

SOCIAL, CIVIC and FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Through the years the social and cultural growth of New Baden has been aided through the existence and work of numerous organizations. Some of these have been discontinued; many are still active in helping build better citizens and a better community.

Concerted efforts have been made to give accurate accounts of the organizations past and present. However, it is regretted that many records were not available and only mention can be made.

GIRL SCOUTS

A Girl Scout Troop was organized in May, 1946. Mrs. Lucille Swartzell was the leader and Lucille Bailey Bann was her assistant. This troop continued until May, 1951. The troop was reorganized in January, 1953, with Mrs. Bette Thoeming as leader. Mrs. Walter Robinson is assistant leader. The New Baden Woman's Club sponsors the Girl Scouts.

BROWNIE SCOUTS

A Brownie Troop was organized in January, 1952, under the leadership of Mrs. Ann Biedenbach, nee Heimberger. Mrs. Jean Manwaring-Sinkler served as assistant. The present leader is Mrs. Jean Sinkler. Mrs. Carl Obermeier is assistant leader. The Woman's Club is the sponsoring organization.

LIONS CLUB

An organizational meeting to form the New Baden Lions Club was held at the City Hall, November 21, 1951. The club was sponsored by the Lebanon Lions Club and the Charter Night meeting was held January 9, 1952. There were 31 charter members and Herall C. Largent served as the first president. The present membership is 40 members and Carl Heimberger is serving as president.

Lionism embraces local, national, and international service. The New Baden club organized the Beckemeyer Lions Club, April 12, 1955.

CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts, Pack 34 Council, sponsored by the American Legion, was organized in February, 1954. Cubmaster is David Riding and Assistant Cubmasters are Walter Robinson and Oscar Mallrich. There are 30 Cub Scouts at present, divided into 5 dens. Den mothers meet with these dens weekly to carry on cub scouting projects. Den mothers are Imogene Cook, Georgia Phillips, Evelyn Mallrich, Mildred Sinkler, and Leona Friess. Once monthly a pack meeting is held to observe and evaluate the projects carried on by the dens during their weekly meetings.

BOY SCOUTS

Through the efforts of the American Legion, the Boy Scouts were reactivated in December, 1953, with 32 boys as scouts. The Troop Committee appointed was Stanford Fritz, chairman; Eugene Berberich, treasurer and assistant chairman: Nate Sinkler, Joseph Huelsmann, William Flanagan, and Ralph Bann. Scoutmaster is Floyd Peachey and Assistant Scoutmaster is Clarence Deutschmann. Troop 34 is a member of the Kaskaskia Council and the St. Clair District. At present the troop has 2 Star Scouts and 1 Life Scout, marking the first time New Baden has advanced this far in the scouting program. There is also an organization of "Scouters," men of the community who may be called on to aid the troop in various ways.

EXPLORER SCOUTS

The Explorer Scouts, Post 34, sponsored by the American Legion, were organized in 1954 and chartered in 1955. The leader is LaVerne Pollmann. There are 12 boys in the post.

DAD'S CLUB

The New Baden Dad's Club was organized in September, 1954, and chartered December 13, 1954. There were 19 charter members and at present there are 21 members. The slogan of the club is "Be a Dad to Every Lad." The main purpose of the club is to provide wholesome entertainment for the youth of the community. Several teenage dances have been held, sporting equipment has been purchased, and the club arranges for a hall for all scouts to hold meetings. Ray Bruns is president.

WOMAN'S CLUB

In 1933 a group of New Baden ladies met and formed the Household Science Club. It was a civic, social, and cultural club. Mrs. Hattie Gildig served as the first president. The club had ten charter members.

The club became a member of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs in April, 1935. It is also a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Gussie Hempen served as the first president. The present membership of the club is 30. Mrs. Norma Manwaring is president.

The club sponsors the local Girl Scout and Brownie troops and actively participates in national charity fund drives.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS

The Royal Neighbor Lodge in New Baden was organized in 1902. Although they no longer meet, Mrs. Naomi Manwaring receives the dues of members of the local lodge.

