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THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

GRADUATE COLLEGE

THE ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

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THE ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

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THE ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

CHAPTER I

THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Introduction

The historical concept of the club as the association of a group of persons for good fellowship, or for the promotion of political and welfare aims, emerged in widely diversified organizations maintained by or for boys, girls, men, and women. The principle of large membership drawn from people of mutual interests has been the source of the effectiveness of the club as a social invention.

Impetus was given the club movement among women of the United States when the Press Club of New York City failed to place a woman among the official guests at a dinner given in honor of Charles Dickens in 1867. The following year women organized the Sorosis Club which in 1889 was expanded into the General Federation of Women's Clubs.[1]

Bonds of common interests and problems motivated a

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[1]"Clubs," Encyclopaedia Britannica, 14th ed., V, p. 861.

parallel movement toward a national federation of clubs among Negro women. The crucial issues which faced a recently emancipated people gave vitality and significance to the program of action projected by the national federated club organization among Negro women.

An evaluation of the club movement carried in the March, 1907, bulletin of the General Federation of Women's Clubs included this statement: "The last quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed the growth of two movements for the intellectual uplift of the American people, which in rapidity of growth and breadth of their influence were unparalleled. They were the free library and the woman's club."[1]

The contribution of the federated club to community life has been its most creditable feature. Through its program, personnel, and projects, the federated club has enriched the lives of its membership and promoted the development of community life. The significance of this role of the federated club has been interpreted in the following selection:

> No single factor is more important to the future of America and to the world at large than is the local community. From it come our ideals, our integrity, our moral strength, our leadership; and these qualities will be no stronger in the American people than are the communities in which they live. For it is the community and the environment found in it that will make us largely what we are. If our communities are strong, America will be strong. If they are weak, America will be weak. This

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1910), p. 3.

is the critical problem.[1]

The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a state affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, has enriched tremendously the community life of the Negro in Oklahoma. The importance of the organization in Oklahoma will be examined in the present study in terms of its contribution to the people and to the communities of the state.

The Problem

The purpose of this research into the origin, development, and current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been threefold: to portray and interpret the social forces, personalities, and objectives out of which this organization emerged; to trace the significant lines of development of the organization in the setting of the Negro community; and to present the current status of the organization within the framework of its objectives.

The underlying assumption of the study has been: The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has functioned as a significant educational force in the community. The role of the Negro club woman has been that of community leader, educator, citizen, and homemaker. The current research seeks also to give recognition to these women builders who

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[1]Richard W. Poston, Democracy Is You (New York: Harper & Bros., 1953), p. 9.

have lifted the Negro in Oklahoma to higher levels of family living, citizenship and educational development.

The validity of the research for the field of education has been its presentation of the educational implications of a secondary group, the women's federated club, for community development. The human resources of a state have constituted its greatest wealth. In view of this fact, the search, collecting, evaluation, organization, and recording of the contributions of a segment of the state's population have constituted a creditable resource for education in the area of human relations.

Delimitation of the Study

This research has proceeded within the limitations of the concept of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs as a state unit. National and local aspects of the organization have been examined only in their relevance to the development and functioning of the state organization. The analysis of the data presented five major divisions of the state organization's program: civil rights, community development, prevention of juvenile delinquency, youth education and adult education. The pursuit of the research project within the framework of the five stated categories has further delimited the study.

Definitions

The clarification of terms through definitions

consistent with the research in which the terms appear has been an essential criterion in the development of a common frame of reference for the reader and researcher. The terms which have served for the classification of the study into major areas were selected for definition.

Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. This term has its origin in the constitution and by-laws of the organization. Article I of the first edition of the constitution included the following statement: "The name of the organization shall be, the Oklahoma Federation of Negro Women's Clubs."[1] The 1921 edition of the organization's constitution made this revision: "The name of this organization shall be the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs."[2] In this study the latter designation has been used consistently.

Civil Rights. This term has been used to denote the rights and privileges of citizenship as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.

Community Development. Any project, program, or activity which contributed to the betterment of the community and the enrichment of community living has been conceived as community development.

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, op. cit., p. 3.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Meeting (Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1921), p. 12.

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. The term denotes action directed toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of delinquent youth.

Youth Education. Activity concerned with the physical, mental, social, and spiritual development of young people under twenty-one years of age or below the attainment of a college education has been termed youth education.

Adult Education. This term has reference to program and action promoted with the specific objective of advancing the educational development of persons over twenty-one years of age.

Sources of Data

The major sources of data for this study have been within the primary category. These have included: published minutes of the annual proceedings of the state organization; secretarial ledgers; committee reports; letters; financial reports; journals, yearbooks, programs; news items; interviews with pioneer club women, officials of the state organization, and representative members of local clubs. Questionnaires have afforded additional data in the primary category.

Secondary sources included books, pamphlets, and unpublished master's and doctoral theses.

Validity of data has been viewed in terms of authenticity of authorship of primary materials, the accuracy and objectivity of the information recorded, the adequacy and

representative character of the data utilized, and the relevance of materials to the research project.

Method of Investigation

The historical method has been used in conjunction with descriptive analysis in the development of the study. Chronological perspective was employed to portray the origin and development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in sequence of time and impact of the program on areas of community life. The topical approach has been utilized to give emphasis to the major divisions of the organization's program.

The research project has been a cooperative undertaking in that the assistance of club officials and members, whose experiences and interest in the organization qualified them for participation in the collecting of data, has been utilized.

The writer's interest in the research had its origin in two decades of participation in the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Service in the capacities of departmental chairman, corresponding secretary, and chairman of the executive board of the state organization has contributed to the writer's understanding of the underlying philosophy, objectives and program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Insight into the club woman's role in the Negro community has been broadened through membership

in a local federated club for an extensive period. This association with the work of this organization, which has been appreciable in breadth and depth of participation, has been a subjective factor which the writer has sought to balance by the consistent application of the methods of educational research to the data of the study.

Related Studies

A survey of published materials, unpublished theses, dissertations, and abstracts of dissertations substantiated the assumption that the materials depicting the origin, development, and current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs were an untapped source for educational research.

Studies surveyed which depicted some aspects of Negro life in Oklahoma included: "A Survey of the Negro Community of Tulsa," by Burke;[1] "The Negro in Oklahoma," by Dagley;[2] and "Community Forces in a Negro District in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma," by Fulkerson.[3] "The History of Education in

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[1]Francis D. Burke, "A Survey of the Negro Community of Tulsa" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1936).

[2]Wallace A. Dagley, "The Negro in Oklahoma" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1926).

[3]Fred G. Fulkerson, "Community Forces in a Negro District in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1946).

Eastern Oklahoma from 1898 to 1915," by Jackson[1] presented data with reference to Negro education as provided in Oklahoma by the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Burke study made specific reference to the club activities of Tulsa. No differentiation was made between affiliates of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and other clubs. Burke wrote that "it is estimated by Negro business and professional people that there now are more than 150 social clubs existing in the Negro community, 90 per cent of which are women's clubs."[2]

The Fulkerson study included this statement:

> The City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is made up of ten clubs and has a total of 200 members. It owns its own club building, Brockway Center, on East Fourth Street. This building is valued at $15,000. The downstairs rooms are used for club rooms and the upstairs as a dormitory for working girls.[3]

The Dagley study presented data on Negro education in the early period of Oklahoma but made no reference to the club movement among Negro women. A review of the Journal of Negro History, Volume I, 1916, through Volume XL, 1955, revealed an omission of historical data with reference to the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

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[1]Joe C. Jackson, "The History of Education in Eastern Oklahoma" (unpublished Ed.D. dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1950).

[2]Burke, op. cit., p. 97.

[3]Fulkerson, op. cit., p. 82.

Carter G. Woodson in his book, The Negro in Our History, made reference to Negro club women whose contributions to Negro progress have been worthy of note. Cited by Woodson were: Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Mrs. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, and Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, all of whom were members of the National Association of Colored Women, parent organization of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.[1]

Sadie Iola Daniel in Women Builders related the contributions of great women whose careers were advanced through the organized power of the National Association of Colored Women. These included Maggie Lena Walker, founder of the first bank headed by a woman, the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, Petersburg, Virginia; Janie Porter Barett, president of the Virginia State Federation of women and leader in the movement to establish the Virginia Industrial School for Colored Girls; Jane Edna Hunter, founder of the Phyllis Wheatley Association of Cleveland, Ohio; Lucy Craft Laney, founder of Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Augusta, Georgia; Mary McLeod Bethune, organizer of the Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida; Nannie Helen Burroughs, who established the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, D. C.; and Charlotte Hawkins Brown,

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[1]Carter G. Woodson, The Negro in Our History (Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, 1927), p. 550.

founder of Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, North Carolina.[1]

Club women in Oklahoma have been the chief authors of materials depicting the history, ideals, objectives and achievements of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Mrs. Harriet Price Jacobson, first president of the state organization, has compiled the most complete records of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs available. Her manuscripts which have been published in club journals and presented in annual conventions have included: "The History of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1910 to 1920," and "The History of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1910 to 1954." These accounts have presented a chronological record of the origin and major events in the development of the organization.

Available records revealed four histories of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in verse. In 1929, Mrs. Bettie Reed Osborne, state historian, composed a narrative poem depicting the organization's history from 1910 to 1929. In 1935, Miss C. A. R. Grant, historian, Francis Harper Club, Muskogee, Oklahoma, authored a poetical history. Mrs. Moxie Weaver King, state historian in 1936, released a historical poem in leaflet form which has since been published in club journals. Mrs. Mary Rose Cooke, as state historian in 1952, composed a "Poetic History" which appeared in the

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[1]Sadie I. Daniel, Women Builders (Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, 1931), pp. 1-187.

Journal of the Ninth Biennial Session of the Southwest Region of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. The value of these narratives as historical sources has been in the recording of significant events, ideals and personalities which have become unifying symbols to the membership of the organization.

Mrs. Moxie Weaver King and Mrs. Ruby Hibler Hall were appointed by the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs to produce a historical pageant of the organization for presentation during the 1941 biennial of the National Association of Colored Women which convened in Oklahoma City. The production served as an effective instrument for the dissemination of the history, objectives, and achievements of the state organization to the Oklahoma public and the club women of the nation.

Lifting as They Climb, by Mrs. Lindsay Davis, Chairman of the History Committee of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, presented the most significant data with reference to the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the related state affiliates.[1] Data with reference to the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs included a number of pictures of Oklahoma Club women and a reproduction of the Excelsior Library, the first Negro library in Oklahoma and an achievement of Mrs. Judith C. Horton and the Excelsior

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[1]Elizabeth L. Davis, Lifting as They Climb (Washington, D. C.: National Headquarters, N.A.C.W., 1935), p. 424.

Club.

Mrs. Luretta Rainey, past state president and historian of the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs, has compiled a history of that organization.[1] The pattern of origin and development of the club movement among white and Negro women in Oklahoma revealed marked parallelism. In each instance the state club movement was pioneered by a local club in Guthrie, Oklahoma--the C. L. S. Club in the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs and the Excelsior Club in the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. The state federation of clubs among white women was formed in 1890; the Negro state federation was framed in 1910. Mrs. Rainey's study revealed no interrelationship in impetus for organization, development of program, or cooperative activity of the two organizations. Minutes of the annual proceedings of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs record official appearances of representatives of the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs. The similarity of objectives and projects of the two state organizations have perhaps had their origin in the common problems of home and community life. Each state organization has given notable support to the education of youth through scholarship loans. Each has been active in prevention of juvenile delinquency.

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[1]Luretta Rainey, History of the Oklahoma State Federation of Women's Clubs (Guthrie: Co-operative Publishing Co., 1939), p. 8.

The Plan of the Study

Chapter I is a presentation of the problem, sources of data, method of investigation, and related studies. The objective of Chapter II is the portrayal of the setting in which the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Club developed. An attempt is made to set forth the social forces which gave rise to crises in the Negro community that challenged civic-minded women to band together to foster the development of the Negro in the turbulent period of Oklahoma's formative years. The impact of national Negro organizations on the Oklahoma Negro is related to the origin and development of the club movement. Chapter III records the chronological development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in sequence of time and in the expansion of the club program. Chapter IV is a classification of the major areas of the club program and an examination of the contributions of the organization in each major division. Chapter V develops the current status of the state organization. Data from questionnaires, current biographies, letters and club materials were sources for the preparation of this chapter. Chapter VI, the concluding chapter of the study, presents a synthesis of the significant aspects of the study. Recommendations for adaptations in the program of the organization in view of current social changes are made. The Appendix of the study includes copies of questionnaires utilized in the

collection of data for the study, two official songs, and pictures of past presidents of the state organization.

CHAPTER II

THE OKLAHOMA HERITAGE

The social institutions of a people have emerged from the interaction of the people with the physical and cultural environment. The unique vitality and productivity of Oklahoma institutions had their origin in the peculiar historical setting of the state. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been characterized as one of the most progressive and constructive of the state affiliates of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. The following survey of the Oklahoma heritage is presented as a setting for the organization whose special program originated in this heritage.

The Land and the People

Oklahoma, rich in resources of land and people, challenging in its promise of progress, has been an open door through which many persons of diverse racial, social, economic, and national origin have entered into the American guarantee of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The spirit of Oklahoma which has permeated her people and their institutions is cogently phrased by Dale:

> That 'the child is father to the man' is as true of a state or a nation as it is of an individual. Largely, we are what our past has made us. Behind ideas and ideals, no less than back of institutions social, economic, and political, always lie certain vital forces which have called them into life and which shape their progress.[1]

The character which has been described as peculiarly Oklahoman has its roots in the historical beginnings of the state. "Settled almost overnight by people from all over the nation, Oklahoma received as her heritage the culture, the glory, and the achievements of nearly every state in the Union."[2] The youthful and virile character of the people has been evaluated by historians:

> The West has always attracted the young, the eager, and the ambitious. The attraction was especially strong in Oklahoma because of the peculiar methods of opening lands to settlement. In a real sense, 'the race was to the swift.'[3]

Angie Debo has characterized the quality of Oklahoma's climate as: "spangled sunshine . . . Autumn--golden and perfect . . ." The diverse panorama of land, stream and vegetation was given emphasis by Debo.[4]

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[1]Edward E. Dale, "The Spirit of Oklahoma," Oklahoma, A Guide to the Sooner State, compiled by workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Progress Administration (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941), p. 3.

[2]Oscar W. Davison, "History of Education in Oklahoma" (unpublished Ed.D. dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1949), p. 2.

[3]Edward E. Dale and Morris Wardell, History of Oklahoma (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1942), p. 10.

[4]Angie Debo, Oklahoma Footloose and Fancy Free (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949), p. 8.

Oklahoma's recorded history began in 1541, when a small group of Spanish soldiers under the leadership of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado traversed its western prairies.[1] Woodson has documented the participation of Negroes in the explorations of the Southwest.[2]

Historians record three sources of Negro population in Oklahoma: exploration, slavery, and migrations. The Negro explorer participated in the historic journeys across the state. There has been little if any recorded history of the permanent settlement of these explorers in Oklahoma. The Negro slaves who accompanied the Five Civilized Tribes in their removal from their former homes to Oklahoma were the major source of native Negro Oklahoma population. Negro life in the Indian tribe formed a significant epoch in the development of the Negro in Oklahoma.

Negro-Indian Relationships

All of the Five Civilized Tribes held slaves. Long before the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes they had adopted the custom of slavery. The practice of slavery for the Indian was not one of profit but rather for social and political standing. The Indian did little work himself and required little of his slave. The slave had many of the

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[1]Dale and Wardell, op. cit., p. 1.

