"Meet Olga Madar, labor unionist, feminist, and softball ringer" by James Robinson

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Meet Olga Madar, labor unionist, feminist, and softball ringer

Olga Madar came of age in the aftermath of the Great Depression. The labor movement was on the rise and seeking to harness recreation, especially sports leagues, as a form of union building. Before the Depression, early U.S. corporations used that same practice to build company cohesion, but abandoned it during the Depression Era. In the late 1930s through the early 1950s, leftist organizers responded to worker demand where corporations wouldn’t by providing access to cheap recreational programs. As labor won more leisure time and shorter hours with no corresponding reduced pay, organizers reasoned that the bosses would fill those hours themselves unless the union could seize the opportunity and provide recreational activity.

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