

THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

"Lifting as we climb"

Issued by

The N. C. Federation of Negro
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Editor's Note

The spring issue of the Journal is before you. The purpose of the Journal is the dissemination of events and information of interest to club women of the Federation.

Members, individually or as clubs or as districts, would render a real service if they would send in items of interest. This issue comes to the registered club women free, as did the fall issue.

Editorials

Living at One's Best in
the Community

To be a good citizen, one should be well informed concerning prevailing conditions in his or her community. Every citizen would do well to know the community boundaries, total population, number of children of school age, health conditions, adequacy of public school, political conditions, number and condition of churches, constructive community agencies, destructive agencies, number of people unreached by churches, amusement and recreation facilities, hospital, medical and nursing facilities, etc.

Good citizenship should begin at home. A good citizen is first of all a good neighbor. A good neighbor is not merely one who attends to his or her own business and refuses to be a troublemaker; a good neighbor is one who thinks ahead, looks ahead, plans ahead for the welfare of those who live about him. A good neighbor is one who is willing to sacrifice his own self interest for the sake of others.

Each one gets out of his community about what he puts into it. If he is stingy, selfish, critical, quarrelsome, the neighborhood will be a sort of sounding board which will echo back these attitudes. If, on the other hand, a man is generous, public-spirited, cheerful, optimistic, the neighborhood will pay back in his own coin. A good citizen is one who leaves his or her community richer when he or she departs from it.

The Christian spirit should lead a citizen to desire to enrich his community even more than to enrich himself. What are you doing to enrich your community? Every community has its enemies.

There are law-breakers, who have little or no regard for the rights of man or the laws of God. Then there are the selfish and indifferent, who refuse to accept responsibilities for anybody except themselves, again, there are the thoughtless, who are easily preyed upon by the selfish and wicked. And finally, there are the ignorant and underprivileged who do not know what to do nor how to do it. A good citizen who loves the community will not shift all the load to policemen and other public authorities, but will regard himself as responsible for the enforcement of the law, the punishment of evil-doers, the eradication of ignorance, the protection of the week and helpless. All too often we say, concerning these things, "It is none of my business," and then proceed to criticize those in authority for their failure. We know full well that officers of the law are almost helpless unless they have the backing and active cooperation of the citizens of the community.

By our vote we put in office those who are both to rule us and to serve us. But our responsibility by no means ends with the election of capable people to public office. They need every encouragement to do their duty.

With the best possible school teachers employed, and the best pastors secured, there is in every community enough to be done to keep everybody busy in some worth-while task of service. There are the immediate and urgent responsibilities of looking after the poor, the sick, the unfortunate. Then there are opportunities for service in keeping the neighborhood clean and beautiful. Again, there is an almost infinite variety of service in acts of neighborliness, providing recreation for children and young people, in welcoming strangers, and new-comers, in deeds of kindness and friendliness, the doing of which is its own reward.

What Is a Mother?

Little girls, it is said, are made of sugar and spice and everything nice. By the time all the sugar and spice has worn off, they become mothers and all they have left is everything nice, but that lasts forever.

Mothers cook, clean, wash, mend, dream, punish, wheedle, improvise, cajole, and make things go twice as far as a man could. Children are what they read to, listen for, play with, watch over, think over, pray for, worry with, do without because of, and brag to the neighbors about. A bobby pin and gummed tape are Mother's kit of tools; intuition is her college degree; and a new hat is her Declaration of Independence.

All mothers, from the Arctic Circle to the Equator, have the reputation of being wonderful

Religious
Emphasis

"True Faith"

Let us remind ourselves that a doing Christian is more effective than a saying Christian. Remember Peter, how he said, "I will never deny Thee Lord," but when the test came his actions belied his words. One's deeds should harmonize with his words and vice versa.

Many men and women are lonely because some inward disorganization of personality unconsciously makes them repel others. Here again faith is the answer, for true faith untangles the mental processes and corrects this disorganization. One of the first things that faith does is to make a man be honest with himself. This is always as necessary for the cure of maladies of the personality as it is for the physical ones. When you are ill and go to a physician, you do not hide from him anything necessary to a proper diagnosis and treatment. He must have all the facts, honestly laid before him. When we deal with the mind, we must remember that it has a strong tendency to rationalize or excuse its own faults. It seeks to invent reasons why we are what we are rather than to frankly face our faults, and examine and seek to correct them. Faith puts the light of reason on the problem. Then the individual becomes able to receiving the healing power of God.

Let this be the prayer of us all:
Teach us, good Lord, to serve
Thee as Thou deservest,
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do
Thy will.

cooks. The older we become and the farther we wander, the more convinced we are that nobody anywhere can make quite as good an apple pie (or jerked walrus goulash) as Mother.

Mothers are patient souls. Lucky for all of us that a mother's heart is as boundless as the universe itself. Anyone else would have scrubbed our ears, dressed us in our Sunday best, and sent us packing to the nearest orphans' home after the first two or three years of trying to convert a small savage into a civilized boy or girl.

All mothers are beautiful when they are young — remember? Then as the years turn into decades, Mother meets another man besides Dad and this man is Old Father Time. Her fresh beauty changes after she and Old Father Time get to be good friends.

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Aggrey
Honored

Testimonial in honor of Mrs. Rose Douglas Aggrey delivered by J. R. Larkins, consultant, North Carolina State Department of Public Welfare, presented a testimonial in the naming of the building in honor of Mrs. Aggrey at Morrison Training School, December 15, 1957. We give it here in part:

"We have assembled here today to honor an outstanding and distinguished citizen . . ."

Mr. Larkins continued his testimonial by outlining the major events in the significant life of Mrs. Aggrey.

Mrs. W. T. Bost, ex-commissioner of State Board of Public Welfare stated:

"During my connection with the State Department of Welfare, I believe that you will agree that we felt we could usually depend upon the good judgment and wisdom of Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey in anything involving the Negro youth of the state, a program which we were mutually concerned. Having that support, helped to determine the solution of various problems confronting us at the time."

Dr. Ellen Winston, present Commissioner, State Board of Public Welfare states:

"Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey has made an outstanding contribution to the field of child welfare. For the past several years she has worked closely with the State Board of Public Welfare in securing much needed and improved facilities for children."

In naming a building for Mrs. Aggrey, we are honoring a great Christian leader, humanitarian, educator and citizen. The honor rebounds to the credit and sound judgment of those who suggested and approved her name for this building.

When the Muse of Time shall be asked to name the men and women who have made great contributions to the welfare of human society and she dips her pen into the golden sunlight and writes in blazing letters across the clear blue sky, I am sure that the name of Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey will be among this group.

It is with great pride and humility that I name the new building in honor of an individual who has given over a half-century of dedicated, sacrificial, and unselfish service to all of the people of North Carolina — Mrs. Rose Douglass Aggrey."