

D. Y. W. Y. K. CLUB
(don't you wish you knew)

In 1889 a group of local business men organized a social club to be known as the D.Y.W.Y.K club("DontYou Wish You Knew"). Membership in the club was limited to twenty. A masquerade ball was held annually at Music Hall, with the exception of two years when they were abandoned due to dullness of trade. Two prizes of \$5 in gold*were offered annually - one for the handsomest lady and the other for the most comical costumed gentleman. A grand march and drill executed by the members in fancy costume under the direction of a competent instructor was always the feature of the occasion. The hall was always decorated by a Boston Decorating Company and the best orchestra available played. A catered supper would be served and dancing enjoyed until 3 a.m.

In 1900 with the largest attendance in the history of the club the concert was delayed owing to late arrival of violinist McEnnelly of Marlboro who had all of the music in his possession.

Members of the club in 1900 were Joshua Edwards, John Lawton, Dell Martin, William Casey, George Whitney, William Irwin, Thomas Smith, Peter Kivlehan, Frank McCarron, William Punch, Lee Donahue, Edward Doherty, James Cleary, William V. Cameron, James Coughlan, Michael E. Sheehan, Bartholomew Coughlin, Willam Mahoney, William Lawler and Arthur J.Coughlan.

It is interesting to note that a Miss Harris of Acton won the Handsomest lady prize for several years. Also, at the 26th anniversary ball in 1912 before a packed house, Frank C. Sheridan, won the prize as the most comical costumed gentleman.

At the 21st annual ball, February 1907, a concert by the Bingville Band, under the direction of Charles Smith, was a feature of the evening. Music was so intoxicating that officer Connors was on the verge of making several arrests. The artists of the band were - Matt Campbell, Jack Kelley, Mell Butler, Bill Cleary, Jimmie Farrell and Marcus Kelley.

Prepared by Ralph L. Sheridan - April 1965 (Credit to the Maynard News)