

# Golden Anniversary Souvenir Program

1903 - 1953



THE METROPOLITAN CLUB

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 10, 1953

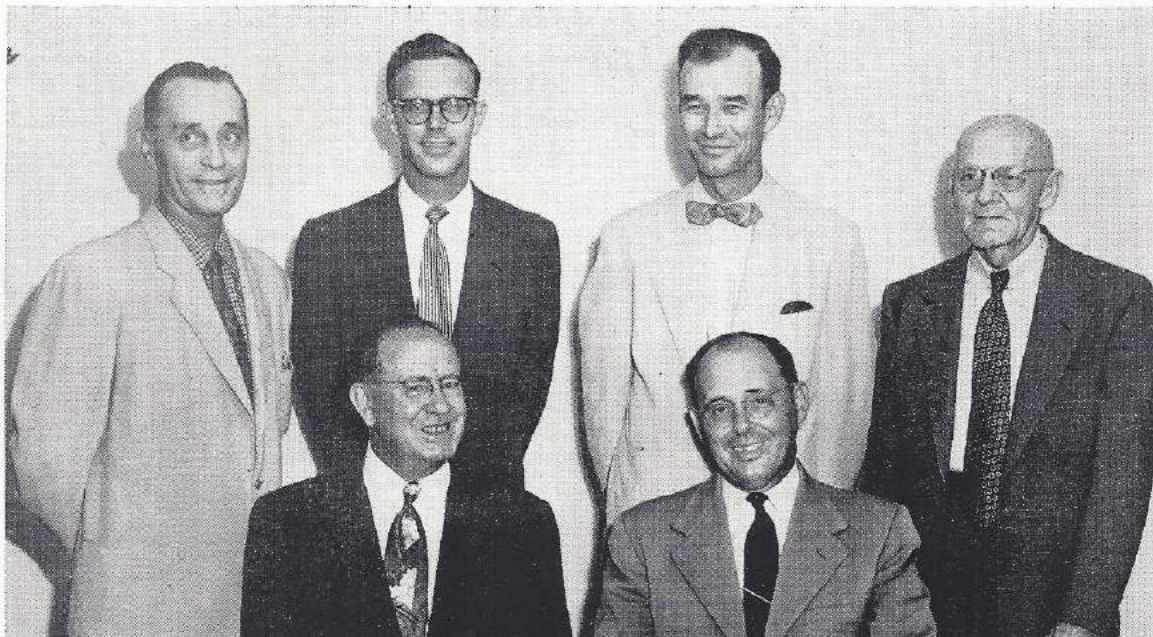




A. W. GRAESSLE

*President*





## Officers

*Seated, left to right:*

MR. A. W. GRAESSLE, *President*

MR. HARRY NEWMAN, *Vice-Pres.*

*Standing, left to right:*

MR. ALFRED H. WESCH, *Asst. Sectry.*

MR. RAY BRIGGS, *Treasurer*

MR. HENRY SEARCY, *Secretary*

MR. FRITZ FLECK, *Librarian*



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*Seated, left to right:*

MR. JOHN HIMBLE

MR. H. vonderHEYDE

MR. L. F. BARTA

*Standing, left to right:*

MR. ADOLPH MANGELS

MR. ALFRED K. MILLER

MR. CARL RICKER, *Chairman*

MR. W. SEILER



# METROPOLITAN CLUB

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BARTA, L. F.	GLESSNER, GENE F.	KURZ, LOUIS
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BOWN, FRANK F.	GREMER, R. J.	LEWIS, RICHARD E.
BURNS, H. S.	HALLENBECK, JACK C.	LISTER, WILLIAM O.
BUSCH, HERMAN	HASSLE, O. S.	LOFFLER, ERICH J.
CARLTON, WALTER A.	HEARN, MALCOLM C.	LOMAX, GEORGE E.
COTE, JERRY	HELMS, HERMAN C.	MAIERFELDT, WILLIAM C.
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DRAPER, W. E., SR.	HESSE, ROBERT W.	MANGELS, CONRAD, SR.
DRAPER, W. E., JR.	HIMBLE, J. O.	MARTIN, LEWIS F.
EBERT, F.	HINCK, JOHN H.	MILLER, ALFRED K.
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FALCK, ERNEST A.	HUGHES, ROBERT W.	MOORE, THOMAS A., JR.
FELLA, GEORGE	HUNDHAUSEN, HERMAN	MUELLER, HERMAN
FISHER, ALFRED	JACKSON, JOHN O.	MULLIS, M. N.
FLATHMANN, CARL	JAKOBSON, H. M.	NEWMAN, HARRY A.
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	JENNINGS, JAMES	NICHOLS, J. H.
	JOHNSON, C. L.	NISSSEN, N. H.
		OETJEN, F. (DR.)
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		OSTNER, WILLIAM

PAINTER, G. L.

