

CEDAR RAPIDS – MARION

It undoubtedly all began in Cedar Rapids in 1919. Newspaper clippings announce a three-day "School of Citizenship" held in April 1920. The president was Mrs. E.T. Koch; Mrs. Frank Heald, secretary; Mrs. Kate Terry Loomis, publicity chairman.

The League had its ups and downs, became inactive twice, was reactivated April 13, 1937 with 30 members. Faced with being placed on probation for lack of growth in membership and civic action, in spite of the valiant efforts of Mrs. W.E. Willson and her board, the League disbanded October 1, 1947.

One year later, a group of determined women made a fresh start under the leadership of Miss Jaroslava Holub. With 43 members and a budget of \$415, full recognition was asked for on November 25, 1949 and it became official in January, 1950.

With an increasing number of members from Marion, the Cedar Rapids League became the Cedar Rapids – Marion League of Women Voters April 1, 1965. Today's membership is 230, with a budget of \$5,850 and an active program.

Six of the twelve presidents of the "new" League are still members, including charter member Mrs. Frank Nye and practically charter member, Mrs. Richard C. Spencer. The name of Kate Terry Loomis is woven throughout our history from the 1919 beginning until her death in 1957 – a truly remarkable woman, completely dedicated to a Great Idea!