

ANNOUNCER: This is your Life! - America's most talked about program, presented to you through the courtesy of "Alice's Junior League Asperin" affectionately known to our listeners everywhere as AJLA - - guaranteed to take the pain out of placement, the meet out of meetings, and the horse out of ASSociation. And now, here is Mr. This is your Life, himself, Ralph Edwards!

R. E.: Thank you and good evening, ladies. We are so glad to have you with us for this thrilling occasion. Tonight we have the honor to salute a very special person - someone well known and dear to all of you - Yes, the drama of the past is HERE TONIGHT....THIS IS YOUR LIFE, MISS JUNIOR LEAGUE!!!

(As he talks, R.E. goes into audience and greets J.L. who is properly overcome. He leads her to stage.)

R.E.: How are we doing, Miss Junior League?... THIS IS YOUR LIFE! We want to relive and recreate the past with you. Each person you will see is a part of your life, in fact a vital part - For each one is a past president in your life, all brought together for the first time since your beginning. Through the years they have been striving for one common goal - to foster interest among your members in the social, economic, education, cultural and civic conditions of the community and to make efficient their volunteer service (pause).. (to J.L.) This book contains the pages of your life ... (to audience) - As unbelievable as these adventures will seem to you - believe me, they actually happened!

.....(pause).....
Back in 1923.. you, Miss Junior League were born ...

(Music - "Smilin' Through")

... You are the first league in North Carolina, the 46th in the nation.

Do you remember our first meeting? When forty girls got together to form a Juvenile Relief Association?

J. L.: Mrs. Thurmond Chatham was our very first president! That was back in 1923.

R. E. At that time Mussolini was just coming into power. Mr. Harding was in the Whitehouse, and everyone left their Mah Jongg for something more worthwhile. The idea of service to the community was catching on.

It was a great idea - and that was only the beginning!

Mrs. Montague (on mike): Remember the bazaar at Christmas, back in 1924?

R. E.: That should be a familiar voice -

(Enter Mrs. Montague - she and J.L. embrace)

J.L.: Nita Montague!
I should say I do remember the bazaar. You worked so hard to earn enough money to pioneer a project which was not even decided upon!

Nita: But we were doing things - we hired a visiting housekeeper, we took the old ladies from the home for rides...and we had a terrific ball on the roof of the Robert E. Lee!

J. L.: What a party that was!

R. E.: Those were the days, weren't they - But time moves on and your third and fourth presidents are here now'.

(Music - "Has Anybody Seen My Gal")

(Mrs. Mountcastle and Ives enter doing Charleston -
J. L. joins in)

J. L.: Well! Mrs. Kenneth Mountcastle and Mrs. Sidney Ives!

Mac Mountcastle: (out of Breath): We were a gay group but we had our serious side too.... Let me see...we started a training course for provisionals.

Mrs. Ives: We had to make some money so we started the Gift Shop... and...oh yes, we brought Will Rogers to town.

J. L.: Remember his famous remark - "If you don't like the weather, wait a minute". Gee, it's wonderful to see you again!

Lib Long: (on mike): Paper! Get your evening paper!

J. L.: Paper day! That was during Lib Long's time - and there was gold in them thar papers!

(Enter Lib Long and DeWitt Hanes)

J. L.: And there's DeWitt Hanes too - You started the Newsheet -

Lib Long: We were great at starting things. It was back in 1928 when we started Children's Theater and we never could have managed without Miriam Hoyt - she was chairman for the first seven years!

DeWitt Hanes: And in '29, remember that big rummage sale we had at the City Market? That was the beginning of our dear old Thrift Shop which we appropriately christened as the Rag Market.

J. L.: Lib, speaking of rag market, that beauty parlor you started is still running - and heavens knows I need it now - oh, if I'd only known I'd be here tonight!

(Music - Rudy Vallee and "My Time is Your Time")

R. E.: We are entering the 1930's ... Rudy Vallee gave us all his time... Herbert Hoover was in office... at your beauty parlor the special for the day was the two dollar bleach facial for that lily-white complexion...

(Music - "Wild Blue Yonder")

Elsie Siewers (on mike): Amelia Earhart came here that year and we were thrilled to find that she was a member of the Boston league.

J. L.: That's Elsie Siewers!

Molly Hanes (on mike): We got down to brass tacks too! That's when placement started - good old placement!

