



MRS. LOTHE MRS. MORROW

## Women's Clubs Elect Officers

MAY 22 1954  
SHEBOYGAN — Mrs. Clarence Weber, Sheboygan, was elected president of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs Wednesday.

Other new officers are Mrs. Kenneth Reed, Kenosha, first vice-president; Mrs. S. V. Abramson, Shorewood, second vice-president; Mrs. Irwin Lothe, Poynette, recording secretary; Mrs. H. B. Morrow, Platteville, treasurer; Mrs. James Zande, Shawano, junior director.

The federation presented its first annual award for a legislator in the field of conservation Thursday to Sen. Reuben La Fave (R.-Oconto).

# Poynette woman's newest mission is to lead County Board

POYNETTE — "One thing just led to another," says Inge Lothe. That's how she explains reaching her latest plateau — chairman of the Columbia County Board.

She's the first female to break into that previous "boys club" domain. But it's no big feminist deal to her.

In fact, Lothe insists on retaining the title *chairman*, and says unanimous election to the top county post came because of diligent hands-on service as a supervisor in human services, conservation and environmental concerns, not gender.

She admits to refusing very few requests of her time and talents, says her favorite words are "volunteer, participate and service to others," and advises people so inclined to "get involved."

"What I have brought to the

## Ambling with Jerry Ambelang

Capital Times Area News Chief



many tasks I've undertaken is organization and communication," Lothe says in her frank, direct manner.

There is a litany of organizations, national, state and local, in which the tall, soft-spoken woman has held offices, most of them strictly volunteer, non-pay positions.

They have taken her all over the nation, into the White House and various state capitals, also to factories and landfills.

She honed her administrative tal-

ents as a member of women's organizations, first as president of Poynette-Arlington Woman's Club, then with the regional five-county unit.

Inge, as most call her, became president of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs from 1970-72, when it marked its 75th anniversary.

She also labored 12 years with the international General Federation of Women's Clubs, serving as chairman of its national conservation department and participating (there's that word again) in countless workshops around the nation.

"The one thing I found out during that period is Wisconsin is among the most beautiful states in the country, and the MacKenzie Environmental Center, just outside of Poynette, is one of the best nature and conservation schools for young

people in the nation," she said.

She was a member of the state "game farm" advisory committee, which saw MacKenzie develop into a first-rate environmental education center. Inge, along with Genevieve Bancroft, former center director, helped found a "Friends" organization 10 years ago, with Lothe as the initial president.

The group's fund-raising efforts and grants helped expand trails, made some accessible to the disabled, organized the educational tours, and now are helping fund the center's arboretum restoration.

The fireplace mantel in her 110-year-old home in Poynette is filled with mementos, mostly from environmental endeavors. There's one from the late Gov. Warren Knowles and another from Lady Bird Johnson and her Keep America Beautiful group. A note from the Reagans

recognizes her many volunteer services.

Just to show the depth of her community and county involvement, she served as her church treasurer for 12 years, was Poynette school board clerk for 14 and has been, since the early '80s, on the housing board for the elderly that built the 20-unit Pioneer Place and plans to add another 20 this year.

She also served on the county teacher college board for seven years, the county home board for 13, was first chairman of the reorganized county Human Services Board, and served on the Solid Waste Commission, which instituted a regular pickup across the county of materials that can be recycled.

"Columbia County is a progres-

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Inge Lothe

## Ambling

From Page 21

sive county," she says with an air of pride.

"The county was into gathering and selling recycleable materials many years ago, prior to the DNR promoting its first pilot program at Fitchburg and elsewhere. The program is financially in the black now.

"It served as a pilot program for many counties in this field," she adds. "And the county also operated a successful pilot program in composting with a state grant."

"It isn't me that accomplished this," she admonishes.

"It is many people working long and hard hours, working out problems. This county has always had a group of dedicated board members and staff people," the polished communicator says.

