

League of Women Voters of Texas
1508 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas

PRICE 10¢

April 8, 1952

PRECINCT CONVENTION SKIT

Narrator: Have you looked at your political conscience lately? Is your satisfaction showing? You have paid your poll tax. You have prepared for the important election year ahead. You are well acquainted with domestic and international matters. You are watching potential candidates with great interest. You find yourself pretty much in accord with one political party or another. In short, you feel that, as an alert, enthusiastic and intelligent voter, you are certainly doing your part. And you are, indeed! --- up to a point! And that is our point of departure today.

You are going to witness a reasonable facsimile of what is going to happen all over the state on the first Saturday in May. We hope this preview of your precinct convention will make you eager to play your part in the real thing! To assume your full responsibility in the party of your choice. To start now to think in terms of political influence on the grassroots level where you and your neighbors can start a chain reaction that will surely and effectively carry all the way to the floor of the national convention.

We are calling our particular convention a meeting of the Grassroots Precinct of _____ County, one of the more than 3,000 voting precincts in Texas. Watch these people coming in. There's the Precinct Chairman. The woman talking to the chairman is Jane Smith. She's one of the most avid political workers in the precinct, - been a delegate to the County Convention two or three times, - and once she went to the State Convention. They are evidently holding a last minute caucus, going over once again their plans to gain control of the convention. They realize that control of these precinct meetings ultimately will determine how Texas delegates to the two national conventions will be instructed. They understand fully the basic political fact-of-life that conventions are won in the caucus which makes the plans and charts the plays beforehand. Let's listen.....

Stevens: Now, let's go over this one more time to be sure we all understand. Mrs. Baker is going to be Permanent Chairman. Right?

Baker: (IN SMUG MANNER) I will perform to the best of my ability.

Smith: Hear! Hear! And, as Floor Leader, I'll nominate you.

Stevens: As Precinct Chairman I will call the meeting to order. Then Jane nominates Mrs. Baker and Alice Stanford seconds the motion and moves the nominations be closed...Then, when I step down, I will help you on the floor, Jane.

- Smith: Right! Mary's going to be the Secretary, isn't she?
- Stevens: All set, Mary?
- Hamilton: I think so. I came prepared. (WAVES NOTEBOOK).
- Stevens: Then Jane will nominate you and I will second.
- Stanford: OK. Then, what about the delegation?
- Stevens: I've got the list right here. The _____ and the _____ alternates. Mrs. Baker will be named chairman. We're set for the unit rule motion - when we get our people through. Eh, Jane?
- Smith: Yes, all set. Think Joe Simpson and her bunch are going to give us any trouble?
- Stevens: We'll have to wait and see. We've got to move fast, though. The way I see it, we are going to have a clear majority for we have kept our caucuses quiet and I don't think they know we are organized. But we might get in a tight spot. If so, Mrs. Baker, you'd better call for a Nominating Committee and try to get some of our people named that way. It's safer that way. Ha!.... Do we all have our poll tax receipts or exemption certificates?...(NODS) .. Good!
- Smith: Those instructions for the delegation, now. What about
(VOICE FADES AS NARRATOR'S VOICE COMES IN)
- Narrator: Well, it looks as though everything is all set up in advance, doesn't it? They'd better hurry it up.. There is no specified quorum for a Precinct Convention, you know, so one person can hold the convention according to law, and everything might be over but the shouting when this group arrives - if it is late..... There is another group gathering outside. Let's listen in on them!
- Simpson: Where are the Carters, Edna? You said they were coming. Where are they? We are not going to get any place without them and the Harrisons.
- Black: They promised they'd be here..... Now, I put you up for chairman, Nora?
- Simpson: Yes, unless we find that we are in the minority. In that case, we'll need all our votes on the floor. So watch that before you nominate me... Thank goodness, here are the Carters, but where are the Harrisons?... It is almost seven. We will have to go on in. (SOUNDS OF GREETINGS, ETC. AS THEY ENTER).
- Narrator: Seven straight up! Watch out for flying verbiage. Here we go!
- Stevens: Ladies and gentlemen: this is the convention of the Grassroots Precinct of the County of _____, State of Texas. As Precinct Chairman, I here-with call the meeting to order. The first order of business is the making of a list of all qualified voters present. I have here the poll list of this precinct. The statutes of Texas provide that no person shall be entered on the list, be permitted to vote, be present at, or be permitted to participate in the business of this convention until it is certain that he, or she, is a qualified voter in this precinct. Mrs.

Baker, will you take the poll list and check the names as I call them out? Jane, will you make a list of the names of those who qualify? Now, you others will please line up and present your poll tax receipts or exemption certificates to me for checking.

(BUSINESS OF LINING UP, GIVING NAMES, LISTING, ETC.)

- Stevens: We have now prepared a list of the qualified voters present. The next order of business is the election of a Permanent Chairman. Nominations are now in order for the office of Permanent Chairman of this Convention.
- Smith: Madame Chairman.
- Stevens: Mrs. Smith.
- Smith: I nominate Mrs. Baker for permanent chairman.
- Stanford: Second the nomination and move that nominations close.
- Morgan: Second the Motion.
- Stevens: Will all those in favor of the motion that the nominations be closed signify by saying "aye"? (CHORUS OF AYES). Opposed? (SILENCE). The motion is carried... All those in favor of Mrs. Baker as Permanent Chairman of this Convention signify by saying "Aye". (LOUD AYES). Opposed? (A VERY FEW NOES). The Ayes have it and the motion is carried. I now turn the chair over to Mrs. Baker.
- Baker: The next order of business before the convention is the election of a Secretary. Nominations are now in order for the office of Secretary to this convention....Mrs. Smith.
- Smith: I nominate Mrs. Hamilton.
- Stevens: Second the motion.
- Morgan: Mme. Chairman.
- Baker: Mrs. Morgan.
- Morgan: I move the nominations be closed.
- Stevens: Second the motion.
- Baker: Those in favor of closing the nominations will signify by saying "Aye". (PERFUNCTORY CHORUS). Opposed? (SILENCE). The motion is carried. All those in favor of Mrs. Hamilton as Secretary of this convention will signify by saying "aye". (FEW AYES). Opposed? (SILENCE). Mrs. Hamilton is now our Secretary.
- Narrator: It will be Mrs. Hamilton's job to keep an accurate account of what goes on here. With the help of the chairman she will prepare a written report, in duplicate, which the Chairman will sign, seal and deliver safely within 3 days to the County Clerk who will affix his file mark and then promptly deliver the original copy to the chairman of the County Executive Committee.

