

THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

"Lifting As We Climb"

Issued by
The N. C. Federation of Negro
Woman's Club

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Editor's Note

By request of our President this issue mainly covers our May 14 convention at Wilson, that each club may have material first hand; minutes, committee reports, summary of address, etc., are here.

As usual each president is sent one copy for each member paying Federation fees at the convention to nonpaying clubs go one copy.

Editorials

Ghana Representative Speaks For African Womanhood

That the Federation of Women's Club is a far-reaching vital organization was strongly sanctioned when the convention listened on Saturday morning to an address from Miss Charity Dagada of Ghana, Africa. She talked to us on "The Role of Women in Ghana." Her message was very informative and inspiring. We were glad to hear that the women of Ghana have a Federation which is doing much to bring about the abolition of polygamy, the equal education of boys and girls, and improvement in the family and political life of the women.

In Ghana, the women are divided into three groups: First, the illiterate group; those who have no education, whatever. They make up the second and third wives of the male and doing the farming. Because they are in great numbers, they have much political influence because they follow the crowd and their political party always succeeds due to numerical strength.

The second class of women is the semieducated, thus, they are prepared to do skilled labor. In this group there is club organization and participation and their social life is uppermost.

The third group is the educated female. They concern themselves with current, social, cultural, political and educational affairs. Many of them hold positions of state.

In spite of their many handicaps and limited means the Ghana woman has the main things that make all women sisters, namely: a love for home and family and a de-

termination to better herself and her community. Through the help of the Federated Clubs, the women of Ghana are acquiring a new status with dignity.

Gossip Carries Question

There are two kinds of gossip: The kind that is mean and vindictive and the permissible kind that imparts friendly news.

When we circulate mean, vicious gossip, we feel guilty—and properly.

This letter points up the general feeling among teenagers over the country.

"Dear Miss _____: Lately I have fallen into the horrible habit of gossiping. Being a Junior-to-be in high school I find there is much gossip going around. Some things told to me are common news and other things I guess are told in confidence.

Could you please give me a rule with which to measure which gossip is repeatable and which isn't? What are the do's and don'ts of gossip?"

Answer: _____ The very best is one in the Bible, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Young people and immature older ones too often let information of an indiscreet nature go in their ears and out of their mouths without proper consideration of the effects. Be kind and first digest what you have heard. Then decide whether it is fair to repeat it.

Mannerly people try to refuse to listen to malicious gossip-stories which if believed would ruin someone's reputation. To take joy in such gossip is to indicate that one has deep feelings of insecurity, that to build one's self up, one must first tear someone else or thing down.

Good gossip is pleasant news about people, things and communities. Malicious gossip is bad news of a destructive nature.

A good thing to ask ourselves when we bear unkind gossip is this: If challenged, could I prove it? If I could prove it, is there any point in repeating it? Would I like this said about me even if it is true?

Will Welcome Cards

These Faithful Federation Women will welcome cards from clubs or individuals. They are shut-ins now from years of toiling.

Dr. Charlotte H. Brown, McLean Hospital, Pleasant Street, Waverly, Mass.

Mrs. Maggie Jones, 4 George Washington Drive, Asheville, N. C.

Mrs. E. O. Donoho, 1004 Cameron Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C.

Mrs. F. W. Avent, 813 Red Cross St., Wilmington, N. C.

Southeastern Association

The 20th biennial convention was held in Jackson, Miss., on August 2, 3 and 4, 1959. The theme, "Bon Voyage to Grandeur Thinking." The association was well attended and the sessions were grand with addresses, social events and business that covered these objectives:

1. Intensive organization
2. Interracial cooperation
3. Constructive citizenship

We are very happy to have been unofficially present with the attendance of Mrs. Annie FASTER of Pinehurst, N. C., and Washington, D. C. Yes, we were there as usual financially, but matters of N. C. Convention celebration prevented our sending a delegate.

We were pleased to have had a late notice from President Ruby E. Stutts Lyells announcing the N. C. women in office and on committees:

Second Vice President, Mrs. Esther D. Moore.

Chaplain, Mrs. E. M. Spellman
Budget and Finance, Mrs. E. M. Spellman

Church Relations, Mrs. A. B. Byrd

Delinquency and Crime, Mrs. Mae D. Holmes

Intensive Organization, Mrs. Annie B. Johnson

Nutrition, Mrs. E. R. Merrick
Publicity, Mrs. Fannie T. Newsome

Peace, Mrs. A. P. Collins

Social Action, Mrs. Leala Allen
Girls' Association, Mrs. Lillian B. Gibson

Women in Industry, Mrs. Rosebud D. Aggrey

Books Can Be Friends

1. See that your daughter or Junior Club make friends with this one, "Let's Face It," by Elsie Archer, a Vocational Guidance Director at Washington Business Institute in the Harlem area of N.Y.C. She had a job as fashion editor of Ebony.

Here is a sympathetic and frank discussion of any problem: What girl doesn't want to look her best? When you are a teenager, it is not always easy to know just what to do to make the most of your hair, figure, complexion and health. Clothes can be a problem too, and then there is the question of approach to other girls and boys, your personality and poise. Miss Archer has approached the problem of giving guidance to Negro girls with a sensitivity and an understanding that could come only as a result of experience in working with them.

2. Estelle Atley Eaton was born

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To the clubs:

Dear members:

We hope as your club year begins you will budget generously for our project for the blind, of course we mean "The Negro Braille Magazine." The blind want me to thank you for your donation of \$343.00 last year. With a little sacrifice we can make it \$500.00 this year. Students and professional blind people write in telling us how much they depend on and are benefited by this information they get through our magazine. Let's keep them reading.

Religious Emphasis

Beacons

Some lives shine out like beacons
grand,

Some seem but candles small,
But if we truly shine for Him
The Lord hath need of all.

O may His spirit fill my soul
And lead me day by day,
That, though unworthy, I shall be
A light along the way.

—Unknown

November is the lifting of a latch and the quiet closing of a door. It is an invitation to the inwardness of a dusky, firelit room with curtains smugly drawn to shut out the drive of rain against gray windows, an invitation to the inwardness of meditation, when the experience of the year, tossed into the hearts remembering places are brought forth and sorted out for evaluation and interpretation. And November is Thanksgiving: it is thanksgiving for the protection of roof, tree and walls, for the loneliness of quiet things and for the quickened sense of living born of serenity and silence.

But, why should we wait for Thanksgiving to give thanks for the many things we do not have? Let's give thanks today and every day.