(Enter Siewers and M. Hanes)

J. L.: And Molly Hanes too!
(to Elsie) You were president when we took over the Hospital for Incurables in 1931. That cost us \$60,000 but those gold-plated papers paid the bill.

Elsie: I guess that was the most ambitious project a bunch of women ever dreamed up.

Molly: In 1932 Peter Pan flew in Winston for the first time after Miriam Hoyt went to great trouble to get permission from the copywriters. We were the first amateur group in the country to tackle Peter Pan, and I can tell you we felt like Mary Martin.

(Music - "Good Ship - Lollipop")

R.E.: Back in 1933 and 34 all the little girls were trying to look like Shirley Temple.... It was just like an epidemic... the headlines were shouting about the Brooklyn Armored car robbery...

Nancy Martin (on mike): The roaring twenties had vanished and now we are settling down to a new deal and Franklin D. Roosevelt...

(Enter Nancy Martin)

R. E. Mrs. Linville Martin, your president in 1933 was Winston's shining star when she became the AJLA president ten years later.

J. L.: Nancy, you are our pride and joy, and wasn't it during your year that placement really went in effect?

Nancy: Yes, and the Children's Theater Board was a brand new venture.

R. E.: In 1934, Mrs. Jim Hanes returned to be president again..the Dionne quintuplets wer born...things were beginning to change in the league and in the nation....

(Chinese music)

J. L.: That music could mean only one person - Edna Sprunt - She lived in Shanghai for awhile..then in Rochester, and finally we got her in Winston-Salem.

(Enter Edna Sprunt)

Edna Sprunt: Remember Easter, 1935, dancing to Teddy Wetsteam at the old club ballroom? We were all wearing pleated skirts then, and Diamond Jim Brady jewelry was the rage!

J. L. : I'd forgotten all about those terrible pleated skirts, but I do remember that 1935 was the year of the Dramatic Institute.

Miriam Hoyt: (on mike): Miss Utopia! That's what we called our professional placement secretary.... she could make sense out of placement cards... and heaven knows, we needed her!

(Enter Miriam Hoyt)

J. L. : Miriam Hoyt! What a bundle of energy you were in 1936 and 37. Things began to happen fast then!

Miriam: That was the year they started to rejuvenate Old Salem... W.P.A. came along.... and the league opened the Arts Center on Main Street.

R. E.: And the league saw the need for a Child Guidance Clinic, and started one at its hospital.

Miriam: I'll never forget that busy year...there was the Institute on Mental Hygiene... and we even moved the Thrift Shop.

(Music "After You've Gone")

R. E.: In 1938 the panic of the nation was Orson Well's broadcast of the sensational men from Mars.... Women were wearing small antelope and persian lamb hats trimmed with plumes and long quills....

Aurelia Spaugh: (on mike): Our theater series was the talk of the town in 1939, and we had the best of Broadway right here at home.

J. L.: My love - the theatre! ... and I think I know that voice - Aurelia Spaugh... She was a versatile ball of fire... a Wave for the Bureau of Personnel... and a bang-up scout leader.

Eleanor Johnson (on mike): And in 1940 the league's play group presented Treasure Island... and that year we received national acclaim in the field of Children's Theater.

J. L.: Oh, those fierce looking pirates! Remember Long John Silver and his wooden leg? (Walks like Long John)

(Enter Aurelia and Eleanor)

J. L.: Shiver my timbers if it isn't Aurelia Spaugh and Eleanor Johnson!

Aurelia: We gave the Thrift Shop a treasure when somebody dreamed up the bundle tea.

Eleanor: It brought home the bacon too!

Mary Lou Rice (on mike): (she bangs gavel). Order ! Order ! PLEASE COME TO ORDER! I think this might interest you!... I'm just going to throw this out to you!!

J. L.: That's easy - Mary Lou Rice and her gavel !

Mary Belo Carlyle: (on mike): Are we adult enough to come to meetings: When fines were abolished attendance fell off sharply. This fall, however, there will be added inducements - popcorn and flowers and social chit-chat to make us want to come!

(Enter Rice and Carlyle)

J. L.: That's a quote from the Newssheet .. and it was while Mary Belo Carlyle was president... and the war was on and people were scattered... Confusion reigned in the early nineteen forties!

