October 1935 saw the formation of a Music Section. A member had a wide variety of Sections to hold their interest.

Mr. McCoy, owner of the Santa Maria Inn, had presented the Club with a mantle clock in 1930 but in December 1935 he gave Minerva a beautiful Borein etching titled, Jerkline #1, which is hanging proudly in the auditorium.

Minerva is still putting on performances for the public. In November 1937, with the Elks Lodge they sponsored the Kryl Concert. And in April 1938, they sponsored a concert given by the Hancock College Musical Ensemble.

During the summer of 1938 the Minerva Motto was inscribed over the stage. It was a gift from Mrs. M.P. Baker, president 1927-28.

Also during the summer of 1938 the Club took part in the Santa Barbara County Fair Parade for the first time. Their entry was a flower bedecked touring car with Minerva members riding inside dressed in Old Fashioned gowns. They continued to participate in the parade until 1952 with the exeption of World War II years.

December 2, 1938 the dues of the Minerva Library Club were raised from \$5.00 to \$7.00 a year.

In July 1939 it was voted to admit temporary residents to become members of Minerva on a 6 month membership at \$4.00. They must be sponsored by a member in good standing and also be co-sponsored by 2 other members. This ruling was only in effect for a couple of years.

In November 1939 the Club decided to sponsor a Music Series for children on Saturday mornings.

April 5, 1940 the Club would cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce in planting the vacant lots along Broadway, which was Highway 101 at that time, with flowers. This practice was handled by the Club for many years.

September 1940 the Club voted to sponsor a permanent Red Cross unit.

In October 1940 a committee was appointed to investigate ways to help cadets at the Hancock Flying School to meet some of the nice city girls. But by May 16, 1941 they voted to leave the matter to the cadets and their officers. It seems Minerva Library Club had found a job they could not finish.

During 1940 the Club donated money to the tubercular patients at County Hospital, to the Cancer Fund, to the Public School's Milk Fund and the usual gift to the Boy Scouts. Of course, they are still sponsoring Camp Fire as was stated before.

On April 18, 1941 Minerva held a reception for those participating in the British War Relief pageant.

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May 1941 they voted to take funds from their Savings Account, established in 1937 and called a Sinking Fund, and purchase a War Bond. This was just the beginning of a great many Bonds they would buy before the war would end.

The work they accomplished for the Red Cross Unit this year was - they made Layettes, diapers, baby nightgowns, baby dresses and quilts, girl's jackets and dresses and suits, women's dresses, bound blankets and knitted sweaters.

They also donated to the Santa Maria School District Milk Fund for upper grades.

December 8, 1941 World War II has been declared by the United States. The ladies reduced social activities in the Club schedule. This was another call to work for our Country.

But they did receive a lovely Christmas present. Mrs. Goodwin gave the Club a 25 ft. lot to the east of the Clubhouse.

New committees formed were: U.S.O., Red Cross and War Activity Board.

January 1942 found a new weekly schedule at the Club. On Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. there was Red Cross sewing, and First Aid classes were held on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

An appeal for workers to man the Air Raid Lookout Posts and for helpers at the Red Cross Headquarters was answered with many volunteers.

February found members loaning beds to be used for the Home Nursing classes.

March 1942 the Minerva Library Club was asked to send a member to represent the Club on the U.S.O. Board. This they did and they also helped to open the U.S.O. Building and took turns being hostesses, providing cakes and manning the Snack Bar as long as it was in operation.

Also during March they donated money toward the establishment of a blood bank in Santa Maria. After it was opened they helped man it for many years.

May 1942 found the Club donating money to Camp Cooke, which is now Vandenberg Air Force Base, to be used to purchase sheet music for the Men's Glee Club.

The annual May Blossom Festival had defense stamps as prizes.

The programs presented to the membership now consisted and would continue to be on War Information, nutrition and preparing unrationed foods.

On September 22, 1942 a mosaic tile depicting pioneer days was donated to the new Santa Maria Library. It is still in their entryway.

February 1943 the Club decided to sponsor a day room at that Santa Maria Air Base. They allocated funds to purchase necessary supplies for the airmen and would continue throughout the war.

The chandelier had been replaced in the auditorium with better lighting, so in June of 1943 the old fixture was donated to the scrap drive.

Also in June 2, representatives from Minerva were appointed to the War Activity Board.

All meetings and programs were cancelled through August and September 1943 because of a Polio scare. Meetings resumed October 1st.