She laughs now at her difficulty shifting from Norwegian to English while growing up on the Jens and

Helga Viken homestead in rural Sun Prairie. She obviously learned well while attending the one-room Triangle School and East High in Madison.

Irvin Lothe and Inge married, farmed in the area, moved to Poynette in 1944, went into the fur business, first with silver fox, then mink. They sold out in 1970 in the face of a diminishing market. That was the year she started as the state women's club president.

Her husband, who died two years ago, "was a close confidant and a sounding board" for various ideas and projects in which she was engaged, she says. "He urged me to run for the County Board in 1980. His support was always essential."

A daughter, Jean Doherty, operates a music school in Madison, and Lothe has two granddaughters.

Incidentally, Lothe has no further political aspirations beyond the

County Board, she says, though she was reappointed to the state Waste Facility Siting Board by Gov. Tommy Thompson. She's "content to work at the county level."

Why the harried life of thousands of meetings, not to mention the countless minutes and miles involved?

"Actually, I enjoy people. I'm interested in their welfare and the interaction it involves," she says. "I feel privileged to have had the opportunity and challenge volunteer (and County Board) work presents."

Lothe says there were no distinct goals of being a joiner way back when she was a farm wife. "But one thing led to another," she says. "They all seem related now."

They are also solid background for a truly remarkable woman in her tenure as Columbia County Board chairman.

THE CAPITAL TIMES.

*Sorry, I don't have the date of this article.*

*Grace Welch*



# Family-Women

Wisconsin State Journal

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1970

SECTION 1, PAGE 15

MAY 29 1970

## Mrs. Lothe Heads Group Federation Announces Award Winners



MRS. LOTHE



MRS. REED

Mrs. Irvin Lothe, Poynette, was installed as president of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs at the recent 73rd convention at Lake Delton.

Other new officers are Mrs. Orrie Sanasac, Eau Claire, first vice-president; Mrs. George Mueller, Milwaukee, second vice-president; Mrs. Edward Krystofiak, Princeton, recording secretary; Mrs. E. M. Billings, Marinette, treasurer; Mrs. Edward Grutzner, Beloit, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Joseph McIlree, Oshkosh, Junior Club director.

Mrs. Kermit Haugan, second vice-president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest women's organization in the world, installed the officers.

Mrs. Kenneth L. Reed, Kenosha, received the Federation's top award, the Theodora Youngs Citizenship Award. She was honored for her work in the Crusade for Morality sponsored by the General Federation.

**PRESENTED WITH CHECKS** for their outstanding entries in the Community Im-

Foundation were:

The Durand Woman's Club, which restored the local depot and converted it into a community center, \$300; the Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club, which established a library and provided volunteer staff members, \$100; the Menomonie Federated Woman's Club, which undertook a continuing project in 1958 to restore the Mabel Tainter Memorial Theater, \$50; and the Greendale Junior Woman's Club for several projects, \$50.

The Madison Junior Woman's Club won top honors for clubs in cities over 10,000 population for its work at Mendota State Hospital. No checks are presented to metropolitan clubs.

Awards totaling \$1,000 were given to the top three winning clubs in the annual Shell Oil Education Program for excellence of programs in helping young people gain a better education.

**THE WINNERS** were the Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club, \$500; Stevens Point Junior Woman's Club, \$300; and Greendale Junior Woman's Club, \$200.

Eight certificates of recognition were presented to the Sheboygan Junior Woman's Club; West Bend Junior Woman's Club; Cedarburg Junior Woman's Club; Glendale Woman's Club; Berlin Junior Woman's Club; Cedarburg Woman's Club; and Plymouth Woman's Club.

Conservation awards for Wisconsin women were given to Mrs. Harry J. Lowe, Washburn, soil and water conservation; Mrs. Kenneth Berth, Cascade, beautification; Mrs. Nick Kana'vas, Brookfield, water and air pollution; Mrs. Ralph H. Diehl, Racine, youth activities; Mrs. Charles Nestel, Cable, forestry and wildlife; Mrs. John M. Kohler, Kohler, community conservation service; Mrs. Oliver

Heine, Glendale, conservation education; and Mrs. Howard T. Greene, Genesee Depot, special conservation award.