[2]Carter G. Woodson, Negro Makers of History (Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1942), p. 16.

privileges of the Indian and many held office in the tribe. Intermarriage was practiced. This difference in use and treatment of the Negro slave by Southerners and Indians contributed to the special characteristics of the Freedman of Oklahoma.[1]

Jeltz's study, "The Relations of Negroes and Choctaw Indians," examined the merging of Negro and Indian cultures:

> Prior to removal in 1831, a census of the Choctaws by Major Armstrong showed 512 Negro slaves. Slavery took various forms among the different tribes and with individual members of tribes. Among the full bloods slaves exercised many privileges, and in many instances their condition of servitude was hardly discernable, while among mixed bloods, they were required to be slaves in all manner of work. . . .
>
> The Chickasaws established themselves in a position comparable to the idle rich. Hence, the slaves they brought were more for the luxury of personal servants than for any future insight for personal gain. The Choctaws of mixed blood opened up extensive plantations and grew wealthy from the cultivation of cotton with their large number of slaves. The full Choctaws depended upon their stock for a livelihood and found slave labor of little value to them. . . .
>
> Among most Indians the Negro Slave's life of relative freedom and absence of severe labor was a favorable contrast with that of the plantation slave of the deep South, which accounted for the Indian slave being regarded as badly spoiled. . . .
>
> By 1890 there were four distinct social groups in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations: the white non-citizen, the whites who had intermarried and by virtue of that intermarriage were citizens, the full bloods, and the Negro freedmen, who although in a deplorable condition, were thrifty and inclined to hold themselves aloof from other Negroes.[2]

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[1]Nathaniel J. Washington, Historical Development of the Negro in Oklahoma (Tulsa: Dexter Publishing Co., 1948), pp. 1-3.

[2]Wyatt F. Jeltz, "The Relations of Negroes and Choctaw Indians," Journal of Negro History, XXXIII (January, 1948), pp. 25-35.

Foster Laurence described the life of the Negro in the Seminole tribe. Negro slaves and freedmen were adopted by the Seminoles, given equal rights to land annuities, and included in every phase of the tribal life. Intermarriage was accepted. There were unfavorable as well as favorable aspects of the complete integration of Seminole and Negro culture. Laurence studied forty families of Seminole Negroes living in or near the old Seminole Nation. His findings showed a high degree of intermarriage, low average literacy, little stress upon education and marked ethno-centrism. A contrast between the Seminole Indian and the Negroes who came from the other states revealed the greater utilization of educational opportunities and the more progressive pattern of living of the "state" Negro.[1]

Creek and Seminole Indians were kindest to their slaves. Many Negroes became officers in the Seminole and Creek tribes. The mission schools in the Indian Territory helped the Indian masters and their slaves. This institution, the mission school, taught cleanliness, health, and the truth about the Great Spirit. Negroes, whites, and Indians attended the same church. The Negro and Indian suffered severely in the post-Civil War period. General John B. Sanborn was appointed to direct the Freedman's Bureau in the Indian

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[1]Foster Laurence, "Negro-Indian Relationships in the Southeast" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1935), pp. 60-67.

Territory. After visiting the Creeks, Seminoles, Cherokees, and a portion of the loyal Chickasaws, Sanborn made a report to the Secretary of the Interior on January 5, 1866, in which he stated that "the freedmen were more industrious and economical than their former masters. Many of them were blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and carpenters."[1]

After the conclusion of the Treaties between the Indian tribes and their former slaves, the freedmen were independent. They lived just about as their former masters had lived. Some of these freedmen and their offspring have become outstanding in the various fields of endeavor such as law, business, or education. Some have become rich from oil found on their land. These Negroes built a background for the development of the Negro in Oklahoma.[2]

Negro life in Oklahoma developed in the merging of the cultures indigenous to the Negro, the Indian, the white man and the challenge of Oklahoma. The Negro in Oklahoma has absorbed what Angie Debo has termed "a distinctive Oklahoma character--partly the product of physical environment, but even more the result of a peculiar history."[3]

Population Trends

The first Federal census of the Five Civilized Tribes

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[1]Washington, op. cit., pp. 5-18.

[2]Ibid., pp. 19-34.

[3]Debo, op. cit., p. 14.

area made in 1890, showed a population of 109,393 whites; 18,636 Negroes, most of whom were former slaves of the Indians augmented by Negroes from other states; and 50,055 Indians.[1] This balance of the races in Oklahoma was not maintained. Indian population decreased from 24 per cent of the total population in 1890 to 2.7 per cent of the total population in 1940. The percentage of native whites increased whereas the percentage of Negroes has remained almost constant.[2]

The Negro exodus from the South, 1879 to 1882, affected the whole United States. This movement has been attributed to: (1) the lure of the West, (2) inability to adjust in vicinity with former masters, (3) the credit system which prevented the Negro farmer from making a profit, (4) the desire to live in a more tolerant atmosphere, and (5) the extension of railroads. Salon J. Buck stated in "The Settlement of Oklahoma" that 15.9 per cent of Oklahoma's original settlers were from Kansas, many of them being Negroes who had gone to Kansas during the exodus of 1879 to 1882.[3]

Negroes came into Oklahoma in the historic opening of April 22, 1889. In spite of unfavorable attitudes displayed

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[1] Ibid., p. 24.

[2] Mozell C. Hill and Eugene Richards, "Demographic Trends of the Negro in Oklahoma," The Southwestern Journal, II (Winter, 1946), p. 65.

[3] Washington, op. cit., pp. 35-36.

by some lawless white elements, the number of Negroes increased to 55,684 by 1900. Hatcher described the rush of Negroes to occupy land in Oklahoma:

> Lured by the prospect of free homes, several thousand Negroes had marched overland from Arkansas, Texas and other Southern states into both the eastern and western part of what is now Oklahoma. It has been reliably estimated that 10,000 Negroes rushed into this area during the opening runs.[1]

Dagley made reference to the tremendous upsurge of Negro population in Oklahoma. A threefold increase in Negro population in Oklahoma occurred from 1900 to 1910. The ratio of Negro and white citizens born outside of Oklahoma in 1910 was 66.6 per cent for Negroes and 71.5 for whites. Percentages of Negroes born in Kansas, Missouri, and Texas who had moved to Oklahoma by 1910 were 1.7, 7.6, and 25.7, respectively. Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee were the former homes of approximately 5 per cent of Oklahoma Negroes.[2] A research project of social studies students of L'Ouverture High School, McAlester, Oklahoma, in 1949, revealed twenty-nine pioneer families still residing in the community who had migrated during the period 1884 to 1908 from the following states: Alabama, 4; Arkansas, 9; Mississippi, 1; Missouri, 3; other localities of Oklahoma, 5; and

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[1]Ollie E. Hatcher, "The Development of Legal Controls in Racial Segregation in the Public Schools of Oklahoma, 1865-1952" (unpublished Ed.D. dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1954), p. 63.

[2]Dagley, op. cit., pp. 86-102.

Texas, 7.

The stability of Negro population in Oklahoma is verified by census reports for successive periods. In 1890 Negroes made up 8.4 per cent of Oklahoma's total population; in 1900, 7.0; 1910, 8.3; 1920, 7.4; 1930, 7.2; and 1940, 7.2 per cent.[1]

Negroes have resided in each of the 77 counties in the state at some time since 1910. For each decade, there have been some counties without Negro population. In 1940 Woods, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, and Texas had no Negro population. For each decade since statehood more than 50 per cent of the Negro population has been concentrated in 10 counties: Oklahoma, Tulsa, Muskogee, Okmulgee, McCurtain, Seminole, Creek, Okfuskee, Logan, and Wagoner.[2] Approximately 50 per cent of the Negro population in Oklahoma was born in other states.[3]

The outstanding trend for Negro population in Oklahoma has been urbanization. Oklahoma City and Tulsa have been areas with greatest concentration of Negro population. Factors cited in the trend of Negro population to urban areas were higher wages, shorter hours, and a better social and political life. The 1940 census showed 42 per cent of all

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[1]Washington, op. cit., p. 39.

[2]Hill and Richards, op. cit., pp. 52-53.

[3]Ibid., pp. 61-63.

Oklahoma Negroes living in the six cities of Tulsa, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Shawnee, Oklahoma City, and Ponca City.[1] Two major trends in Negro population have been noted: the movement from rural to urban areas, and the movement from the south and east to the interior of the state.[2]

Education

The provision of educational opportunities, the aspirations for greater educational advantages, and the full utilization of educational resources have been indices of the progress of a people. Davison, in his doctoral study, cited the dual attitude toward education in Oklahoma:

> She [Oklahoma] also received as her heritage some of the shortsightedness, greed, and hypocrisy inherent in the human race the world over. As a consequence, education in Oklahoma has had its ups and downs. Starting out gloriously with the missionary teachers among the Five Civilized Tribes, support of education dropped until Oklahoma consistently ranked near the bottom of the states in amount expended per pupil on education.[3]

In some areas, Negroes in Oklahoma had educational opportunities during slavery. Some mission schools included the Negro children of slaves along with the Indian children of the slave owners. In 1873 in the Creek Nation there were five schools maintained wholly for Negro children. The

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[1]Washington, op. cit., p. 50.

[2]Eugene S. Richards, "Trends of Negro Life in Oklahoma as Reflected by Census Reports," Journal of Negro History, XXXIII (January, 1948), pp. 38-41.

[3]Davison, op. cit., p. 2.

freedmen of the Seminoles, Creeks, and Cherokees had decided educational advantages over those of the Chickasaws and Choctaws.

So long as the Indian and his former slave lived in the Territory and did business together, the Negro did not suffer a great deal because of lack of education. The situation changed, however, after 1889, and the Negro began to feel the need of education and training. In 1891, Territorial Governor George W. Steele showed that in Oklahoma there were 20,085 whites enrolled in school and 1,252 Negroes.[1]

Jackson made reference to 32 public schools in the Cherokee country of which two were for Negroes, and to the Seminoles who maintained a single school system with no distinction as to race. The Federal government provided funds for schools for freedmen in the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. In the period 1901 to 1907, Negro schools were found in Muskogee, Eufaula, Checotah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Okmulgee.[2]

As a result of the schools which were established, illiteracy among the Negroes in Oklahoma dropped from 35 per cent in 1900 to 17.77 per cent in 1910.[3] This productivity of literacy of the poorly equipped and poorly taught schools of the early period of Oklahoma has received comment from

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[1]Washington, op. cit., pp. 57-59.

[2]Jackson, op. cit., pp. 5-221.

[3]Washington, op. cit., p. 58.

Angie Debo: "The surprising literacy of the first generation of Oklahomans is based on the use of three or four textbooks for a three months' term in a sod or log building with home-made benches."[1]

Hatcher's investigation of legal controls in racial segregation in the public schools of Oklahoma revealed that the issue of integrated versus segregated schools did not make its advent in Oklahoma with the Supreme Court Decision of May 17, 1954. The controversy was dominant in the territorial period of Oklahoma history. Governor Steele favored non-segregated schools and resolved the issue with a decision to leave the question to popular vote at the county level.[2]

With statehood, legal controls for segregation in the public school were enacted. The first article of the constitution of the state makes explicit provision "for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools which shall be open to all the children of the state . . . and that this provision is not to . . . prevent the establishment and maintenance of separate schools for white and colored children."[3] A marked disparity between the schools maintained for Negro children and the "white" schools developed. The improvement of Negro schools was aided by private philanthropy

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[1]Debo, op. cit., p. 31.

[2]Hatcher, op. cit., pp. 77-88.

[3]Ibid.

including such sources as: the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Jeannes Fund, the Slater Fund, and the Southern Education Foundation, Inc.

In 1897, a Colored Agricultural and Normal University was established at Langston. The University opened September 14, 1898, with one professor and forty-one pupils. Before the close of the year, however, the enrollment had increased to 181, of which 75 per cent were from the farms of Oklahoma. In 1901 two students graduated from Langston, the first from that institution.[1] Hatcher made reference to the Negro's legal right to attend the Agricultural and Mechanical College, founded in 1891 at Stillwater, during the period from 1891 to 1897. The records indicated that no Negro applied during this period.[2] Through a series of judicial decisions all state supported institutions of higher education are currently open to the enrollment of Negroes.

Perry and Hughes made this synthesis of reaction in Oklahoma to the May 31, 1955, United States Supreme Court recommendations for the implementation of the 1954 decision outlawing segregation in the public schools:

> A meeting of the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education, in which the majority of the members voted for opening the doors of all state supported institutions of higher education to the entire eligible public, regardless of race; removal of racial barriers in several

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[1]Dagley, op. cit., pp. 102-124.

[2]Hatcher, op. cit., pp. 77-81.

> private colleges; pronouncements of readiness and unreadiness to integrate by spokesmen from some local school boards; finally, a general atmosphere of approval of the Supreme Court ruling.[1]

Angie Debo questioned the gain derived from the Negro's achievement of integrated schools:

> The Negroes are very much in earnest about the matter, and a few white leaders of Oklahoma have spoken out in their behalf. But one wonders if they realize the emptiness of their victory. For there is little place for a Negro educator in a nonsegregated school system, and this extralegal barrier exists not only in Oklahoma but throughout the United States.[2]

The current status of integration in the public schools of Oklahoma is depicted in a report cited previously by Perry and Hughes. Findings reported from questionnaires returned by thirty-seven Negro principals revealed that only four of the twenty-four secondary schools indicated that Negro students were not given the opportunity to attend "white" schools during the 1955-56 academic year. Three of the four pointed out that none of the Negro students wanted to transfer. Nine of the twenty secondary schools where Negro students were given the opportunity to transfer reported students attending "white" schools. Only three of the high schools reported that teachers opposed desegregation.[3]

The Negro, in the pursuit of greater educational

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[1]Thelma D. Perry and Julius H. Hughes, "Educational Desegregation in Oklahoma"(unpublished paper, Langston University, 1956), p. 1.

[2]Debo, op. cit., p. 117.

[3]Perry and Hughes, op. cit., pp. 10-11.

opportunities, has shown the zeal and aggressiveness that is typically Oklahoman. In higher education and in the common schools, the Oklahoma Negro has pioneered in the fight for the removal of all barriers to the pursuit of an education.

The Political Picture

The political climate of a community, state or nation has served as a significant factor in determining the quality of citizenship characteristic of the place. The Negro in Oklahoma received impetus to political activity in the permissive climate of tribal government in some of the Five Civilized Tribes. Many Negroes were officers in the tribal government among the Creeks and Seminoles. Starr writes that "in 1827 the Cherokee Council passed a law that prohibited any one of African descent from holding office in the tribe."[1] Hatcher noted this conflicting picture in the Indian's policy toward the Negro:

> The Indian Nations appear to be inconsistent by including both the 'rights of man' and slavery in their charters of government. . . .
> The customs of each tribal nation, in their new homes in the West, strongly resembled the educational, political, and social customs common in their former homeland, the South.[2]

Federal executive power operated in the Territory of Oklahoma from 1890 to 1907. The Republican party, in power

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[1]Emmett Starr, History of the Cherokees (Oklahoma City: The Warden Publishing Co., 1921), p. 238.

[2]Hatcher, op. cit., p. 34.

nationally, controlled appointments to chief territorial offices and Negroes were often placed in high office.[1] Angie Debo in her book, Tulsa: from Creek Town to Oil Capital, referred to the Coweta district in which a large body of Negro voters exercised enough power to place members of their race in district offices.[2]

Statehood brought a change in political climate in Oklahoma with the civil rights of the Negro being accorded less recognition. The "Grandfather Clause" of 1910 documented the prevailing attitude toward the political rights of the Negro:

> On the call of Governor Haskell a special session of the Legislature convened January 20, 1910. This session was notable for the enactment of legislation intended to disfranchise the Negro vote. This was effected by a resolution of both houses on March 28, initiating an amendment to the Constitution calling for the enactment of the so-called grandfather clause, applicable only to Negroes.[3]

The persistence of the foes of the Negro's political rights is revealed in McReynold's account of Governor William's second try at disfranchisement of the Negro:

> Governor Williams called a special session of the Legislature to propose a new Oklahoma amendment concerning Negro suffrage. Obviously he expected to phrase the revised clause in such manner as to defeat the purpose

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[1] Ibid., pp. 75-76.

[2] Angie Debo, Tulsa: from Creek Town to Oil Capital (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1943), p. 44.

