

Highland Park Ebell Club

A cultural landmark since 1913

(Editor's Note — This is the third of a series of articles on local cultural landmarks to be saluted during Highland Park's cultural festival, May 18-20. This week, the Highland Park Ebell Club is examined).

The corner stone for the Highland Park Ebell Club was placed in 1912 and the main building dedicated in 1913 at 131 S. Ave. 57.

But, the Club's roots go further back to 1903 when 50 women (18 charter members) met with Mrs. Howard Lunt to form a woman's club with goals of civic improvement, cultural study and philanthropy.

The club was named in

honor of Dr. Adrian Ebell, a scholar who had planned, before his early death, study classes for women in letters, sciences and the arts. — Thus the origin of the distinctive "section" which all Ebell clubs (not otherwise related) have in common.

The pink carnation was selected as the Club flower; and the Club's motto (To the Club, loyalty; To the Community, wise service; To our Country, devoted patriotism) became a measure for the organization's accomplishments.

The Club's dedication day brought out, they say, 20,000 people from all parts of Los Angeles, in at-

tendance. The adjacent dining building was built in 1938.

80TH YEAR

In 1983, Laura Johnson became the Ebell Club's 40th president, in its 80th year.

At the celebration marking the event commendations were received from President Ronald Reagan, Governor George Deukmajian, the California Federation of Womens Clubs, Councilmen Arthur K. Snyder and Joel Wachs and other local city and state officials.

Philanthropic and conservation efforts by the Club include music, art and nursing scholarships and support for the Northeast Los Angeles Symphony Association, sponsor of the Highland Park Symphony Orchestra. Other efforts include "Pennies for Pines of Angles Forest," collection for the blind, deaf, cancer, heart and diabetes associations.

In the 1920's, Ebell Club members worked for and participated in the rescue of the Arroyo Seco Park lands from a rock-crushing plant; saving the area from the placing of the city incinerator, and from a 30-acre industrial site near Ave. 60; and the protection of the Redwoods (where a grove has been named for the club).

In World Wars I and II, the Club's relief activities included knitting and bandage-making. Club-located

Red Cross units met until 1963, with 43,864 work hours. Ebell sold \$115,000.00 in War Bonds and stamps.

'WISE SERVICE'

The Club worked for better lighting on Pasadena Ave. (now N. Figueroa) and had sweing days and collections for the victims of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

The family of a Club member (Mrs. Clarence Judson) donated the site for the Avenue 50 location of Occidental College. Ebell aided the drive to establish the Ben Franklin High School, opened in 1916.

The Club worked for, and collected money for, the first branch library in Los Angeles, the Arroyo Seco Branch, 1914, in Highland Park. The Northeast Los Angeles Symphony Association (formerly the "Highland Park") was founded in 1946 by Ebell Club member Helen Cordell Terzo. The Highland Art Guild (formerly; Highland Park Art Guild) was founded by Ebell member, Estelle Smith, in 1947.

Highland Park Ebell Club's first president was Mrs. Robert H. Tripp, 1903-05. The club celebrated its 25th year in 1928, under president Mrs. Carl Plath; its 50th year in 1953 with president Mrs. Lee O Tenney; its jubilee year in 1978, under president Mrs. Eloise Currie.



LANDMARK — Highland Park Ebell Club, first opened in 1913 at 131 S. Ave. 57, is one of the sites that will be featured during the Cultural Festival in May.