

## HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS FORUM

The Business Forum is the oldest civic club in the northwest, which traces its founding to a luncheon meeting in the "Old Nicollet" Hotel in the year 1872. The organization was incorporated in 1912 but it was back before the turn of the century, in the 1880's that the club became interested in civic affairs and was responsible for furnishing the secretary of the Building Commission that constructed the present-day Minneapolis Court House and City Hall.

With pride, the club also points to the fact that it initiated the movement which saw the establishment of the School of Business Administration at the University of Minnesota. It also worked for the development of the Parade Ground following the razing of the old Minneapolis Armory.

During World War I the club assisted in outfitting the University of Minnesota Hospital Unit. This unit saw much meritorious service on the battlefields and in the trenches of France. Both world conflicts saw members of the Business Forum in the service of their country.

Forum members also served as "minute Men" in the sale of war bonds. During peace time many club members have served as solicitors for various charities and have put on children's parties at settlement houses, have assisted and are assisting today many worthwhile civic endeavors.

### Purpose and functions of the Business Forum

The basic purpose of the Business Forum is the fostering of Friendship, Understanding and Self-Improvement, not only among its individual members but among members of fellow organizations and the community as a whole. Each year the club undertakes a civic project and contributes to this cause from the voluntary contributions of its members. The membership believes that this yearly endeavor, the chance to assist a worthwhile charity, accomplishes a dual purpose, by aiding a charity and by renewing the interest of the membership. If, indeed, its sole purpose were to promote friendship and good-fellowship between men and women in various professions and businesses, its purpose would be laudable, for friendship is the basis for a happy and successful life. The Business Forum is pleased to practice its philosophy in the City of Minneapolis and surrounding area.