Temporary membership was extended to Army wives in October 1943.

At Christmastime 1943 Minerva sponsored a party at Camp Cooke. The Lions Club assisted them the first year. Minerva members donated 100 homemade cakes and 75 wrapped gifts. They would put on Christmas parties each year through 1945.

With all their war work they still donated to the Salvation Army, Red Cross War Fund Drive, Cancer Control Fund, Local War Chest and the Tuberculosis Fund.

March 1944 the Club donated \$100.00 towards furnishing a Library at the Air Base Hospital.

The summer of 1944 found Home Nursing Courses being conducted at the Club.

February 1945 the ladies voted to limit the membership in Minerva to 300.

On February 26, 1945 they held a night meeting and charged admission. The topic of the speech was "Why Japan Will Fail". A profit of \$100.00 was realized and it was donated to the John Tracy Clinic for Deaf Children.

April 1945 Minerva was asked to help sort and pack clothes for the National Clothing Collection Drive for war victims. Another job they gladly undertook and they also went about collecting as many garments as possible.

The war was finally over and as the Nation slowly returned to normal, Minerva decided to begin having some social activities again. One of the first parties they had was a Formal Dance on October 13, 1945. They had not held any dances throughout the War years.

In November 1945 they took the necessary steps to offer Minister's wives courtesy memberships. Through the ensuing years we have been priveleged to have these ladies join the Club.

Also in November they started a Guest Book. They liked to meet all their guests but it also helps to keep the rule - that you can only be a guest of Minerva twice in one year.

At Christmastime in 1945 they started having a Children's party at the Club. This became an annual affair for many years. The children of the members were always thrilled with the fun and surprises at these events.

On September 20, 1946 the dues of Minerva Library Club were raised to \$10.00 a year with initiation at \$10.00.

And a new Section was organized. It was to be called the Bridge Section. They were to be served only dessert. In later years lunches were added and have continued to the present time.

On November 22, 1946 another benefit bridge was held for the Santa Maria Valley Nurse's Association. This way of raising money

for charities has proved to be fun and profitable for the charity.

February 2, 1947 a committee was appointed to "Beautify the City". A Campaign was begun to plant more flowers in the vacant lots on Broadway and to place trees in the parkways. To set a good example the Minerva Clubhouse property was to be revamped and beautified.

In May 1947 they received a letter from England requesting flower seeds be sent to them. It seems they had read an article on the annual Minerva Flower Shows and were desirous to obtain some seeds of the fabulous flowers they had read about. The ladies gladly collected the seeds, labeled them and added all pertinent information and instructions and sent them off to England.

October 1948 the American Legion put out a plea for help to Minerva. And as usual they responded and helped with the Selective Service registration.

In March of 1949 the last donation was sent to the Red Cross. Thus ended an alliance of many years. But it was not because of any problem as the ladies still helped but on their own not as a Club project.

Summer of 1949 found the Club entering floats in both the Elk's Parade and the Santa Barbara County Fair. They participated in the Elk's Parade through 1957 when they decided the cost of making floats had escalated too high. So they gave a donation for many years after that towards the awards given at the parade. The floats for the County Fair were entered through 1952.

December 1949 since Mr. Frank McCoy had been a good friend of the Club, in a memorial to him, the Club presented a book titled "California Pictorial" to the Library.

January 11, 1950 a Grounds Chairman was appointed. She would have the big job of overseeing the work of the gardener and also to be sure the grounds were well landscaped.

In February 1950 it came to the attention of Minerva, that there was a need for funds to supply hot lunches for underprivileged children. Without delay a \$200.00 donation was sent.

Also in the first part of 1950 the Club was informed by the local Lions Club of an inquiry that had been made about Minerva. It seems that at a recent Lions Club Convention held in New York, delegates from Cuba, Mexico and Canada wanted to know all about Santa Maria and particularly about the ladies club that planted the vacant lots in town with flowers and placed their name on stakes in the lots. Although the projects done by Minerva were to help, it was still exciting to know how far the news of their activities had reached.

1950 found the United States in the Korean War. Due to the National Emergency a committee was appointed to accept any requests for assistance from the Armed Forces and present such requests to the Board of Directors to act upon.

One of the first donations made was to help furnish a Guest House at Camp Cooke.

On October 6, 1950 two new chairmen were appointed; the War Emergency Representative and the Telephone Committee. The U.S.O. committee was reinstated. Also they decided to start the General Meetings at 2:00 p.m. with tea and social hour to follow.