HOD CARRIERS' AND LABORERS' UNION

The International Hod Carriers' Building and Common Laborers' Union of America, Local 638, was chartered August 3, 1936. There were 13 charter members. Officers were: Lewein Kennett, president; Jarvis Swinney, vice-president; John Vavrinek, recording secretary; Emery Smith, financial secretary; Charles Davis, corresponding secretary; George Hillen, treasurer; Herman Dust, sergeant at arms; and John Billhartz, Jr., guardian. Present membership is 71. The officers are Conrad Bachmann, president; Richard Rensing, vice-president; George Hillen, recording secretary; John Billhartz, Jr., financial secretary; Arnold Walthes, business agent, and Henry Macke, sergeant at arms.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

On August, 28, 1893, the village bought land from Anton Griesbaum for the sum of \$200 for a city cemetery. The town took care of the cemetery and received revenue from it. Ditches were dug, a fence built and painted to enclose it, and a Cemetery Record purchased in 1894. Graves were sold for \$1.00 and lots for \$8.00 at this time.

January 30, 1905, a charter was granted by the State of Illinois to the New Baden Cemetery Association. The charter members were: Mrs. Laura Metzel, Mrs. Ida Hertenstein, Mrs. Selma Iten, Louise Monken, Mrs. Christina Schmidt, Mrs. Emma Jonas, Miss Emma F. Hertenstein, secretary. April 24, 1905, the village deeded the cemetery to the Association, which still serves the community and now has charge of Greenmount Cemetery as well. This new cemetery is located on the old Trenton Road on the east side of the future Capitol Highway, about one mile north of New Baden. The present officers are: Mrs. Catherine Friederich, president; Mrs. John Baehr, secretary, and Mrs. Minnie Stoeckel, treasurer.

COMMUNITY PARK BOARD

The organizational meeting of the New Baden Community Park Board was held October 16, 1953. Civic organizations and their representatives were Nowlen Cook, Chamber of Commerce; Carl Heimberger, Lions Club; Rudolph Kolar, Volunteer Firemen; Richard Rakers, American Legion; George Rathmann, Baseball Club; Vivian Hertenstein, Woman's Club; and Charlene Peters, American Legion Auxiliary. Officers elected at this meeting were Charlene Peters, chairman; George Rathmann, vice-chairman; Vivian Hertenstein, secretary and treasurer.

The purpose of this organization is to promote and direct the development of the Community Park. To date the park area has been leveled and graded and trees and grass have been planted. The present chairman is Rudolph Kolar.

AMERICAN LEGION

Poelker Post 321 of the American Legion, New Baden, Illinois, was organized March 14, 1922 at the old City Hall. The post was named in honor of Clemens Poelker, the first World War I casualty. Elmer Zimmerman was elected Commander and Ralph Duffner, Adjutant. The purchase of a post banner and American flag was authorized in 1924; the cost was \$65. The first Memorial Service was held May 31, 1925, with Walter H. Harpstrite, Frank Gausepohl, and Emil Spaeth on the committee. Walter Harpstrite has been in charge of the yearly Memorial Service since that time.

Ground was broken in March of 1954 and the erection of a Legion Home was begun. The home was built by the members and was dedicated May 22, 1955. Leo Reinhardt is the present Commander.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

An auxiliary to the American Legion Poelker Post 321 of New Baden was organized January 11, 1928, by Mrs. Mary Hamilton, District Committee Woman. There were 15 charter members. The first president was Mrs. Nellie Asbury. The unit surrendered its charter November 12, 1935, because the inadequate membership made it impractical to carry out the auxiliary programs.

An auxiliary unit was again organized on April 26, 1950, by Mrs. Lois Granfield, District Director of Vandalia, Illinois. There were 34 charter members. The first president was Mrs. Charlene Peters. The present president is Mrs. Agnes Macke.

The unit is very active in all phases of auxiliary work—Local, State, and National.

The following organizations were once in existence in New Baden but are no longer active:

I. O. O. F.

The New Baden Lodge 539 of the I. O. O. F. was instituted January 18, 1874, with the following charter members: Christopher Lischer, John D. Mollmann, Phillip Pfeifer, Ernst Plegge, Henry Nicol, Valentine Heinzmann, and John Kaelin. Heinzmann and Kaelin were from New Baden and the others were from Mascoutah, Illinois.

The lodge lost four members in the tornado of 1896 which reduced their membership to 12. During 1920 the membership grew to 125. Encampment 176 was organized November 15, 1904.

CARPENTERS' UNION

The Carpenters' Union was organized in February, 1900 with John J. Bachmann, Jr. as its first president.

MAENNER SAENGER VEREIN

A men's singing society, the New Baden Maenner Saenger Verein, was organized in the early 1970's with 9 members.

REBEKAHS

The Rebekah Lodge 447 was organized November 20, 1902, with John J. Bachmann, Jr. as its first secretary.

MODERN WOODMEN

The Modern Woodmen of America Lodge in New Baden was chartered February 18, 1898.