

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LULA KELSEY



State President of N. C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs—1941-1946

by RUTH G. RUSH

As President of N. C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, it becomes my duty and privilege to pay tribute to one who has served faithfully and tirelessly the women of North Carolina—yea, not the women alone but the people of North Carolina for she has been a citizen of the first rank.

It is impossible to name all the commendable attributes of Lula Kelsey. I will attempt to review her work with the Federation of Negro Women's Clubs from three angles—

1. **Lula Kelsey was a Builder.** At the time that Lula Kelsey became President of N. C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, the organization had lost much of its zeal and enthusiasm. The Efland Home for Delinquent Girls had been a major objective of the Women of North Carolina through the years. The Efland Home at the beginning of Lula Kelsey's administration could not adequately serve the need for a school for delinquent girls. There was still a mortgage on the property and the women had become discouraged. State meetings were poorly attended and amounted to little more than an Executive Board meeting.

With Lula Kelsey at the helm, changes began to take place. The final mortgage on Efland property was paid.

Renewed efforts were made to have the state provide a training school for Negro girls. Club women under the leadership of Lula Kelsey annually visited the Commissioner of Public Welfare and the Governor of North Carolina pleading for a state-supported institution for the training of Negro girls.

Lula Kelsey lived long enough to see the results of efforts in this direction—today, there is a state-supported institu-

tion with a permanent membership of 100,000.

The organization has grown in numbers. Women who are busy today will go back in their time and hear Lula Kelsey say to busy women! We want you! We need you! We need women and we need women join hands in this work. We cannot do it alone, church women, sorority women, business women, housewives, women who have social clubs—women everywhere must share in this work." A challenge of that type cannot go unanswered and women have responded 4,000 strong (approximately). **Lula Kelsey was a Builder.**

2. **Lula Kelsey was a Leader.** It has been by experience through the years that too many of us know very little about working with other people. We do not know how to share responsibility, we do not know how to share honors. Not so, in the case of Lula Kelsey. There was always a place for everyone in the program—one presided, one passed programs, one made a talk, one was called on to do varying tasks, some relatively insignificant, some of major importance, but all a part of the whole. Whatever the task, be it small or large, there was recognition of contribution made. Self always was minimized. Hence, whatever was to be done in the organization, Lula Kelsey had the support and cooperation of all. **Lula Kelsey was a Leader.**

3. **Lula Kelsey was a Friend.** Lula Kelsey showed herself to be a friend to me, to you, to people. Her life was one of unselfishness. There are many persons present today who could give personal testimony proving unselfish interest in their personal problems and in their community efforts.

She was unstinted in her giving of herself, of her finances and of her time in order to help people and causes.

As a successor to Lula Kelsey in the office of President, I have had Lula Kelsey's counsel, her support and encouragement. On March 14, Lula Kelsey came to Durham and discussed with me plans for the State meeting to be held in May. She was a friend, and shall I say more—she is my friend today as she lives on—her life is eternal, for the good that Lula Kelsey did "cannot die."

"OPERATION EUROPE" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

contact with the Christian forces of America.

Reprinted from an editorial in "The Star of Zion," Charlotte, N. C., April 17, 1952.

The Federation Journal congratulates Mrs. Kyles on this new opportunity for Christian service. Her outstanding achievements in North Carolina and her remarkable experience in Washington eminently qualify Mrs. Kyles for the duties of her new position.



MISS RUTH G. RUSH

Miss Ruth G. Rush, who is now our very efficient President, has achieved marvelous success ever since she took up the reins of government following the death of our beloved Mrs. Lula S. Kelsey. Ability, dignity, nobility, efficiency, tact, patience and charm all meet in her person. North Carolina women think that they have the most capable federation president in the whole nation.

Give Them a Place to Play

Plenty of room for dives and dens
Glitter and glare and sin!
Plenty of room for prison pens
To gather the criminals in!

Plenty of room for jails and courts
Willing enough to pay
But never a place for the children to race,
No, never a place to play.

Plenty of room for shops and stores
Mammon must have the best,
Plenty of room for the running sores
That rot the city's breast.
Plenty of room for the lures that lead
The hearts of our youth astray;
But never a cent on a playground spent.
No, never a place to play!

Plenty of room for schools and halls
Plenty of room for art;
Plenty of room for teas and balls,
Platform, stage, and mart,
Proud is the city—she finds a place
For many a fad today.
But she's more than blind
If she fails to find
A place for the children to play.

Give them a chance for innocent sport,
Give them a chance for fun,
Better a playground plot, than a court,
And a jail when the harm is done.
Give them a chance, if you stint them now,
Tomorrow you'll have to pay
A larger bill for the darker ill.
So give the children a place to play.

or. She was attracted to this girl, whom resume her place in Washington and her