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"Listen to our Clarion Watchword—We are Lifting As We Climb"

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A Tribute to Mothers

By
MRS. O. R. POPE

One characteristic of the American people is the disposition to celebrate and commemorate certain days and weeks. The total number of days for observance exceeds the days in the calendar year, it is said. The range is all the way from neighborhood events to those of a national character, and include men, women, children and events of every kind. There is hero worship, religious and historic commemorations, social recognitions of every aspect of our national life and culture.

But out of all of these there are only seven great days, and Mother's Day is one. It is the latest of these, and was given official recognition by the United States Congress in 1914.

But mother worship as a ceremonial festival dates back to ancient times with Grecian civilization. It was later observed in the mid-lenten Sunday with the spread of Christianity. As a symbol of devotion, love and protection it is older than spoken or written language in any form.

More than fifty thousand years ago a Neanderthal mother put her mouth to that of her crying infant to smother the sound from the ferocious beasts of the forest, and thus was born the kiss—the original symbol of love and protection. The first kiss was a mother's kiss.

We can easily imagine that the first tear was that of a mother as she watched the ebbing away of her child's mortal life, or wept for its pain, or agonized for the safety of her boy when he did not return from the hunt in the forest.

The first prayer was that of a mother. Perhaps it was only a gasp as she knelt before a rough hewn image and asked for guidance for her infant, or out of sheer joy of living to hold and fondle it.

We also think of mother as a symbol of unmeasured and unlimited power and influence down through the ages, through countless generations. Every epoch in the history of the world began in a mother's arms where the leaders of thought and action began their training.

When great events are pending, when the scales of human destiny are suspended in the heavens and men grow dizzy as they watch the doubtful balances, it is a mother that has prepared some leader for the solemn emergency, and the history of the world is changed. Sometimes the clock is moved forward, sometimes backwards. Good mothers make good men, and by

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The Elizabeth City Clubs

By
MRS. E. M. SPELLMAN

The Elizabeth City Federation of Clubs was organized February 12, 1951. During the first year there was great enthusiasm among the members although the number was small. A Fellowship Tea in July and the presentation of Miss Ruth Rush, State President, as guest speaker constituted the high lights of the year.

At the close of the first year an anniversary program at the Olive Branch Baptist Church brought together eleven clubs contributing to a very enjoyable program which was followed by a delightful reception in the church annex.

The activities of the second year were interesting, although they were more diffi-



MRS. E. C. MITCHELL
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cult; however, the group was able to move forward. Another fellowship hour held in the summer was greatly enjoyed.

In the fall the ladies held a public program featuring a Popularity Contest for the benefit of the Federation and the Club House of the Negro Women's Community Club. A stereotypical lecture on "Impressions of European Travel" given by Mrs. E. A. Esten of the Social Studies Department of Teachers' College was most interesting and highly informative.

Another anniversary program and reception held at the Corner Stone Baptist Church marked the end of the second

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Among Our Clubs

Elizabeth City

Members of Boys' and Girls' Club Attended Inaugural Parade

For months members of the Boys' and Girls' Club planned their trip to Washington for observing the Inaugural Parade. When the eventful day came, the number present far exceeded the expectation of Mrs. S. O. Griffin, the director. One bus



CAROL RESPASS
Age 14
Secretary of Junior Girls' Club

had been chartered, and was filled so quickly that a second bus had to be secured.

The early morning arrival in Washington afforded the boys and girls an opportunity to stand in well chosen places where they were able to get a good view of the parade. Such a trip will live long in their memories.

The Junior Matrons' Club with Mrs. C. H. Morgan as President and qualified Librarian still does its part in supporting the Cole Memorial Library, although some state, city and county aid is given. Bookmobile service has greatly increased the circulation. Reading clubs are being planned for the summer. Because of great interest and largest number of readers, twenty-five of the Pear Tree Road chil-

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