

Author's Charming Home Will Go to Portage Organization

Zona Gale Lends Its Use to Women's Civic League

New Organization Will Maintain Residence as Clubhouse During Life of the Author; City-Wide Membership Is Being Sought

Portage, Wis.—When the Women's Civic league, now in the process of organization, assumes its full fledged status it will be the proudest in the state. And rightly so, because its clubhouse will be Zona Gale's lovely home on the banks of the Wisconsin river, where she wrote the novels, short stories and plays that have made her and Portage famous.

The novelist offered her home for a clubhouse several months ago, but plans for an organization which would use and maintain the house did not culminate until the present membership drive. Acceptance of the writer's generous offer is expected as soon as enough members have been enrolled to insure the financial success of the project. Committees are working to secure 500 members, which at the nominal annual fee of \$1 a year would guarantee operation costs of the house. Every woman in Portage interested in the ideals of the league has been invited to join and already the membership has achieved large proportions.

Purposes of League

The purposes of the league, according to its constitution, are to operate the home as a clubhouse for its members, to hold frequent meetings of an educational and social nature, to assist in supporting commendable enterprises and to aid in social betterment. In giving her home Zona Gale did not specify how it was to be run, leaving the women of Portage to conduct the project according to their own judgment. She gave the home for as long as she lives, and will pay the taxes and maintain the exterior of the house. Only the maintenance of the interior and provision of a caretaker will be the task of the league.

Located on Edgewater st., where branches of trees as old as the city almost overlap to form a ceiling, the back lawn of the house rolls down to the edge of the Wisconsin river. With its picturesque location, its colonial style of architecture, the Gale home is one of the loveliest in Portage.

In taking over the home, the league will attempt, as much as possible not to disturb the furnishings and their arrangement. Miss Gale has added to her generosity by leaving the furnishings. In the long living room, with its dark oak woodwork, heavily beamed ceilings and many windows that look on the rolling back lawn and the river, only two changes will be made. The desk where Miss Gale wrote "Birth," "Friendship Village," "Miss Lulu Bett," which brought her fame when it won the Pulitzer prize, and others, will be placed in the living room for use in carrying on the league's business. Over the fireplace in the living room will be placed a scroll, inscribed to Eliza Beers Gale and Charles F. Gale, parents of the author.

Ideals of Liberty

Incorporated into the league's purpose will be the ideals compatible with Miss Gale's ideals of liberty and universalism. It will have no connection with other clubs in the city, and creed or caste will have no place. In tribute to her the committees now organizing the league state that it will be conducted along the lines of democracy, tolerance, kindness and progress, which have marked the writer's own life. Petty jealousies, indifference and unconstructive criticisms will have no place in the organization or the home, they said.

Departments of literature, art and music will be formed and will provide

programs. Meetings and lectures are planned for both afternoon and evening, so all members may be able to attend. Plans are to have room available, for a small rental fee, for club, lodge and committee organizations meetings. The committee also hopes to secure a custodian who will be willing to serve meals and make possible a place where individual league members may entertain their friends.

Tentative Plans

Tentative plans are for the holding of a mass meeting when the organization is completed and officers hope that Miss Gale, who is now on a speaking tour in Florida, will be present to receive the expressions of thanks and appreciation of the women. Mrs. F. E. Bronson, for many years active in club and civic work, is president of the league. Other officers are: Vice president, Mrs. George A. Murison; secretary, Mrs. B. W. Older; treasurer, Mrs. James A. Carroll.

Committee chairmen are: Constitution, Mrs. E. A. Jones; membership, Mrs. Wallace Murison; philanthropy, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Cushing; finance, Miss Dorothy Walker; preliminary organization, Mrs. John McCartan. The membership committee is divided into ward departments, with the following as chairmen: First ward, Mrs. William Schenk; second, Mrs. Edward Roehm; third, Mrs. D. W. Billings; fourth, Mrs. George Rumpf; fifth, Miss Mary Diehl.



In the center is the charming old home of Zona Gale, which will be used as a clubhouse by the Portage Women's Civic league.