

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from Page 5

Accepting an invitation extended by Mrs. A. B. Newsome of Ahoskie to attend the meeting of the Woman's Club there certainly afforded great pleasure. Representatives from other clubs in the city and several surrounding cities attended the meeting. Acquainting them with the objectives of our Federation with the aid of Mrs. F. T. Newsome seemed to arouse the interest of many who are members of nonfederated clubs. The fellowship hour which followed is to be added to other pleasant occasions during the year.

That my friends brings us to more consideration of celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of our State Federation. What a privilege is ours to reap the benefits of those who labored before us! Fifty years of continuous "Lifting as we Climb" has meant enduring hardships yet ever looking upward to accomplish so much. No tribute is too high to pay the pioneers of our organization. We are following in their foot steps and have an opportunity to continue looking up and living up to our motto.

As aforementioned our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration will begin with a well planned banquet and program on May 14 with Mrs. Vivian Mason as guest speaker. More details will be given from time to time. Plan now to attend the banquet and invite your friends to join you.

Business sessions of the annual meeting will follow the usual pattern with reports from the different officers. An added feature for this year is to be the presentation of constructive reports by newly formed special committees. Attempting to do this not only provides participation on the part of a large number of club ladies but will make us feel more a part of the National and Southeastern Associations which also have standing committees.

Realizing the importance of strengthening work in Junior Clubs has led to the forming of a board with Mrs. Lucille Albright as chairman. I urge you to do your best to arouse young ladies in your community to ban themselves together and with your cooperation strive toward higher things.

Though we rejoice at this our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration we must still keep in mind the fact that many young ladies are dependent upon us for scholarships made possible only through your club contribution. Plan now to increase your amount given last year, please if we are to meet the demand made upon us.

It is not possible for us of our own volition to close our eyes long enough to realize what it means to the blind to be without visual contacts with the incidents around them. We can however use our

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 1

Club members and friends invited—tickets \$2.00 each. Many interesting features of Banquet include a very distinguished guest speaker, Mrs. Vivian Mason of Norfolk, Virginia.

2. Host Public Program on Friday night, May 15th, 7:30 p.m. Distinguished African guest speaker as well as local talent of Wilson and Federation officials on the program.

3. The convention is called to order Friday morning, May 15th with devotions — greetings—President's message and usual routine business.

Reports of Special Standing Committee in line with National Association Program will be heard on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Club reports will also be heard on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, with special time given to new clubs.

"Youth Hour" for the whole convention will be Saturday, May 16 from 12:00 to 1:00. The Junior Federation members will hold their convention sessions on Saturday, May 16th under the watchful eyes of their adult board of directors—organizers—and club leaders.

The convention closes Saturday afternoon on completion of the last business session that begins at 1:30 p.m.

One of the most outstanding features of the 50th Celebration will be the distribution of a beautiful **Souvenir Program** for the token sum of 50 cents a copy—it will contain the history of our organization—picture stories of all projects and activities over the 50 year period—pictures and facts of pioneers the state over—letters of congratulations from N. C. officials and too many other items to list.

The Federation's first **Scrap Book 16x22** will be on display throughout the convention. It will be indexed as follows—National—State and Districts. If you have anything to contribute to the Scrap Book, please forward it to the editor as soon as possible.

imagination, sympathize with them and support the publication of the Braille Magazine which in a measure helps them keep pace with current events.

All in all may we look forward to making this our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration far more meaningful than all other Annual Meetings. Such is possible only if each of you will do your part. It is my wish to see you at Wilson

Your President
E. Mocile Spellman

May 14-16.

YESTERDAY

Continued from Page 1

Americans to leave the old paths and strike out boldly for the new. That was the spirit that led the founders, and you today, into this movement of social betterment. These noble women who founded the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, and those who followed, reflected the American tradition and spirit—pushing toward a new frontier. A frontier which had as its goals the rehabilitation of young women who became involved in trouble and the improvement of the social, economic, and cultural conditions, among Negroes, in North Carolina. They stand with some of America's great leaders and statesmen—with Frederick Douglass, who said, "Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, who want rain without thunder and lightning, who want the ocean without the roar of its many waters." They also stand with Abraham Lincoln, who said, "This nation with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. We may nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of the earth." They said as Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Thank God, we are young enough in spirit to dream dreams and see visions; to believe that one day a generation may possess this land beyond anything we know now."

An examination of the past history of this organization is revealing. The glories and achievements of the past are known to many individuals throughout the state and nation.

The most obvious thing about the Federation is the leadership and pioneering it has provided. The members of this organization were the first to call to the attention of the public the need for an institution for delinquent girls. With their motto "Lifting As We Climb" for inspiration and a rallying symbol they raised funds, purchased land, constructed a building, and operated the first institution for the training of Negro girls.

The pioneer work in other areas was equally important. It was the officers and members of this organization which spearheaded a movement to improve the facilities and programs at Morrison Training School for Boys and the Orphanage for Colored Children at Oxford. The full support of the group was thrown behind the effort to secure a state supported institution for mentally retarded Negro children.

The Federation not only supported programs and movements to secure, expand, and improve institutions or facilities for children and youth, it has and continues to contribute to the welfare of boys and girls in them. Along with these activities, the organization initiated

ed a scholarship program to provide financial aid to young women to continue their college education in several areas.

In every community of this state where there are clubs or a federation of local clubs affiliated with the state organization, there are to be found activities aimed at improving living conditions. Day nurseries, school lunches for underprivileged children, scholarships aid and many other civic, fraternal, religious and cultural activities are supported and carried on by members of the Federation in their respective communities.

So much for the past, it has been a glorious past. It is important, however, as it is reflected in the present. The past may be a deadening influence if you take refuge in its achievements. It may be a frustrating influence if you look at it and think it was impossible to achieve what has been achieved in the past. Finally, the past may be a stimulating past, if it can act to spur you on—to make you resolve that the present must be worthy of its heritage. From the work, deeds, and enthusiasm of the present members, it is safe to assume that the past has been a stimulus. You should be convinced that you are the inheritors of something very precious and it is your responsibility not to let the past down, but rather to continue to make the present and future of the Federation worthy of the past that it has inherited.

It is probably more difficult to speak of events of today than those of yesterday. It is partly because you do not have the perspective on them that you have on those of the past. You should have a sense of pride in what you are currently doing for the state organization and in your local communities. Today, as you look back over the past, the record reveals that you have made progress and achieved much in many areas. This is indicative of the fact that you are worthy of the past. This has not kept you from making changes to make your program or activities better fitted to meet the needs of the members of the organization and those whom you serve today. You have discarded part of the past only to reincorporate it in new forms. Through it all you can say with conviction that the spirit of the past—the spirit that nothing was good enough for the program and members of the Federation—is constantly with you. You have probably found that the strengths of today are different from the strengths of yesterday. The strengths of today rest on the individual members learning to work together as a team; members who are concerned not only with the activities or programs of their own clubs or community, but with the total program of the state organi-