

NORVELL, Ruth. 917 Lizzie St. SSM, MI. 3-2-83. Transcription.  
data taken over the telephone.

Christopher Columbus Women's Axuiliary. (1932).

Due were and are 50¢ per month. Today the sick benefit is a \$5.00 check. No money per day or week. Small death bebefit of \$150.

Reason for organizing was to help the men pay off the hall. Charles De Paul gave the money interest free and the women organized so that thru banquets etc they could help the men pay for the hall.

At that time they had special banquets, KC parties, weddings, etc.

In the early days the women had pcinics.

Women have control of the kitchen; they own all of the equipment. No outside carterers are allowed to operate in the kitchen. Either you provide the kitchen help if you are a member or the women put on the dinner. Once the kitchen staff was all volunteer but today the women to do kitchen work are paid. There is a kitchen manager. The women allow the men to use the equipment for their monthly spaghetti dinner.

Ther building is owned by the men but the women have a say in terms of alterations, etc on the structure. In the most recent remodeling in 1982 the work cost \$26,000 and the women paid for half of this amount. Many women feel that the men are constantly trying to get at their money which has been invested in Detroit ND Northern and brings in a good rate of return. As a result of this endowment there is little concern about making money with dinners. Ruth pointed out that it now almost costs as much to pay the kitchen crew as the food costs. It is not worth having the dinners.

#### Activities:

- 1- dinner on mother's and father's day which was open to the public.
- 2- big card party, yearly was a big money raiser.
- 3- dinners. Members used hall for weddings, anniervsaries.
- 4- money to local charaties, Bay Cliff in Mqt.
- 5- worked on the blood drive canteen; no money made but seen as a civic work.
- 6- earthquake donations when the hit Italy; for one in northern Italy they donated \$1000 (put the men's name on it but they gave it all), which was sent thru the Italian organization in Canada.
- 7- Since 1974/1975 the lodge has given a \$300 scholarship to the member or her children while attending Lake Superior Stet College.

Today with the bad economy dinners are not popular. Usually people put on their own dinners and do not use the kitchen staff.

-----

The imkigrant Italian women did not work outside the home as there was plenty of work for them. Their sons and daughters worked in the tannery and woolen mill while the sons worked in Union Carbide. This would have been in the 1930's.

## LODGES:

CCEN 6-22-1897 Ladies Aid Society in connection with Italian Roman Catholic congregation is thriving; 5 new members with its own church it will flourish.

Dulan, p. 89. Italian Women's Club, Iron Mountain. Mrs. Oreste Stefani and seven others organized Italian Women's Club on April 15, 1915. They met in Formenti Hall on the North Side then at Benzo's Hall. They made dinners at home and brought them to the hall. July 4th Italian dances. They were in costume.

Druid Lodge established in 1912 in Negaunee; in 1926 women could join.

Sons of Italy, So Range- formed on August 18, 1918.

Daughters of the Eternal City. Calumet, organized January 1917 with 20 charter members. In 1952 there were 173 members. Member of federation.

Columbus Women's Auxiliary- May 8, 1932 by Vincent Vincenzetti with 71 charter members. June 1936 incorporated under MI law.

Object: 1) promote and encourage social activities among members of both lodges.  
2) to unite and help members in case of need and distress.  
1952 there were 105 members.

Italian Women's Club, Iron Mt- 4-15-1915. Serfina Stefani was the first president for 15 yrs. 1952 there were 300 members.

Schiano, Giovanni The Sea in America  
before the Civil War. N.Y.: Vigo Press, 1934

p 320. Mazzuchelli:

Catch - Des Moines.

Salerno, IL. Chicago

Iowa Cup - main body of Iowa.