[3] Grant Foreman, A History of Oklahoma (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942), p. 320.

> of the Fifteenth Amendment, which was to give the Negroes equality of opportunity in the matter of voting along with white citizens. . . . By a special election in August, 1916, the voters of Oklahoma were given a chance to pass upon the newly devised Negro suffrage clause. The popular vote was 133,140 against the proposed measure to 90,605 in favor of its adoption.[1]

Legal barriers to full exercise of political rights have now been eliminated with Negro participation in local, state, and national government being hampered today only by custom. The impetus toward integration has made its impact on the total cultural complex of society in the areas affected.

The Economic Problem

When the Indians of Oklahoma freed the Negro, he was without social, economic, or political standing. The Freedmen of the Territory had little choice of occupation since "patch farming" and cattle raising were the principal means of making a living. The absence of capital made "patch farming" the one avenue open for sustenance. The occupational adaptability of the Freedmen was demonstrated in 1866 by their employment as blacksmiths, carpenters, and wheelwrights. The coming of the railroads increased occupational opportunities for Negroes in Oklahoma.[2] General John B. Sanborn, Indian Commissioner, in a report to the Secretary of Interior, January 5, 1906, stated: "Freedmen are more industrious

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[1]Edwin McReynolds, A History of the Sooner State (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), p. 329.

[2]Washington, op. cit., pp. 46-47.

than their former masters."[1] Dagley described the Negro as a mediocre worker in industry:

> The Negro fits into our industrial system as an ordinary worker quite well. He reports for duty at the shop or factory where he is patiently shown by some intelligent person what his duties are; and then after he has learned these duties, a man watches him through the day and sees that he performs them or quietly sends him to the office, where he is paid off and another fellow placed on the pay roll the next morning.[2]

He attributed the Negro's lack of industrial skill to the occupational limitations of Indian tribal life, but cited evidence of adjustment to expanded occupational opportunities as indicated in the 148.9 per cent increase in home ownership among Negroes from 1900 to 1910. The number of farms operated by Negroes, likewise, increased 107 per cent during this same period. The petroleum industry afforded additional occupational opportunities for Negroes.[3]

Debo reported an example of Negro success in farming:

> At a South-wide meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, in 1947, Collin Johnson from Choctaw County on the Red River was adjudged the outstanding Negro conservationist in Oklahoma. A former share-cropper, in 1940 he purchased an eroded eighty-acre farm that nobody else would have, for $1,500. Under the direction of the Soil Conservation Service he constructed terraces and ponds, planted legumes, and applied fertilizer. The first year his cotton averaged 133 pounds and his corn 15 bushels to the acre. . . . Since then he has built his cotton yield to 857 pounds and his corn to 35 bushels an acre. . . .[4]

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[1] Ibid., p. 27.

[2] Dagley, op. cit., pp. 86-102.

[3] Ibid., pp. 74-82.

[4] Debo, op. cit., p. 80.

Occupational data included in a study by Richards in 1948 showed a decrease in importance of farming among Negroes in Oklahoma. Occupations with an increased number of Negro workers were: janitors, porters, servants, truck drivers, chauffeurs, beauticians, and waitresses. Decreases were found in: retail trades, carpenters, barbers, miners, and private dressmakers. Occupations in which the ratio of workers was lower for Negroes in Oklahoma than for the group in nation-wide categories were: dentistry, social work, and trained nurses. Areas of critical shortages were: engineers, lawyers, librarians, pharmacists, physicians, surgeons, and veterinarians.[1]

National statistics for the year 1930 revealed the following information concerning employment: one out of fifteen Negro workers in non-agricultural pursuits had a status higher than wage earners; teachers and ministers accounted for almost two-thirds of all Negro professionals, and Negro undertakers constituted one-tenth of all undertakers in America. The total number of Negro doctors, surgeons, and veterinarians showed little increase from 1910 to 1930. Negro retail stores had less than .2 of 1 per cent of national total sales. In 1939, sixty-seven Negro insurance companies had a total income of $13,000,000, employing 8,000 workers.[2]

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[1]Richards, op. cit., pp. 45-48.

[2]Gunnar Myrdal, An American Dilemma (New York: Harper Brothers, 1944), pp. 314-329.

Concerted action by the Negro on a national scale created an awareness of the urgency of improving the occupational picture. The general manpower shortage created by World War II and the adoption of F.E.P.C. legislation in some states together with advisory councils on fair employment in many areas opened new avenues of employment to Negroes throughout the United States.[1]

Integration in the public schools produced an employment problem for Negro teachers. A survey conducted by the Executive Secretary of the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers revealed approximately 300 Negro teachers unemployed in Oklahoma in September, 1956.[2] This problem was presented to Governor Raymond Gary in a conference with representatives of major Negro organizations of the state.

> On the homefront in Oklahoma we are confronted with the loss of earning power--or productivity--of an estimated 250-300 Negro teachers who have already or will lose their jobs by September, 1956. . . . The Negro teacher finds his economic structure temporarily or permanently disrupted. . . .
>
> How can we meet this problem? Retain and absorb Negro teachers on the faculties throughout Oklahoma on the basis of merit and not racial identification.
>
> Open new doors of opportunity to them through employment by state departments of government and private industry.
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> The problem is not just jobs, it is economic and far

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[1]Arnold M. Rose, The Negro in Postwar America (New York: Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1950), pp. 17-18.

[2]F. D. Moon, "Shall Our Children Get the Best Available Teacher?" (unpublished report, Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers, 1956), p. 1.

> reaching in significance. Negroes are consumers, and the more they earn the more they are able to buy . . . Improving the Negro's economic lot will breed social improvement and reduce the high prices we pay for slum-bred crimes, diseases, and poverty.[1]

The impact of integration on the Negro press has been evaluated with the following significant findings reported: The Chicago Defender had lost 10,000 local readers in the past three years; its national edition dropped to 37,000, about half its 1952 circulation. The New York Amsterdam News had dropped more than 25,000 from its 1947 peak of 62,770. The weekly Afro-American dropped from 230,000 to 188,000 in national circulation since World War II. Most Negro magazines have run into difficulties. The Atlanta Daily World, the only Negro daily in the United States, has prospered by consistently giving its 17,000 weekday readers full, even-tempered news coverage.[2]

The expansion of employment as a factor in integration has been examined. Significant observations in this respect reported in the November 7, 1955, issue of Time magazine were:

> In the labor-hungry whirlway of U. S. production, job discrimination against the Negro has begun to melt. Swept off farms since 1930 (when they made up 35% of

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[1]Cernoria D. Johnson, Executive Secretary, Urban League, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Address delivered at the Governor's Conference on Employment of Negro Teachers, March 29, 1956, State Capital, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma).

[2]"The Negro Press: 1955," Time, LXVI (November 7, 1955), pp. 64-65.

> rural labor), Negroes by this year made up nearly 72% of the unskilled and semiskilled manual labor force. But only about 10% of the U. S. middle-class white collar workers are Negroes.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> Large companies have found their fears about practicing desegregation in the South unjustified. Example: Westinghouse has put Negroes and whites to work on the same semiskilled jobs in South Carolina without incident.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> The problem of Negro workers is no longer one of getting hired but of getting promoted. To that end, they urged Negroes to equip themselves for better jobs now open to them.[1]

The economic problems inherent in the movement toward integration have complicated the Negro's quest for full integration into all areas of American life and culture. The employment problems that have emerged in the transition from segregation to integration in the public schools have been accepted as an immediate difficulty which will be resolved in the eventual removal of racial barriers to employment in the schools as well as other occupational areas.

Summary

The Oklahoma heritage bequeathed to the Negro along with other Oklahoma citizens has been a land, rich in natural resources and a people, virile and progressive. The unique conditions of Negro-Indian tribal association contributed to a spirit of independence and freedom and an initiative in seeking the guarantee of democratic citizenship not characteristic of freedmen in other areas. The facility with which

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[1]"Wanted: Qualified Negroes," Time, LXVI (November 7, 1955), pp. 31-32.

integration has advanced in the public schools of Oklahoma had its origin in a background of integrated territorial schools. The legal barriers to full political rights for Negroes have been eradicated in Oklahoma. The advance toward social betterment and economic well-being has been appreciable. The Oklahoma heritage has thus given the Negro a vantage point for the realization of first class citizenship.

CHAPTER III

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Introduction

The social, economic and political forces that emerged in the post-Civil War period stimulated the trend toward national organization among Negroes. The impact of national organizations fostered by Negro men awakened Negro women to an awareness of the power of union. Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, had pioneered in the independent Negro church movement.[1] Other developments included the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., in 1870; the National Baptist Convention of America in 1880; the National Negro Medical Association in 1894; the National Colored Democratic Association and the National Negro Business League in 1900.[2]

The theory of industrial education for the Negro as

[1]Carter G. Woodson, The History of the Negro Church (Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1921), p. 76.

[2]Florence Murray, The Negro Handbook (New York: Wendell Mallett and Co., 1942), pp. 245-247.

developed in Booker T. Washington's famed "Atlanta Exposition Address," in 1895, was opposed by Negro militant leaders who founded the National Equal Rights League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.[1]

In this period of national organization, Negro women with outstanding leadership ability, superior education, and personal integrity set in motion a series of meetings which resulted in the development of a national association of colored women. Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin has been credited with the initial step in this movement. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1843, and was enrolled in the Bowdoin School the day it was opened to Negroes. Mrs. Ruffin organized the Woman's Era Club in 1890; and it was with the backing of this club that she called the first national conference of Negro women in America at Boston, July 29-30, 1895. Out of this meeting the "National Federation of Afro-American Women" was born, with Mrs. Booker T. Washington as its first president.[2]

Mrs. Ruffin has expressed the motivation for this call to organize in a letter:

> The coming together of our women from all over the country for consultation, for conference, for the personal exchange of greetings, which means so much in the way of encouragement and inspiration, has been a burning desire in the breast of the colored women in every section

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[1]Woodson, Negro Makers of History, pp. 287-292.

[2]Davis, op. cit., p. 14.

of the United States.

> The matter has been discussed and re-discussed. Of some things all are convinced--the need for such a conference is great, the benefit to be derived inevitable and inestimable. In view of this, we, the women of the Woman's Era Club of Boston, send forth, a call to our sisters all over the country, members of all clubs, societies, associations, and circles to take immediate action, looking towards the sending of delegates to this convention. . . .[1]

The purposes of national organization were further developed by Mrs. Ruffin in her address to the conference delegation:

> The reasons why we should confer are so apparent that it would seem hardly necessary to enumerate them, and yet there are none of them but demand our serious consideration. In the first place we need to feel the cheer and inspiration of meeting each other; we need to gain the courage and fresh life that comes from mingling of congenial souls, of those things that are of special interest to us as colored women, the training of our children, openings for our boys and girls, how they can be prepared for occupations and occupations may be found for them, what we especially can do in the moral education and physical development, the home training it is necessary to give our children in order to prepare them to meet the peculiar conditions in which they shall find themselves, how to make the most of our own, to some extent, limited opportunities. . . .[2]

Prior to the Conference of 1895, Miss Hallie Q. Brown, of Wilberforce, Ohio, had come to Washington, D. C., with the purpose of organizing the women of her race. Miss Brown's motivation centered around securing recognition of Negro achievement in the coming World's Fair and Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. As plans for this event went forward

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[1] Ibid., p. 14.

[2] Ibid., pp. 17-18.

Miss Brown asked the question: "Shall the Negro be left out?" She sought membership on the Board of Managers in charge of the World Exposition, but was told she must have the backing of an organization. Spurred on by this goal, she called a meeting in the nation's capital and organized the Colored Women's League.[1]

The leadership of Mrs. Victoria Earle Matthews contributed impetus toward the national organization movement. Immediately after her attendance and participation in the Congress of Colored Women in December, 1895, she traveled through the "black belt" of the South noting conditions of her people. Out of her observations came the following suggestions for topics to be considered in the National Federation of Afro-American Women in their 1896 meeting:

The Need of Rescue Work Among Our People
The Establishment of Christian Homes and Asylums for Our Fallen and Wayward
The Separate Car Law
Prison Reform
The Plantation Woman and Child
The John Brown Memorial Association
The Proposed International Exposition in Paris, 1900
The Need of a National Afro-American Women's Paper
How Can the National Federation of Afro-American Women Be Made to Serve the Best Interests and Needs of our Women?
For God, Home and Progress[2]

Of the movements toward national organization among Negro women, the two which had crystallized into formal bodies, the Colored Women's League and the Federation of

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[1] Ibid., pp. 19-20.

[2] Ibid., pp. 21-22.

Afro-American Women, united through a joint committee in 1896 under the designation, "The National Association of Colored Women."[1]

The Growth of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs in Geographical Area

The effectiveness of the national movement in uniting the leadership of Negro women has been illustrated in the continued expansion of the geographical area of the club organization. The First Conference of Negro Women in 1895 was directed by an official staff composed exclusively of residents of Boston, Massachusetts. Women from other states participated in the three-day program and gave national character to the meeting.

The program of this historic conference of Negro women documented the caliber of the leadership and extent of the influence of the meeting.

Programme

Monday

Organization (not open to public)	10:00 A.M.
Formal Opening	2:00 P.M.
Reports from Leagues and Clubs	8:00 P.M.
Address of President	Mrs. J. St. Ruffin
Address	Mrs. H. A. Cook, Washington
Woman and the Higher Education	Ella L. Smith, A.B., A.M.
Need of Organization	Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Washington
Poem	Miss A. T. Miller, Boston

[1] Ibid., p. 21

Tuesday

Secret Session ..... 10:00 A.M.
Industrial Training ... Miss L. A. Carter, New York
A Plea for Justice ..... Miss C. E. Hunter
Address ..... Mrs. E. E. Williams, New York
Address ..... Mrs. B. T. Washington, Tuskegee

8:00 P.M.

Individual Work for
Mental Elevation ..... Mrs. B. T. Washington
Value of Race
Literature ..... Mrs. Victoria Matthews, New York
Political Equality ..... T. Thomas Fortune
Henry B. Blackwell
William Lloyd Garrison

Wednesday

10:00 A.M.

Social Purity..... Mrs. Agnes Adams, Boston
Temperance ..... Mrs. A. G. Brown, Boston
Mrs. L. C. Anthony, Missouri
Mrs. Butler, Atlanta, Georgia
Business Meeting ..... 2:00 P.M.
Reception ..... 8:00 P.M.

Thursday

Business ..... All Day[1]

The expanding influence of the national club movement among Negro women has exemplification in the states represented by the roster of officers in 1896, the year of organization. Table 1 sets forth this information.

The National Association of Colored Women expanded during the year of its organization, 1896, to include fifteen states, two territories and the District of Columbia. Table 2 presents this distribution with the number of delegates

[1]Ibid., pp. 16-17.

TABLE 1

STATES REPRESENTED IN THE ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN, 1896

State	Office
Alabama	President
New York	Chairman of Executive Board
Massachusetts	Recording Secretary
Missouri	Treasurer

TABLE 2

DELEGATES BY STATES TO THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN, 1896

State	Number of Delegates	State	Number of Delegates
Alabama	8	Louisiana	1
Arkansas	1	Maryland	1
California	2	Massachusetts	9
Colorado	1	Michigan	1
Florida	1	Minnesota	2
Georgia	1	New Mexico Territory	1
Illinois	3	Oklahoma Territory	1
Indiana	1	Virginia	6
Kansas	1	Washington, D. C.	9

from each location. The delegation in attendance totaled fifty, with Washington, D. C., Massachusetts, Alabama and Virginia leading in number of delegates.

From 1896 to 1910, the year of Oklahoma's affiliation with the national body, twenty-one states joined the national

association. Table 3 lists the states affiliating during the fourteen-year period.

