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Square Businessmen Resolve Their Problems, Conduct Complete Social Program in 39 Year Old Tradition

Merchants Deal with Decoration, Traffic, Parking, Publicity

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Once a month for the past 39 years a group of business and professional men in Harvard Square have met to discuss common problems and to have a good time.

The Harvard Square Businessmen's Association is now an active organization with some 100 members. Represented in this number are most of the stores within the Square area as well as many of its professional men. The CRIMSON and the Alumni Bulletin are the only Harvard firms included.

Usually a trade association accomplishes little, but this has not been true of the Square merchants. In recent years the organization has been responsible for Christmas decoration, improvements in local traffic conditions, increased parking facilities, and a full-fledged publicity campaign aimed at attracting suburban buyers.

Later Hours for Rush

The most recent activity of the association has been a request to local merchants to stay open at night from December 12-23 to handle adequately the Christmas shopping rush. According to N. Russell Cazmay, secretary of the association since 1919, most of the members stores will have late hours at least twice weekly.

Founded in 1910, the association is a sectional civic organization "intended to create fair trade among Square merchants and to stimulate non-political civic projects." Similar groups exist in Central Square and elsewhere in Cambridge.

In its earlier years, the group had about 40 members, but it has grown steadily. At its monthly meetings business experts are brought in as speakers, and their talks are generally followed by long question periods.

Two Original Members Remain

Only two charter members are still in business in the Square. These are Edwin R. Sage, owner of Sage's Grocery Store, and Edwin B. Powell, of Powell Printing Company. A third charter member, J. Frederick Olson, retired from business last spring, but is listed as an "ex officio" member.