Baker: The principal function of this convention is the election of delegates to the County Convention. The instructions I have here from the County Chairman indicate that this Precinct is entitled to ___ delegates in accordance with the statute which provides that each precinct is entitled to one delegate for each 25 votes, or major fraction thereof, cast for the party's candidate for governor at the last preceding general election. You may select more or less delegates or alternates than the number to which this precinct is entitled, but those actually selected shall cast the exact number of votes to which the precinct is entitled... Nominations for delegates to the County Convention are now open. (SMITH AND SIMPSON LEAP TO FEET).

Baker: Mrs. Smith.

Smith: I move that the following persons be delegates to the next County Convention: Mrs. Willard Stevens, Mrs. Ed Baker, Mrs. Tom Stanford, Mary Hamilton, Ann Morgan and Mrs. Harry Smith. Mrs. Baker to serve as chairman of the delegation.

Stanford: Second the motion.

Simpson: (ALMOST SHOUTING). Mme. Chairman. Mme. Chairman.

Baker: Mrs. Simpson.

Simpson: I move to amend the motion by striking out the list of delegates presented by Mrs. Smith and substituting the following persons: Mrs. John Jacoby, Mrs. Ed Baker, Mrs. Albert Black, Mrs. Ben Milan, Elizabeth Thomas and Mrs. Joseph Simpson. Mrs. Baker to serve as chairman of the delegation.

Black: I second the motion.

Baker: There is an amendment to the motion. Does everyone understand it?

Allen: Point of information. If this amendment is passed, does that mean that Mrs. Simpson's delegates will go to the county convention in place of Mrs. Smith's?

Baker: That is correct.

Morgan: Point of order, Mme. Chairman. Isn't it necessary for the delegates named to be present at this meeting?

Baker: No, it is not. The chair will now entertain discussion on the amendment to the original motion.

Black: Mme. Chairman.

Baker: The lady in blue.

Black: Speaking for the amendment, I want to say that the real thinking of this precinct is represented by the people listed in the amendment, not by those presented by Mrs. Smith, and our votes at the county convention should most certainly be cast by the people who think as we do.

Harrison: (LOUDLY). Where are these people she's talking about? Why aren't they here? (CHORUS OF BUZZES).

Baker: Order! Order!

Stevens: I move the previous question.

Baker: The question has been called for. We are now voting on the amendment to the original motion. All in favor say "Aye". (MEDIUM AYES). Opposed? (LOUD NOES). The motion is lost.

Simpson: I appeal from the ruling of the chair. I demand a standing vote.

Baker: A recount has been demanded. All those in favor, stand that you may be counted. (MOTION AND SHUFFLE AS PEOPLE RISE). All opposed, please stand. (SHUFFLING, LOUDER THIS TIME). The count is eleven against and eight in favor. The motion is lost.

Simpson: (ANGRILY) We're not going to be railroaded like this. You wait 'til this gets up to the county. I'm walking out. Everyone here who feels the way I do, come on. (ANGRY VOICES).

Baker: May I remind you, Mrs. Simpson, that this is a duly constituted precinct convention, and that the county committee could not accept your credentials under the circumstances. (THE GROUP WALKS OUT TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES).

Narrator: Oh, Oh! There goes the vocal minority. They will probably hold what is popularly known as a "Rump Convention" somewhere close by, submit their report and depend on the ruling of the credentials committee of the county executive committee. That committee will hear both reports and if Simpson's group can show that it has been unfairly and illegally treated (which I doubt), it will be recognized at the county convention. However, this might happen if Mrs. Simpson's group is in favor with the credentials committee.

Baker: Well, we are back to our original motion. Is everyone ready for the question? (CALLS OF "QUESTION"). All those in favor say "Aye". (CHORUS OF AYES). Opposed? (FEW ANGRY NOES). The motion has been carried. The delegates to the county convention being duly elected at this precinct meeting, we shall proceed to the next order of business. Does this convention wish to issue instructions to its delegates? Remember, we can instruct them only as far as the county convention... Will all those presenting resolutions hand them to Mrs. Hamilton here, at the close of the meeting, for the report.

Allen: Mr. Chairman, I move that this convention adopt a resolution to be included in the instructions to our delegates that we are in favor of a permanent family court for _____ County.

Smith: Point of information, please. Is this the proper kind of resolution to come out of a precinct meeting?

Baker: It is a proper resolution to come out of the precinct convention to be held in July. At that time, resolutions on the state level may be introduced; whereas, at this convention, resolutions at the national level only are in order. It is, therefore, necessary for the chair to rule the motion on a family court for _____ County out of order at this time.

Smith: Mme. Chairman, I move that this convention resolve to place our delegates under the unit rule.

Stevens: Second the motion.

Harrison: Mme. Chairman, a point of information. What do you mean by the unit rule?

Baker: The unit rule binds the delegates to vote as a body, so that no votes will be lost, and the group will form a bloc of _____ solid votes. Otherwise, we might kill each other's votes...The majority rules within the delegation, the chairman voting only to break a tie. Then the delegation votes as a unit..... All those in favor of the motion, that this convention pass a resolution placing the delegation under the unit rule, say "Aye". (CHORUS). Opposed? (silence). The "Ayes" have it, the motion is carried.. Are there any further instructions for the delegation?

Smith: Regarding the party platform and our candidates, I offer the following resolution... (PRETENDS TO READ, FORMING WORDS WITH LIPS WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND).

Narrator: Oh, Oh! The sound track has gone dead. Or, perhaps it is the non-partisan ears of this League listener that prevents me from hearing. I can't tell whether this is a Democratic or Republican convention, nor do I know which presidential candidate she is instructing the delegation to support... There, she's finished.. Stevens seconded. They're voting. Suppose the resolution carried, judging by the pleased expressions.. Oh, the sound is coming back.. Listen.

Baker: If there are no further instructions for the delegation, the chair will now entertain a motion for adjournment.

Smith: I move we adjourn.

Stevens: Second the motion.

