

Accession #2006-20
Royal Neighbors of America
Fern Camp #3798
Walcott, Iowa



Donor: possibly Eunice H. Arp, last recorder of the camp
Lady who donated the Turner Auxiliary Collection called Archivist Amy Groskopf and mentioned her friend had these minute books. If interested, willing to donate them to Davenport Public Library. Amy indicated interest. The collection appeared within a week. No donation form completed as of November 24, 2006.

Processed by kmo November 2006

Eleven volumes of Minute Books (1907, 1920-1950, 1959-1994) which contain membership lists, minutes, financial records, dues and so forth. Some loose documents were removed and foldered including a history prepared for this organization's 50th anniversary.

10 issues of *The Royal Neighbor-A Home Magazine*

History:

The Royal Neighbors of America began as a social ladies auxiliary to a Modern Woodmen Camp in Council Bluffs, IA. Within a few years this group reorganized as a social organization with a constitution, rituals, and articles of incorporation and renamed itself Royal Neighbors of America with the principle of "neighbor helping neighbor". By 1895 their discussion of forming a fraternal benefit society for women in order to provide life insurance was realized. In 1908 the city of Rock Island, IL offered a building site for the Society's headquarters.

The Fern Camp #3798 of Walcott, Iowa held its first meeting Thursday evening, March 28, 1907 at Schneckloth's Hall. Among the business conducted that evening were voting on the naming of the camp-Lily received 8 votes and Fern the majority with 12 votes, signing the constitution and by-laws and electing officers according to Recorder Alma Schwarting's minutes.

Box 1-Over tall archive box:

Loose materials removed from minute books
50 Year History of Organization
Minute book 1907
Minute book 1920-23
Minute book 1924-1928
Minute book 1928-1934



Box 2-Over tall archive box:

Minute book 1935-1941
Minute book 1941-1950
Minute book 1959-1967
Minute book 1967-1976
Minute book 1976-1985
Minute book 1985-1994



Box 3-Narrow archive box

Issues of *The Royal Neighbor-A Home Magazine*

Nov. 1958
July 1962
Aug. 1962
Jan. 1966
July 1970
July 1971
Sep. 1971
May 1972
Sep. 1972
Apr. 1974



RNA Timeline from website www.royalneighbors.org (November 24, 2006)
(Images copied from Timeline)

1888 — Royal Neighbors of America is formed as ladies' auxiliary to Modern Woodmen of America camp.

1890 — The first RNA Camp (Lily) is chartered in Council Bluffs.

1892 — The first Head Camp is held.

1894 — At the third Head Camp, discussion turns to adding life insurance as a member benefit.

1895 — With 4,124 members, Royal Neighbors of America becomes a fraternal benefit society under the laws of the State of Illinois.

1900 — The first issue of *The Royal Neighbor* is published.

1903 — RNA extends membership to include all women, not only those affiliated with Modern Woodmen.

1906 — RNA raises more than \$4,000 in donations to help victims of the San Francisco earthquake.

1908 — The city of Rock Island, IL, offers a building site for the Society's headquarters.

1910 — With 250,000 members, RNA is the nation's largest fraternal benefit society with which women are connected.

1911 — The Society decides to throw its full support behind the issue of universal suffrage.

1918 — RNA begins to write life insurance certificates for children, giving the whole family protection.

1925 — The 16th Supreme Camp in Hot Springs, AR, gets coverage on a local radio station.

1927 — The cornerstone for the Supreme Office building is laid in Rock Island.

1928 — Rumors of a merger with Modern Woodmen emerge—and are firmly quashed.

1929 — RNA dissolves its affiliation with Modern Woodmen.

1929 — RNA amends its bylaws to help members who are unemployed or suffering other Depression-related losses.

1930 — The Society purchases land for the establishment of a retirement home.

1931 — The Royal Neighbors National Home opens its doors to senior members.

1934 — The Accounting Department enters the modern technological era with the conversion to an IBM punch-card system.

1935 — RNA has the greatest combined beneficial, social and junior membership of any fraternal benefit society, and the largest juvenile membership.

1940s — The Society purchases more than \$13 million in war bonds over the course of World War II.

1942 — RNA presents the Red Cross with a check for \$21,163 for processing blood into plasma for transfusions on the battlefield.

1945 — Royal Neighbors celebrates its 50th anniversary.

1950s - The Society adopts its highly successful "Help to Hear" program.

1950s — Product offerings are broadened to better fit the life insurance needs of families.

1950s — The Executive Council and Board of Supreme Managers are consolidated into one board of directors.

1951 — The Royal Neighbor celebrates 50 years in publication.

1961 — RNA launches its scholarship program.

1961 — Installation of the 1401 Tape Data Processing systems is completed

1965 — The Supreme Office lobby is extensively remodeled, with custom-designed carpeting incorporating the Society's emblem replacing flagstone floors.

1968 — The Juvenile Department celebrates its 50th anniversary with nearly 100,000 members.

1970s — Fraternal, charitable and benevolent Camp activities exceed \$500,000 yearly in aid.

1970s — RNA establishes its Orphan Benefit for junior members.

1970 — Royal Neighbors celebrates its 75th anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee.

1978 — The 50th anniversary of the Supreme Office building is celebrated with a reenactment of the parade held during the original dedication ceremony in 1928.

1980s — RNA encourages local Camps to support Dogs for the Deaf.

1981 — The Royal Neighbors National Home celebrates 50 years of service with a "White Rose" Open House.

1988 — The Society surpasses the \$1 million mark in yearly fraternal, charitable and benevolent Camp activities.

1990s — The Society becomes a sponsor of Habitat for Humanity.

1990s — The Newborn Fraternal Benefit is developed.

1992 — RNA passes the milestone of \$1 billion of life insurance in force.

1993 — RNA extends a helping hand to victims of the Mississippi River "Flood of '93."

1994 — The National Home becomes Grandview Terrace, the Supreme Office becomes National Headquarters, and the titles of National President and National Secretary are created.

2000 — An extensive remodeling of National Headquarters is completed.

2000 — RNA surpasses the \$2 billion insurance in-force mark.

2001 — RNA re-launches a new, interactive corporate Web site and inaugurates its Field Web site.

2001 — RNA raises \$27,344.52 to help families affected by the destruction of September 11.

RNA unveils new format for The Royal Neighbor member magazine.

2002 — RNA holds its 35th National Convention (Supreme Camp) in San Diego, CA.

2003 — RNA supports the nation's "Heroes at Home" through fund-raising efforts.

2003 — For the first time in history, an RNA member is selected as the nation's Fraternalist of the Year.

2004 — RNA makes history-making changes in bylaws.

2004 — All adult beneficial members now vote for nine outside members of the board of directors. Two inside directors will be the President/CEO and a member recommended by the President/CEO and approved by the board.

2004 — Grandview Terrace, RNA's national home, is closed.

2004 — RNA sends relief to victims of hurricanes in Florida.

2005 — RNA, thanks to the generosity of its employees, camps/chapters, and members, donates \$12,456 to the American Red Cross for tsunami relief efforts.

2005 – Royal Neighbors of America hosts the River of Relief Luncheon, inviting employees of neighboring businesses to attend, and raises \$8,000 for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

2005 – Cynthia Tidwell, Superstition Mountain, AZ, is appointed President/CEO of Royal Neighbors of America.