



*THE RETAKE*

*A One-Act Play*

*Performed by Members of the Livermore Woman's Club*

*To Honor the Club's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*27 August 1896 – 27 August 2016*

Our Program (designed by member Cindy Henk)

## The Retake

An original one-act play  
by  
**Mrs. Stewart (Josephine) McNley**

Performed today for the  
**120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of  
The Livermore Woman's Club**



**The Original "Cast"**  
"Livermore teenagers (about 1930 [1931, perhaps?]) helping the members of the Livermore Woman's Club celebrate the club's founding. From left to right: Anna Jane Wolf, Doris Smith, Jackie McNley, Sylvia and Juliana Sloan."

Photo courtesy Fort Collins Public Library and Elizabeth Bullen  
Visit us often in Among These Hills: A History of Livermore,  
Colorado. A Centennial Publication of The Livermore Woman's  
Club, 1896-1896, © 1995.

## The Retake

Mrs. Stewart (Josephine) McNley Wrote the original version of this play in 1931 for performance at the Livermore Woman's Club's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was subsequently revised for the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1950\*, and this script was discovered among our club's archives by Rene Lee and Danielle Ray Swords.

For this year's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The Retake was updated slightly\*\* and today is presented for your edification and enjoyment.

Please participate in this celebration by fearlessly joining in on the musical numbers, all of which were published in 1896. Our foremothers were very up to date on their sheet music! Cindy Henk, August, 2015

\* Can you identify a couple of revisions to the original 1931 version? (Hint: The movie *Gone With the Wind* came out in 1939)

\*\* What about revisions to the 1950 version? (Hint: No words were changed.)

### News from 1896

- Utah becomes 45<sup>th</sup> state
- Supreme Court affirms segregation, Plessy v. Ferguson
- Gold discovered in Klondike
- 1<sup>st</sup> modern Olympic Games held in Athens
- Dow Jones Industrial Average first published
- Fannie Farmer publishes first cookbook
- X-rays discovered
- Tootsie Roll introduced

Cover

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### Cast of Characters

Mrs. Lucinda Peters . . . . Mary Torres  
Mrs. Mary Moore . . . . Ginny Blanz  
Mrs. Helen Brown . . . . Cindy Cosmas  
Fanny Brown . . . . Aubryanna Swords  
Meg Brown . . . . Sophia Caisse  
Mrs. Helen Keach . . . . Terry Turner  
Mrs. Ellen Poland . . . . Tina Gray  
Ethel Poland . . . . Danielle Ray-Swords  
Mrs. Frances McNey . . . . Linda Adams\*  
Mrs. Laura Sloan . . . . Rene Lee\*  
Mrs. Frances Aldrich . . . . Julie Schott

\*Ask these cast members about their personal connections to this play!

### Famous Women Born in 1896

Marjorie K. Rawlings, author of *The Yearling*  
Mamie Eisenhower  
Wallis Simpson  
Barbara La Mar, stage and film star  
Marjorie Joyner, 1<sup>st</sup> African-American woman  
to be awarded a patent  
Gerti Cori, 1<sup>st</sup> American woman awarded  
Nobel Prize  
Ethel Waters, jazz singer

*Please join in!*

### Annie Laurie

Maxwelton braes are bonnie  
Where early falls the dew,  
It was there that Annie Laurie  
Gave me her promise true.

Gave me her promise true  
Which ne'er forgot will be!  
And for bonnie Annie Laurie  
I would lay me down and die.

### Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

## Setting the Stage for The Retake

*(Written and presented LWC member and Director Janet Gibbs)*



The Livermore Woman's Club was founded in 1896 when Mrs. Lucinda Peters invited the ranching women of Livermore, Colorado, to an afternoon tea at Eagle Cliff Cottage on the 27th of August, this very day 120 years ago! More than thirty women accepted the invitation.

We have a treat for you today! Several ladies of the Club are going to re-enact an original one act play called "The Retake", written in 1931 by Mrs. Stewart (Josephine) McNey, in honor of the Livermore Woman's Club's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The play was presented again in 1950, with modifications, for the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting. We have now breathed new life into the play for our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and made a few minor changes and one major change to the original play.

