

A 'Worthwhile' Anniversary; 90 Years of Service

Written by Steve Frank
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There's a birthday celebrated for all of 2013—a 90th birthday for a local organization that's been working—mostly behind the scenes—for those 90 years here in Boone. Baben Patricelli of the Worthwhile Women's Club of Boone, told how the club started back in 1923, "Where the Turchin Center is now was the Methodist Church. And right next to it with a yard in between was the Baptist Church. And women from the two churches got together and planted flowers. They kept getting more and more and more members, and they went ahead and joined the North Carolina Association of Women's Clubs. What they were doing were all kinds of beautification things for Boone, planting gardens, when someone got married they would give them a gift, or if someone brought a new baby home, they would give them a gift. They kept getting so many ladies they divided into four different groups." She said the club finally bought a clubhouse in the 1960's and kept it for 31 years, sold it in 1997, that sale funding their efforts ever since. Worthwhile Women has been working behind the scenes for most of its history, helping to fund other civic groups and giving scholarships, some \$45,000 in scholarships. And Patricelli said they really do live up to their name, "Even though we get a lot of laughs when we say we're the 'worthwhile women's club, we do do a lot of things in the community," and listed quite a number of community groups that have received donations over the years. So it's happy 90th birthday—all year—for the Worthwhile Women of the Boone Worthwhile Women's Club of Boone.