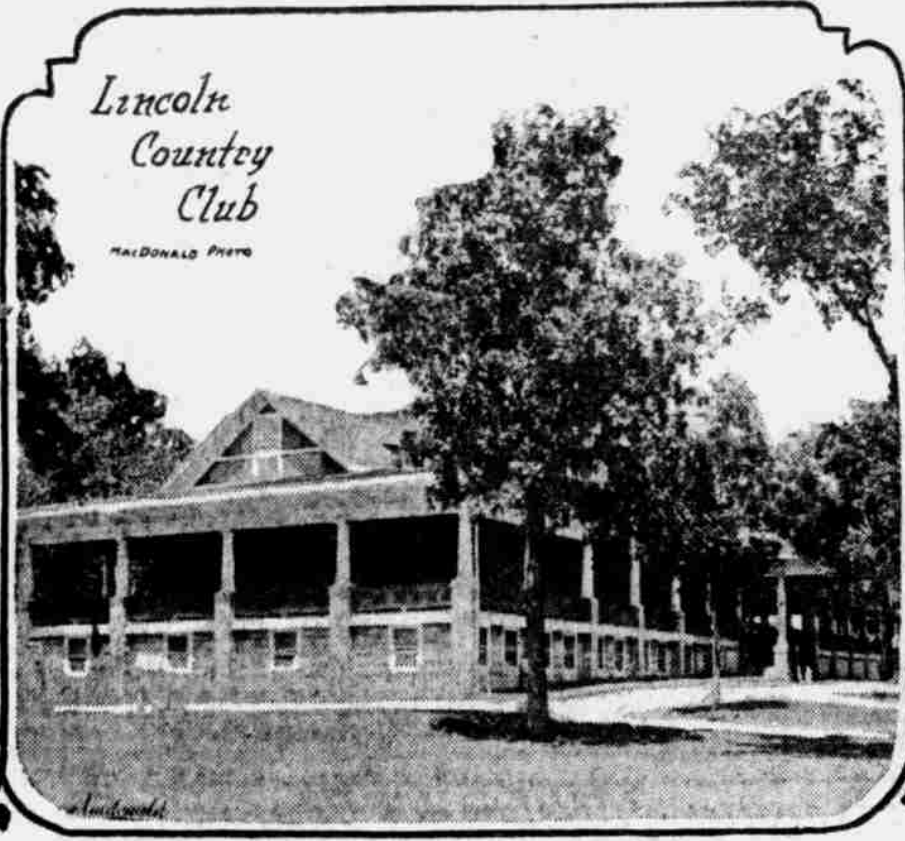


# Some of Lincoln's Handsome Club Houses



Lincoln Commercial Club



Lincoln Country Club



Elks Club

## "Lincoln's Social and Cultural Activities"

By Mrs. F. M. Hall, President Lincoln Woman's Club

If culture means a comprehensive knowledge of history, literature, science and art, coupled with a knowledge and sympathy for the sciences that deal with man as a religious, moral and social being, Lincoln may be said to possess it.

While it has none of the old established institutions that are the fruits of centuries of intellectual and spiritual development, it has made a good beginning, and I doubt not that at the close of the first century of its life that it will compare favorably with any city of its size in the country where agriculture is the main occupation of the people. Lincoln being the educational center of the state, where the state university is located has made it the center of culture.

As early as 1868 study clubs began to be formed by men and women, many of them college graduates. The name of the first club organized was "Our Literary Club." Today there are over forty such clubs that publish their activities and many more that do not.

The three organizations that have ministered in a broad sense are the "Nebraska Art Association," the "Matinee Musical" and the "Woman's Club." The "Haydon Art Club" was organized in 1888 and became the "Nebraska Art Association" in 1900, men and women being associated in its organization and work. Its object is to promote the knowledge of art and extend its interests and to establish in connection with the university a museum of fine art. It had much to do with the establishing of the school of fine arts in the university. The organization has purchased the greater part of the casts and all of the pictures that are in the gallery in connection with the art school. The most important piece of work done by the association is the giving of twenty-three annual exhibitions, which has enabled the people of Lincoln, the students of the university and many others from all parts of the state to become familiar with the best art of their country, and the works of some noted foreign artists. This work has been highly appreciated by American artists and they have been interested in the success of the association, for it is only through the study of pictures that a knowledge of what is good painting may be obtained.

Now that the art school is established in connection with the university a state museum of fine arts is the acknowledged goal of the organization. Those most interested are patiently waiting for some one among them to come forward with a proposition to the state that will make their expectations a reality in the near future. The Matinee Musical was organized in 1894. It has fifty active members and 600 associate members. Its object is "to advance the interests and promote the culture of musical art in the city of Lincoln." It has been a great power for culture and has brought many artists of note to the state. It is purely a woman's organization. The Woman's Club was organized in 1894, the same year the Matinee Musical was. It has 1,584 members. It is one of the largest culture clubs in the world. It has nine study departments and a physical training department. Over 900 women attended the departments last year. Its influence is widely felt and its cultural advantages are greatly appreciated by the women of the city and its influences are felt all over the state. Society in Lincoln, my second topic, is a society of groups. There are at least 250 groups, ranging in size from ten to thirty, the Country Club being the only really democratic group. It has a membership of about 300, most of the members being heads of families. Lincoln is unique in this respect, no other city of its size in the middle west having such social conditions. It is much commented upon by those who visit the city. All large social functions are made up of men and women who represent all professions and all kinds of business, there being practically no lines of distinction. There are no retired or leisure classes and wealth does not figure in any way. I am undecided about its being the social center, because I am not sufficiently informed on social conditions in Omaha, the metropolis of the state.

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- ☞ The government's use of the long distance service has been very heavy. Hurried purchases of supplies and equipment, the preparation of camps, the mobilization of troops and the gigantic preparations to carry on the war have necessitated an unusually large number of local and long distance telephone calls.
- ☞ These, with the steadily increasing number of long distance calls due to unusual commercial and industrial activity, are taxing our local as well as long distance telephone facilities.
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