

GRINNELL

(Written by Mrs. Ina Chatterton Payne, one of eight charter members)

Our Grinnell League of Women Voters was begun in 1928 or '29 with eight members. After forty years, I cannot recall what we studied then.

At that time there were about a half dozen Leagues in Iowa. The Iowa City League "mothered" us, as did the Ames and Des Moines Leagues.

While still new we had the courage to hold our State Convention in Grinnell. President and Mrs. Nollen graciously turned over their home for our use during those two days of meetings.

Mrs. Florence Bohrer of Bloomington, Illinois, came to visit our League in 1936, and some fifty-two members turned out to hear her speak at "The Village Hotel". Later, my husband brought another distinguished guest to speak to us – The Honorable Chester Davis, a Grinnell College alumnus, and a strong force in the Roosevelt regime. These, and other prominent speakers, gave us a great boost from time to time. Over the years the Grinnell League supplied four presidents for the Iowa State League. They include Mrs. L.V. Phelps, Mrs. Margaret Strong, Mrs. David Ross and Mrs. George Norris.

It was not until November 10, 1947, that our League was recognized as a local League and could use the insignia of The League of Women Voters.

Currently, the local League is a very active one. Most of its members are dedicated workers, as were the eight original members forty years ago.