It seems that Author Josie McNey made a significant error that we discovered and corrected as we rehearsed for the play – the original play had the roles of Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Peters reversed, showing that the visiting relative (Mrs. Moore) was hosting the meeting and the real hostess (Mrs. Peters) was the visitor! You will see the corrected version today. Also, while the original play made use of a piano for the music in the play, all of which was written in 1896, we will take advantage of the iTunes store!

So, let's set the stage. More than 30 women arrived at the home of Mrs. Lucinda Peters at the appointed time via buckboards, wagons, buggies, and on horseback. Conversation was lively on that beautiful summer afternoon and it quickly became apparent that those in attendance were very enthusiastic about forming a club that would inspire members to "higher and nobler thoughts".

(See the last several pages of this album for the full script, including a description of the "action".)

(continued on next page)



One weighty matter that had to be addressed early in the Club's first year was whether to allow the woman who hosted a meeting to serve as many kinds of refreshments as she wanted or to limit her to three items. A vote was taken, and members agreed that no more than three kinds of refreshments should be offered. In fact, they were so serious about this limitation that, if this rule were violated, the Club member was to be fined \$1.00, which was ten times the annual dues of 10 cents! If we imposed a similar fine today, Julie and the refreshment committee would owe \$100.00! Apparently, however, the rule was ignored, and Club members usually were served ten to forty kinds of refreshments!

The Club eventually decided to meet once a month and met at the Livermore Hall (the predecessor of the Livermore Community Hall), rather than members' homes, for a time. This decision was not without its drawbacks as summarized in the following quote from Mary Aldrich: "Since meeting at the Hall these refreshments are often served under the greatest of difficulties. After a ride of ten miles the whipped cream for the coffee has a pernicious habit of coming unwhipped, the coffee sometimes will be muddy and the choicest of cake has a demoralized look about it that is very annoying to the lady who furnished the refreshments". Wow. And all we have to worry about is getting to Costco on time!

So, the stage is set. It is 1896. We are in the living room of Mrs. Lucinda Peters. Let's listen in to our founding mothers as the Livermore Woman's Club is born!

Mrs. Peters (R) tells Mrs. Moore (L) the *real* reason for the tea to which 30 women are invited.



Guests begin to arrive and greet one another. (L) Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Moore; (C) Mrs. Keach and Mrs. Brown; (R) Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Sloan, Ethel Poland.



(L) Mrs. Peters reveals to her guests that they have been invited to tea to discuss forming a woman's club, and (R) guests begin to discuss and to ponder this novel idea. Mrs. Aldrich (with large book) is asked to consult her copy of *Women's Compendium of Parliamentary Law* regarding rules and procedures for forming a club.

Beginning at left side of photo, guests are: Mrs. Mary Moore, Mrs. Lucinda Peters, Mrs. Josephine McNey, Mrs. Ellen Poland, Mrs. Francis Aldrich, Mrs. Helen Keach, Mrs. Helen Brown, Mrs. Laura Sloan, Ethel Poland. Meg (blue bonnet) and Fanny Brown sit on the floor.

(L) Mrs. Brown's daughters, Miss Meg Brown (L) and Miss Fanny Brown (R). The children played quietly during the meeting.



(R) After electing Mrs. Keach President, Mrs. Aldrich Vice President, and Ethel Poland Secretary (by acclamation), Mrs. Peters leaves the room to get tea. While the ladies wait for tea to be served, Mrs. Moore entertains them with a dance she learned in Chicago, where she lives, and the ladies also sing songs (below) while the audience joins in.





(TOP) Mrs. Peters serves tea. While enjoying their tea, the ladies discuss the issue of programs for their club's first, second, and third years.

Ether Poland (R) is very eager for the club to have programs so that she will have something to write down at each meeting. Ethel volunteered to serve as secretary in part because she wanted to practice her penmanship. She tells the ladies that has filled one copy book already and that she purchased a new one in Livermore before the meeting.



During the discussion of programs for the club's first three years, Mrs. Brown asks, "Do you suppose this club will last that long?", and Mrs. Aldrich predicts, as all rise and face the audience, that the Club will live to celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> year! Which it has!



Many thanks to Rene Lee and Danielle Ray-Swords who found this play in the Club's archives; to Cindy Henk and Janet Gibbs for working so hard on this historic program for the Club's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary; to Cindy Henk (and a bit to Kathy Packard) for the printed program; to Julie Burness for hosting our meeting; to our refreshment team; to our members, new and old, for coming; and, of course, to our cast, who practiced hard, dressed so wonderfully in period garb, and provided us with a look into our past. A special thanks to Danielle Ray-Swords's granddaughters, Aubryanna Swords and Sophia Caisse, for doing a superb job playing Mrs. Brown's daughters.