The Music Section informed the members that starting in October 1950, the Sunday Chamber Music programs would be open to the public.

November 1950 the ladies signed up to aid the Civilian Defense Program. They also gave a \$100.00 donation to the new Blood Bank. This was in addition to the help given at the building. Also a new Canteen Committee was formed. They were to operate the Canteen for Camp Cooke soldiers on the 3rd Sunday each month from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They would furnish the refreshments and also serve.

March 24, 1951 the Club made a sign and supplied baskets of flowers to decorate the Veteran's Memorial Building for the party held in honor of the 40th Division. They also furnished homemade cookies.

The Chamber of Commerce asked Minerva for the loan of the float the Club entered in the 1951 Elk's parade. They wanted to use it as Santa Maria's entry in the fourthcoming Santa Barbara Fiesta Parade. Although the float would bear Santa Maria's name, the Club would be given the credit for it. The ladies cheerfully loaned it and it won a parade award.

Also as the Club was still growing and new jobs would arise, a Drama Section and the following committees, File, Reception and Yearbook were formed in June 1951.

October 1951 the Club decided to take on a very large project. To compile recipes and print a cookbook, "Company's A' Coming".

December 1951 found the ladies taking homemade cookies to the patients in the hospital at Camp Cooke.

By February 1952 the sales of the cookbook had gone so well, they started a Scholarship Fund with \$500.00 of the profits and would add personal donations to that sum.

April 16, 1952 Minerva sponsored a birthday party for veteran patients at the Camp Cooke Hospital. They supplied the 20 gifts needed and all the cakes.

May 1, 1952 marked the first Minerva Library Club Scholarship to be given. It was for \$535.00 and was presented to Marilyn May. Through the efforts of the ladies from 1 to 3 scholarships would be awarded annually from now on.

Although each year the necessary jobs were done on the Clubhouse and it was in excellent condition. In September of 1952, the O.J. Reiner Co. was contacted to put a roof over the front porch, and to remove doors and wall between directors room and the auditorium. It cost \$2,054.75 plus \$250.00 for the plans.

October 16, 1952 Minerva decided to change their General Meetings to the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and the Board of Director's meetings will be on the preceeding Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

November 1952 found Minerva and the American Association of University Women co-sponsoring an Art Workshop at the Clubhouse.

Also in November the O.J. Reiner Co. would start work on the addition of a Tea Room, Store Room and Second Kitchen. This project would cost approximately \$12,000.00 and would be completed in March 1953.

December 1952, found the ladies hosting a Christmas party for the ward's in the hospital at Camp Cooke.

January 1953 saw the closing of the U.S.O. in Santa Maria. Many thanks were given to the Minerva Library Club for their faithful service throughout the years.

On January 24, 1953 the local March of Dimes Committee sponsored a talent show at the Veteran's Building to raise funds. They ask for Minerva's help in supplying some of the program. The ladies performed several acts.

During the first part of 1953 luncheons were served at the Bridge Section. This was found to be an excellent way to raise needed funds for operation of the Club.

March 3, 1953 The Tea Room was finished and after the meeting the members of Minerva enjoyed being served tea in the lovely addition.

On March 17, 1953 it was voted to extend the membership to 450 active members. There was quite a waiting list and they wanted the ladies to have the opportunity of joining.

In May of 1953 the ladies felt they should utilize the Clubhouse for the summer months instead of having nothing during June, July, August and September. So it was decided to hold Summer Bridge Luncheons each month as long as they were successful and profitable. They were indeed successful as they are still going on.

June 1953 found the practice of charging 50¢ each for Guest Tickets.

Christmas found the Club filling baskets with food for needy families. This was another practice they did for many years.

February 15, 1954 the Minerva Library Club was able to purchase a 5 ft. strip of land next to the Club's property. It had never been cleared and they obtained it for \$60.00 in back taxes.

During the Month of March 1954, the Club helped with the Elks annual salvage drive for hospitalized war veterans.

And in April 1954 they were able to obtain pictures of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Goodwin. After having them framed they have had an honored place on the walls of the foyer.

Also in April 1954 a Maintenance Savings Fund was started with an initial deposit of \$500.00. The rental fees obtained from now on would be put into this fund. The ladies felt they needed a Savings in case of emergencies.

In May 1954 the Club found a restriction on our property deed in regard to the Goodwin heirs. When the heirs were contacted they were happy to help Minerva clear the title. It was cleared in October 19, 1954 and when the deed was presented to the Club, the name registered was Minerva Club not Minerva Library Club. So the membership decided to change their name by dropping the word Library.