R. E.: The newspaper was full of Virginia Lee Comer of the AJLA staff when she came to conduct a survey of arts facilities. That was the beginning of the Arts Council idea.

Mary Belo: We pioneered the Radio Council.. and the Arts Crafts Workshop was started at the old West End School.

Mary Lou Rice: We were tied up with the war efforts too - Red Cross, bond-selling, ...U. S. O. and so on.. Believe me, it was hard to keep order in meetings, I simply wore out this gavel!

R. E.: I think Miss Junior League needs to catch her breath..but don't go away... we'll be right back with THIS IS YOUR LIFE.. and now, a word from our sponsor.

Announcer enters and gives commercial: (to Calypso tune)

If your're feeling like a mop with one too many squeeze
And dragging like the camel with the wrinkled knees
Then it's time to take what every Senorita knows
Will lift her up so quickly on the tip of her toes!

AJLA.....AJLA

That is the asperin for you !

Yes ladies, AJLA is the asperin for you, Be sure to buy the large economy size bottle, and with every purchase, you will receive absolutely free, the brand new AJLA handbook on "First Aid for Ailing Volunteers"....This book was scientifically compiled by our foremost technicians at the spic and span AJLA laboratory in the Waldorf-Astoria..But hurry! hurry!! hurry!!! Buy Alice's Junior League Asperin today! Your dealer's supply is limited!!!!

(Music - "As Time Goes by)

R.E.: This is your live... As time goes by, 1944 and 45 found the war nearing an end... rationing put a limit on practically everything, but V. E. day was just around the corner... Mrs. George Walker, your 18th president, had her hands full.. and here she is!!

(Enter Mrs. George Walker)

Susan Walker: Things were generally hectic in those war years...women always keep up with the styles though... and that summer char-treuse was the rage.

Rosalie Moore (on mike): There was no national conference due to travel restrictions... but we made up for that by having a Junior League Conference Day at Salem College...

J. L.: Ah.... Rosalie Moore... I remember your wonderful speech, and how nervous you were to give it before all those special guests.

(Enter Moore)

Rosalie Moore: We all practically wept when we had to part with our beauty parlor since we were in competition with local business. No more two dollar facials... In fact, we parted with plenty that year - almost one hundred thousand dollars, including our hospital!

J. L.: We were loaded - with money, that is - and it was high time that the community benefited from it.

Libby Gray and Elsie Lawson (together on mike)

Though our legs are long and shapely
We must bow to fashion
Hemlines dive from short to long
The NEW LOOK is our PASSION!

(Enter Libby and Elsie)

R. E.: And here they are - the long and the short of it - Mrs. Bowman Gray and Mrs. Robert Lawson, your first ladies in 1946, 47 and 48... when the new Sears-Roebuck opened.. and the big social event was an all-female banquet instead of the dances you now know.

J. L.: We can't forget the new look! That huge stock of short skirts had the Thrift Shop between a rock and a hard place!

Libby: At that time our quota was only \$15.00 - and even sustaining members were required to donate.

Elsie: Everything about admissions had always been hush-hush... We didn't even know who was on the committee! It was all a secret... until finally our curiosity got the better of us and we voted to make the members public to the league.

J. L.: Yes, there were lots of firsts... the straw ballot was used for the first time... we sponsored the first civic orchestra concert... and you, Elsie, hold the distinction of being the first president to finish a meeting agenda in the Baptist Hospital delivery room!

(Music - "Thanks for the Memories")

R. E.: ..1949... Bob Hope comes to town...one way streets Harry Truman and Marshall Kurfees win elections... Carolina plays Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl... and you, Miss Junior League, delight the children with your performance of "Cinderella"

Betty Butler (on mike): Model-T's rattled and beards grew longer and bushier.. We were celebrating the Forsytharama Centennial.

(Enter Betty)

J. L.: That's our Betty - whose Albert was the young man of the year in '49.

Betty: That was the year we changed our meeting place from the hotel to the YWCA... the Thrift Shop quota was increased to \$20... and we started the rotating system of volunteers... and we mid-wifed the Arts Council with \$72.00

(Music - "Tennessee Waltz")

R. E.: It is 1950... the half-century mark.. our ears were ringing with the Tennessee Waltz... and once again, we were at war..

Ruth Pleasants (on mike): Project! Project!! The League needs a PROJECT!