Baker: All those in favor of the motion to adjourn, say "Aye". (CHORUS). Opposed? (SILENCE). The meeting now stands adjourned.

Narrator: Except for the report, and copy, which the chairman will file with the County Clerk for delivery to the County Chairman, that finishes up this convention. In the presentation, we have tried to strike a midpoint between mock and model. We could have shown some of the real tricks to the trade: starting the meeting early so that it is all over before the opposition arrives, changing the meeting place (both of which are illegal under the new law), failure of the Permanent Chairman to recognize any member of the opposition, and so on... But, who knows, you might run across these or other shenanigans in your own precinct. You'd better go and see... Remember, too, it is your one and only chance to vote directly for the man you want for President and to help formulate your Party's platform. To make his voice really heard and his vote really count, the rank and file voter should be part of an organized group. So get in on the caucus. Mark your calendar so you will be sure to go to your Precinct Convention on May 3rd.

LIST OF CHARACTERS.

<u>Position or title</u>	<u>Name in Skit</u>	<u>Your Actor.*</u>
Narrator	Narrator	
Precinct Chairman	Mrs. Willard Stevens*	
Group in Control:		
Permanent Chairman	Mrs. Ed Baker	
Secretary	Mary Hamilton	
Floor Leader	Jane Smith (Mrs. Harry Smith)	
Asst. Floor Leader	Mrs. Tom Stanford	
Asst. Floor Leader	Mrs. Willard Stevens*	
Voters	Ann Morgan	
	Mrs. D. P. Allen	
	Mrs. J. A. White	
Opposition Group:		
Floor Leader	Mrs. Joseph Simpson	
Asst. Floor Leader	Mrs. Albert Black (Nora)	
Voters	Mrs. John Jacoby	
	Mrs. Ben Milam	
	Elizabeth Thomas	

* If you decide to use your real names, be sure to change them all through skit.

TODAY'S LEAGUE MEMBER

Here's the member of today
Student, sage and mother
She does her jobs with out pay
But with compensations other.

She studies the issues of the day
From local to national level.
To change Brownsville's charter without delay
Is the consensus, after study so careful.

Last year the problem was the voting machine.
She studied--then took a stand
To keep all elections nice and clean.
At the results, she was glad she had had a hand.

The constitution of our state
Has come in for study for years.
Consensus was reached that it's out of date.
Complete revision is the answer it appears.

With all these issues on her mind
We have a busy Leaguer.
In fact, spare time is hard to find.
To help she's always eager.

To show the story of her days
We found some typical hats.
To depict her on her way.
One for this--one for that.

Her THINKING HAT'S important.
For answers to questions specific
When others call upon the League,
This hat outdoes "Tom Terrific's".

(Tom Terrific's funnel
shaped hat from Capt.
Kangaroo.)

She oftens uses her PRESS HAT
To keep us up with the news.
Monitering city and county commissioners
And stating the Leagues ideas and views.

Don't forget her home life.
With mop and broom and DUST HAT.
She flies about her household chores.
She must keep up with that.

ADETECTIVE'S HAT can enter in
To help track down some clues.
Should this be our next project?
It's often hard to choose.

Our Leaguer often is stylish
In town she's thought of as best.
Today she's meeting the mayor
Some local project to press.

The League's publications are prolific.
They provide the best information
To guide women SCHOLARS in study
To help build a better nation.

This tells of a member of our League.
Always active, often hurried.
She broadens her views and her outlooks.
She leads a life that is varied.

We had this skit first after a short welcome by the leader. As the poem finished, the "Busy Leaguer" sat down for a minute to rest her feet and fell asleep. The leader ad libbed in here to explain this and tried to arouse the sleeping woman. She appeared to rouse and was dreaming of Carrie C. Catt, who then appeared. She was dressed in the fashion of the day and was on her way to Washington from Tenn. where she had spent 6 weeks campaigning for the ratification of the 19th amendment. She told a little of her background and the fight she had been waging. Most of the material for this part came from "40 Years of a Great Idea". and The National Voter, July* Aug. 1960.

After Mrs. Catt finished, the sleeping woman aroused again and began talking in her sleep of the appointment she had ~~mf~~ to interview at a TV station. She then went on with the following skit.

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WHO, ME?

WHY NOT!

by the

League of Women Voters of Brownsville



ACT I

"THAT WAS THE LEAGUE THAT WAS"

Scene opens with CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT entering the train pulling out of Nashville. She calls to porter to take special care of her steamer trunk and then seats herself. She occupies seat next to the window and immediately opens her shoe box containing her lunch, indicating that up to this time she was not concerned with food but only to finish the fight she had so gallantly begun.

No, this seat is not occupied. Certainly. I am so exhausted. Thought this food might revive me.

Yes, I am Carrie Chapman Catt, but how did you guess? Oh, from those pictures in the paper perhaps. True, I did have a most difficult time with these LEGISLATORS in TENNESSEE. They gave me a most difficult time. Thanks. From the very start of this fight to give WOMEN the right to vote I've been determined to dedicate my life to the cause. Do you realize that 72 years ago the movement was started? Now we have won our fight. Here it is August of 1920. From now on the responsibility rests with the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. You have never heard of the League? It was formed last year, by the Convention Body of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. It is the League which merits the praise for the accomplishment of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

You are from New York State? Then you must have read a great deal about the ratification and ALL THE MANEUVERS to get it reconsidered. We can shout now. Tennessee is the 36th State to ratify, and that was all that was needed to pass it. This is by far the greatest feat in American History for the Advancement of Women.

I might say that press coverages were fairly accurate. But how incomplete. Entire proceedings were mortifying, really horrifying ---- a disgrace to the intelligence of Women. Terrific tension. No reporter could picture the plight of last night. I've been working here at the Capitol in Nashville all of six weeks now. I was determined to stay on till the bitter end. Yes, I'm very excited, but now that it is over, I find myself so dreadfully weary. Yes, I had ALL the details to arrange. Alerting the Solicitor General to inform him that the DOCUMENT was Washington bound. He promised to stay up all night to receive it. Yes, it will be there tomorrow night. He has to first process it and then send it to the home of the Secretary of State...Bainbridge Colby.... who in turn will sign and seal it in the presence of his secretary.... Yes, all of this must be done before eight o'clock in the morning. And --

Why the haste??? Oh, haven't you heard the rumor? There is a threat of an injunction against the issuance of the proclamation!

