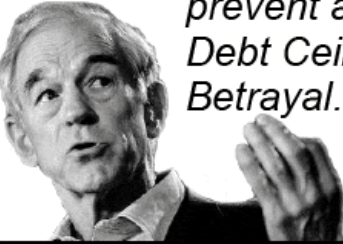


Ads by Google


CLICK HERE
Help Ron Paul fight to prevent a Debt Ceiling Betrayal.



Paid for by Ron Paul Presidential Campaign Committee

Advertisement

BOOK NOW GET MORE!



THE WORLD'S BIGGEST HOTEL FAMILY™

FREE NIGHT
AFTER 3 SEPARATE STAYS
FREE NIGHT VOUCHER OFFER ENDS 8/14/11.

MORE LIKE THIS »

[League of Women Voters unbowed](#)

May 12, 2011

[The right to vote](#)

August 25, 2010

[Senior women legislators hit trail](#)

September 13, 2010

Advertisement

1918 memoir opens window to suffrage movement views

March 21, 2011 | By Susan Haigh, Associated Press

[Recommend](#)

0

[Share](#)

[E-mail](#)

[Print](#)

HARTFORD — Cheryl Dunson knew she had found something special when she saw the small black notebook, covered in a plastic sleeve, inside a cardboard box of old memorabilia at the Connecticut League of Women Voters.

Recorded inside, in meticulous blue script, were the memoirs of a suffrage leader who interviewed members of the all-male Connecticut General Assembly more than 90 years ago on whether women should be granted the right to vote.

Dunson, the league's president, and her fellow members had no idea the book existed until she discovered it a year ago in their Hamden offices when she was searching for items to help mark the state league's 90th anniversary. The notebook, dated July 1, 1918, offers a rare glimpse into the views of Connecticut's state legislators two years before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, granting men and women equal voting rights.

Ads by Google

[Plastic Bollard Cover](#)

Lowest pricing & highest quality for your Bollard post/cover needs.

glasscityplastics.com

"I think it is an incredible time capsule showing the debate regarding one of the most basic rights of our democracy and it's a right that many women in particular take for granted today," Dunson said.

"I don't think they have the knowledge to know what these women did, how they struggled, how they worked, how they kind of weathered the kind of personal attacks against their integrity and their intelligence," she said. "To me, it's an incredibly inspiring story and I think it's one that all women should be aware of."

The Connecticut League of Women Voters, which traces its own roots to a suffrage organization, is donating the book to the Connecticut State Archives for safekeeping. A reception is planned Wednesday at the State Library in Hartford.

The ringed book, which is only slightly worn, has lettered tabs that the author, who identified herself as (Mrs. R.) Gladys Bragdon, used to organize the interviews.

In one entry, she describes how World War I influenced men's thinking about allowing women to vote. Some suffrage activists compared the fight for democracy abroad to theirs back at home.

"After a long but pleasant interview, he admitted that he had seen the light since the war and wished to be recorded as favorable, though not a crusader. Formerly an anti," Bragdon wrote of one lawmaker.

In another entry, she writes: "He's always been opposed but he's open minded now. Try

again. By all means, be considerate because he's fearfully busy with war orders.”

Bragdon also references that some women did not support the suffrage movement.

“Anti just now but may change his mind. Has rabid anti wife,” she wrote. “Poor man.”

Ads by Google

[The 2011 GMC Crossover](#)

In Stock & Available Now at Your Albuquerque Area GMC Dealer.

www.GMCdealer.com/Albuquerque

1 2 Next