TABLE 3

STATE ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN, 1896 TO 1910

State	Year of Affiliation	State	Year of Affiliation
Alabama	1896	Kentucky	1903
Massachusetts	1896	Mississippi	1903
New York	1896	Pennsylvania	1903
Illinois	1899	Indiana	1904
Kansas	1899	Minnesota	1905
Ohio	1899	Texas	1905
Missouri	1900	West Virginia	1907
Michigan	1901	California	1908
Georgia	1902	Florida	1908
Montana	1902	Oklahoma	1910
Colorado	1903		

The 1957 directory of state affiliates included thirty-eight states, the District of Columbia and Alaska.[1]

A View of the Leadership of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs from 1897 to 1956

The caliber of leadership characteristic of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs was given definitive expression in the life of Mary Church Terrell, first president of the national organization. Georgia Douglass Johnson gave appreciative interpretation to this pioneer club

[1]National Notes, XLIII (December, 1956), p. 4.

woman in the poem, "To Mary Church Terrell, Crusader," on her 90th birthday, 1953:

> From out the South of tyranny and blight
> She came, a potent pilgrim with a dauntless tread
> To Oberlin, where wisdom's rays are shed
> To gather lore of truth and love and light
> From granaries supreme and infinite.
> Then straightway to a hostile world she sped
> Unhesitant, unyielding, unafraid,
> To fight for justice and for human right,
> Custom was holding sable men at bay,
> The mighty rules and arrogance in sway
> Issued that fiat to the darker race;
> "You may not enter any hallowed place!"
> But she, with her crusading, valiant band
> Shattered the bars that shamed our native land.[1]

A definite pattern of leadership was characteristic of the women who directed the program of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs on local, state, and national levels: Education gained through favored circumstances or wrested from an environment of poverty and deprivation, an iron clad will to rise above the disparities of circumstance, and a dedication to God and humanity.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, first president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, had the advantage of superior social and economic status. At the age of six, she was sent from her home in Memphis, Tennessee, to the North to study. Her educational preparation included graduation from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. A career as a teacher in institutions of higher education, as an able

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[1]Georgia D. Johnson, "To Mary Church Terrell, Crusader," National Notes, XLI (Fall Issue, 1953), p. 5.

lecturer of international note, a champion of woman suffrage and of the civil rights of the Negro, followed for Mrs. Terrell.[1]

The quality of dedication which has permeated the leadership in the club movement was given vivid expression by Jane Edna Hunter:

> 'The solemn thought that I wanted to do something for my race weighed heavily on me.' One day, when by herself in an office where she was working, she says, 'I walked the floor and begged God to show me what He wanted me to do. I wanted Him to take me and use me in the way He saw fit. I saw the need of an institution to house and protect colored women who came to town as strangers. I saw their need for training and guidance in solving the problems of their daily life.'[2]

Leadership in the National Association has not been confined to the presidents of the organization since many club women of national stature have not been elected to this office. However, the women who have served as executives have exemplified the ideals and objectives of the organization in their lives and achievements. Table 4 gives available data for the presidents of the national organization from 1897 to 1956.

Elsie Johnson McDougald has expressed great depth of understanding of the role of the club woman as a force for the uplift of her race:

> Obsessed with difficulties which might well compel individualism, the Negro woman has engaged in a considerable amount of organized action to meet group needs.

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[1]Davis, op. cit., pp. 163-165.

[2]Daniel, op. cit., p. 171.

TABLE 4

EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL DATA FOR PRESIDENTS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS, 1897 TO 1956

Name	Administration	Education	Occupation
Mary Church Terrell	1896-1900	Oberlin College	College Teacher
Josephine Silone Yates	1900-1904	Rhode Island Normal, Providence, R. I.	College Teacher
Lucy Thurman	1904-1908		Public School Teacher
Elizabeth Carter Brooks	1908-1912	Normal School, New Bedford, Mass.	Public School Teacher
Margaret Murray Washington	1912-1916	Fisk University	College Teacher
Mary B. Talbert	1916-1920	Oberlin College	College Administrator
Hallie Q. Brown	1920-1924	Wilberforce University	College Teacher
Mary McLeod Bethune	1924-1928	Moody Bible Institute	College Administrator
Sallie Wyatt Stewart	1928-1933	University of Chicago	Public School Teacher
Mary F. Waring	1933-1937	Chicago Medical College	Physician-Teacher
Jennie Moton	1937-1941	Tuskegee Institute	Teacher-Agricultural Agent
Ada Belle Dement	1941-1945		Community Leader
Christine Smith	1946-1948		Religious Educator
Ella P. Stewart	1948-1952	University of Pittsburg University of Toledo	Pharmacist
Irene McCoy Gaines	1952-	Fisk University University of Chicago	Social Worker

> She has evolved a federation of her clubs, embracing between 8-10,000 women in New York state alone. The State Federation is a part of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, which calling together the women from all parts of the country engages in enterprises of general race interest. . . .
>
> We find the Negro woman, figuratively struck in the face daily by contempt from the world about her. Within her soul, she knows little of peace and happiness. But, in it all, she is courageously standing erect, developing within herself the moral strength to rise above and conquer false attitudes. She is maintaining her natural beauty and charm and improving her mind and opportunity. She is measuring up to the needs of her family, community and race, radiating a hope throughout the land. The winds of the race's destiny stir more briskly because of her striving.[1]

The sterling type of leadership given the club women of the nation contributed greatly to the effectiveness of the club program at the state and local levels. The attitude toward self-improvement, the dedication to service, and the adherence to Christian ideals have penetrated every level of club leadership.

The Organization of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

Among the many Negro pioneers who came to Oklahoma in her territorial days to share in the building of the state and to gain for themselves "a more abundant life," were Negro women of intellectual power, humanitarian attitudes, and the capacity for leadership and racial pride. The importance of organized efforts in the interest of race development soon

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[1]Alain Locke, The New Negro, An Interpretation (New York: Albert and Charles, 1925), pp. 381-382.

became apparent to these Negro women leaders. Establishment of local clubs was the first step in state-wide organization.

Pioneer Local Clubs

The Excelsior Club of Guthrie, Oklahoma. The first club organized by and for Negro women was the Excelsior Club of Guthrie, Oklahoma. The philosophy, objectives and achievements of this club have their origin in the character and work of Mrs. Judith C. Horton, founder. She has penned her autobiography in a pamphlet with the appropriate title, How It Happened. The foreword of this publication portrays the spirit of the pioneer Negro club woman.

> With the belief and hope that the facts and experiences herein related may lend encouragement and inspiration to many others whose chances are none brighter than mine were, and furnish a few suggestions for those older ones who are grappling with great human problems, this sketch is given to the public by the author.[1]

Mrs. Horton dedicated the autobiography to "the thousands of Negro club women in the United States and the young Negro boys and girls who are struggling upward against many forms of discouragement and opposition."[2]

Childhood for Judith Carter was a period of severe hardship and deprivation. Born in a small town in Missouri in 1866, she was a motherless, delicate, and unpromising

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[1]Judith C. Horton, How It Happened (Guthrie: Co-operative Publishing Co., 1914), p. i.

[2]Ibid., p. ii.

specimen of humanity at six months of age. Her father, grandmother, and one sister constituted the farm family. Judith was taught to cook, wash, and iron by her father. Schooling given her by her father was limited to three terms of three months each. In her thirteenth year of life and third year of school, she was told by her father that her educational preparation was adequate and that any further schooling would be at her own expense. Judith had a deep yearning for learning and with her father's consent, left home to work in a private family for room and board and, what was more important, an opportunity to continue her education. The quest for learning took her to St. Louis to work and attend school. During this period a high school teacher inspired Judith to strive for a college education.

In 1884 Judith set out with her meager savings for Oberlin College. Upon application for admission, she was informed by the Dean of Women that she did not possess the educational background or capacity for the Oberlin curriculum. Judith's answer was, "I will show you if you will let me enter." The Dean replied, "I'll try you." Judith's record at Oberlin was one of superior attainment in both the manual labor by which she paid for her college expenses and in her studies. The summer preceding her graduation, Judith went home to visit. Her father and sister were impressed with her learning and plotted to keep her at home in order that she might add to the family income through teaching.

They borrowed Judith's money with the promise to return it before time to leave for college. When the day arrived, they did not repay the money. Judith expresses her predicament in this excerpt:

> If you have never been a poor girl and had to fight your way through the world; if you have never had those nearest and dearest to you put obstacles in your way to keep you from your chosen goal; if you have never had to depend upon your own efforts for every necessity; if you have never toiled and wrought through the winter's cold and the summer's heat for the accomplishment of a great, grand object; if you have never seen a life's dream fade in one fell swoop, you cannot have any adequate conception of my feelings at this time. But I did not give up.[1]

Judith succeeded in borrowing money from the family for whom she worked while attending school and returned to Oberlin to complete her senior year. Before graduation, she was given a new incentive for achievement. The Dean of Women, for whom Judith worked, told her of the accomplishments of the great Negro woman educator, Mrs. Fannie Jackson Coppin. Judith immediately expressed a desire to render similar service for her people. The Dean gave Judith this discouraging reply: "Precious, you can never do anything so great as Mrs. Coppin has done; you do not realize what you are saying. One must have culture, social standing and money to do what Mrs. Coppin has done." Judith Carter recorded her reaction: "I registered this oath in heaven--Judith Carter, in spite of the fact that you are now a nobody without culture, social

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[1] Ibid., p. 8.

standing or money, you must some day accomplish what no Negro woman has ever attempted."[1]

As a citizen of Guthrie, Mrs. Horton organized the Excelsior Club in 1906. This group of women under her dauntless leadership established the first Negro library in the state of Oklahoma. Mrs. Horton made the following comment on the significance of the library:

> I can conceive of no better or surer way to hasten education and uplift of our people than the establishment of reading rooms, and libraries in every community. When we become a reading people, we will be a thinking people.[2]

Charter members of the Excelsior Club were: Mrs. Ida B. Freeman, Mrs. Minnie Z. Tillman, Mrs. Odessa Bradford, Mrs. Lizzie Rogers, Mrs. J. P. Williams, Mrs. Carrie Calhoun, Mrs. Sena McGill, Mrs. Gertrude Alford, Mrs. Bennie Chadwick, Mrs. Cassie Rolls, Mrs. Mattie Morgan, and Mrs. Rosa Chadwick. This club contributed to Guthrie's cultural development by bringing to the community such artists and celebrities as: Carl Diton, Madame Hackley, Kelley Miller, Florence Cole Talbert, Roland Hayes, the Fiske Jubilee Singers, Richard B. Harrison, Blind Boone, Booker T. Washington, Elizabeth Lindsay Davis, Hallie Q. Brown, and Sallie W. Stuart. The motto of the Excelsior Club was: "To glorify God and uplift humanity."[3]

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[1] Ibid., pp. 9-17.

[2] Ibid., pp. 18-21.

[3] Vivian Hamilton, "Excelsior Club History" (unpublished manuscript, Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1956), pp. 2-4.

The East Side Culture Club of Oklahoma City. In 1907, the East Side Culture Club was organized with Mrs. Harriet Price Jacobson as president. This club, under Mrs. Jacobson's direction, issued the call to local clubs in the state of Oklahoma to meet for the purpose of organization. The name of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson is foremost in Oklahoma club history. Emerson has said: "An institution is but the lengthened shadow of a great personality." The projection of this idea into the history of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs revealed the life and work of Mrs. Jacobson as the core of the origin and development of the Oklahoma state organization.

Mrs. Jacobson was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and later resided in Kinsley, Kansas, where her father conducted a prosperous business as a rancher, stockman, and livery stable owner. Her educational preparation included attendance at a private day school, summer institutes for teachers, and graduation from Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

She came to Oklahoma shortly after the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1883. After a period of seven years as teacher in rural schools, she was employed in the Oklahoma City public school system. At retirement, Mrs. Jacobson was the recipient of an award for forty years of "faithful and meritorious service in the schools of Oklahoma."[1] Mrs.

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[1]The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 11, 1938, p. 4.

Thelma Thurston Gorham, Executive Editor of the Black Dispatch, gave this descriptive statement of Mrs. Jacobson in a series of Lenten articles:

> Getting the most out of life for Mrs. Jacobson has involved putting God first in activities on many fronts: as a daughter of a prosperous pioneering western Kansas family, reared in an atmosphere of integration and privileges; as a student attending a private school whose pupils were from the best families in town; as a business woman whose investments in real estate and other dividend-paying forms of collateral have yielded her substantial returns; as a pioneer whose pupils all over the nation point with pride to the fact that she was once their teacher; as a church worker and Christian leader; as a club woman and organization builder; and as a writer.[1]

In an interview with Mrs. Jacobson, pertinent data with reference to the membership of the pioneer club, the East Side Culture Club, was noted. National contacts were maintained by the club before the formation of the state organization with the local club giving financial support to the fund for the preservation of the Frederick Douglass Home as a national shrine. The group observes its golden anniversary in 1957.

The East Side Culture Club has maintained a unique distinction in Oklahoma club history, having performed the role of initiator of the movement to organize a state federation.[2] Table 5 lists the charter members of this club.

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[1]The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 23, 1956, p. 1.

[2]Interview with Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, first president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, July 4, 1956.

TABLE 5

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE EAST SIDE CULTURE CLUB, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Name	Occupation
Mrs. Rosa Bethel	Wife of Pharmacist
Mrs. Bertha Bigham	Teacher
Mrs. Idella Harrison	Wife of Attorney
Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson	Teacher
Mrs. Mary Jamison	Wife of Federal Employee
Mrs. Fannie Johnson	Wife of Minister
Mrs. Rosa Johnson	Teacher
Mrs. Eliza Lee	Teacher
Mrs. Lucile McMahon	Teacher
Mrs. Elizabeth Whitby	Wife of Dentist

Francis Harper No. One of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Mrs. Lois Perdue, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, pioneered the development of local clubs in Muskogee. She came to Muskogee in 1905 and was employed as a teacher in the public schools of that community. Francis Harper Club members started a movement for a library for Negroes and in 1918, with the cooperation of two additional Muskogee clubs, Royal Arts and Mary Church Terrell, a building and lot for a library were purchased. The united efforts of the three clubs financed the $3,000 investment in three months. The Phyllis Wheatley Library established by these pioneer club women was maintained for twenty-five years. The provision of library service for Negroes by the city of Muskogee led to the conversion of this

property into a club house.[1]

Mrs. Belzora A. Malvin, statistician of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1924, made this evaluation of the pioneer clubs:

> Every organization, great or small, village, town, or city, has been but the development of an idea or thought, in the mind of some man or woman put into action. In a number of instances, these persons were buffeted, neglected and severely criticized by those whom they were striving to help . . .
>
> In 1906, when the state of Oklahoma was made up of two territories, and the people were sorely in need of uplift, culture, and development along many lines, it was then the thought seems to have been born in the minds of two young women school teachers to call the women of their various communities together and organize them into clubs.[2]

The data of this study showed eight clubs whose organization antedated that of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs although there were, perhaps, other functioning clubs. Table 6 shows the club, city, and date of organization for the eight pioneer clubs.[3]

Organizational Meeting

Early in the year of 1910, a few club women of Oklahoma City conceived the idea of formulating plans for the

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[1]Letter from Mrs. Lula E. Kiff to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, February 2, 1957.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting (Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1924), p. 22.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization, p. 14.

TABLE 6

PIONEER CLUBS, THEIR LOCATION AND DATE OF ORGANIZATION

Name of Club	City	Date of Organization
Excelsior Club	Guthrie	1906
East Side Culture Club	Oklahoma City	1907
Frances Harper Club	Muskogee	1908
Domestic Science Club	Oklahoma City	1910
Dorcas Club	Muskogee	1910
Ideal Reading Club	El Reno	1910
Matron's Mutual Improvement Circle	Muskogee	1910
Mother's Club	Hennessey	1910

development of a state organization. The purpose foremost in the minds of these women was the dissemination of the club movement and the projection of a program for the advancement of the Negro in Oklahoma. An invitation was issued by the East Side Culture Club of Oklahoma City urging all local clubs of the state to send delegates to a meeting for the purpose of forming a state organization.