Can the League do something about it? Of course. The League has already taken effective steps to forestall any delaying device.

No --- I will reach Washington a few hours after the signing ceremony. Too bad? Am I sad? No--no--I do not need a pen to ever remind me of this historic event in history. I'm only so very grateful to my Maker that I had a role to play in the passing of this 19th Amendment....

What is our next step? Good question. Glad you inquired.

The League will establish Citizen Schools ---- to teach Women their rights and privileges. Only one year old but has a very comprehensive program....8 standing committees, six of which report to the Convention Body this year. 69 ITEMS on agenda. Statements of principle and recommendations for legislation. We believe now that it just might take all five years to complete our mission. Today though----"PROGRESS CALLS ON US TO MAKE NO PAUSE BUT ACT".

How can YOU help? Upon my word--dear woman--Take out a membership in the NY League of W.V.

Well, now, you are just about the 5th person to ask me that same question.

Yes, the wording of the 19th Amendment is the exact wording of the Amendment proposed by Susan B. Anthony ---- just exactly ---- and that was 45 years ago. Oh, if only she could have lived 14 years longer to have witnessed this monumental occasion. She was a dynamic worker. Did you know that she owned and operated her own weekly paper -- called "REVOLUTION"? Its motto always fascinated me -- "THE TRUE REPUBLIC -- MEN THEIR RIGHTS -- NOTHING MORE and WOMEN THEIR RIGHTS -- NOTHING LESS".

Oh, a cinder flew into my eye. Can you see it? These dirty trains filled with coal smoke and that terrible smell....No, you haven't gotten it yet....up higher....There....Oh, thanks. Feels much better.

(Whispers to her seatmate) There goes that U. S. Congressman who gave me so much trouble. I want to corner him. Before he comes to the end of his career ---- I predict that the League of Women Voters will be the largest group of LOBBYISTS in the whole of the United States.

Yes, I have also enjoyed visiting with you. Goodbye---

(Exits)

ACT II

"THIS IS THE LEAGUE THAT IS"

Here's the League member of today
Teacher, nurse, or mother.
She does League jobs without pay
But with compensations other.

She studies issues of the day,
Local, state and national.
Listening and studying when she may
For consensus must be so rational.

In past years, the problem was voting machines.
She studied--then took a stand
To keep all elections nice and clean.
At the results, she was glad she had a hand.

The constitution of our state
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She flies about her household chores.
She must keep up with that.'

A DETECTIVE'S HAT can enter in
To help track down some clues.
Should this be our next project?
It's often hard to choose.

Our Member often is STYLISH
In our town, she's thought of as best.
Today she's meeting the mayor
Some local project to press.

Next she dons her SCHOLAR'S HAT
To study her League publications
Which provide up to date information
To help build a better nation.

This tells of a member of our League.
Active, alert--even hurried.
She broadens her views and her outlooks.
She leads a life that is varied.



ACT III

"THIS IS THE LEAGUE THAT COULD BE"

S Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is Stella Star, of Telstar News in Convention Hall, Mars, where the Interplanetary Convention of the League of Women Voters is being held this week. We're hoping to get a few words with Mrs. Luna E. Clips, convention delegate from the moon, and President of her local Cratersville League, to learn more about a Cratersville civic project that has captured space-wide interest.I think I see her now.....Yes.....Oh, Mrs. Clips.....Mrs. Clips, could you say a few words for our television audience?

L Why, yes, I'd be glad to.

S Since your organization has been so instrumental in the new Cratersville civic project, perhaps you could tell the people back on Earth more about it. But before we go into that, Mrs. Clips, tell us a little about the League of Women Voters in Cratersville. How long has it been organized?

L Please, just call me Luna. Well, we're a brand new Provisional League. Some of our members were active in League work back on Planet Earth, before we moved here. One of the first things a Provisional League must do is to make a "Know Your Town" Survey, that is, a complete study of every phase of local government. It was out of this survey that our project grew.

S Yes, that's the project that has stirred up so much interest. I understand that the League has recently conducted a campaign for a modern garbage disposal system for Cratersville. What seems to be the problem?

L To answer that question, let's go back a little. You see, the city government of Cratersville was set up as a model by government experts on Earth -- these were brilliant men in their field, and every detail of city function was worked out before we even built the city, and the plan provided that the many craters in the vicinity of Cratersville would be used as city dumps and garbage disposal areas. It was felt that these would serve adequately because there would be no odor; and, of course, it couldn't be burned on the moon. But these city planners could not foresee the potential hazards, never having had this type of experience on Earth.

S What hazards do you mean, Luna?

L First, it's turned out to be a breeding ground for lunar ticks and other insects, but even more dangerous was this discovery: It was noticed on Earth that there was a sudden and sharp increase in divorce rates, and a sharp decrease in marriage and birth rates. Now a decrease in the birth rate could create a grave situation on Earth. With so much immigration to the moon and other planets, you Earth people are doing well to hold your own back there.

S Yes, the underpopulation problem could well become acute.

L Well, scientists proved that this condition was the direct result of DIRTY MOONBEAMS transmitted from us to Earth. Why, complaints came even from Mars. The League became aware of the problem in the "Know Your Town"

Survey we made, and became concerned for the future. If this were allowed to become an Interplanetary problem, the United Planets would have to pass legislation sooner or later.

S What action did the League take?

L After thorough study, which included interviews with the Director of Satellite Sanitation, Mr. Cosmo Ray, trips to these areas, discussion meetings, and many pictures taken, consensus was reached that action could be taken in this area, and an alternative plan for garbage disposal was proposed. We then took our recommendations to the City Commission, who couldn't have cared less. They were willing to "wait a few years". So then our job was to arouse the public to the danger. We sent speakers from our Speaker's Bureau to Civic Clubs, passed out literature, appeared on television. When the public became aware of the problem, it wasn't hard to get the City Commission to see the light. It was decided that a bond issue would be needed. The League worked here too, to encourage the people to register and vote in favor of the bond issue.

S By the way, what form of registration do you have for voters on the moon?

L We have a permanent voter registration, where a voter registers only once in his lifetime, unless he fails to vote for four years.

S Then you don't pay a poll tax?

L Poll tax? What's that?