J. L. Ruth Pleasants! The search was on with your Project-finding committee!

(Enter Ruth)

Ruth: We needed more volunteer jobs right away, so we did start the recreation program for children in the hospitals... and that was the year the Newssheet began to use advertising.

(on mike - Telephone rings)

Beth Whitaker: (on mike):- Hello!.... Hello!-OPERATOR!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PHONE? What do you mean - I've used it too much - WHAT??? You say the line is completely DISINTEGRATED.. AND I'LL HAVE TO GET A NEW ONE!!!

J. L.: That could be none other than Beth Whitaker... and of course it's 1951...

(Enter Beth)

Ruth: That's when the Arts Council found a home on Fifth Street.... and Harry Truman came to dig a little dirt for Wake Forest...

J. L.: I make a motion we give Beth a royal vote of thanks for all that hard work she did making those notebooks for the board!

Beth: Point of order! The correct parliamentary procedure is - "I MOVE".

Ruth: I second the motion!

J. L.: QUESTION !!

R. E.: Order! Order! girls... You haven't even mentioned that evaluation committee!

J. L.: That was a whale of a job - We evaluated this.. we evaluated that... and eventually boiled it down to a list of darn good recommendations presented to the league.

(Music - "Thou Swell")

R. E.: ... 1952.. Sore muscles...aching joints... the first Arts Council Follies... the league's 30th anniversary, celebrated at the Strip for Thrift Mardi Gras Ball... You become a member of Region 13.. the Thrift Shop quote increases to \$25....

Bob Ed Hanes (on mike).. We all had coffee nerves from morning group meetings... still searching for THAT PROJECT... and when the vote came - the children's room at the library won.....

(Enter Bob Ed)

J. L.: (greeting Bob Ed) We had plenty of B and B too - and I dont mean benedictine and brandy - but I do mean - Beanie's Brochure.

R. E.: It's 1954 and 54... Mrs. Robert McCuiston and Mrs. John Whitaker wrote the history of your league, complete for the first time... what a job that must have been!

Bob Ed.: We soon had a real job staring us in the face when we took on the rummage sale... but there were enough laughs to make up for the work involved.. you never saw so many expectant cashiers"...

J. L.: Yea - and remember the bald-headed man who bought our entire stock of hair tonic-

R. E.: At the beginning of 1953, do you remember hearing this remark? "Let's all relax and have fun, girls" That was easier said than done. You helped the new library open with a bang, your children's room project was a smash hit.. and your volunteers baby sit for the art exhibits you sponsored....

J. L.: Of course, I remember that! and I remember that the league was initiated into television by sponsoring a program on our children's activities at the library - and then we co-sponsored another program about the United Nations.

R. E.: Then you'll remember this - listen closely!

(Sad music on mike)

Lib Heefner (on mike):

For twenty years we breathed its dust
And shuffled on its floor
We toted tons of rummage
Through its, busy, squeaky door
But now it's gone, and there are some
By whom it will be missed,
And what's the league gonna do
Without a quota list?

(Enter Lib)

J. L.: Oh, I blubber everytime I think of how we spent that summer remodeling the Thrift Shop - and then had to lose it -don't you, Lib?

(Lib, and J. L., cry on each other's shoulders)

R. E.: Lets compose ourselves ladies! (More sobs as they endeavor to compose themselves) Edwards calls for Lib Heefner to rise in audience - applause - Flower presentation.

Now ladies, please!

(Background music - low- "There's No Business Like Show Business")

R. E.: THIS IS YOUR LIFE, Miss Junior League... the year, 1955.... twenty four presidents have paraded by... to recreate your past..... you have travelled a long way since 1923.... but there is more to come... and now we present to you - the highlight of the evening... your future president, Mrs. Royal R. Brown!!!!

(As he talks he goes into audience and leads Alice to stage)

(Gives Orchid)

(Music gets louder)

(Entire cast sings together) piano

Tune: "There's no Business like Show Business"

There's no business like league business
There's no business I know
Not everything about it is appealing
Still it's what the by-laws will allow
No matter how you volunteers are feeling
You go on stealing - that extra bow
There's no people like league people
They smile when they are low -
Your project opens with a bang - and there you are
Before you know it - they've hung a star
With Alice standing by you
You are sure to go far
We all want Alice to know -
We're going on with the show!!