PAULUS, HORST J.

PHILLIPS, T. R.

RICHARDSON, A. D.

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RIEKER, C. B.

ROENISCH, RICHARD

RUBIN, OSCAR

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SCHULZ, GUSTAV

SCHUSTER, W. F.

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SEILER, WILLIAM C.

SILGE, ARNO

SMITH, LUTHER E.

SMITH, ROBERT M.

STAFFORD, W. A.

STOFFT, HARRY

STEVENS, WILLIAM W.

STEVENS, A. M.

STAUSS, E. A.

STOKES, C. M., JR.

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TAPLEY, R. P.

THURM, G. A.

TINDER, KENNETH D.

VALLEN COURT, F. E.

VAN MALSEN, WESLEY

vonderHEYDE, HENRY

WACHERNAH, CARL

WALKER, GEORGE D.

WESCH, A. H.

vonDOHLEN, CHRIS

WEST, ROBERT M.

WEWER, BENJAMIN C.

WOOD, RUDOLPH

ZELLNER, GEORGE

ZIEBE, OTTO

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W. O. ANDERSON

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C. RIEKER

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

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*Chairman*

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MR. & MRS. ARNOLD MOHLMAN

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM C. SEILER

MR. & MRS. ALFRED H. WESCH

MR. & MRS. ALFRED K. MILLER

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MR. & MRS. EMIL SCHNEIDER

MR. & MRS. CARL RIEKER

MR. & MRS. JOHN HIMBLE

MR. & MRS. BEN WEWER

## CUSTODIANS

MR. & MRS. LOUIS WILFORD

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1903 - 1912

On October 25, 1903, a group of congenial people got together and organized a club. They called it the Germania Club. These energetic people had a similar cultural heritage that they thought was fine and worth perpetuating in the growing city of Jacksonville, Florida. With this Club as a common meeting place, they could have a social, charitable, benevolent and educational organization to satisfy their mutual requirements. Since singing was to them a form of recreation as well as a means of expressing themselves, they also used the Club as a Singing society. All of the organizers of the Germania Club were of German extraction. They realized that this Club could serve people of similar understandings and sympathies. Here they could meet German visitors and guests and promote the integration of newly arrived German immigrants into their new life here.

The charter members of the Germania Club were:

F. X. Schreiber	Dr. Cahn
William Schiller	O. Brickwedel
Louis W. Hanne	H. J. Kappher
John A. Schreiber	Charles Wichman
E. O. Schuman	H. R. Novitzky
William Thomas	Jos. Zapf
Olvis Zapf	John Schreiber
Joseph A. Schreiber	E. A. Ricker
Bus Muller	Chris von Dohlen
William Meyer	Robert Jendrick
J. C. Vollmers	W. Weltz
Joe Tobi	Joe Gillett
E. Bernstein	Otto Mainhardt
W. Wolf	W. Nicholas
P. Nicholas	Geuntser Heyder
Gus Behrenl	Jac. Cressaint
Herman Winkler	F. Mehlig

They elected as their first President Francis X. Schreiber. The first Club house was a one story wooden structure they built on Riverside Avenue where the Professional Insurance Building now stands. Here on Sunday afternoons, members met and had refreshments while they listened to delightful band concerts. The Germania Clubhouse with its wide wooden verandas was a great success.

In a comparatively few years the Germania Club outgrew its original building. Members decided to erect a handsome concrete Clubhouse on the same site. Financed almost entirely by Club members this was accomplished in 1912. At once, the roomy Clubhouse with its large dance floor, bowling alleys and other facilities became the center of many of the city's outstanding social events. In addition to the many dances and balls, the Masquerade Ball, always an important affair, was held annually at the new Clubhouse. Another noteworthy activity was the annual Saengerfest or Singing Festival held at Phoenix Park under the auspices of the Germania Club. When this celebration approached, Singing Societies from many southern cities such as Atlanta, Savannah, Chattanooga, Charleston, Tampa, Brunswick and other places convened and competed for

Soon, however, World War I engulfed the world and Jacksonville was not spared. Activities of the Germania Club were necessarily curtailed. Memberships dropped from around 900 to 65. As a result of this tremendous drop in membership, the large clubhouse had to be sold. Savings from this retrenchment enabled the Club to buy another property upon which a functional Club could be erected. Among those farsighted members who assumed this responsibility were J. M. Wellbrook, Harry Hanne, and Charles Nicholson. The property they selected was the site where the present Clubhouse now stands.