S Oh, I guess you wouldn't know about that. On Earth in Texas, they're still working to eliminate the \$1.75 you have to pay to register to vote.

L Why, that's terrible, to have to pay to vote!

S They've been trying to repeal it for a long time down there. Maybe one of these days....But to get back to the project, I see the bond issue passed. What plan did you propose to dispose of garbage now?

L The League learned that scientists have perfected refuse rockets which will shoot the garbage directly to the sun to be consumed -- one giant incinerator, you might say. Then the craters will be filled in and levelled off by moon-moving machines. The cost of all this is included in the Bond issue and will be under the supervision of the Trajectory Rocket Association for Sanitation and Health.

S Oh, yes, that's TRASH, isn't it? Will this affect the rest of the moon?

L We have had requests for information on this project from such moon cities as Fort Satellite and New Orbit. Other city governments are seeing how well it is working, and are showing interest without having pressure applied to them. Wait --- I'm getting a message now on my portable radar--New Orbit has just passed a bond issue for funds to buy refuse rockets and fill in their craters. Isn't that wonderful?

S Thank you, Luna, for an interesting story. And now, friends, we return you to Earth. This is Stella Star, Telstar News, at Convention Hall, Mars.

League of Women Voters of Texas

MRS. MAURICE H. BROWN, President



612 NORTH 18th STREET

WACO, TEXAS

September 23, 1963

Mrs. W. F. Merritt Jr. president
League of Women Voters of Brownsville
Brownsville, Texas

Dear Frances:

Thank you so much for letting me read the skit.. sounds fun and appreciate your offer to perform at Convention... it has been recommended by the Convention committee that we have a Variety Show at Convention... presenting 4 Local Leagues in skits they have done to highlight some phase of League, Brownsville was included.... the decisions on Convention will be made at the October Board meeting.. then I will let you know the final scoop!! Glad to have all the news of your League doings... you have been busy and sound so efficient and effective. Your Calendar of Work is well done and even if you have to change and shift around.. you do have something to start from and it can give you a better picture of the work load and you can adjust time and woman power accordingly.

You have just finished your finance drive!! and hope a most successful one with lots of participation and MONEY!!! to serve the community and your membership, which I hope is jumping....by leaps and bounds...

Its always fun to hear about all your doing and I do keep up via the Minutes but good to hear from you... and always glad to help in any way I can..

I'll let you know the Board decisions... regardin the Conventions plans....

Good luck... and remember me to everyone... we did enjoy our visit with you all so very much...

Ever

Helly Turner



Skits

C A S T

1. Narrator
2. New Member -- young, needs a good voice.
3. First Old Member -- Middle aged, needs to have good rhythm sense, some dancing, voice doesn't matter.
4. Second Old Member -- white hair helps contrast in personalities, calm lady with sweet voice.
5. President -- Forceful, strong leader type, needs to have good voice and rhythm and acting ability.

MUSIC CUES AND KEYS USED IN WACO

"Rioting in Africa" - key of F. F_7 chord leads into "Let Me Hold Your Hand" - key of Bb . "Tea for Two" in key of C, same key "C" for "Deep in the Heart of Texas." "Dry Bones" starts on C chord, half steps up to G_7 , leads into key of C for "Why Can't the English." "You Won't Be Satisfied" in B^b . Phrase used ends on B^b_7 chord, leading into E^b for "Where or When" and "They'll Never Believe Me." "Missouri Waltz" - E^b . "Long Way from Missouri" 1st phrase uses bridge of song, E^b minor, to E^b for 2nd "Missouri" and 1st phrase of "Long Way from Missouri," E^b . Drop to D minor chord for "It's a Puzzlement." Duet, "I Wonder Why" is in E^b . E^b_7 chord into A^b for T V commercial "Now I'm Confident." "Some Day My Prince Will Come" - key of C. "Ain't Necessarily So" - C minor. "Trouble in River City" rhythm patter in F. "Wintergreen for President" - G minor. "Hail to the Chief" in F, "Somebody Else" in same F, also final "Rioting" in F.

Repeat final phrase for bows.

L A M B A S T I C S

Write your own topical introduction

Narrator There was this woman, she had just moved to Texas and she had wanted to know about everything. She was worried, confused and distressed.

The new member, young and pregnant if possible, enters and sits on stool with news magazine in hand. Eyes widen as she reads all the bad news. She starts to sing.

New Member (Tune of "Rioting in Africa") from record "The Hungry I" Kingston Trio

They're rioting in Africa
There's been a new coup
There's chaos in Indonesia
Oh, what shall I do?

First Old Leaguer dances in to "a rock and roll beat"

First Old Leaguer starts to sing to tune of "Let Me Hold Your Hand" Beatles

Oh, say, I'll tell you something
I think you'll understand
I think for you
The League would be just grand
Come on and join our band
We want to hold your hand
Oh, please come with me
To the membership tea
I know you'll agree
That when you join the League
Informed you'll be
Informed you'll be.

Dances off leading the new member

MEMBERSHIP TEA

Narrator Then they were going to take her to the membership tea. But how do you do a musical revue about a tea. You know what we do at a tea. We sparkle and try to impress the new member. Let's face it, we try to show her with our intellect, our busy, useful lives and the serious aspects of League life. Now you can understand our problem. That's funny.

Piano plays "Tea for Two" as ladies two-step in. Pantomime pouring tea and serving cookies, chatting.

New Member speaks How do I vote?

Music to "Deep in the Heart of Texas"

First Leaguer sings You can not vote, you can not scratch
Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas
First Leaguer Unless you pay your old Poll Tax
Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas

R

New Member speaks And what does the League do?

Second Leaguer sings We have Poll Taxes to collect

Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas

Second Leaguer sings And reports of incredible sorts

Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas

New Member speaks What do you study?

President We've studied Trade and made a school survey

Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas

President Human resources and Welfare courses

Chorus Here in the Heart of Texas

Audience Voice speaks What about education?

Chorus sings We're in a gyration about education

Here in the State of Texas

This board needs some study, the situation is muddy

Here in the State of Texas

Another Audience Voice speaks What about water pollution?

Music stops, there is consternation. All Leaguers (old) get together to sing

Chorus As yet no solution to water pollution
Here in the Heart of Texas

New Member sings I want to be a member and make my mind limber
Here in the Heart of Texas

Then all march off singing We've got a new member to use this September
Here in the Heart of Texas.