**ART CONTEST WINNERS** were Patti Clayton, Stevens Point, first place in the General Federation art contest for high school seniors; Mrs. George Brooks, "Fashions for the Handicapped"; Mrs. Lynn Kant Sale, Winneconne, GFWC creative writing contest; Samara Philipp, Sturgeon Bay, first place in Class A, Helen Farnsworth Mears contest for eighth graders;

Tim Becker, Oshkosh, second; James Franz, Hartland, third; Arlene Bottlemey, Fontana, first place in Class B; Ann Bowler, Black River Falls, second; and Jane Lynch, Wausau, third.

Among the many new clubs honored at the convention were the Cross Plains Junior Woman's Club, the Albion Lotus Club, and the Ft. Atkinson Junior Woman's Club.

# 'Ingie's' on the Job MAY 16 1971

## Mrs. Lothe Steers Women's Clubs in State

By LOUISE C. MARSTON  
Of The State Journal Staff  
She's known as "Ingie" by more than 21,000 women in practically every city and small town in Wisconsin.

It is a name of affection and respect for Ingeborg Viken Lothe (Mrs. Irvin Lothe), Poynette, the energetic president of the 340 separate clubs which make up the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Lothe, who was private secretary to the head of the Great Northern Life Insurance Co. in Madison before her marriage, uses her "passion for the efficient organization of details" to great advantage as federation president.

**SHE IS INVOLVED** right now with the myriad of details centering around the organization's 74th convention Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Born on a farm in Spring Prairie, Columbia County, Mrs. Lothe proudly tells how she went to a one-room country school.

"There were only eight pupils in the whole school when I graduated from eighth grade," she says. "I felt I received a wonderful elementary school education because I entered Madison's East High School as one of 400 freshmen and managed to be on the top honor roll for all

four years."

One gets a clue to Mrs. Lothe's character and personality when she says, simply but forthrightly, "I never missed a day of school or was tardy one single time in 12 years of grade school and high school."

**MRS. LOTHE'S** husband grew up on a farm near her parents'. They were married June 16, 1938, and have one daughter, Mrs. James Doherty (Jean Lothe), Rt. 1, De Forest, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Music.

The Dohertys have two daughters, Kelley Jean, 6, and Keellie Anne, 4, and Mrs. Lothe cheerfully admits that "being a doting grandmother is my No. 1 hobby."

Mr. and Mrs. Lothe moved to Poynette 27 years ago. After a number of years of raising fox and mink, Mr. Lothe retired a year ago.

"Ingie" Lothe, who served for 14 years as clerk of the Poynette School Board, became "tremendously enthusiastic" about club work when she was elected president of the Poynette Woman's Club in 1954.

**IN THE MEANTIME**, she also was serving as Sunday School superintendent and youth adviser of the First Presbyterian Church in Poynette.

"One thing just led to an-

other," she says with a laugh. "Woman's club work is aimed at the betterment of communities, and that's something I definitely believe in wholeheartedly."

After becoming president of the Second District Federated Clubs, 1958-1960, she rapidly rose in rank in the State Federation.

For her term of office as state president, 1970-1972, she chose "Better Environment" as her theme.

"I ASKED the clubwomen of the Federation to work with other women in their community—to join forces and not compete," she said. "I asked them to work with the young people and include them in their projects. I feel that today's young people have so many wonderful ideas and so much to contribute and that we older people should listen to them and encourage them."

Mrs. Lothe says her greatest joy comes when she receives club report after report, from every corner of Wisconsin, and it begins, "Our club was responsible for . . . or our club instigated a project that we feel has been invaluable to our community."

"They're doing perfectly marvelous things," she says with pride. "They're full of pep and enthusiasm. Occasionally, there is a club dying on its feet, but it's extremely rare. Most of Wisconsin's women's clubs are active and thriving."