"With that spirit of race pride which is the heart of every Negro woman worthwhile, that spirit of interest and desire to accomplish, that spirit which has made the Negro woman one of the greatest factors in the civilization of our race,"[1] the group met to organize the state body on April 16,

[1]Harriet P. Jacobson, "A History of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs" (unpublished manuscript, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1920), pp. 1-2.

1910, in Avery Chapel, A. M. E. Church, Oklahoma City. Mrs. A. B. Whitby of Oklahoma City served as temporary chairman and Mrs. B. T. Barbour of El Reno as temporary secretary. The committee appointed to draw up the Constitution and By-laws for the organizations included Mesdames Myrtle Todd of Muskogee, Whitby, and M. E. Littlepage of Oklahoma City. Table 7 lists the officers elected in this meeting for the organization of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 7

CHARTER OFFICERS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS[1]

Name	City	Office
Mrs. H. P. Jacobson	Oklahoma City	President
Mrs. Myrtle F. Todd	Muskogee	First Vice President
Mrs. Ida B. Freeman	Guthrie	Second Vice President
Mrs. E. T. Barbour	El Reno	Recording Secretary
Mrs. A. B. Whitby	Oklahoma City	Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. W. H. Twine	Muskogee	Treasurer
Mrs. J. C. Horton	Guthrie	Organizer
Mrs. F. F. Bailey	Hennessey	Statistician
Mrs. Wm. Harrison	Oklahoma City	Chairman, Executive Board

The acceptance of the club organization as a community agency of significance was attested in the presence of representative Negro men at the meeting for organization.

[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization, p. 3.

The following names were recorded in the proceedings of the meeting:

Prof. J. H. A. Brazelton	Mr. Roscoe Jamison
Prof. Bruner	Rev. W. A. Jernagin
Prof. Rev. Hamilton	Rev. McThias
Hon. William Harrison	Prof. Roaker[1]

Mrs. Jacobson, in an address on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, gave a vivid description of the formative period of the state organization:

> In those days all of us were busy women. We had home cares and other responsibilities, very little time that we could give to the work, and less money; no way of getting about over the state, no funds with which to send out literature; but we felt that we were laying the foundation of an organization which would in a few years be the most helpful that could have been planned for making better conditions among our people of the state.[2]

Responsible leadership, sincerity of purpose, and an attitude of acceptance in the local community contributed to the successful development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

Significant Aspects of the Development of the State Organization

Valid indices of the growth of an organization were selected as an objective approach to the evaluation of the development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's

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[1] Ibid., pp. 1-3.

[2] Harriet P. Jacobson (Address delivered at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1935).

Clubs. Criteria utilized were: number of clubs, number of members, number of towns in which federated clubs function, expansion of the departmental activities of the state organization, financial assets, and property valuation.

Clubs and Club Membership

The continuity of an organization and its expansion have been viewed as evidences of development. Table 8 shows the growth of the state federation in number of clubs and in membership.

TABLE 8

CLUBS AND CLUB MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS, 1910 TO 1956

Year	Number of Clubs	Membership
1910	7	111
1920	34	518
1930	52	607
1940	52	590
1950	81	1159
1956	96	1273

The data for Table 8 were assembled from minutes of the annual proceedings from 1910 to 1956.

Geographical Location of Active Federated Clubs

The evaluation of an organization as a state agency has been viewed in terms of its influence throughout the state. The number of towns and their geographical location

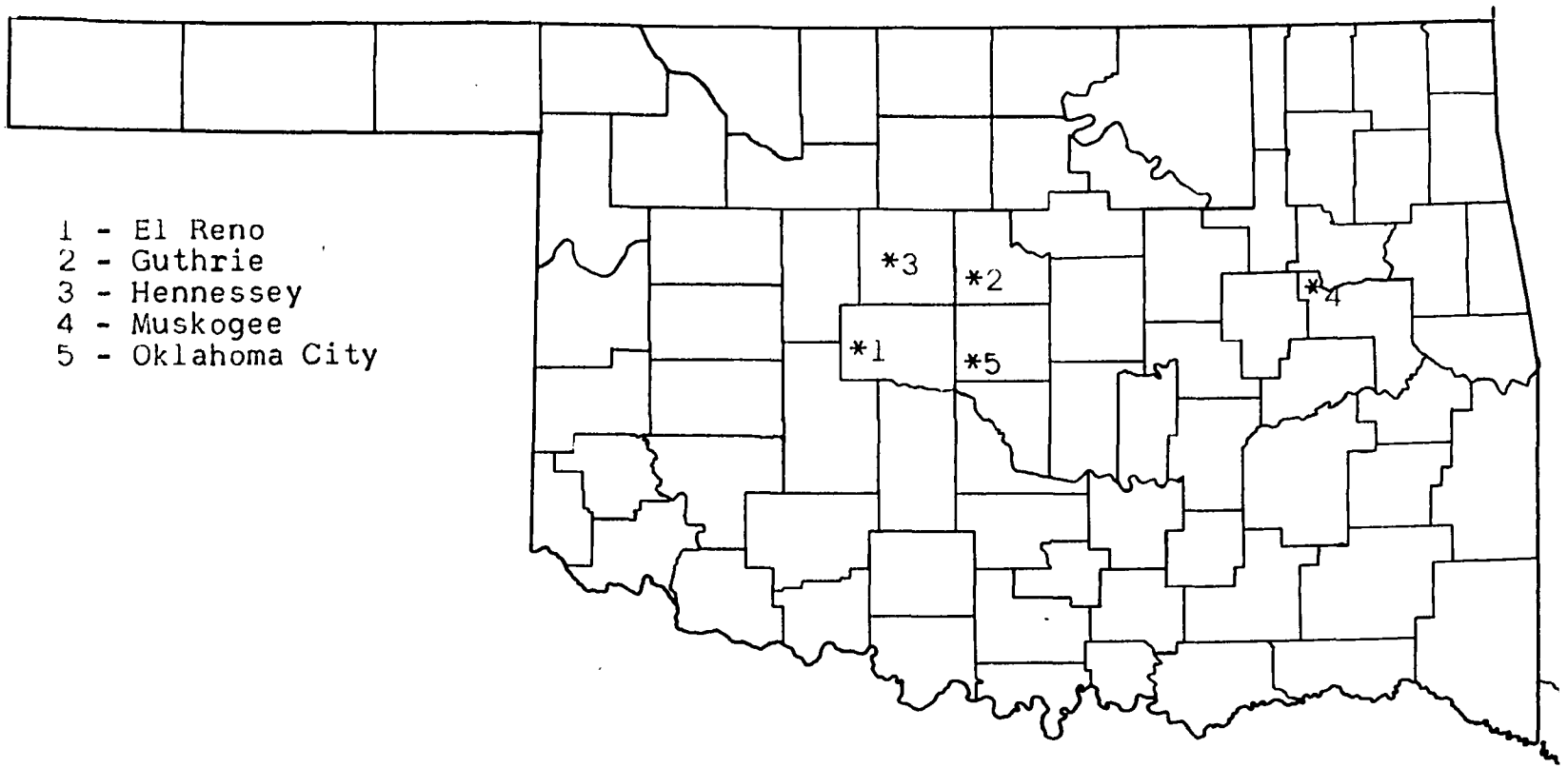

Fig. 1.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1910.

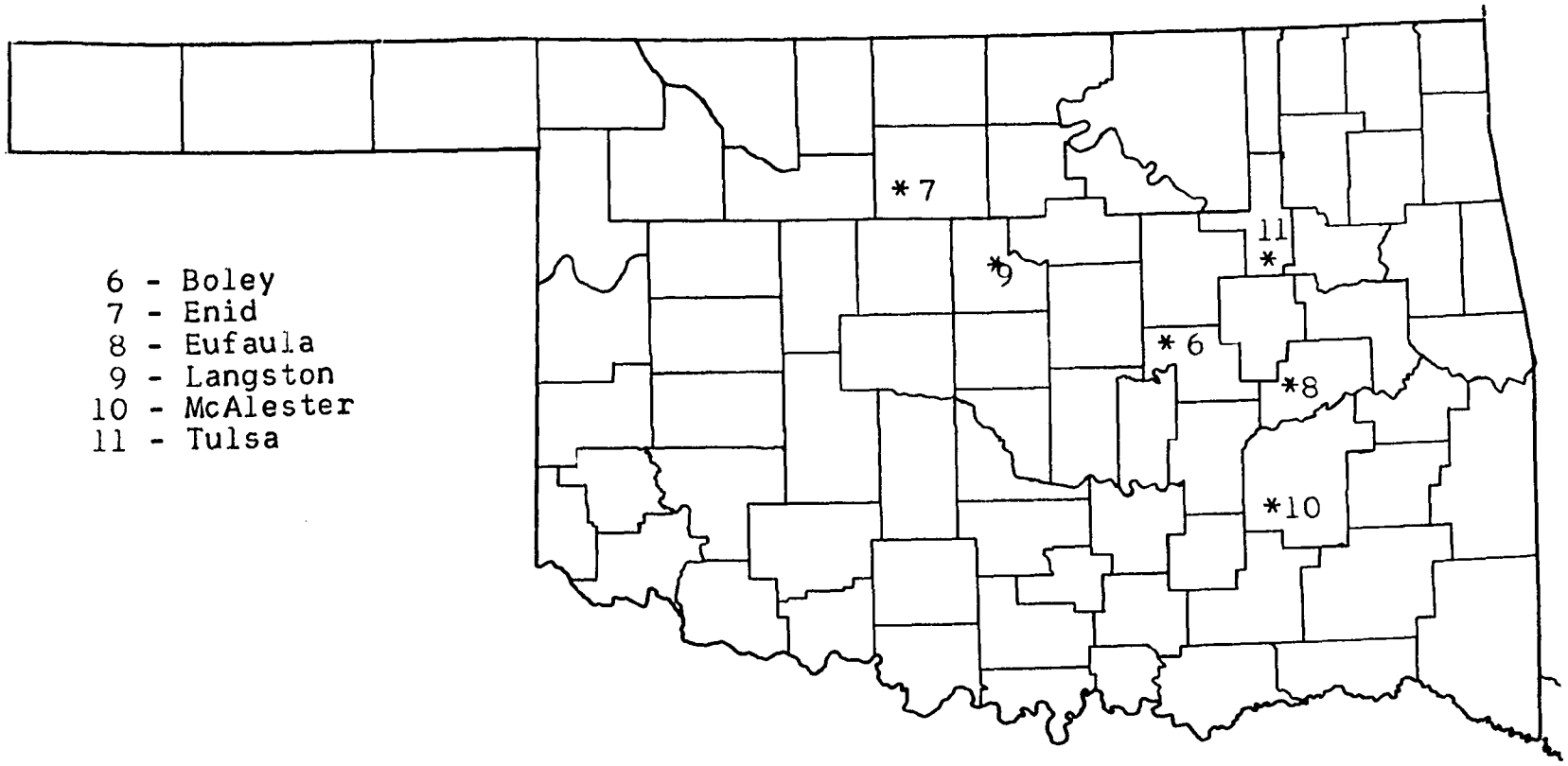

Fig. 2.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1920.

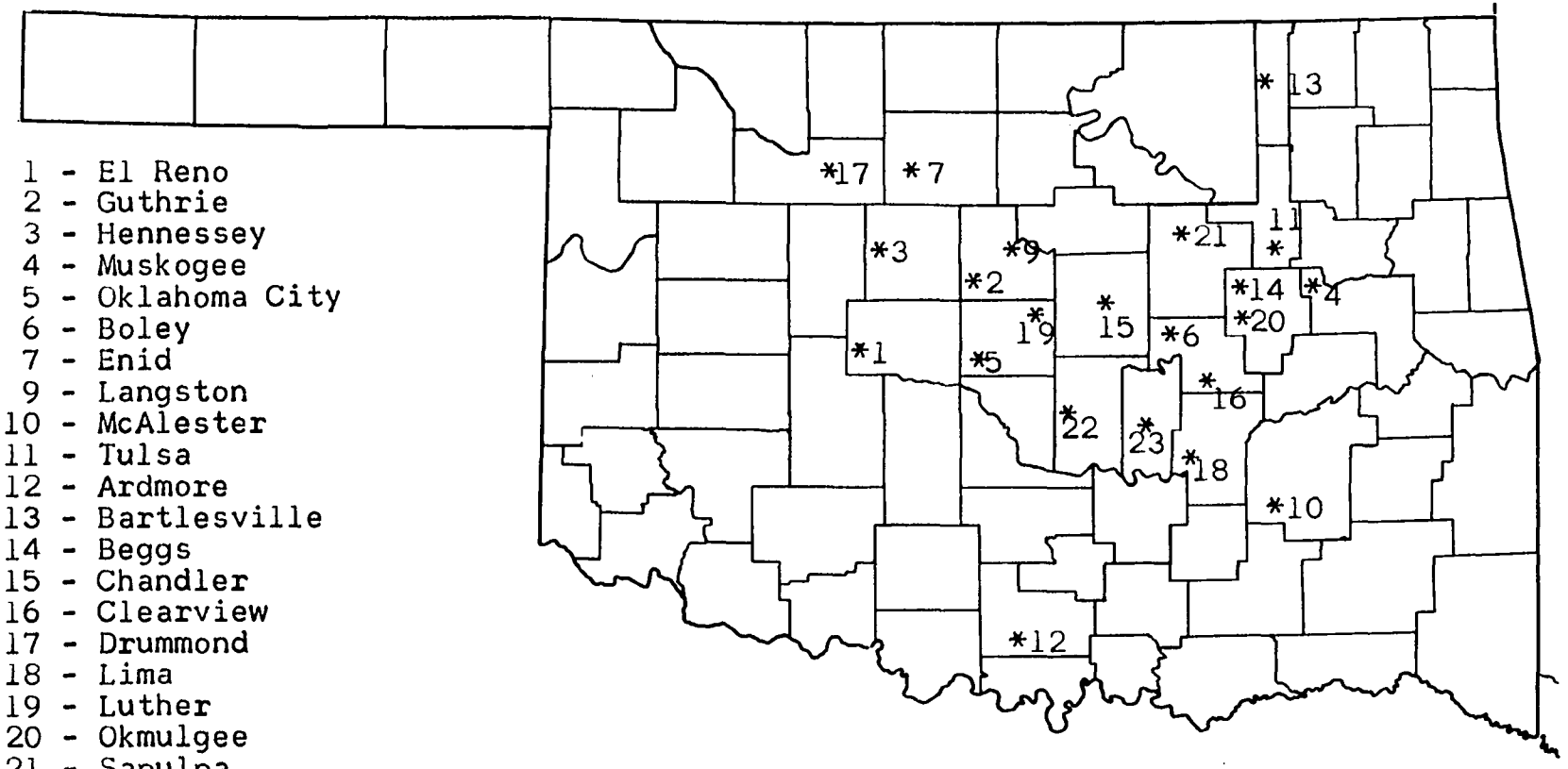

Fig. 3.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1930.