ORIENTATION

Narrator After membership we all know what comes next. Orientation. That's serious business. There is no chance to be humorous here. It's simply informative.

Old Members lead in New Member in very businesslike fashion. First Leaguer carries organization chart. President marches in briskly with pointer. Taps charts and speaks

President Orientation is an explanation of the fascination of League exploration..... Meditation on League ramification allows participation without trepidation.

President taps chart piano starts "Dry Bones" Patter

President The 3rd Vice President has Public Relations

The 2nd Vice President has Organization

The 1st Vice President has Program

Chorus The A B C s of the League

Alternating 1st and 2nd Leaguers sing initials Still to "Dry Bones"

CA	CR	LWV
UN	HR	FEP
WC	VM	KYC

President And S&T of AJ

President Under Public Relations comes Publications
Under Organization comes Unification
Under Program comes Elucidation

Chorus The A B C 's of the League.

Alternating 1st and 2nd Leaguers sing initials

CA	CR	KYS
UN	HR	L&S
WC	VM	S & LR

and Con Con TCR.

ALL ADDRESS NEW MEMBER ANY QUESTIONS ????????????

New Member stands perplexed and sings to tune of "Why Can't the English Teach Their Children?" My Fair Lady

New Member Why can't the League
Teach their members how to speak
They all speak in initials
and to me it sounds like Greek
Use proper English, you're regarded as a freak
Why can't the League teach the members how to speak

on the word Greek ^{Freak} all older members stalk off stage in disgust.

PROGRAM

Narrator Now the whole point of the League is program. The League is a total failure if it doesn't inform its members about all 3 levels of League program. But what in the world can you do on Texas Constitutional Revision.

Second member strolls onto stage singing to tune of "You Won't Be Satisfied"

Second Member We won't be satisfied til TCR goes thru
We won't be satisfied until our constitution's new

President enters to tune of "Where or When"

It seems we've stood and talked like this before
We looked at each other in the same way then

Both And we well remember where and when

New Member enters singing You mean this isn't happening for the first time

Old Members My dear, it's happened o'er and o'er

New Member sings But have you really explained before

Old Members tragically sing We've pled before
We've bled before
And we well remember where and when (sob sob)

Narrator And when we tell our husbands

New Member - to the tune of "They'll Never Believe Me"

And when I tell him how very smart we are
He never believes me, He never believes me.

Group freezes

Narrator We wanted to show how we arrived at consensus. How do you express that sometimes consensus is rather more confusion and even leads sometimes to contusion. Take for example Consensus on Judicial Selection & Tenure.

Second Member - to the tune of "Missouri Waltz" appeals to new member

Second Member Way down in Missouri
Where they have this plan Sublime
Select appellate judges
Get it off your mind.

President appeals to new member also to tune of "Long Way from Missouri"

President It blew in from the middle west and naturally impressed
All the people hereabouts
But Baby, I've got news for you
I'm from Missouri too
So naturally I've got my doubts.

Second Member "Missouri Waltz"
This plan would be much better, dear
This plan would be divine
Listen carefully
You'll change your cotton picking mind.

President "Long Way from Missouri"
You've got them dropping by the wayside
A feeling, I ain't gonna know
You've come a long way from Missouri
But Baby, I've got a long way to go.

President and 2nd Member leave stage glaring at one another. New member steps forward
sings to tune of "It's a Puzzlement" The King and I

Before I joined the League
I didn't think a lot
What was so was so
And what was not was not

New Member singing ... (continued) But now I've studied some
 And I'm really in a spot
 Some things are nearly so
 Others nearly not
 There are times I almost think I am not sure
 of what I absolutely know
 And I often find confusion with conclusions
 That I concluded long ago
 In my head are many facts that
 As a student I have studied to produce
 In my head are many facts of which
 I wish I was more certain
 I was sure
 It's a puzzlement.

Leaves the stage

BOARD TRAINING

Narrator Inevitably someone during the League year is always moving or CONCEIVING. A good group anticipates such emergencies and sends their new members into the mysterious realm of the BOARD TRAINER.

New Member comes on dejectedly singing to President who is disguised as Board Trainer

New Member sings ... to tune of Duet from Call Me Madam "I Wonder Why"

I need help, this is my sad lament
 I don't understand a rudiment,
 I'm not feeling very confident,
 I wonder why, I wonder why?

I keep tossing in my sleep at night
 I may even lose my appetite!
 Tho I do my best to expedite,
 I'd rather switch than fight,
 I wonder why?

Board Trainer enters authoritatively sings second part of duet

You don't need analyzing
 It is not agonizing
 I am here with my good advice,
 Plans may go splitter splatter,
 I know just what's the matter
 Because I've been there once or twice!

Just be bold, stop complaining
 I've brought Instant Board Training
 Makes you feel ten feet tall!
 You must never hesitate
 you must learn to delegate
 Use some tact, with lots of gall!

Both sing same songs together as duet. At finish, Trainer straightens member up,

chucks under chin, pats her on head, etc. and exits highly pleased with herself.
New member stands transfixed, and sings loud and clear:

Jingle from T.V. commercial

She's made me confident!
 So very confident!
 Oh, this job will be a breeze,
 We will live a life of ease,
 DOING WHAT WE DAMN WELL PLEASE!!!!

(a grind and bump punctuates this duet if wanted.)

FINANCE DRIVE

Narrator The Finance Drive is a basic necessity. To provide Voter Service is the real purpose of the League. We passed out 15,000 Voter's Guides in the last election.... Convention Trips, Publications, Kolaches for the Legislators Reception.... These all cost money And Money isn't Funny. The Finance Drive planning meeting usually starts like this.....

Second Member sings to tune of "Some Day My Prince Will Come" Cheerfully anticipating

Second Member This year the year has come
 When every member will solicit one
 Oh, how easy the Finance Drive will be....

President's voice off stage sings to tune of "It Ain't Necessarily So"

President It ain't necessarily so
 It ain't necessarily so
 Oh, I feel like screaming cause you are just dreaming
 It ain't necessarily so.

Narrator But somehow we always come thru and the final report ends up like this.

