

Long Way From the Old Efland Home to the State Training School for Negro Girls

"Change is the only constant in life. It is around the bend of the road that the changes are made, not at the beginning of the journey."

The story of the Efland Home for Negro Girls is a long one, interesting and intriguing. In the early days, efforts to arouse interest in wayward girls were none too easy, and for the Federated Clubs to attempt to establish a home for these delinquents was to present to the Negro women of the state a stupendous task opposed by many and approved by few. By far too many could see only the futility of such a project.

To pay for 140 acres of land for a site; to operate and successfully maintain a school where the girls might be trained for useful citizenship; to develop a worthwhile farm affording employment and furnishing sustenance; to provide modern conveniences such as running water and electricity; to pay the salaries of a competent matron and efficient helpers, and finally by persistent appeals to the State Legislature to secure an appropriation hopelessly inadequate for maintenance—these efforts engaged the unflinching interest of the faithful clubs, commanded their constant support, and almost consumed the marvelous energy of our early leaders during this trying period of our Federation work.

Whenever one met Charlotte Hawkins Brown, whether on a platform, in some assembly or listened in private conversation her undying topic was either the Efland Home or Palmer Memorial. These tender twin plants of her early life were wrapped about her heart—blessed now in her later years by their happy fruition. Mrs. Minnie Pearson, Mrs. Marie Clinton, Mrs. Maude Cotton, Mrs. Julia Warren, Mrs. Annie Day Shepard and Mrs. Lula Kelsey passed to their reward with the deals of Efland on their hearts. They with many others have left to all of us who remain, the priceless heritage of their righteous persistence, the long sought answer to their patient prayers. God be praised for every one of them, and for the relentless untiring efforts of our leaders of today to whom our dear departed lightbearers have flung their flaming torch. May we who follow rededicate ourselves anew, not only to the rehabilitation of our delinquent girls, but also to the building and maintaining of finer womanhood in North Carolina and everywhere! Today little, old Efland Home is no more. The temporary quarters at Rocky Mount have passed into other hands. Hobbs Farm near Wheat Swamp in Lenoir County has now become the location of the state correctional institution for Negro girls. Here with Miss Mae D. Holmes as superintendent twenty-five girls have been moved from Rocky Mount



Left to right, Standing—Mrs. Mary Perkins; Mrs. Abna Lancaster, President; Miss Ruth Wright of Tuskegee, Ala., guest; Miss Marie Weeks; Miss Rosebud Aggrey. Standing—Mrs. Nonie Johnson, Miss Willie Mae Clingham, Mrs. Pauline Wright, Mrs. Lois Reeves, Mrs. Florence Mitchell, Mrs. Lillian Simpson and Mrs. Leathia Nicholson.

The Salisbury Business and Professional Women's Club

The Salisbury Business and Professional Women's Club is affiliated with the National body of Business and Professional Women and has as its purpose the promotion of all worthwhile activities for the uplifting of Negro women. In many ways this purpose is carried forth in rather simple ways, but on the whole the club helps someone or some organization each month. As most of the members are teachers, the club functions chiefly during the school terms. Some of the activities of the year 1951-52 may be of interest to club women elsewhere. For a Thanksgiving project, the club took baskets to the county home for the poor. These boxes contained fruits, candy, nuts, raisins, chewing gum, snuff and tobacco. The club women of other cities may smile at the last two articles, but these were among the things most appreciated by the elderly people who had little left in life to comfort them save a few indulgencies of former days.

At Christmas time the club furnished

white girls, and we turn over another page of history made memorable by the patient, persistent, united efforts of the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, the cooperation of a few influential friends and the just action of

a layette to an expectant mother whose husband had been ill and out of work for several months. For four children of this family, we gave a month's supply of fresh milk which was greatly appreciated.

This year, as last year, we sponsored a debutante for the debutante's ball, promoted by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. We also entertained the wives and lady-members of the Livingstone College faculty. This was done at a St. Patrick's Day party and served to bring together college and community in a wholesome evening of fun.

Every year we use as our chief project for raising money the giving of a bazaar. This year our Pre-Christmas Bazaar served us and served the community, as the household gifts made by the members sold "like hot cakes." Aside from household linens, etc., we sold candy, cakes, and other sweets. Funds from this activity will help us give our annual prize to a young woman outstanding in character and industry at Livingstone College.

As usual we shall send a delegate to our state meeting. We will do our best to join our federated sisters lift as we climb. Our present officers are: President, Mrs. A. Lancaster; vice-president, Mrs. M. Perkins; secretary, Miss M. Weeks; assistant secretary, Mrs. L. Reeves; treas-