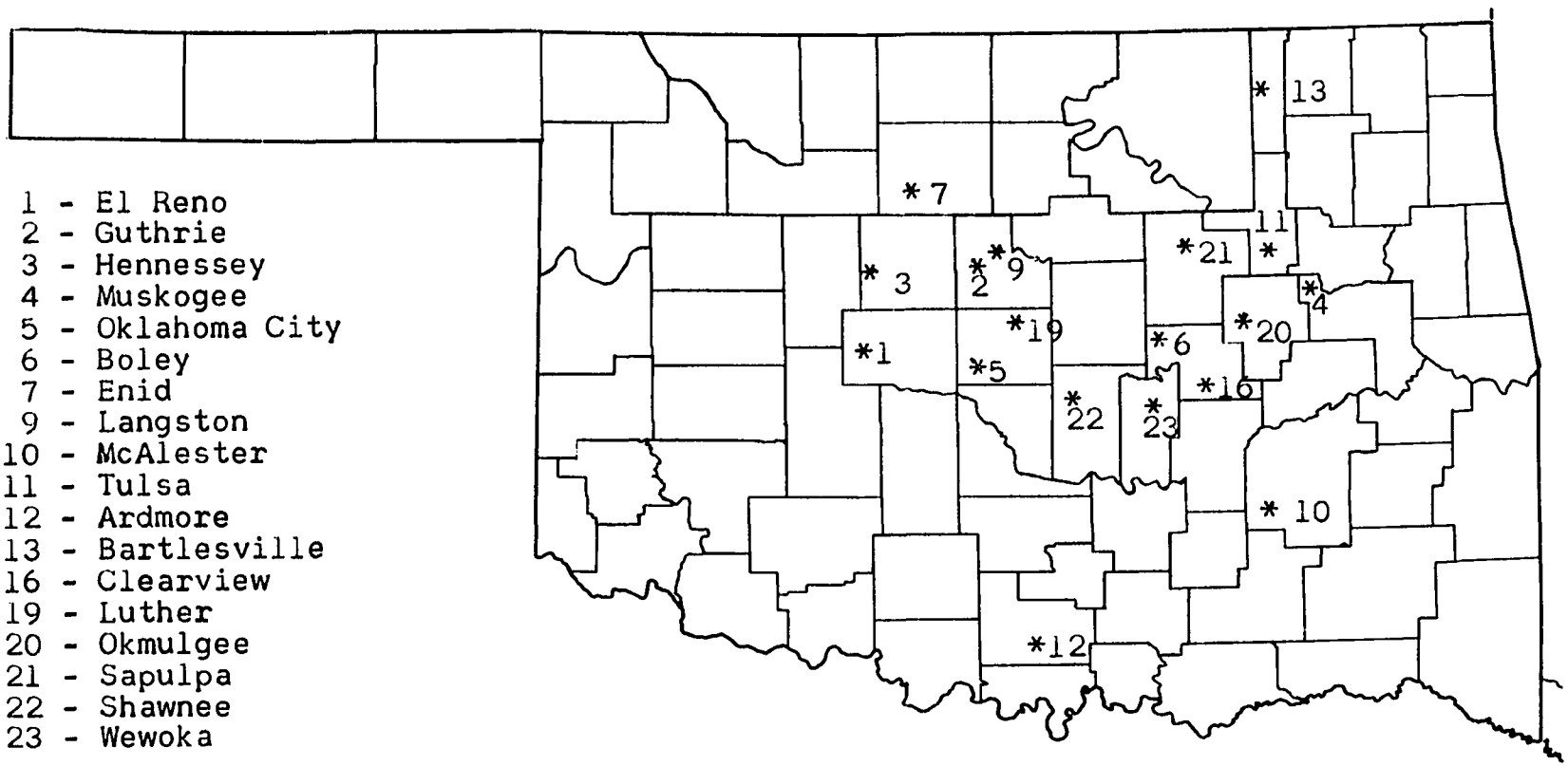

Fig. 4.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1940.

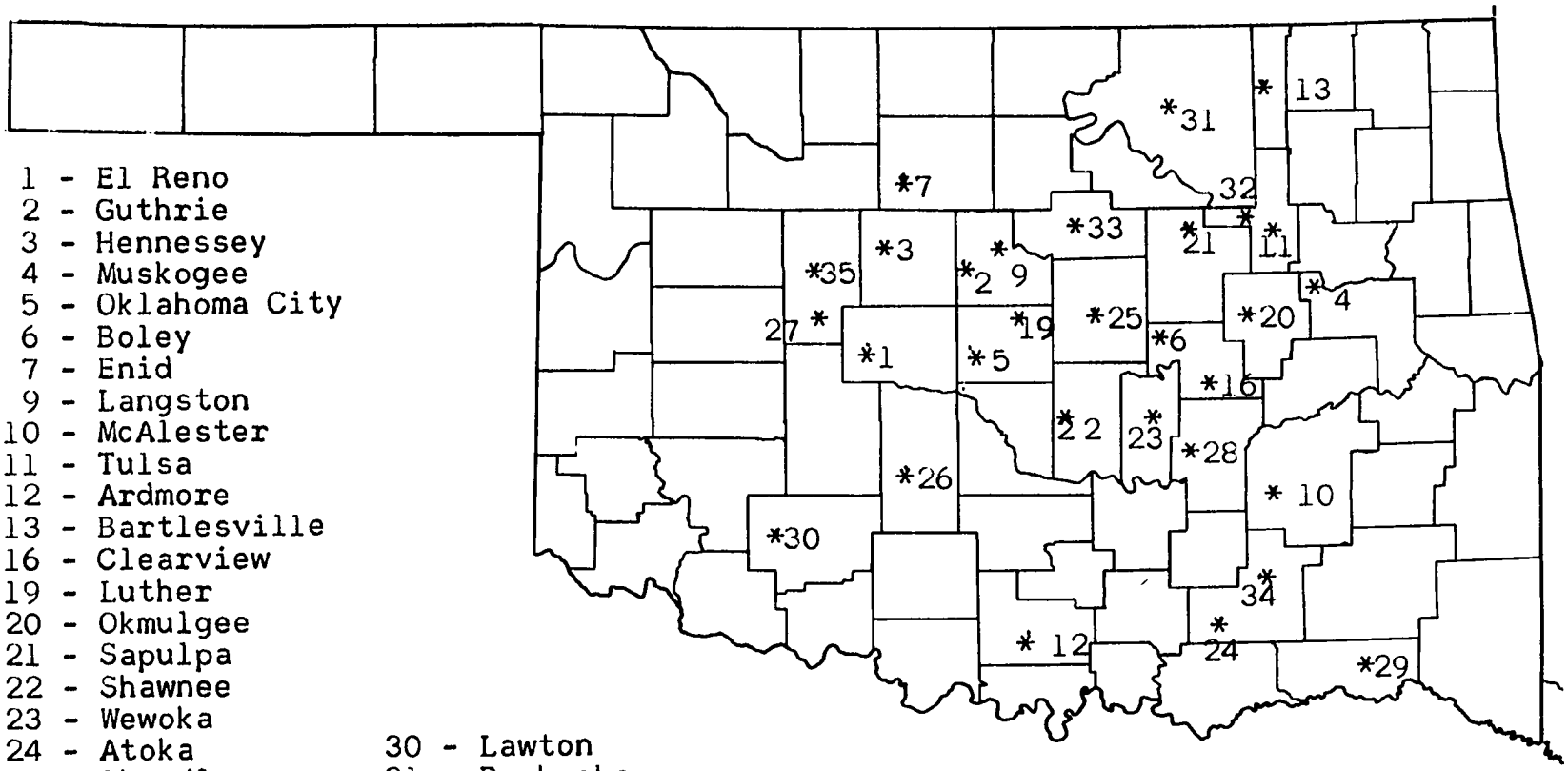

Fig. 5.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1950.

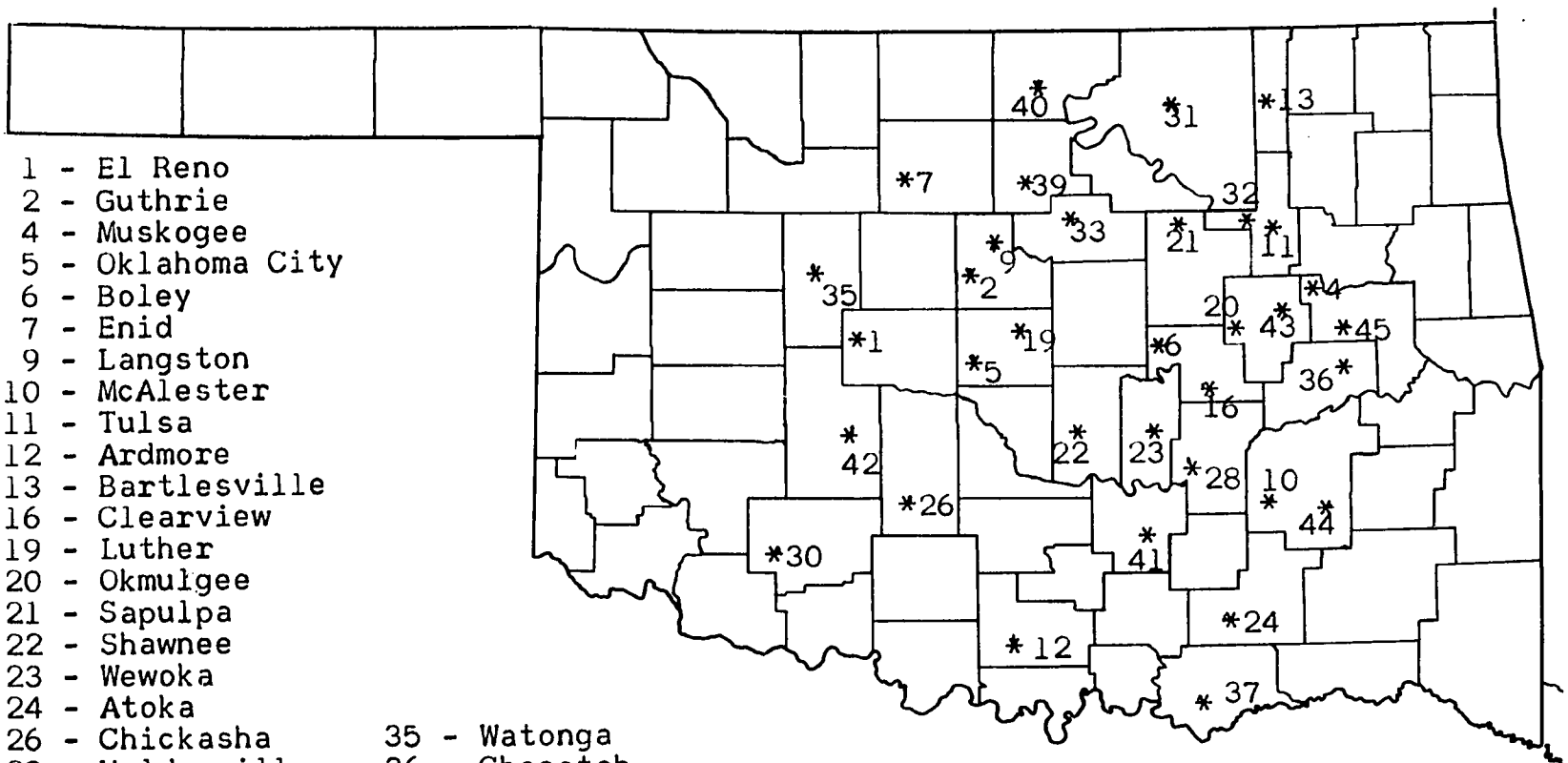

Fig. 6.--Communities reporting active Federated Clubs in 1956.

have served as indices to the evaluation of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the locations of active federated clubs for the years 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1956, respectively. Table 9 is a summary of the data of these six figures.

TABLE 9

COMMUNITIES REPORTING ACTIVE FEDERATED CLUBS, 1910 TO 1956

Year	Number of Communities
1910	5
1920	10
1930	23
1940	21
1950	31
1956	45

The data for Figures 1 to 6 and Table 9 were assembled from minutes of the proceedings of the annual meetings from 1910 to 1956. The data presented with reference to the geographical location of active federated clubs have shown the urban character of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Hill and Richards in their study, "Demographic Trends of the Negro in Oklahoma," noted the urbanization of the Negro population:

> The Negro population resides largely in urban counties. There is a tendency for the population to become more and more urban. It is scattered in urban areas throughout the State, but the greatest concentrations are in Oklahoma City and Tulsa where twenty per cent of

the Negro population reside.[1]

The number of clubs per town as reported in the April 27, 1957, meeting of the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Federation showed three communities with ten or more active clubs. These were: Muskogee, 13; Oklahoma City, 12; and Tulsa, 10.[2] As measured by geographical area covered by active federated clubs, the state organization has shown creditable development.

Departmental Development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

The development of departments has been a major approach of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs to the implementation of the object of the state federation as published in its Constitution and By-laws:

> The object of this organization shall be to raise to the highest possible standard, the home, moral, intellectual, religious and civic life of women, thereby bringing recognition and appreciation for the different cultures and achievements of the women.[3]

Table 10 shows the expansion of the departmental program of the state organization. The significance of the increase in number of departments has been the broader penetration of the state program into the community life.

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[1]Hill and Richards, op. cit., p. 62.

[2]Semi-annual report of the Credentials Committee of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Club (Bartlesville, Oklahoma, April 27, 1957).

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1947), p. 2.

TABLE 10 ··

DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION, 1910 TO 1956

Year	Departments
1910	———
1920	Press, Domestic Art, Domestic Science, Music, Education, Mothers, Juvenile, Ways and Means, Legislation
1930	Economics, Religion, Fine Arts
1940	Mother, Home and Child, Health and Hygiene, Citizenship, Race History, Negro Women in Industry, Peace, Temperance
1950	Public Relations, State Dean, Public Affairs, Child Welfare, Negro Women in the Professions, Constitution, Exhibits, Hospitality, Courtesy, Memorial, Ministers' Wives, Juvenile Delinquency, Resolutions, Inter-racial, High School Award, Princess Revue, Family Life Education, Scholarship Loan, Social Hygiene, Mental Hygiene, "Sooner Woman," Frederick Douglass, Junior Camp, Scrap Book
1956	Integration

The departmental program has functioned on five levels: National, national-region, state, state-region, and local. The relationship between the departments at each level has been one of guidance and assistance. The goals set up by the national departments serve to give direction to the regional, state, state-regional, and local departments with the most significant contributions in the departmental work resulting at the local level. An attempt has been made

to involve an appreciable number of women in the departmental work.

Financial Assets and Property Valuation

Financial assets have served as an objective measure of the capacity of an organization to realize its goals. State fees paid by member clubs and the Princess Revue were the major sources of finance for the state federation. Investments in stocks and bonds were sources of limited revenue which supplemented the two types of income as previously stated. Table 11 shows financial resources at ten-year intervals. Invested funds which are accounted for in the Scholarship Loan Fund were not included in the data of Table 11.

TABLE 11

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS, 1910 TO 1956

Year	Amount Reported
1910	$ 6.60
1920	374.95
1930	1541.01
1940	750.81
1950	1253.85
1956	2470.66

Statements of finance quoted in Table 11 were compiled from minutes of the proceedings from 1910 to 1956. Amounts reported in annual meetings showed a range from $6.60 in 1910 to $2470.66 in 1956. Creditable development in

financial strength has been revealed.

The Scholarship Loan Fund was begun in 1924 with a goal of $5,000.00 set as a base for this financial project. Table 12 shows the rise of this fund toward the goal and beyond. Each local club is taxed $1.50 annually for scholarship loan funds.

TABLE 12

SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND, 1924 TO 1956

Year	Amount
1924	$ 389.35
1929	3444.50
1934	3003.00
1939	4629.77
1944	5400.00
1949	6050.00
1956	5900.00

The reports listed in Table 12 were taken from minutes of the proceedings of annual meetings from 1924 to 1956. Scholarship loan reports were listed at five-year intervals with the exception of the 1956 report which represented a seven-year period from 1949.

The Princess Revue project has combined the entertainment feature of a parade of princesses with the objective of financial gain for the state federation. Table 13 shows the annual financial report for this project from 1940 to 1956.

TABLE 13

ANNUAL PRINCESS REVUE REPORTS,
1940 TO 1956

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1940	$105.35	1948	$451.80
1941	---	1949	347.28
1942	66.71	1950	575.72
1943	116.35	1951	605.74
1944	242.95	1952	469.50
1945	121.00	1953	539.78
1946	152.51	1954	582.00
1947	---	1955	398.05
		1956	555.50

The Princess Revue which has been a feature of each annual meeting is sponsored by the six regions of the state federation. A revolving trophy on which the name of the Princess of each annual meeting was inscribed has been presented to the Princess of the region making the largest financial report.

Federated Club Investments in Property

Investment in property has been viewed as an index to the permanence of an organization. The statistician for the year of 1944 summarized reports received by her offices on property investments of local clubs holding membership in the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.[1] This

[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting (Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1944), p. 23.

summary is presented in Table 14.