Second Member "Some Day My Prince Will Come"
 Next year the year will come
 When every member will solicit one
 Oh how easy the Finance Drive will be

President Off stage voice "It Ain't Necessarily So"

It ain't necessarily so
 It ain't necessarily so
 You'd better just look
 and plan from the Hand Book
 It ain't necessarily so.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Narrator I guess you're finally beginning to see our problem. There are so few League functions that are suitable to satirize, characterize and they are really impossible to set to music. Even if we had been able to polish up the other ideas and put them to music, we're still left with closing out the year and the nominating committee meeting to select new officers for the coming year.

First and Second Leaguers stride on to stage. President enters and comes to center stage.

President speaks You are either closing your eyes to a situation
 You do not wish to acknowledge
 Or you do not realize the caliber of woman we need
 As President of the League of Women Voters.

(Piano starts soft rhythm pattern of "Trouble in River City" The Music Man)

President chants Well You got Trouble my friends
 Trouble right here in the League of Women Voters
 You got One Two Three Four positions to fill
 But the president, that's the problem
 We've got to find a woman with the qualities
 of a keen eye and a cool head
 Wisdom, judgment, maturity
 (slap old Leaguer on Butt)
 Who'll keep the women moral slap on word 'moral'
 While the kids are in school
 We can't have these women frittering away their time
 I say frittering, afrittering

(music and voices diminish away to silence)

All three stand perfectly still, then first Leaguer rises slowly and says tentatively to tune of "Wintergreen for President" As thousands cheer

First Leaguer Tomlinson for President

Second Leaguer a bit louder ... Tomlinson for President

President very loudly Tomlinson for President

All march off stage singing ... We think she's terrific
 And also prolific
 Tomlinson for President....

(repeated until all off stage)

INSTALLATION

Narrator The final impossibility is taking a somber, solemn installation at the end of the League year and turning it into a Grand Finale for this Musical Revue. It's an utter impossibility.....

Music "Hail to the Chief" as they solemnly march in with a bridal step escorting new member between them. President with gavel bringing up rear.

President sings plaintively to tune "Somebody Else Is Taking My Place"

President Somebody else is taking my place
Somebody else is taking my place
I feel so sad (wiping tears from eye)

Aside (Riotously) HA
She's really been had,
HA

President Somebody's taking my place (jumps in air, clicks heels, wags tongue. Old members blow kisses and all desert new member)

New Member left on stage all alone but happy--sings and whistles Opening Tune.

New Member They're rioting in Africa Whistle after each line
The embassy's been stormed
It's looking grave in Viet Nam
But I am informed.

WHO, ME?

WHY NOT!

by the

League of Women Voters of Brownsville



ACT I

"THAT WAS THE LEAGUE THAT WAS"

Scene opens with CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT entering the train pulling out of Nashville. She calls to porter to take special care of her steamer trunk and then seats herself. She occupies seat next to the window and immediately opens her shoe box containing her lunch, indicating that up to this time she was not concerned with food but only to finish the fight she had so gallantly begun.

No, this seat is not occupied. Certainly. I am so exhausted. Thought this food might revive me.

Yes, I am Carrie Chapman Catt, but how did you guess? Oh, from those pictures in the paper perhaps. True, I did have a most difficult time with these LEGISLATORS in TENNESSEE. They gave me a most difficult time. Thanks. From the very start of this fight to give WOMEN the right to vote I've been determined to dedicate my life to the cause. Do you realize that 72 years ago the movement was started? Now we have won our fight. Here it is August of 1920. From now on the responsibility rests with the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS. You have never heard of the League? It was formed last year, by the Convention Body of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. It is the League which merits the praise for the accomplishment of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

You are from New York State? Then you must have read a great deal about the ratification and ALL THE MANEUVERS to get it reconsidered. We can shout now. Tennessee is the 36th State to ratify, and that was all that was needed to pass it. This is by far the greatest feat in American History for the Advancement of Women.

I might say that press coverages were fairly accurate. But how incomplete. Entire proceedings were mortifying, really horrifying ---- a disgrace to the intelligence of Women. Terrific tension. No reporter could picture the plight of last night. I've been working here at the Capitol in Nashville all of six weeks now. I was determined to stay on till the bitter end. Yes, I'm very excited, but now that it is over, I find myself so dreadfully weary. Yes, I had ALL the details to arrange. Alerting the Solicitor General to inform him that the DOCUMENT was Washington bound. He promised to stay up all night to receive it. Yes, it will be there tomorrow night. He has to first process it and then send it to the home of the Secretary of State....Bainbridge Colby.... who in turn will sign and seal it in the presence of his secretary.... Yes, all of this must be done before eight o'clock in the morning. And --

Why the haste??? Oh, haven't you heard the rumor? There is a threat of an injunction against the issuance of the proclamation!

Can the League do something about it? Of course. The League has already taken effective steps to forestall any delaying device.

No ---- I will reach Washington a few hours after the signing ceremony. Too bad? Am I sad? No--no--I do not need a pen to ever remind me of this historic event in history. I'm only so very grateful to my Maker that I had a role to play in the passing of this 19th Amendment....

What is our next step? Good question. Glad you inquired.

The League will establish Citizen Schools ---- to teach Women their rights and privileges. Only one year old but has a very comprehensive program....8 standing committees, six of which report to the Convention Body this year. 69 ITEMS on agenda. Statements of principle and recommendations for legislation. We believe now that it just might take all five years to complete our mission. Today though----"PROGRESS CALLS ON US TO MAKE NO PAUSE BUT ACT".

How can YOU help? Upon my word--dear woman--Take out a membership in the NY League of W.V.

Well, now, you are just about the 5th person to ask me that same question.

Yes, the wording of the 19th Amendment is the exact wording of the Amendment proposed by Susan B. Anthony ---- just exactly ---- and that was 45 years ago. Oh, if only she could have lived 14 years longer to have witnessed this monumental occasion. She was a dynamic worker. Did you know that she owned and operated her own weekly paper -- called "REVOLUTION"? Its motto always fascinated me -- "THE TRUE REPUBLIC -- MEN THEIR RIGHTS -- NOTHING MORE and WOMEN THEIR RIGHTS -- NOTHING LESS".

Oh, a cinder flew into my eye. Can you see it? These dirty trains filled with coal smoke and that terrible smell....No, you haven't gotten it yet....up higher....There....Oh, thanks. Feels much better.

