

## Echoes of the Annual Convention

by MRS. E. M. SPELLMAN

The annual meeting of the N. C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs was held at State Teachers' College, Elizabeth City, May 1 and 2.

From the standpoint of organization, attendance, interest, and accomplishment, it is believed that the meeting has not been surpassed. Highlights of the meeting included:

1. A report from the committee in charge of the Efland Home property and discussion of plans for the sale of the property.

2. A report from the Editor of The Federation Journal with emphasis on the necessity of increasing the number of subscriptions and of reporting the activities conducted by the various clubs.

3. The importance of the work of junior and senior organizers in furthering club work, with special emphasis on the development of the junior organizations in preparation for future leadership.

4. A report from the Scholarship Committee urging the importance of securing the total amount required for Federation Scholarships by the time of the next annual convention.

5. A stirring message from our Honorary President, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown.

6. An inspiring address on the subject "Set Me On My Feet" by the retiring President, Miss Ruth G. Rush.

7. An address by Mr. John R. Larkins, Consultant to the State Board of Public Welfare; calling attention to the influence of our State Federation on legislative matters affecting our race; the importance of voting for the eighty-five million bond issue, because of the urgent need for better schools, and hospitals for the mentally ill.

8. An encouraging report from Miss Mae D. Holmes on the building program at the Girls' School and similar reports from Mrs. Brown of the Morrison School, Mrs. Marks of the Sanatorium, all indicating general improvement.

9. Club reports all interesting and suggestive showed almost endless efforts being made by the women generally to live up to the Federation motto: "Lifting as we Climb."

10. Four workshops rendered interesting and instructive reports of discussion groups on the following topics:

(a) Civic Responsibilities of Club Women. (b) Program Planning for Local Clubs. (c) Financing Your Club. (d) Creative Experiences for Club Women.

11. Issuing of Membership Cards to members of the State Federation.

12. Unanimous decision to contribute toward publication of Negro magazine in Braille to be sent free to two hundred blind persons.

13. An inspiring young people's pro-

## A Letter From the President

Dear Co-workers:

It was my pleasure as your newly elected President to represent North Carolina at the Seventeenth Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. For the past ten years at least, our state organization has made no financial arrangement for a delegate. We have sent the affiliation fee of twenty dollars. Any person attending the Convention volunteered her service and bore her own expenses. Conforming to that pattern, I registered and represented our state as the North Carolina President.

Mrs. Esther D. Moore of Hickory has maintained her interest in the Southeastern for several years. I was pleased to find that the Southeastern Federation, recognizing Mrs. Moore's interest in the organization, had selected her as a member of the Executive Committee. Mrs. Ammie Foster of Pinehurst, because of her interest and attendance, serves as a member of the Art Committee. Miss Ione Henderson of Hickory was sufficiently interested to bear her own expenses to Columbia as well as expenses for board and registration.

Prominent in the assembly and highly honored for her historic membership; in fact, for being a pioneer in the organization was Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, one of the founders of the Southeastern and founder also of our North Carolina Federation. Dr. Brown, Mrs. Moore, Miss Henderson, Mrs. Foster and I constituted the volunteer representatives from North Carolina.

It is now for us to decide to what extent the North Carolina Federation shall share the responsibilities of the Southeastern, and how much shall we participate in its program.

Just as our state has its financial goals, its state projects, its state activities and obligations, just so the Southeastern has its certain goals and objectives that require the joint efforts of all the state federations that comprise the Southeastern Federation.

For many years, we based our failure to send delegates to the biennial conventions and to participate fully in the program, on the fact that the North Carolina Federation had the gigantic task of building up its own organization, which seemed

*Continued on Page Ten*

gram sponsored by the Junior organizers.

14. Election of the following officers: President, Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey; First Vice-President, Mrs. Maggie Jones; Second Vice-President, Mrs. E. R. Merrick; Third Vice-President, Mrs. L. B. Curtwright; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Spellman; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Alice P. Collins; Treasurer, Mrs. Esther M. Barnes; Parliamentarian, Mrs. E. M. Donohoe; Chaplain, Mrs. P. R. Brown.

15. Place of next meeting—High Point.

## New Buildings Dedicated At Morrison

On the thirtieth of October, 1953, at the Borrison Training School at Hoffman, a new page in North Carolina Negro history was turned over. Six splendid buildings were dedicated and the keys turned over to Professor P. R. Brown, the Superintendent.

Representatives from several organizations were present and participated in the exercises. Greetings were extended by the following: State Board of Public Welfare; State Board of Correction and Training; State Department of Public Instruction; State Department of Oral Hygiene; State Training Schools; State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs; the Town of Hoffman; the Shriners of Ouda Temple; the Schools of Richmond County.

A Litany of Dedication, an address by Mr. David S. Coltrane representing the Governor, and renditions by the Boys' Choir were among the highlights of the program. Commissioner Samuel E. Leonard, in his earnest, soulful way delivered a most impressive address of presentation.

A most touching part of the program was the rendition of the school song by the Boys' Choir, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Brown, the writer of the song, and directed by Mrs. R. C. McMullen

### MORRISON

- O Morrison, we give our hearts to you,  
O Morrison, our love for you is true;  
When things go wrong and tempted we may be  
Your loyal sons can always turn to thee:  
You took us in when other friends were few,  
You understood and taught us what to do.

### CHORUS:

- O Morrison,  
Thy sons bespeak thy praise.  
With gratitude our glad voices we raise  
Wher'er we go, wher'er we dwell on earth  
We're grateful to the power that gave thee birth.  
O Morrison, dear school we love you so.

- O Morrison, some buildings show decay,  
But Morrison, you face a bright, new day;  
Shine on our path, a beacon in our night  
We follow on for you will lead aright;  
Your sons become assets to our great land,  
They learn to work and love their fellow man.

The sweetness of that song sung with so much expression by the boys, their

*Continued on Page Nine*