Minerva Club was contacted by the County Fair Board and asked to take over the running of the Flower Show. The ladies had been helping all along but now they brought their expertise and schedules from their Spring Blossom Festival. The categories and themes were incorporated into the County Fair. Minerva was paid \$200.00 for taking on the job which they held for many years. In 1956 they were paid \$300.00 and when they finally gave up the job the Minerva ladies never stopped working on the Flower Show.

Even though the ladies were busy with the Flower Show they still had their Food Booth where delicious cakes were served.

On August 13, 1955 Minerva Club became the first Life Member of the newly formed Santa Maria Historical Society. Minerva Club had been invited to join because of it's many community offerings thru the years. A \$100.00 donation was presented to the Historical Society.

January 1956 found Minerva sending letters to the Planning Commission, the City Council and the State Dept. of Highways, pointing out Minerva Clubs reason for opposing the present proposal of an east-west truck route on Boone. They held an open meeting in November 1956 where they had men come to discuss both the pros and cons. After many months of investigation by the City Council and the other Departments the proposal was dropped and thus Simas Park, Hancock College grounds and other facilities were not cut into to extend Boone Avenue to the freeway.

May 1956 a Travel Section was formed. They would have pot-luck dinners followed by slides of some trips taken by members or friends of Minerva.

In October 1956 the Minerva Club was contacted by the Exchange Student Program of Santa Maria. They needed help to send a student overseas. It would cost \$450.00 for the student. Minerva Club donated \$100.00.

Also in October 1957, Minerva offered to assist the Historical Society by taking charge of the Museum twice a week.

Hancock College held an art exhibit during the month of April 1957. Minerva staffed the exhibit every Sunday of the show.

June 23, 1958 Mr. Robert E. Easton delivered the original plans

of the Clubhouse to the ladies of Minerva. The plans had been in his safe since the Clubhouse was built.

March 20 and 21, 1959 the first Rummage Sale was held at Eagle's Hall. Plants were also sold. The net profit was \$575.00. Rummage Sales have been held annually since this time. The sales are now held at the Clubhouse.

The popularity of the Minerva Club had grown to such a degree that there were 450 members and a waiting list. It now took about 2 years on the waiting list before a lady could join. The applications were and always will be handled in the order they are received. There is and never will be discrimination. So to alleviate this problem on October 20, 1959 the membership was raised to 550 with dues \$10.00 a year and initiation \$25.00.

February 1960 the kitchen was remodeled at a cost of \$9,500.00. To pay for this project members loaned \$100.00 each for 3 years interest free. Some members just made donations. When the time came to pay these loans back, not all could be paid at once. So the names were put in a hat and drawn to see who would be paid each time. The excited expectation was tremendous. And by October 2, 1961 all debts had been repaid, only 1 year and 8 months after the initial loans.

February 29, 1960 Minerva Club was asked to send a representative to be on the steering committee for the organization of a new Symphony Orchestra. Since this would be a benefit to Santa Maria the Club was glad to comply.

December 1960 Minerva has been a sponsor of Camp Fire, Bluebird and Horizon groups since 1924 and this Christmas they presented the Camp Fire group with money to go to Disneyland.

In February 1961 the Santa Maria Valley P.T.A. presented Minerva Club an Honorary Life Membership Award for all the years of work for the schools and students.

March 1962 the Steinquist Construction Co. was contracted to remodel both main rest rooms at a cost of \$5,000.00. The funds would come from interest free loans from the members again, payable in 1½ to 2 years. Minerva repaid all debts on time.

February 5, 1963 the Marathon Bridge Section was started. The games would be played in the homes. Not only was this a great way to meet other people but it was a good way to make money for operating expenses. It was open to the public and is still active today.

April 1963 the Club decided to stop the rental of the Clubhouse after commitments already made were honored. There had been quite a lot of wear and tear on the house and furnishings over the years and it was felt that Minerva must protect their belongings. Also, as the City had grown they felt there were now ample places for meetings and thus the Club did not need to fill the shortage of space anymore.

The Honors Luncheon in 1963 had to be for qualified Juniors and Seniors only and not for all the years of High School as before. Santa Maria's increase in population had made this decision

necessary.