1921 - 1928

During the next few years, members carried on their Club activities in a rented hall. They acquired the third floor of the Herkimer Building on the corner of Bay and Newnan Streets. Dances were also held in this Hall but members chafed at the inadequacy of the limited facilities here. Later, at a time when member Alfred Fischer had a barbecue at his farm in San Jose, a proposal for a new Club House was made. Almost everyone was in immediate agreement to this development with the younger members particularly enthusiastic. A new Board of Directors soon brought out a plan for a handsome Club House. This was subsequently built on our present site by an energetic New Building Committee comprised of William Ostner, Ernest Ricker and Nick Lau. At this time the name of the Club was changed to the German-American Club.

1928 - 1945

Even this enlarged Club House was soon outgrown. Prohibition was repealed and Club activities multiplied. Members demanded greater seating capacity and bar facilities for relaxation. To achieve this, the side addition to the hall was built. After enjoying this new sense of adequacy and security for a few years, World War II unfortunately cast its shadow over the Club and its progress. During these war years, President Conrad Mangels and Entertainment Committee Chairman L. F. Barta successfully guided the Club through a very critical period. During these later years, the Club Membership thought it advisable to change to the present name of Metropolitan Club.

1945 - 1953

When hostilities ceased and Club activities again increased, considerable improvements were needed and made. With the combined efforts of the members, the beautification of the waterfront and the entire grounds followed. A beautiful porch facing the waterfront made a most desirable improvement to existing arrangements. The kitchen facilities were enlarged to their present size in order to give greater service to the Club and enlarge the scope of its activities.

Members showed their appreciation of the leadership in achieving this modernization by dedicating a flag pole on the waterfront to Herman Schiller and naming the new sun porch, The Henry vonderHeyde Addition.

## *In Recognition*

Since its founding there has existed a Ladies Section of the Club. A grateful Club acknowledges its continuous inspiration, help and contribution. Much of the growth, welfare and comfort now found in the Metropolitan Club is directly attributable to their efforts.

The Club also makes prideful recognition of the many members and their sons and daughters who have served their country faithfully in all its armed services





## LADIES SECTION - METROPOLITAN CLUB

MRS. HENRIETTA FOYT, *President*

MRS. HELEN vonderHEYDE, *Secretary*

MRS. LUCY MOHLMAN, *Vice-President*

MRS. GENEVIEVA WESCH, *Treasurer*

## Teutonia Lodge No. 1 O. D. H. S.

Best wishes and congratulations are hereby expressed to The Metropolitan Club of Jacksonville, Florida, by Teutonia Lodge No. 1, O. D. H. S. on their Golden Anniversary.

This lodge is not a part of The Metropolitan Club, having been organized in 1906 three years after the club.

The purpose of this lodge, which is German speaking, was to assist young Germans who came to this city. It met a need at the time and at the present the lodge is still active. Most of the members are also members and good workers in the Club.

### PRESENT OFFICERS

FRITZ FLECK, *President*

EMILE SCHNEIDER, *Vice-President*

GEORGE SHUMAN, *Secty & Treasurer*

### PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

L. F. Barta  
Curtz Gottschalk  
Alfred K. Miller  
George Schuman  
Otto Ziebe  
William Ostner

Carl Flathman  
Henry vonderHeyde  
Charles Rieker  
Emile Schneider  
Frederick Oetjen  
Conrad Mangels

Fritz Fleck  
Louis Kurz  
Carl Rieker  
William Seiler  
Alfred Fisher  
Herman Bush

Carl Geringswall  
Arthur Kloeppel  
Warren Reifsnnyder  
Arno Silge  
Raymond Foyt  
F. Schuster





# Program

COCKTAIL HOUR

7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

BANQUET 8 P. M.

INVOCATION BY REV. W. E. PUGH

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT

MR. A. W. GRAESSLE

GUEST SPEAKER

THE HON. CHARLES BENNETT

DANCING

'TIL MIDNIGHT