Mrs. Lothe, who travels more than 25,000 miles a year in her car on club duties and many times has to be gone from home three and four days at a time, sings her husband's praises.

"HE'S AN absolute saint," she says. "I could never do what I do without his wonderful backing and support. He believes that what I'm doing is worthwhile and gives me total encouragement."

Mrs. Lothe believes that "apathy is one of the worst polluters in the world today."

"I encourage every woman in the State Federation to be a well informed citizen," she

says. "I tell them to write to their state legislators and congressmen—not as whiny complainers—but to express intelligent opinions.

"I feel that we've all got to go to work and clean up the mess the world's in today—we've just got to banish apathy," she says firmly.



MRS. IRVIN LOTHE



MRS. LOTHE

MRS. BROWN

JULIE EISENHOWER

## Mrs. Lothe Receives National Post

Mrs. Irvin Lothe, Poynette, Wis., left, president of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, greets Mrs. Earle A. Brown, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Julie Eisenhower right, at the recent General Federation of Women's Clubs inter-

national convention in Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Brown served as president of the General Federation, 1970-1972, and Julie Eisenhower was one of the convention speakers.

Mrs. Lothe was appointed national chairman for the management of natural resources division under the Federation's Conservation Dept. She also was installed as second vice-president of the Mississippi Valley Conference of the General Federation.

The Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs won top national awards in the Conservation Dept., Education Dept., Communications Division, and Creative Expression Division, and had the largest net increase in E.S.O. readers.

The Superior Woman's Club won fifth place out of 9,000 entries in the Community Improvement Contest, in the metropolitan category, and the Wisconsin Junior Clubs won seven citations.

## Mrs. Irvin Lothe Receives Club Honor

JUN 20 1974

BOYNETTE → Mrs. Irvin Lothe, Boynette, has been appointed national conservation department and environmental awareness chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The appointment is one of the top six in the Federation.

Mrs. Lothe recently attended the 83rd annual convention of the Federation in Minneapolis, Minn., as a member of the board of directors. She also was elected vice-president of the Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Mrs. Lothe will lead the Federation conservation department in its co-sponsorship with the Shell Oil Co. of the annual conservation program.

President of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs from 1970 to 1972, Mrs. Lothe is listed in Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who's in the Midwest.

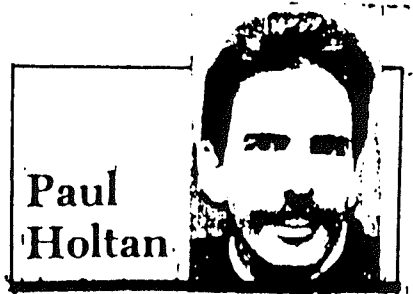


MRS. LOTHE

In *Lothe*

*Recycling Committee success*

# Committee finished but work isn't



**Paul Holtan**

When county board chairman Eugene Hahn dissolved the county's waste management committee earlier this month he was full of praise for the accomplishments the committee achieved since it was created.

Some of those accomplishments were reviewed by vice-chairman Ingeborg Lothe at last month's board meeting. Of course, as Lothe pointed out at the beginning of her talk, "it's difficult to give a short report on six years of work."

Lothe said the committee's work began with an analysis of the county's solid waste needs and development of a management plan to meet those needs through the 1980s. The committee prepared a very comprehensive plan that included a list of all existing dumps and landfills, figures on the volume of wastes generated by different county municipalities, a review of state legislations regarding waste disposal and county compliance with those laws, what alternatives were available for solid

waste management and recommendations for how the county should proceed with handling its waste.

According to Lothe, the committee found that waste volumes were increasing throughout the county, that waste disposal sites around the county were going to be closing and that there was minimal recycling going on by county residents.

Originally, the committee recommended the county begin developing three new sanitary landfills. Lothe said it was estimated at that time that a landfill would take 3-5 years to develop and cost about \$5 million.