The Santa Maria Valley Beautiful was now formed and in operation. In April 1963 the Minerva Club supported their proposed program in regard to planting of our freeways. Minerva wrote the Landscaping Dept., Division of Highways to inform them of our support. Then in May 1963 a committee was appointed to work with Santa Maria Valley Beautiful on tree projects for our City. Minerva gave a donation to Valley Beautiful and continued to do so for many years. After all, the goals of Valley Beautiful were the same things Minerva had worked on and for throughout the years.

Besides the usual donations to organizations Minerva has been supporting, money was sent to the Santa Maria Symphony and to the new Civic Theater. They would continue their support for a number of years to come. Minerva has always given their support to local organizations that are of a cultural nature and in keeping with the policy of the Minerva Club.

February 1964 found the Club going on record as opposing the removal of the trees on South Broadway. Letters were sent to the City Council and to the Planning Commission of Santa Maria.

In May 1965 money was sent to the Santa Maria Thespian Club to be used for the purchase of 2 National Thespian Society Trophies. These were to be presented to 2 students at Santa Maria High School who qualified for the awards by their outstanding achievements.

On November 2, 1965 Minerva had as special guests the wives of Vandenberg Air Force Base, formerly Camp Cooke, personnel and officers. The Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce was sponsoring a week of activities entitled, "Appreciation of Vandenberg Week". Minerva continued this annual practice for 5 years when it was decided to let Minerva members entertain on an individual basis.

1966 saw the opening of the Santa Maria Servicemen's Center under the auspices of the U.S.O. Minerva Club gave a \$10.00 a month donation from 1966 through 1973. They also served as hostesses one night a month and supplied sandwiches and cookies for the same length of time.

May 31, 1966 a new committee was formed and would be called Club Orientation. This is held each year to help new members better understand Minerva Club.

In 1966 Minerva Club purchased the Logo Plate to be used on the front of the Year Books.

October 1967 besides the usual donation to Santa Maria Valley Beautiful, Minerva also donated \$98.00 to purchase a tree to be placed in the Central Plaza.

December 1967 Minerva gave the Boy's Club of Santa Maria \$50.00 to purchase science books.

March 15, 1967 found Minerva helping the Santa Maria Symphony Orchestra by hosting and providing the refreshments for a reception after a concert.

The Honor's Luncheon has now been restricted to qualified Seniors only. This was decided on because we now have 3 High Schools plus the Junior College. So the invited guests are from Santa Maria High School, Righetti High School, St. Joseph High School and Hancock Junior College.

May 1968 the Property and Building Committee was appointed. They were to investigate the feasibility of purchasing a lot adjacent to the Club property to be used for a parking lot. On February 10, 1970, Leona Coughlin, immediate past President, offered to sell the property she owned just to the east of Minerva to be used as a parking lot. The price was set at \$20,000.00 to be paid as Minerva sees fit and to be interest free. The offer was gladly accepted.

To fix the parking lot the A.J. Diani Co. was contracted to:	Fix the Parking Lot	\$7,613.00
	Landscaping	1,023.00
	Locate Sewer for Drainage	9.00
	for a Grand Total for improvements	<u>\$8,645.00</u>

So the members were again asked to help with \$100.00 interest free loans. And as before they were there to help. These loans were to be paid back in 3 years.

December 1970 saw the start of a Christmas Bazaar. The proceeds would be deposited in the Parking Lot Fund, to help pay off the debts to Leona Coughlin and also to the members. This Bazaar was the start of an annual affair.

Although there had been a couple break-ins at the Clubhouse on April 6, 1971 there was a break-in with extensive Vandalism damage. Nothing was stolen and there was no damage in the Director's Room, the lobby or the rest rooms. But glass on the tea room doors was broken, water on floor of kitchen, tea room and auditorium, hot water faucets were left on in both kitchens which overtaxed the water heater and caused it to break, fire extinguishers sprayed all over tea room, auditorium and curtains on stage, microphone stand and speakers broken, stove surface units were broken, lids and insides of large coffee urns broken, locked doors were ripped off in store room and all the contents of the cabinets emptied on the floor, the phone receiver was ripped off, there was 1½ ft. of water in the basement, outside club sign broken off, some sprinklers were broken and our beautiful Della Robbia wreath from Julia Morgan was smashed.

To protect the Clubhouse, a guard was hired to stay on the premises until an alarm system could be installed on April 20, 1971 with a direct line to the Police Station.

In April 1971, the Los Angeles Times wrote to Minerva asking for information about the Minerva Cookbook. 2 copies were sent to the Food Editor and there were several articles with our recipes in the paper.

