

Helen Leigh, a charter member, gave these remarks
Sept. 21, 1966 at the League's 20th Anniversary Luncheon
held at the Ambassador Inn, corner of South Main and Hood Sts.

Early in 1945 a small group of women met to find out how to form a League of Women Voters Unit. They have no record of the names of these women. It reminds me of the numerous descendants of the passengers on the Mayflower. Lacking accurate statistics we can have many charter members. It was not until 1946, just 20 years ago that we actually received a charter. Our records show a membership of 37 in May 1946 & by 1966 we have 131

The originally met in private homes, later decided that we would attract more people if we met at the Y, the Chamber of Commerce rooms, the library any public building. As you know we have reverted to private homes & find it cheaper, warmer & more successful — Coffee helps.

It's amusing to see how we have changed our program techniques. In the early days the discussion leader was the only resource person. She read all available material & then led the discussion "starting from scratch" doling out words of wisdom at intervals. One of our final discussions was about the feasibility of Atomic Control (We're

still fretting about it too. Another discussion centered on a local issue, whether the Decatur School Feasibility Charter was good or bad (We still have school problems) In 1947 our records show that Judge Greimas, Robt. Walker, former Sec of the Community Center & the Rev. Crothers of the Westminster Church presented a panel discussion on Local Institutions & Welfare Conditions (Again we're still working & still interested)

One of the man sized problems facing us in our first year was getting a dynamic person for president. We wanted someone who was well known in the community but not someone who represented any particular social or economic sector.

During the war years Decatur had what was known as the Victory Canning Center. It was part of the general conservation movement of those years along with the Victory Clothing Center & the many Victory Gardens. Families in all walks of life brought fruits & vegetables to the Canning Center for processing for a small fee.

Miss Blossom Redmont was the center's very successful & popular director. She knew hundreds of families, she could organize, she had an excellent sense of humor & she was interested vitally

in the work being done by the Leagues
elsewhere.

It was difficult to persuade her to be
our first president but we managed.
We have been unsuccessful in getting
her here today to speak for herself. She
sent her best wishes to the League &
said in parting "Those young women know
more today before they join the League
than we did after we studied."

May the next 30 years be equally
successful.