

Personal Observations By Mrs. Lee

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might serve as apprentice under the capable, matured and wise leadership of the women who have guided this organization through years of successful accomplishments. For these young women are to be the leaders of tomorrow.

I thought that this 50th Anniversary meeting was one of the most stimulating conventions that I have ever attended. Wilson, the host chapter under the able leadership of Norma Darden, did a magnificent job of carrying out details pertinent to making the delegates comfortable and happy. The meetings were held in the newly remodeled Darden High School. As one entered the building, he was greeted by cheerful and willing boy scouts who were eager to assist in any way possible.

At the registration desk, you received along with the usual materials, a kit chock-full of a variety of useful items. Credit goes to Flossie Barnes for securing these gifts and assembling them. At this point we were then invited to have coffee and sandwiches. While glancing over the coffee cup, I saw Ruth Rush, a past president who had come all the way from Atlanta to share in the celebration. Talking with her was Myrtle Pope, who had come from Philadelphia for this very special occasion.

The program included fluent speakers who brought inspiring messages bearing on the theme, "Woman's Role in World-wide Brotherhood and Peace." Among those heard was Vivian Mason who spoke at the banquet. Her message was scholarly, factual and

thought provoking. At the Friday evening meeting, Elrito Alexander, effervescent in her presentation, gave a stirring speech which aroused enthusiasm from the audience. Charity Dagada from Ghana, Africa, and a student at Howard University spoke in native costume. The young people showed special interest in her talk.

After hearing the impressive memorial service conducted by Willie M. Massey, I wished so much that I had better knowledge of the Bible. How happy I would be if I could give spiritual and inspirational messages based on appropriate passages from the Bible with the ease and assurance of Willie M. Massey.

Due to the efficient administration of the president, Mocile Spellman, the business of the organization moved along smoothly and without controversy. One had the feeling that the members realized that the federation was moving into years of maturity, and their goals are for ever-increasing effectiveness and improvement of mankind.

I was impressed with the program of the Junior Federation of Girls' Clubs and their participation in the program of the convention. A youth recited the poem, "School in My Neighborhood" which reminded me so much of the poems Langston Hughes writes. The poem was asking a simple question, "Why can't a little Negro child go to a white school?"

I could not possibly close my remarks about the program without mentioning the Darden High School band and Mae Holmes' girls

President's After-Convention Report

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just how much more inclusive it might have been had more clubs responded to the request to take pages or parts in the program? Did you think again about how much more complete our statistical knowledge of clubs would have been had each club filled the form sent and returned it to the proper source? Such little things mean much toward binding our club women together and helping us do a better job of, "lifting as we climb."

Regrettable too is the fact that our support of the Scholarship Fund was so small that we were unable to accept applications for new ones this year. May I urge you to begin now your contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Money set aside each month and

from the State Training School. The girls sang sweetly and had been well trained. They all were dressed in such becoming dresses. The Darden High School Band, director had trained the students to produce the sweetest, softest tones that I have ever heard from a school band. It was a pleasure to sit and listen to the concert.

The banquet was a beautiful affair with good food served. The tables were decorated with flowers and artistic souvenirs. Some 30 people were cited on this occasion for their contributions toward helping the organization realize its goals.

Throughout the building one could see many beautiful flower arrangements. Dr. Charlotte H. Brown, founder of the State Federation, sent a large potted plant which was placed in a prominent spot on the rostrum. Although she was ill and unable to attend, this was her way of expressing her continued interest in the organization.

As a librarian, I was extremely pleased at seeing a large quantity of free reading materials available. They contained many helpful suggestions which would aid the members in making their programs back home more effective.

Of great interest to everyone was the Federation Scrap Book. Fannie Newsome and Viola Bishop put a great deal of time and thought on this project. Not only was it bound in beautiful stained wooden covers, but the content was systematically arranged, and it contained valuable pictures and printed materials about the federation chapters.

The Souvenir Program is a valuable document depicting the accomplishments of the organization for the 50 years. The articles are informative, and practically all of the 100 chapters are represented by pictures. This is another one of

labeled such will accumulate nicely and will make more scholarships possible.

Please add too to your budget plans additional funds for the Braille Magazine. Individual club projects are wonderful but our Federation projects suffer if each club fails to do its part.

Due to our financial condition we were unable to send a representative to the Southeastern Association of Colored Women's Clubs which convened at Jackson, Miss., however we did represent financially. We were happy that our Mrs. Ammie Foster attended the meeting, sent a program and other information which helped us feel a part of the meeting.

Since we are forward looking club women it is my desire that each club president will plan now to pay \$2.00 membership fee for the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs which will convene in New York in 1960. Not only are club president's memberships desired but those of all club ladies. The amount may be sent to our Financial Secretary, Mrs. A. P. Collins at 113 S. Fifth Street, Smithfield, N. C., or paid to her at our next meeting. Your membership will increase our voting power at the National meeting. Plan now to spend your vacation in New York at the time of the convention so that you might attend.

We were justly proud of our Junior Federation at our annual meeting. We can be prouder when the number of Junior Clubs has increased because then we may realize that a larger number of young people have been touched. If you do not have Junior clubs in your vicinity, please be able to report new ones at our next meeting.

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the many jobs that Fannie Newsome does so well.

As I browsed around in the exhibit room, I found on display many different kinds of handicraft work brought there by the members. This indicated to me that many have found that they can make creative use of their leisure time. This exhibit afforded the women an excellent opportunity to trade ideas and share with others their work of art.

The thing that I liked best about attending this convention was meeting old friends. I had not been kissed and hugged so much for a long time. There was an air of genuine sincerity which penetrated the atmosphere of the whole convention. I had the feeling that I was among friends and that I really belonged. I hope that I will see all of you in Raleigh next June.

Financial Report Continued

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Jr. Girl's	1.25	1.25			
Sr. Girl's	1.25	1.25			
Fayetteville—Sunshine	1.25	1.25			
McCain—Home Makers	1.25	1.25			
Rich Square—La Jeune Fille	2.00	2.00			
Selma—Teen Tops	1.25	1.25			
Smithfield—Teen Tops	2.25	1.25			Mus.
Total	\$1,871.50	\$897.50	\$343.30	\$534.40	\$96.30
Miscellaneous column includes: Mus.—Music; Kin.—Training School; Morr.—Morrison; NAACP—NAACP.					

SUMMARY

Registered Adult Clubs	128
Youth Clubs	9
	137
Members at Large	2
Representation Fees	\$ 897.50
Braille	343.30
Scholarship	534.40
Sheet Music	18.00
Training School for Girls	47.00
Morrison Training School	10.00
NAACP	21.30
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	\$1,871.50

Respectfully submitted,
Alice P. Collins
Financial Secretary