## The Retake

An original one-act play written by Mrs. Stewart McNey in celebration of the Livermore Woman's Club 35th anniversary in 1931.

*Directed by Janet Gibbs, LWC Member*

*Scene – Livingroom at Mrs. Peters'.*

**Peters:** *(standing at door)* Oh, I am getting so nervous! Do you suppose they will all come?

**Moore:** *(placidly embroidering)* Oh, I guess so. How many did you invite?

**Peters:** All I could think of who might be interested in a Woman's Club.

**Moore:** Did you tell them they were to come for that?

**Peters:** No-o. Except Mrs. Aldrich. To the others I just wrote a little note asking them to come and meet you. But I know that Mrs. Aldrich owned the only copy in Livermore of the ***Women's Compendium of Parliamentary Law***, and I thought we might need that to organize a club in "due and regular order", so I told her a little about the meeting so she would bring the book.

**Moore:** Well, in Chicago - - - *(stays sitting and embroidering)*

**Peters:** Oh, here come some of them now! Let's see – Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Keach, and Mrs. Poland and Ethel, and the little girls, Meg and Fanny Brown. *(meets and greets and introduces them to each other and to her sister-in law from Chicago, Mrs. Moore); "discreetly" checking the ID placards worn by the actresses so audience can see them)*

**ALL:** greet one another, and talk softly in the background, nod along. Stay standing.

**Peters:** *(again at door)* Here comes a horse and cart! Now who is that?

**Keach:** (*looking out also*) Why, that's Mrs. McNey, isn't it?

**ALL:** look expectantly toward the door and act/look excited!

**Brown:** Why does she always drive a cart? Haven't they any buggies? (**ALL nod heads and tsk...**)

**Poland:** Oh my yes; all three of the McNey boys have rubber-tired top buggies, but she's afraid to drive them because they upset so easily.

**Keach:** She is terribly afraid of horses, you know.

**Ethel:** My, I'm not! I just love saddle horses!

**Peters:** (*meets and greets McNey and Sloan*)

**Peters:** Now you are all here except Mrs. Aldrich. (*looks out*) And here she comes!

(*Aldrich enters with big law book under her arm. ALL exchange greetings and find seats.*)

**ALL:** take a while to find seats. Keep talking amongst yourselves until Mrs. Moore quiets everyone down and begins

**Moore:** Hadn't we better begin right away, Lucinda, and explain the purpose of this meeting?

**Peters:** Yes, suppose you tell them, Mary.

**Moore:** Well in Chicago where I live . . .

**McNey:** Oh, do you live in Chicago?

**Moore:** That is my home.

**Poland:** I came from Boston, myself.

**Keach:** So do I! I think Boston is the hub of the universe!

**Peters:** Did you have a Woman's Club there, Mrs. Poland?

**Poland:** Well, no, not that I know of, but . . .

**Moore:** (*interrupting briskly*) Well, the purpose of this party today is to organize you ladies into a Woman's Club.

**McNey:** Law-zee, we don't know anything about women's clubs!

**Aldrich:** No, but we can learn, can't we?

**Brown:** Oh surely. I think it would be lovely!

**Sloan:** But don't you have to have officers and everything in clubs?

**ALL:** *begin murmuring to each other and looking anxious and worried!*

**Peters:** My yes, that's half the fun – holding elections!

**Ethel:** (*longingly*) Oh, I hope so that you have a secretary and I can be it! I'd just love to be a secretary!

**Keach:** And why, Ethel, do you want to be a secretary?

**Ethel:** Oh, because I'm learning such beautiful penmanship! I've just finished my old copybook, and I stopped in Livermore today and bought me this beautiful new tablet and pencil to practice with.

**ALL:** *Everyone ooh and ahh over the book, nod your heads.*

**Aldrich:** (*opening big law book and reading from it*) Elections must be held in due and regular order, and the question of President comes first.