The problem was that the management plan also determined the number of sites in the county suitable for a landfill were a very limited. And, of course, of the sites that were suitable none of the nearby residents wanted a landfill located there.

In 1981, after the county had no luck locating even one landfill site, the committee changed its emphasis and began developing a county recycling program. Lothe said the program was "started from scratch" at a cost of about \$35,000. Land for the center was donated to the county and responsibility for managing the center was given to the county's office of planning and zoning.

In the time the center has operated, Lothe said, markets for recyclable materials have fluctuated greatly. In 1982 the center took in a little over 1.5 million pounds of materials and received almost \$29,000 in receipts from the sale of materials. Last year the center took in over 3.6 million pounds and received over \$51,000.

Without even considering the cash receipts, the recycling center has been a great success. As Lothe pointed out, it's not fair to only consider how much the center makes in selling recyclable materials, but also what it has saved the county in unneeded landfill space.

The committee was also responsible for developing the county's grant proposal for the state-funded co-composting project. The experimental project was funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resource's Bureau of Solid Waste Management.

Project coordinator Dr. Aga Razvi characterized the project, which came to an end last month, has proved that co-composting works as a viable alternative to disposing of solid waste in a landfill.

Now that the co-composting project is completed and the recycling center is fully operational, the county has determined the waste management commit-

tee's responsibilities can be handled by a sub-committee of the planning and zoning committee.

I agree that the waste management committee has done an excellent job. Thanks to their work, Columbia County has set an example in waste management for other counties to follow.

I hope that the example the committee set will be followed by the planning and zoning committee. While the county has made great strides in waste management, the solid waste disposal problem is far from being resolved.

Less than half of the county's cities and villages participate in the recycling program and just over half the townships participate. And it is very apparent there are many people who live in the municipalities that are part of the program who don't recycle. Portage is an excellent example: it's easy to see on garbage day how many people aren't recycling.

Even when people do recycle, there is garbage produced. Existing landfills are still filling up and it will still be difficult to find new sites. I hope the planning and zoning committee finds time to continue the county's progressive record on solid waste management as it confronts these problems in the future.

# Mackenzie Center pow-wow Saturday

SEP 14 1980

By Jim Suckling  
Of The State Journal

POYNETTE — Featuring music, dancers and Indian arts and crafts, the annual Indian Summer Pow-Wow will be Saturday at the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center near Poynette.

"The main purpose of the program is to promote conservation and environmental education in Wisconsin," said Ingie Lothe, president of the Friends of Mackenzie Environmental Center, which is sponsoring the event.

Free to the public, the festivities begin at 9 a.m. with registration, followed by a short business meeting. Department of Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Earl will welcome participants at 9:45 a.m.

The keynote address will be delivered by Michael Falconer, executive director of the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

The program also includes Jen Bancroft, manager of the center, who will introduce the staff; "Billy B," noted educational entertainer, and Chief "Shunka Waukon," a Sioux Indian who will perform and introduce the participants of the arts and crafts show.

"He was so well liked last year, we invited him back," Mrs. Lothe said.

"Last year he came in full Indian dress, sang and played the guitar, and then spoke about the changing customs of today's Indians."

After the chief's performance, the Indian arts and crafts show will begin at 11:45 a.m. with works from Oneida and Wisconsin Dells Indians. Then at 12:30 p.m. there will be a "harvest" luncheon with such entrees as buffalo and MacKenzie burgers.

During the afternoon there will be tours, displays, workshops and slide programs.

Mrs. Lothe said support for the handicapped and elderly nature trails project planned for the center will be emphasized during the day.

Although the State Building Commission allocated \$65,000 for the trail project, Lothe said the grant will not cover the costs and "possibly the pow-wow will help increase public interest in the project."

Reservations are not required for the event, but are recommended. The lunch will cost \$2.50 in advance and \$2.75 at the door for adults, \$1.25 for children under 12 and \$2 for senior citizens.

