

# 'A Half Century Past—A New Beginning'—Mason

## Resume of Convention Talk

By Mrs. V. T. Bishop

The highlight of our 50th Anniversary banquet held on Thursday night of the celebration was the address delivered by Mrs. Vivian C. Mason, past-president of the National Council of Negro Women. This dynamic speaker used for her subject: "A Half Century Past—A New Beginning."

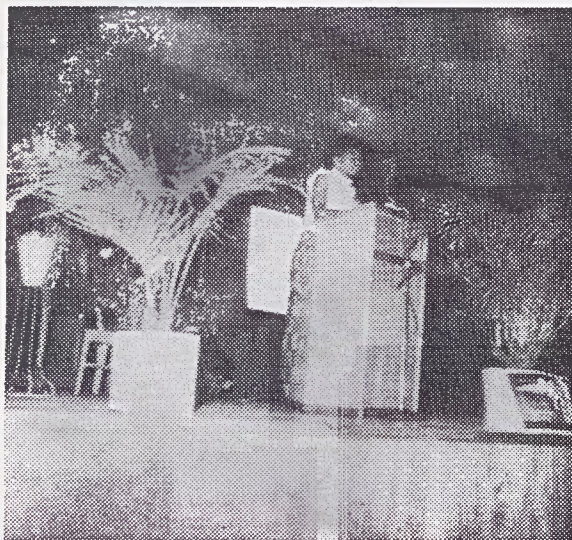
As a background for her message we were given an informative historic account of the Negro Women who pioneered the Federated Club movement and their contribution. Praise and gratitude were given these pioneers for instilling the idea of organization and unity in our clubs for the specific purpose of endeavoring to raise the status of Negro women and of promoting community improvement for all regardless of race.

Today, our federated clubs have a wide area of community service: education for citizenship, work with the blind, initiating and supporting day - nurseries, recreation centers, undergirding programs of the Community Chest, Red Cross, Infantile Paralysis Foundation and the like, stimulating local groups to increase the roll of Negro voters and countless other endeavors. The goal of the federated women is to help prepare the present generation for the times in which we live today.

"In this scientific struggle for speed, power and supremacy, it is imperative that we American women become keenly concerned with the fate of future generations," said the speaker. No occasion should be lost to tackle the complex problems of today's world. It should be our aim to extend our efforts and work together for common advancement.

Our women's organizations were admonished to work more strenuously to improve the quality of our education, to improve and better equip our schools, to make provisions for all classes of our youth, gifted or average; to strive for decent housing, supervised and healthful recreation, higher moral standards, adequate law protection and to encourage every Negro citizen to be a voting citizen.

The speaker gave a salute to North Carolina for the democratic achievements she has made at the ballot box by her demonstration of the efficacy of free elections; also the example of American democracy in appointing Negroes recently to important state posi-



Miss Charity Dagada of Ghana, Africa, a student at Howard University, speaking at the Friday session.

tions. These acts have given our State Department a vital weapon in its struggle against communism and have shown that democracy does have vitality and can function in the United States. It is the best hope for mankind for a free world governed by free people, she accented.

The large number of persons attending the banquet received an inspiration and a challenge which will surely strengthen our endeavor to: "Lift as we Climb."

## Southeastern Founder Honored

Assembled in South Harnett Elementary School at Bunn Level, N. C., on September 13, 1959 was a representative group of club folk who honored Mrs. Thelma Henly of Fayetteville.

Seven years ago Mrs. Henley became founder and president of the Southeastern District of N. C. Federation of Negro Woman's Clubs. She was assisted by Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey and Mrs. Edna Taylor in the organization and program of the district.

After attending the Executive Board Meeting in Kinston, Mrs. E. M. Spellman and Mrs. F. T. Newsome, went to Smithfield for the night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Collins, and on Sunday morning drove on to join others for a part of the Southeastern Honor Day. Arriving in the midsts of club and committee routine reports it was pleasing to note the activities conducted in Harnett, Bladen, Roberson, Cumberland and other counties.

No doubt the most inspiring part of the morning session was the youth program, during which an



A view of 50th Anniversary Birthday Cake at time of reception on Friday night at convention.

## Letter Issued After Convention

TO: Club Presidents and Executive Board Members, NCFNWC

FROM: President, Mrs. E. M. Spellman

RE: Request for support from all Federation Members

GREETINGS:

A. BOND ISSUE

The support of you and your club members is solicited in support of the Bond Issue for needed finance from which source funds will come for additional improvements of physical plants of our correctional schools. Cast your vote in favor of the Bond Issue on October 27, 1959 and encourage all club members to do the same. Your vote will show your continued support in helping

oratorical contest was held. The four young people covered intelligently the subject, "How to Observe the Sabbath." They were judged and financial awards presented by Mrs. Spellman.

Because of the distance to travel Mrs. Spellman gave "Greetings" at the close of the morning session, leaving immediately following lunch.

Guests and speakers were arriving for the afternoon honor session: Supt. of Harnett Co. Schools, Mr. Prophet, Dr. J. W. Seabrook, Dr. J. R. Larkins, speaker; Mrs. Rose D. Aggrey, Mrs. Edna Taylor and others to give tributes to the honored, Mrs. Henley.

to maintain our State Institutions for boys and girls.

B. SCHOLARSHIP FUND MONTH

At our recent Executive Board meeting, a decision was reached to set aside the month of **March** as Scholarship emphasis month for each club. This is a new effort designed to increase our Scholarship Funds, and it is requested that every club sponsor one or more financial activities during the month of March for this purpose. Monies collected should be turned in as usual at the next Convention which will be held in Raleigh this June.

C. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

All Board Members, Club Presidents and Club Members who will kindly do so, are urged to pay \$2.00 for membership dues in the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs by the time of our Annual Meeting in Raleigh, so that we may increase our voting power at the National Convention which is to be in New York City in August 1960. Plan now to attend the National.

D. ART EXHIBIT

Your cooperation in having you and your club members participate in the Art Exhibit at our Annual Meeting in Raleigh will be greatly appreciated. A worthwhile exhibit will provide material for our State Federation to represent in the National Association Art Exhibit in New York.

Yours in "Lifting As We Climb",  
(Mrs.) E. M. Spellman, President