**Moore:** Will someone nominate a president?

**Brown:** I nominate Mrs. Keach.

**McNey:** I second it.

**ALL:** *Begin murmuring among yourselves and acting excited or nervous or shocked!*

**Keach:** (*hurriedly*) Oh, I don't think I could be president of a club . . .

**Aldrich:** (*reading*) "Unless anyone has a good and sufficient reason for refusing she must accept office as requested."

**Moore:** Mrs. Keach will be your president! (*all clap.*)

**ALL:** *clap enthusiastically, nod your heads and murmur approval among yourselves*

**Moore:** Now for vice-president. . .

**Sloan:** I nominate Mrs. Aldrich.

**McNey:** I second that nomination

**Keach:** Mrs. Aldrich, you will have to serve - for good and sufficient reason!

**Poland:** They turned the tables on you that time, Mrs. Aldrich!

**ALL:** *laugh, clap enthusiastically, nod your heads and murmur approval among yourselves*

**Peters:** Can't we choose Ethel as secretary by acclamation?

**Aldrich:** *(slowly consult the BIG BOOK)* Yes, it can be done that way.

**Moore:** Well, then, all in favor of Ethel as secretary say “aye”

**ALL:** AYE!

**ALL:** *clap politely and nod and express your approval among yourselves of the new officers*

**Brown:** I think we can have a lot of fun as well as real work out of our club, don't you, Ethel?

**Ethel:** Oh, yes, and I'm so glad I'm in it!

**Peters:** Now, Mary, maybe you'll entertain the ladies a little while I get some tea ready. (leaves the room)

**Poland:** Tea! How lovely!

**McNey:** I can always drink my cup of tea.

**Moore:** I might give that little dance I learned in Chicago, if Mrs. Poland will play a little waltz tune.

**Poland** *enters a You Tube rendition of East Side West Side on her iPhone and Mrs. Moore does a little waltz to the tune.)*

**ALL:** *clap enthusiastically and move along with the music – except Mrs. Sloan, who crosses her arms and looks grumpy.*

**Sloan:** I don't know that I hold to dancing at a club meeting. Maybe we'd better raise a hymn now.

**Brown:** Oh not a hymn; a nice old-fashioned song would be alright though.

**McNey:** Annie Laurie! That's a good one; the boys always liked that.

**Poland:** *selects Annie Laurie on her phone.* Aldrich and Moore *stand with her looking at lyrics.*

**ALL:** *Stand and sing; link arms and sway back and forth*

**Keach:** Now let's have **Auld Lang Syne**.

**Aldrich:** That will be just the thing!

**Poland:** *selects Auld Lang Syne on her phone*

**ALL:** *Sing and then take your seats. Talk approvingly among yourselves as you sit down.*

**Peters:** *enters the room with the tray and begins to serve*

**Poland:** *Replays the last line of the song or just starts singing it*

**ALL:** *sing the last line over - - We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for Old Lang Syne"*

**Sloan:** Shall we have the same refreshments every time we meet?

**McNey:** O, my, no! Let's change around. I know what I want to give them at my house – fresh raspberry pie!

**Keach:** Nothing could be better.

**Poland:** I do want to get your recipe for raspberry pie, Mrs. McNey. Mine are always sticky and yours are so delicious!

Will you write off your recipe for me?

**McNey:** Law-zee! I don't know anything about new-fangled recipes: I always use a good old-fashioned receipt!

**ALL:** *laugh and murmur approval*

**Peters:** Do you raise your own berries, Mrs. McNey?

**McNey:** Oh no; the boys and me – we went with Asbury Riddles up to Black Mountain and got loads of wild raspberries.

**Moore:** In Chicago we have to buy shipped-in berries.

**Brown:** There's no fruit anyplace so good as that in Colorado.

**Aldrich:** And especially right here in Livermore Park.

**ALL:** *laugh and murmur*

**Sloan:** What shall we have for our club programs?

**Ethel:** Oh, yes – so I can have something to write down every time!

**Poland:** Why not study about historical Boston?

**Moore:** Yes, or Chicago?

**Peters:** I suggest we study United States history, then we'll get both Chicago and Boston.

**Keach:** I move we have US history the first year, foreign cities the second year, and the French Revolution the third year.

**Brown:** Oh, do you suppose this club will last that long?

**Aldrich:** (*rising*) I predict that this club . . . (*she gestures and ALL rise*) I predict that this club will live to celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**All:** And we have! *Bow to audience*



*The End*