TABLE 14

PROPERTY INVESTMENTS OF FEDERATED CLUBS IN 1944

Club	Property	Furniture
Tulsa Federation	$ 6,100.00	$1,200.00
Bartlesville Federation	1,000.00	---
Ponca City Federation	3,000.00	500.00
Oklahoma City Federation	40,000.00	3,000.00
Guthrie Federated Clubs	200.00	---
Bóley Federated Clubs	1,000.00	---
Muskogee Federation	3,000.00	500.00
TOTALS	$71,200.00	$5,200.00

Reports made by federated clubs during the 1956 club year have not been summarized by the present statistician. Specific descriptions of federated club property investments in these reports were: the Brockway Center, maintained by the Oklahoma City Federation; the Mildred P. Williams Center, owned by the Tulsa City Federation; the Phyllis Wheatley Club House, maintained by the Muskogee City Federation; the Excelsior Library of the Excelsior Club of Guthrie; the Madame DePriest Club Home, owned by the Madame DePriest Club of McAlester; the Meadows Memorial Youth Lodge, directed by Mrs. Mary Rose Cooke of the Mary Bethune Art and Culture Club of McAlester; the Genevieve M. Weaver Community Center, maintained by the Ponca City Federated Clubs; and the Adams-Suggs Home, sponsored by the Okmulgee City Federation. Projects

in which federated clubs made appreciable investments as participants in city-wide ventures were: the investment of the Ardmore Federated Clubs in the Negro Community Center; the contribution of the Shawnee Federated Clubs to the development of a park, wading pool and community center for Negro youth; and the investment of the Bartlesville Federation in the West Side Community Center.

These tangible assets of the local federated clubs have demonstrated the importance of the club woman as a community builder.

The Contribution of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs to the Development of the Oklahoma State Federation

From 1911, the year Miss Elizabeth C. Carter, fourth president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, visited the Oklahoma state federation to the present, a constructive relationship between the state and national organizations has been maintained. Subsequent visits by national presidents have been from: Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, 1917; Mrs. Sallie Stewart, 1928; Mrs. Jennie Moton, 1939; and Mrs. A. B. Dement, 1942. The most forceful impact of the national organization on Oklahoma club women was the 1941 entertainment of the national meeting by Oklahoma with the Oklahoma City federated clubs as hostesses. A contemporary editorial of the Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City Negro weekly newspaper, captured the inspiration of this aggregation of

Negro women celebrities, for the Oklahoma public:

> It was thrilling and inspiring to sit in Tabernacle Baptist Church Sunday and observe seated upon the platform the cream of American Negro womanhood.
>
> The meeting, of course, centered around Mary McLeod Bethune, that wonderful woman who many years ago was born under a Carolina moon, but who refused to recognize proscription and hate, and thus through dint of her own efforts and in spite of environmental disadvantages has risen to the dizzy heights of international fame.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> On that platform sat the granddaughter of Frederick Douglass, Mrs. Frederica Perry. To look into her noble face was to flit back to the arena where the immortal Douglass stood in the forums of America to shout about freedom. . . .
>
> From the platform presided Mrs. Robert Russa Moton, around whom the zephyrs of Tuskegee will forever blow. One could not look at Mrs. Moton without thinking of Booker T. Washington, Dr. Carver and her immortal husband whose lives surrounded Tuskegee and Hampton. . . . and leaning there on her cane was the 85 year old dignified Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsay Davis, founder of Phyllis Wheatley Home of Chicago and the historian of the organization. . . .
>
> As we looked and listened, suddenly there leaped at call, from the side aisle, that impassioned creature, Grace Wilson Evans. . . . Truly in Grace Evans, Sojourner Truth lives again.
>
> Everywhere one turned gazing at that inspiring platform scene there was a thrill. There sat Anita Patti Brown, who a quarter of a century ago thrilled the musical world with her incomparable voice; Fannie R. Evans, artist, painter, social worker . . .
>
> With twinkling eyes and clarity of vision sat Dr. Hallie Q. Brown. Although she had almost reached the 100th milestone this noted world traveler, social worker and early day dramatic reader, sat on that platform erect and composed . . .
>
> And then on that platform sat Mary F. Waring, astute thinker and writer . . . veteran globe trotter . . . Sallie Stewart . . .
>
> . . . Jane Hunter, social worker from Cleveland; Jane Spaulding, who heads the industrial department of the organization . . .[1]

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[1] The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 2, 1941, p. 4.

Oklahoma club women have contributed to the development of the national federation as delegates to the biennial meetings, as committee women, chairmen of committees and as elected officials. Women who have achieved national office in the federated club work have been: Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver as second vice president, Mrs. Maude J. Brockway as statistician and parliamentarian, Mrs. Mildred Williams as chairman of the policy committee and chairman of the resolutions committee, and Mrs. Ellen Roberson as a member of the executive board. Table 15 shows the location of the biennial meetings attended by delegates of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

The lines of communication which have served to maintain interaction between the state and national divisions of the federated club organization are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. This relationship has given significance to the program at the local level, has broadened the objectives of the state level program, and has made vital the program at the national level through practical application of the national objectives in community living.

The national regional organization is depicted in Figure 9. There are five regional divisions of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. The allocation of states by regions is as follows:

1. Northeast--Massachusetts, Vermont, Delaware, Rhode Island, New York, Maryland, Connecticut,

TABLE 15

BIENNIAL SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 1912 TO 1956

Year	Place of Meeting
1912	Hampton, Virginia
1914	Wilberforce, Ohio
1916	Baltimore, Maryland
1918	Denver, Colorado
1920	Tuskegee, Alabama
1922	Richmond, Virginia
1924	Chicago, Illinois
1926	Oakland, California
1928	Washington, D. C.
1930	Hot Springs, Arkansas
1933	Chicago, Illinois
1935	Cleveland, Ohio
1937	Fort Worth, Texas
1939	Boston, Massachusetts
1941	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1946	Washington, D. C.
1948	Seattle, Washington
1950	Atlantic City, New Jersey
1952	Los Angeles, California
1954	Washington, D. C.
1956	Miami, Florida

New Jersey, Maine, Pennsylvania, and District of Columbia.

2. Southeast--Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Tennessee.

3. Central--Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, and Minnesota.

4. Northwest--Idaho, Colorado, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, and Washington.

5. Southwest--California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

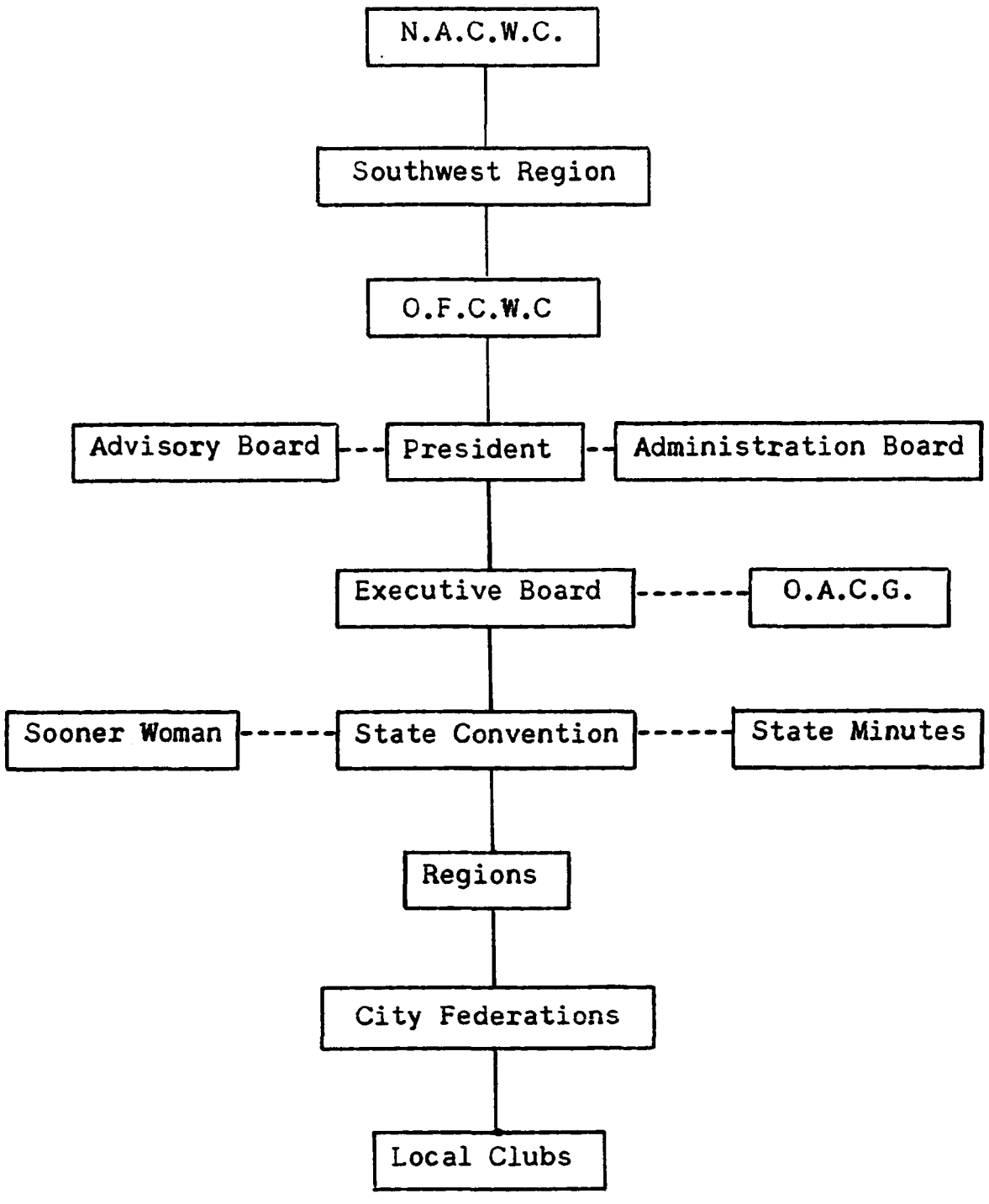

Fig. 7.--Diagram of the relationship of the national and state divisions of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

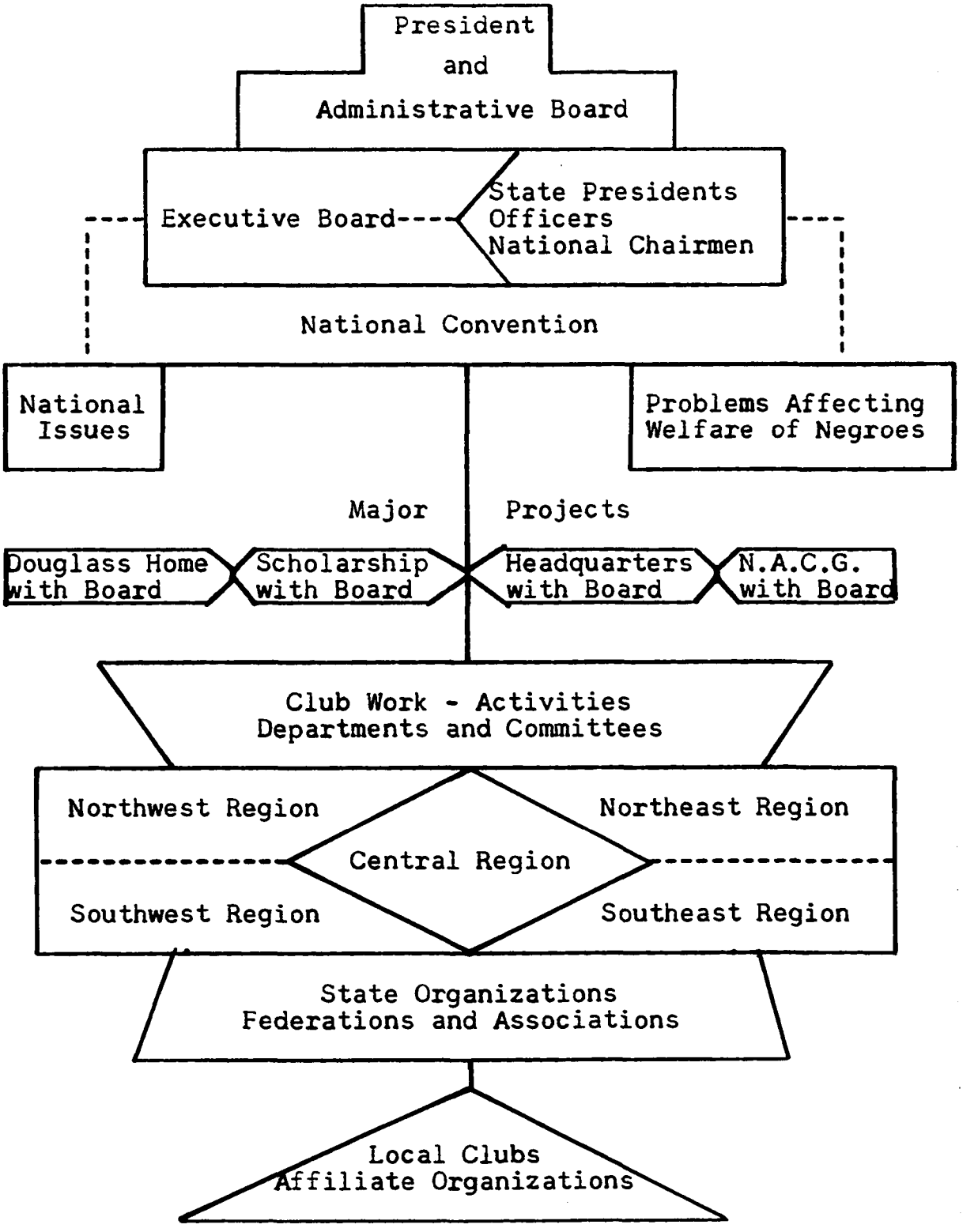

Fig. 8.--The pattern of organization of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

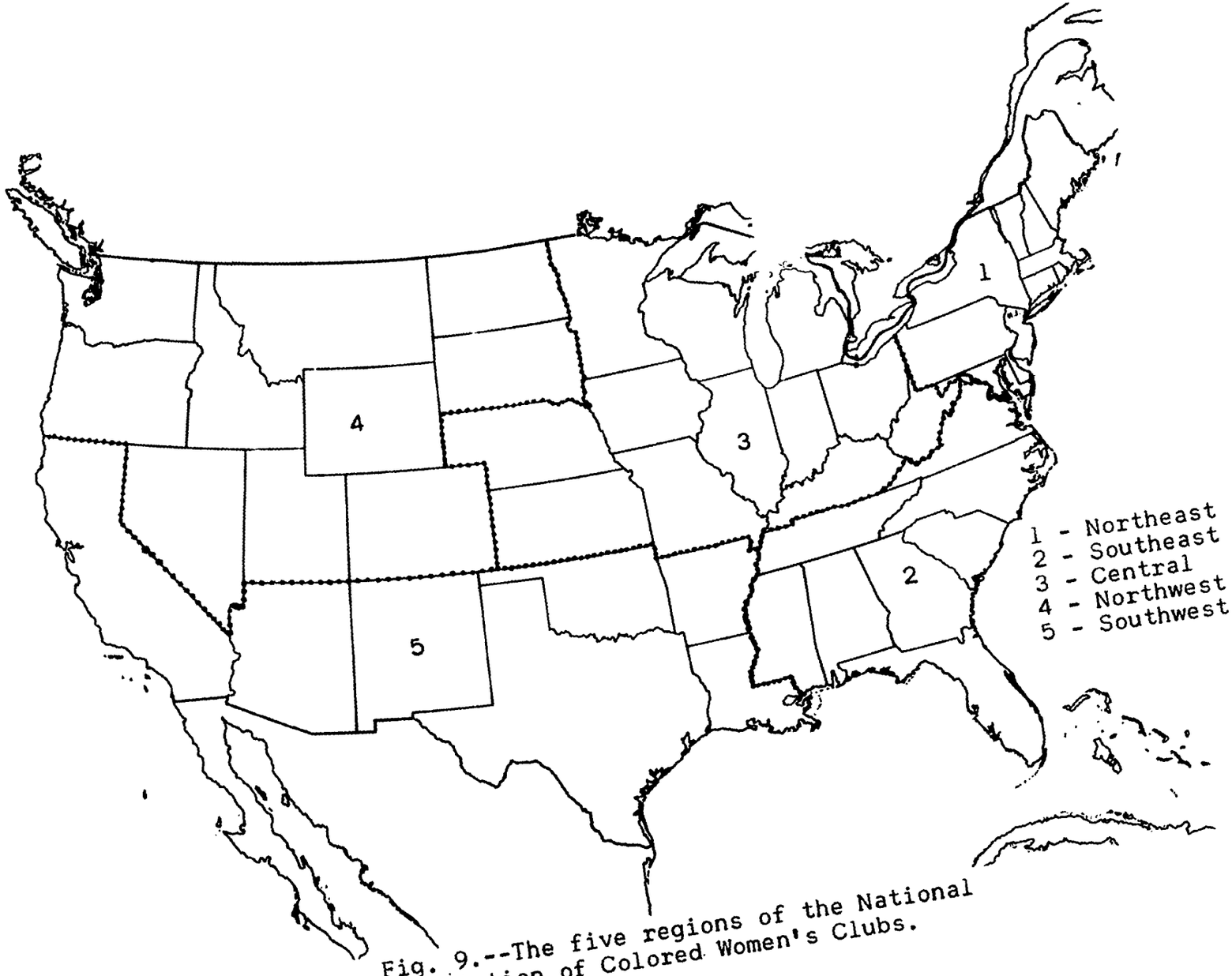

Fig. 9.--The five regions of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 16