In December 1971 Minerva made a donation to the Santa Maria

Historical Society's Building Fund. They were hoping to erect a new museum.

May 1973 two new Sections were formed. The Gourmet Section was to have dinners featuring different countries foods, and the Art Section. A new Transportation Committee was also started so any member that could not attend meetings because of lack of transportation would be picked up.

On June 11, 1973 a Parking Lot Savings Account was established with an initial deposit of \$2,000.00. It was decided to place new members initial dues and their initiation fees into this Fund.

March 1973, Minerva Club donated to the Fund to help the Hancock A Cappella Choir with their Romanian tour.

By January 20, 1974 the last of the Parking Lot loans from members have been repaid.

In November 1975 it was decided to use name tags at all general meetings from now on.

February 3, 1976 was a day for celebration. Minerva Club presented Leona Coughlin with the final payment on the Parking Lot property. In only 6 years the lot was debt free because of the efforts of all the members.

The Parking Lot Savings Account would now be the Building and Maintenance Fund, and new members dues and initiation would be deposited to this account.

In 1976 another Cookbook was published, a "Gourmet Cookbook". It turned out to be a great money maker.

June 1, 1976 was the start of the Benefit Bridge Section. It was to be held once a month in the summer, excluding July, and on the fifth Tuesdays of the Club Year. The proceeds of these events would be donated to a worthy local charity. Some of the charities supported from July 1976 to May 1983 are: Rape Crises Center, Hospice, Arthritis Foundation, Association for the Blind, Amigos de las Americas, Meals on Wheels, Smooth, Youth Employment Service, Drug Abuse Prevention Center, Weslia Whitfield Fund, Visiting Nurse Association, Prevention of Child Abuse, House of Ruth for Abused Women, Tammy Turner Fund, Brown Bag, Mental Health, Shelter Services for Women and L. A. R. C. S.

October 4, 1977 a quilt made by members was presented to the Club. The embroidered squares depict some of the highlights in the history of the Minerva Club. It is displayed on a wall in the Tea Room.

April 1978 the membership voted to discontinue the Cake Booth at the County Fair.

January 1, 1979 the Minerva Club's Official Seal is returned to the Clubhouse by the Club's Accountant. It had been in his safe for many years.

1979 found 2 new committees formed. They were Thought of the Day, a member will share a poem or article at each meeting, and the New Members Assistance Committee, to help new members feel at home and become active in the Club.

In December 1979 Elwin Mussel donated \$1,000.00 to the Scholarship Fund for his wife Barbara, a Minerva member.

May 10, 1980 the President of Minerva and one of the Club's Life Members were interviewed on the history of the Minerva Club for a half hour program on KCOY-TV.

October 21, 1980 Minerva Club supports the newly formed "Friends of the Library" by becoming charter members.

May 1981 a Trust Fund for Scholarships was established with the hope that one day it will support the scholarships given each year.

The dues were raised in 1981 to \$30.00 a year with initiation still \$25.00.

The kitchen was refurbished in 1982 and new stoves added. The grounds were re-landscaped according to Phase One plans. Subsequent phases to be done later.

On April 15, 1983 a Wedding Fashion Show was presented at Minerva for the first time. Wedding gowns from 1884 to the present time were shown. The gowns belonged to members or relatives of members.

April 28 was the 59th time Minerva held the Honors Luncheon. The students were seniors who qualified from Santa Maria, Righetti, St. Joseph and Valley Christian High Schools and Hancock Junior College. Approximately \$45,000 in scholarships has been awarded from 1952 through 1983.

Over the years there has been painting done, new curtains and drapes, new lights and numerous repairs and furnishings. The list would be unending and must be listed only as necessary projects. Also, there have been donations given but all could not be recorded. Only the major ones could be recounted.

Also we could not list all the beautiful floral decorations at meetings and the lovely gifts made for the Bazaars that our members donated. Or the poems and plays they have written, or the songs or music they have provided or the luncheons they served or all the other jobs they have done. But each and every job done is appreciated, for all of the work is what makes the Minerva Club.

The early history of Minerva is also a history of Santa Maria. In reading the minutes of Minerva you become very proud of the Club but also aware of the legacy you must preserve.

The Minerva Club has always tried to live up to the high standards set down by our founding members. It has worked and grown to be an asset to the community and to its members. No President, Board of Directors or member has worked for their own glory. They have worked as a unit for the Club, the Community and each other.

Minerva Club stands for learning, helping, giving, caring, entertainment, and most of all Love.

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