The Friends of MacKenzie Environmental Center was organized in 1978 to promote, encourage and perpetuate the work of conservation and natural resource education.



"It didn't make any sense to spend that kind of money on old equipment," he said.

With help from a lawyer and DNR officials, however, Miller learned that if Spic and Span removed all its old dry cleaning equipment and replaced it with computerized equipment using a new solvent technology, it could cut its air pollution by 160 tons of volatile organic compounds per year.

The DNR would then allow the company to take 75

percent of that total or 120 tons, and turn it into 120 credits that it could sell to another business needing higher pollution limits.

The result was a deal in which Spic and Span sold a state-record 120 tons worth of pollution to Serigraph, a West Bend printing business. Serigraph paid \$360,000 for the pollution credits so that it could expand.

After taxes and lawyer's fees, Spic and Span reaped about \$200,000.

## Inge Lothe: a good friend for conservation

### Joel Stone

Ingeborg "Inge" Lothe lives on a quiet street in downtown Poynette.

At first glance, she appears to be a typical senior citizen resident of a small town — widow of a retired dairy farmer, a grandmother active in local church and civic organizations.

However, Lothe belies first glance. She is anything but typical, and her list of accomplishments is long and varied.

She recently completed a term as chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and was formerly the National Conservation Chairman for the General Federation of Women's Clubs (the world's largest organization for women). Lothe has received national awards in conservation and volunteer leadership, and been recognized as a state leader in those fields by former Wisconsin governors Warren Knowles and Anthony Earl.

Lothe has served on the State Forestry Council and on the State Waste Facility Siting Board. In short, she is a good friend of our natural resources and the people of Wisconsin.

"We can be very proud of Wisconsin and all of our efforts, but we still have concerns and many challenges," said Lothe. "With an increased population and changes in technology and lifestyles, we must consider the whole environment for our livelihood — the air we breath, the water we use, the energy we need.

"All involve natural resources and its conservation. It takes education to keep issues in front of the public; environmental education never ends."

Lothe's quest for education led her to the MacKenzie Environmental Center. Initially she and her late husband attended seminars on fur farming at the Center when it was still part of the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm.

In the late 1960s she was again visiting the MacKenzie Center, only this time as a representative of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs. It was at the Center that she got turned on to environmental education while participating in a U.S. Forest Service workshop.

Lothe's love for the MacKenzie Center prompted her to take a leading role in setting up the department's first

"Friends" group. She went before the Natural Resources Board in 1975 to seek approval to organize a group of supporters into what was to become the "Friends of the MacKenzie Center" in 1978.

She served as president of the Friends group for seven years. During her tenure she was instrumental in obtaining funds for the Center to build handicap-accessible trails, develop educational materials for the wildlife exhibit and upgrade the arboretum.

Lothe is especially proud of the large number of students who visit the Center.

"At MacKenzie, students become aware of environmental problems and can see first-hand what is written in their books," she noted. "They get a better understanding of natural resource uses, problems and issues while developing responsibility and improved appreciation and support for management."

In 1980 Lothe extended her efforts in a new direction. She was elected to the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and subsequently became chairman of its Solid Waste Commission and Social Services and Health Commission.

Her talents and influence in both commissions, combined with her many contacts, resulted in Columbia County

setting up Wisconsin's first county-wide recycling program. The recycling program's staff included clients on the county's general relief and AFDC rolls, who worked under a workfare program.

In 1986, the National Recycling Coalition recognized Columbia County as having "the most outstanding regional recycling program in the nation." During 1987 this voluntary program recycled 2,114 tons of potential solid waste that would have the county and local municipalities \$27 a ton to landfill.

Besides saving money and landfill space, this program generated \$95,000 in revenue.

Inge Lothe has indeed been a good friend — to her community and to the department. Wisconsin would benefit from having more people like her, and in fact, it needs more people like her, if we are to accomplish our natural resources mission in years to come.



Inge Lothe