

The City Federation Of Asheville

By MRS. SALLY ORR

The year 1955 was a most successful one for the City Federation. It brought all the federated clubs together as never before with the one great objective which was the entertainment of the Southeastern Association of Colored Women's Clubs. All clubs paid their dues promptly and took their turns with special entertainment. Fourteen clubs comprise our city federation group.

Officers and delegates of the southeastern Regional Association were loud in their praise of North Carolina hospitality and of the numerous courtesies extended by the Asheville club women and other cooperating citizens. When the visitors left Asheville they declared that they had enjoyed a wonderful stay.

The Asheville club women are greatly indebted to many persons who helped to make the guests feel welcome; notably, His Honor, Mayor Earl J. Eller, who, in person extended to the delegates a most cordial welcome to the city of Asheville; to the city federation of white women's clubs; to the many friends who provided cars for transporting the delegates to Biltmore House; to several generous ladies who paid the drivers of the bus donated for use by the white bus company; to the Asheville Citizen-Times for allowing space in the paper for our convention news; to the Radio station; to the Y.W.C.A., and to the Allen High School authorities for the use of their building and facilities. For these and all other services the club women of Asheville are very grateful.

The City Federation was highly honored recently by the selection of one of its members—Mrs. Maggie Jones to serve on the Governor's Education Committee that met in Raleigh to discuss matters pertinent to our present problems in education. Mrs. Jones is not only a very faithful member of the City Federation, but as a pioneer member of the N. C. state federation she has rendered extraordinary service on the Executive Board of the federation for many years. At a recent meeting Mrs. Jones gave an interesting report of the meeting of the Governor's Education Committee.

Holiday meetings are always important occasions for Asheville clubs. The Christmas meeting of the City Federation was held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Orr in Walton Street with Mrs. Choice, Mrs. Moultrie, and Mrs. Morris as co-hostesses. Christmas motifs were carried out in decorations and also in refreshments. A "Carol Sing" led by Mrs. Murphy added

PRESIDENT GAINES TRACES HISTORY

The King Of Glory

'Twas in a garden calm and fair,
The Paschal moon was bright:
They laid the King of Glory there
That quiet, peaceful night.

But on the God-appointed day
He rose from out the grave,
And thus He made a "Living Way"
For all He came to save.

Glad angels welcomed Him from strife;
Each precious soul was won:
The gates of Everlasting Life
Flew open—all was done!!

Then hymns of thankfulness we'll raise,
And serve with hope our King,
Until we pass those gates with praise
And in His presence sing!

to the enthusiasm and significance of the season. Christmas gifts were collected and prepared for the girls at the Training School at Kinston; for the boys at the Morrison Training School at Hoffman; for the Oxford Orphanage, and for the Western N. C. Sanatorium at Black Mountain.

Birthday anniversaries are also delightful occasions with our club women. Mrs. Hattie Love and Mrs. Mamie J. Hudson were showered with cards and surprised with gifts of money on their anniversary, December 2, 1955.

Sadness occasionally creeps in and reminds us that life is not all sunshine; that "some days must be dark and dreary". We shared the sorrow of Mrs. Mamie Reed, who lost her husband, Mr. Bryant Reed in December.

The January meeting was a happy one. Mrs. Mamie J. Hudson, one of the charter members of the City Federation met with us at the Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Hudson is a retired Lunch Room Manager of the Livingstone Street School. The members were very happy to have Mrs. Hudson present. At this meeting the following officers were elected: Mrs. Isabelle Jones, President; Mrs. Sallie Orr, First Vice-President; Mrs. Mamie Reed, Second Vice-President; Mrs. A. L. Murphy, Third Vice-President; Mrs. Ruth King, and Mrs. Irma Mills, Secretaries; Mrs. Frances Owens, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Ida Self, Treasurer; Mrs. Hattie Love, Parliamentarian; Mrs. Maggie Jones, Chaplain; Mrs. Willie Moore, Chairman of Program committee; Mrs. Fannie Kilpatrick, Chairman, Pink Tea.

The various clubs that comprise the City Federation carry on numerous activities in Asheville, and contribute to many worthy causes, responding liberally to all appeals made by our state organization. We work; we climb; we lift!"

♦ Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, President of the National Association addressed the N. C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs on Friday night May 13, 1955, in the public session. She very interestingly traced the development of the organization of which she is president from its beginning, stating that there had been some unfair reflections on Negro womanhood that our womanhood was not as good as that of other races. This she said was an insult and was untrue—an unfair statement as well as damaging. The statement raised a challenge that gave rise to the first ideas for the National Organization we have today. A Mrs. Ruffin of Boston called many young Negro women together in 1895 and formed a temporary organization. In 1896 the group met in Washington, D. C. with Mrs. Mary Church Terrell as first president, and ever since for 59 years we have followed the motto "Lifting as we Climb." There are 44 states with 100,000 paid members. Along with the growth of the organization home standards have been raised, education, morals and environment has greatly improved. For the most part the southern states have established home or training schools for incorrigible boys and girls and carried on until the states took over.

Because of the large number of young women who sought jobs in northern cities and were unprotected, homes like the Sojourner Truth Homes and the Phillis Wheatley Homes were established by the Federations of Northern states. Both northern and southern states started Day Nurseries and Kindergartens. There are some 85 of these over the nation. Acquiring the responsibility of the Frederick Douglas Memorial, paying off the mortgage, later building a caretaker's cottage and providing general upkeep proved quite an accomplishment. Then establishing National Headquarters began with Mrs. Mary M. Bethune around 1928 and was continued during the office held by Mrs. J. B. Moton. The association is now housed in a spacious 5 story, 22-room building at 16th and R in Washington, D. C. The official organ of the association is "National Notes" which was begun about 1902 under Mrs. B. T. Washington. Through these years the challenge which was responsible for the beginning of the organization has been answered and was greatly answered when the Golden Rule Foundation selected a Negro Mother of Kentucky as Mother of the year. United effort has brought vindication. Mrs. Gaines urged that all women prepare themselves for participation with other women of the world in solution of problems of the world that affect all people everywhere.