(Whispers to her seatmate) There goes that U. S. Congressman who gave me so much trouble. I want to corner him. Before he comes to the end of his career ---- I predict that the League of Women Voters will be the largest group of LOBBYISTS in the whole of the United States.

Yes, I have also enjoyed visiting with you. Goodbye---

(Exits)

ACT II

"THIS IS THE LEAGUE THAT IS"

Here's the League member of today
Teacher, nurse, or mother.
She does League jobs without pay
But with compensations other.

She studies issues of the day,
Local, state and national.
Listening and studying when she may
For consensus must be so rational.

In past years, the problem was voting machines.
She studied--then took a stand
To keep all elections nice and clean.
At the results, she was glad she had a hand.

The constitution of our state
Has come in for study for years.
Consensus was reached that it's out of date.
Complete revision is the answer it appears.

With all these issues on her mind
We have a busy Leaguer.
In fact, spare time is hard to find.
But to help she's always eager.

To show the story of her days
We found some typical hats.
To depict her as she's on her way.
One for this--one for that.

Her THINKING HAT'S important
For answers to questions specific
When others call upon the League,
This hat outdoes "Tom Terrific's"

She often uses her PRESS HAT
To keep up with the news.
Monitoring city and county commissions
And stating the League's ideas and views.

Don't forget her home life.
With mop and broom and DUST HAT.
She flies about her household chores.
She must keep up with that.'

A DETECTIVE'S HAT can enter in
To help track down some clues.
Should this be our next project?
It's often hard to choose.

Our Member often is STYLISH
In our town, she's thought of as best.
Today she's meeting the mayor
Some local project to press.

Next she dons her SCHOLAR'S HAT
To study her League publications
Which provide up to date information
To help build a better nation.

This tells of a member of our League.
Active, alert--even hurried.
She broadens her views and her outlooks.
She leads a life that is varied.

ACT III

"THIS IS THE LEAGUE THAT COULD BE"

S Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is Stella Star, of Telstar News in Convention Hall, Mars, where the Interplanetary Convention of the League of Women Voters is being held this week. We're hoping to get a few words with Mrs. Luna E. Clips, convention delegate from the moon, and President of her local Cratersville League, to learn more about a Cratersville civic project that has captured space-wide interest. I think I see her now..... Yes..... Oh, Mrs. Clips..... Mrs. Clips, could you say a few words for our television audience?

L Why, yes, I'd be glad to.

S Since your organization has been so instrumental in the new Cratersville civic project, perhaps you could tell the people back on Earth more about it. But before we go into that, Mrs. Clips, tell us a little about the League of Women Voters in Cratersville. How long has it been organized?

L Please, just call me Luna. Well, we're a brand new Provisional League. Some of our members were active in League work back on Planet Earth, before we moved here. One of the first things a Provisional League must do is to make a "Know Your Town" Survey, that is, a complete study of every phase of local government. It was out of this survey that our project grew.

S Yes, that's the project that has stirred up so much interest. I understand that the League has recently conducted a campaign or a modern garbage disposal system for Cratersville. What seems to be the problem?

L To answer that question, let's go back a little. You see, the city government of Cratersville was set up as a model by government experts on Earth -- these were brilliant men in their field, and every detail of city function was worked out before we even built the city, and the plan provided that the many craters in the vicinity of Cratersville would be used as city dumps and garbage disposal areas. It was felt that these would serve adequately because there would be no odor; and, of course, it couldn't be burned on the moon. But these city planners could not foresee the potential hazards, never having had this type of experience on Earth.

S What hazards do you mean, Luna?

L First, it's turned out to be a breeding ground for lunar ticks and other insects, but even more dangerous was this discovery: It was noticed on Earth that there was a sudden and sharp increase in divorce rates, and a sharp decrease in marriage and birth rates. Now a decrease in the birth rate could create a grave situation on Earth. With so much immigration to the moon and other planets, you Earth people are doing well to hold your own back there.

S Yes, the underpopulation problem could well become acute.

L Well, scientists proved that this condition was the direct result of DIRTY MOONBEAMS transmitted from us to Earth. Why, complaints came even from Mars. The League became aware of the problem in the "Know Your Town"

Survey we made, and became concerned for the future. If this were allowed to become an Interplanetary problem, the United Planets would have to pass legislation sooner or later.

S What action did the League take?

L After thorough study, which included interviews with the Director of Satellite Sanitation, Mr. Cosmo Ray, trips to these areas, discussion meetings, and many pictures taken, consensus was reached that action could be taken in this area, and an alternative plan for garbage disposal was proposed. We then took our recommendations to the City Commission, who couldn't have cared less. They were willing to "wait a few years". So then our job was to arouse the public to the danger. We sent speakers from our Speaker's Bureau to Civic Clubs, passed out literature, appeared on television. When the public became aware of the problem, it wasn't hard to get the City Commission to see the light. It was decided that a bond issue would be needed. The League worked here too, to encourage the people to register and vote in favor of the bond issue.

S By the way, what form of registration do you have for voters on the moon?

L We have a permanent voter registration, where a voter registers only once in his lifetime, unless he fails to vote for four years.

S Then you don't pay a poll tax?

L Poll tax? What's that?

S Oh, I guess you wouldn't know about that. On Earth in Texas, they're still working to eliminate the \$1.75 you have to pay to register to vote.

L Why, that's terrible, to have to pay to vote!

S They've been trying to repeal it for a long time down there. Maybe one of these days....But to get back to the project, I see the bond issue passed. What plan did you propose to dispose of garbage now?

L The League learned that scientists have perfected refuse rockets which will shoot the garbage directly to the sun to be consumed -- one giant incinerator, you might say. Then the craters will be filled in and levelled off by moon-moving machines. The cost of all this is included in the Bond issue and will be under the supervision of the Trajectory Rocket Association for Sanitation and Health.

S Oh, yes, that's TRASH, isn't it? Will this affect the rest of the moon?

L We have had requests for information on this project from such moon cities as Fort Satellite and New Orbit. Other city governments are seeing how well it is working, and are showing interest without having pressure applied to them. Wait --- I'm getting a message now on my portable radar--New Orbit has just passed a bond issue for funds to buy refuse rockets and fill in their craters. Isn't that wonderful?

S Thank you, Luna, for an interesting story. And now, friends, we return you to Earth. This is Stella Star, Telstar News, at Convention Hall, Mars.