HISTORICAL DATA OF THE SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

State	Date of Organization	Property Valuation	Projects
Arkansas	1905	$ 6,500.00	Girls' Industrial Home, State Recreational Center, Scholarship
Arizona	1915	7,000.00	Library, Health Clinic, Rehabilitation Program
California	1906	180,000.00	Four Club Houses, Children's Home and Day Nursery, Rooms and Apartments, Settlement House, Scholarships, Philanthropies
Louisiana		2,500.00	Summer Camp for Boys and Girls, Recreational Center, Charity, Community Improvement
New Mexico	1938	7,000.00	Day Nursery, Scholarships, Clinic and Health Crusade, Interracial Relations Program
Oklahoma	1910	250,000.00	Boys' Training School, Girls' Training School, High School Award, Summer Camp for Girls, Scholarship Loan, Libraries, Community Training School for Delinquent Girls
Texas	1905	100,000.00	Phyllis Wheatley Department, Scholarships, Libraries, Club Houses, Community Centers, Student Loan Fund

The purpose of the regional organization has been the interpretation and promotion of the program of the National organization in the states and to assist the states in the implementation of the national program.[1]

The concept of the regional division of the program is broadened by the data presented in Table 16. The projects listed show a marked similarity to the state and local federated organizations. The data for the table was assembled from "A Brief History of the Southwestern Regional Association of N.A.C.W.," by Genevieve M. Weaver, written in 1949.

Visits of officers of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the attendance of Oklahoma delegates at the biennial sessions of the national organization, service of Oklahoma club women as officers in the national organization, and regional coordination have strengthened the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and contributed to its effectiveness.

Administrative Programs of the Presidents of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1910 to 1956

The office of president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has afforded an opportunity for a broad leadership role in the community life of Oklahoma. Women who

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[1]National Association of Colored Women, Inc., Handbook (Washington, D. C.: Headquarters of the Association, 1950), p. 16.

have served in this office have shared in the promotion of education, social welfare, economic betterment, good government and religion. The presidents of the Oklahoma state federation have been called into the planning and direction of national affairs. The office of president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women has served as a medium for the contribution of Oklahoma's most effective leadership among Negro women. The women who have filled this office have embodied the highest standards of Christian citizenship.

Mrs. Harriet Price Jacobson, 1910-1915

Mrs. Harriet Price Jacobson, founder and first president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has contributed significantly to the development of the state federation from 1910 to the present. Her educational preparation for the office included a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State Teacher's College of Emporia, Kansas. Service to her state has covered a vast panorama of activities--forty years of teaching; seven years as an advisory teacher; member and official of the N.A.A.C.P., Y.W.C.A., Oklahoma State Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Red Cross, Community Chest, Big Sister, Oklahoma League for the Blind; organist and member of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Oklahoma City; past president of the Deaconess Board; and author of a book of poems, "Songs in the Night."[1]

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[1]Interview with Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, July 21, 1956.

As first president of the state federation, Mrs. Jacobson gave direction to the growth of the organization, working toward the objective of reaching every Negro woman in the state. The major program of action during her administration was the establishment of training schools for delinquent Negro boys and girls. This intrepid worker for humanity has recounted many hours of walking and waiting in terrific heat and severe cold to confer with city and state officials in the interest of Negro welfare in Oklahoma. Her services have gone beyond her own people in service to general projects of human welfare in her state. To Mrs. Jacobson has gone the credit for building a firm foundation for a major state organization.[1]

Mrs. Judith C. Horton, 1915 to 1919

Mrs. Judith C. Horton, an Oberlin graduate, brought to the position of second president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a tenacity of purpose and dedication to service that gave strength to the organization's program. The establishment of the training schools for Negro boys and girls was achieved during this period. Mrs. Horton directed the major emphasis of her administration toward the improvement of community life. These objectives were set forth in her first annual address:

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[1] Ibid.

1. By encouraging all kinds of labor.
2. By discouraging extravagance in furniture, dress, and living.
3. By forcing the youth to do whatever they can for themselves.
4. Cultivate the love of acquisition--a bank account, investment in business.
5. Encourage the formation of stock companies for operating business enterprises which will furnish congenial and lucrative employment for the hundreds of youth who are leaving our schools each year.
6. Encourage race pride, race loyalty, race enthusiasm. This can be done only by an intimate acquaintance with the life work of the best men and women of our race.
7. But above all let us teach righteousness, obey the law of the land, of the community where we live. Nothing but robust moral integrity can preserve a weak race in contact with a strong one.[1]

The vigilance of the Oklahoma club women in guarding the welfare of Negro youth has been expressed by Mrs. Horton in the following statements:

> . . . my first definite work came when the Legislature was in session. We were confronted with the proposition of having both the girls' and boys' incorrigible schools carried to Taft to occupy buildings within a hundred feet of the Orphan's Home Building. . . .
>
> It was necessary to call the attention of the Governor and the Legislature to the rank injustice of such a course of action. I drew up a strong letter of protest and put it into the hands of Representative Ewing and Senator Goloble . . . Mrs. Jacobson has told you in her report of the success of our campaign.[2]

A signal achievement of Mrs. Horton's administration was the designing of an official insignia for the Oklahoma

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting (Boley, Oklahoma, 1915), pp. 25-26.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting (Eufaula, Oklahoma, 1916), p. 25.

Federation of Colored Women's Clubs by Miss Manilla Johnson. This design was adopted by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs as the official insignia of the national organization.[1] The occasion of Mrs. Horton's seventieth birthday anniversary was given comment in The Black Dispatch:

> Mrs. Horton served as president of the Women's Excelsior Club here for 28 years then named her successor at the request of the organization. It was she who conceived the idea that the clubs of America should have an emblem and one was designed and accepted as the national emblem in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1930, by the Federated Clubs of America. Mrs. Horton is also the founder of the Excelsior Library here, one of the best in the state, and organized the first women's club in the state of Oklahoma in Guthrie in the year of 1906.[2]

The forceful administration of Mrs. Judith C. Horton steered the young organization in a path of continuous development. Judith C. Horton federated clubs in the state of Oklahoma have registered the impact of her dynamic personality.

Mrs. Anna H. Cooper, 1919 to 1924

Mrs. Anna H. Cooper, third president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, gave stability to the growing state club organization. Wisdom and administrative skill have been achieved by Mrs. Cooper through years of service as a public school teacher, the wife of a physician, and

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[1] Ibid., p. 16.

[2] The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 29, 1936, p. 2.

a community worker in her home town, Eufaula, Oklahoma. Her administration occurred in the post World War I period. Participation in the reconversion from war to peace was a significant task of the club women of this period. The continued growth of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs during her administration was a testimony to Mrs. Cooper's conservative leadership.[1]

Mrs. Nellie Weaver Greene, 1924 to 1928

Mrs. Nellie Weaver Greene, fourth president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, was born in Tuscatucy, Alabama. Her educational preparation included graduation from the high school of her native community, the Bachelor of Science degree from Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, graduate study at Howard University, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Greene came to Oklahoma in 1908 and began a career of teaching in the public schools, continuing until 1949, the year of her retirement from the public school system of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Her public service extended into church service in the C. M. E. Church, and participation in the civic, religious, and social affairs of Muskogee. As president of the city federation and the state federation, Mrs. Greene became a leader of power in Oklahoma.[2] During her

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[1]Letter from Mrs. Lucy E. Hutton to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, August 21, 1956.

[2]Letter from Mrs. Lula E. Kiff to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, April 24, 1957.

administration noteworthy improvements were made in the training schools for Negro boys and girls. The focus of her administration was the development of an educational fund for scholarship loans to worthy orphan girls. The quality of her leadership has illustration in this excerpt from her first annual address as president of the state federation:

> Again I want to congratulate you on being so fortunate as to live in such a wonderful age. . . . Do you realize that in proportion as you assist in making progress in an age, that you are becoming an important factor in that age? The group which will sit supinely by and permit other groups to solve all the problems of that age, while they enjoy them, a group who will not lend any aid in the economic situation of the age in which it lives, will soon find itself nothing more than a parasite on which other groups will feed.[1]

Mrs. Greene gave emphasis to economic productivity, citizenship education, and the exercise of political rights. Her forthright approach has been embodied in such statements as this: "Too many of our women are failing to take advantage of their franchise, and do not manifest the amount of interest they should in the ballot. Every ballot is a machine gun and you are a traitor if you don't use it."[2]

The Muskogee City Federation has established an annual Nellie Weaver Greene Day which has been observed with an event to provide funds for the annual award of a $100

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting, p. 5.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1926), pp. 7-8.

scholarship to a graduate of Manual Training High School rated as outstanding in Home Economics by the high school faculty.[1]

Mrs. Adelia E. Young, 1928 to 1932

Mrs. Adelia E. Young, fifth president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a native of Louisiana, came to Oklahoma in its pioneer period. Preparation for this important office included college graduation, presidency of the Semper Fidelis Club of Oklahoma City, participation in public life as the wife of a physician who was for a brief period president of Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma. As president of the state federation, Mrs. Young directed the first summer camp for girls at Sulphur, Oklahoma. She initiated the junior federation encampment at Lake Murray, Ardmore, Oklahoma.[2]

The breadth of Mrs. Young's vision as an administrator of the state federation has been exemplified in her recommendations for the organization. These were: (1) the division of the state organization into regions organized around centers of population, (2) a survey of school facilities of the state, (3) the promotion of a state-wide financial program for the educational fund. The departments of Home

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[1]Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, op. cit.

[2]Letter from Mrs. Maude J. Brockway to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, March 21, 1957.

Beautiful, Young Women, and Race Relations were instituted during her administration. Mrs. Young's major efforts were directed toward girls' clubs, family life, and education.

Mrs. Lucy Elliott Hutton, 1932 to 1936

Sixth in succession to the presidency of the Oklahoma Federation was Mrs. Lucy Elliott Hutton, a native of Starkville, Mississippi. Her educational preparation included graduation from Langston University and further study at Tuskegee Institute and Denver University. Public service involved teaching in the public schools of Muskogee, Sapulpa, and Sand Springs. Mrs. Hutton was co-owner with her husband in several business ventures. Her election to the presidency of the state federation was preceded by many years of work in local federated clubs. Success as an executive of a state organization was based on service in various organizations as an officer: Sunday School superintendent, president of the missionary society, worthy matron of the Order of Eastern Star, and member of a church choir.[1]

Mrs. Hutton maintained continued relationship with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, participating in the biennials at Chicago, Cleveland, Ft. Worth, and Boston. Her administration gave emphasis to the development of junior clubs, the summer encampment at Lake Murray,

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting (Langston, Oklahoma, 1928), p. 14.

the literary and musical contests for juniors, and the sponsorship of junior clubs by senior clubs.[1]

Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, 1936 to 1940

Mrs. Maude J. Brockway filled the seventh administrative term of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. A native of Curtis, Arkansas, her educational preparation included study at Arkadelphia Academy in Arkansas and Arkansas Baptist College at Little Rock, as well as special study in religious education. A career of public service included teaching in the schools of Ardmore and Berwyn, Oklahoma; president of many church organizations, including the Women's Auxiliary to the Oklahoma Baptist Convention; Director of Study Class of National Baptist Women's Convention; Grand Parliamentarian of Eastern Star of Oklahoma; Worthy Counsellor of Oklahoma Jurisdiction of Calanthe; member of Pythian Bath House Commission; recipient of honorary degrees from Arkansas Baptist College and the School of Religion at Langston. Mrs. Brockway was named Woman of the Year in Oklahoma City in 1956. Service to federated clubs has called her to the presidency of the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and to the offices of parliamentarian and statistician of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.[2]

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[1]Mrs. Lucy E. Hutton, op. cit.

[2]Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, op. cit.

As president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Brockway introduced and put into action the following innovations: (1) geographical division of the state federation into regions, (2) the Princess Revue as a regional financial and entertainment project, (3) the awarding of trophies and (4) the entertainment of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.[1]

Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, 1940 to 1944

Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, eighth president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a native of Clayton, Alabama, received her education in Arkansas, graduating from the Arkansas Baptist College at Little Rock. Public service was given as a teacher in the public schools of Arkansas and Oklahoma; Sunday School superintendent; president of Manual Training High School P.T.A.; chairman of religious education and instructor at Liberty Bible College, Muskogee, Oklahoma; and president of Frances Harper Club and the Muskogee City Federation. Mrs. Kiff had the distinction of being selected Woman of the Year by the Muskogee City Federation.[2]

Mrs. Kiff's administration was characterized by harmony of the official staff and club affiliates of the state

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[1] Ibid.

[2] Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting (Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1939), p. 3.

federation and a unity of purpose. The departmental work was expanded to include: Negro Women in Industry, Peace, Education, Temperance, and Religion.[1] An excerpt from Mrs. Kiff's greetings to the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs on the occasion of the Oklahoma Biennial has recorded the warmth of her personality:

> The habit of hospitality is deeply rooted in the hearts of Oklahoma people, and closely linked with it is the capacity of sharing the things they enjoy with others. Oklahoma means more than scenery and natural beauty, and more than a place to relax and play.
>
> Oklahoma is a discovery of friendly folk, folk you will learn to love and folk you will want to visit again.[2]

World War II focused the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs on national defense. Mrs. Kiff urged the women of the state to share in the defense of the nation: "The entire nation has one thought today: the defense of America . . . The club women of today stand ready to be integrated into every phase of the defense program. May I urge you . . . get into the program in your local communities."[3]

Marked loyalty to the program of the Oklahoma state

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting, p. 9.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-first Annual Meeting (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1941), p. 7.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-second Annual Meeting (Wewoka, Oklahoma, 1942), p. 16.

federation characterized the membership of the organization during Mrs. Kiff's administration.

Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver, 1944 to 1948

Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver, ninth executive of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a native of Texas, received her formal education at Central Texas College; Langston University in Oklahoma; Washburn College, Topeka Kansas; and Indiana State University, Bloomington, Indiana. A career of public service included teaching in the schools of Oklahoma and acting as city librarian, Jeannes supervisor, and college matron. Church activities involved Sunday School and missionary work, the vice presidency of the National Council of Church Women, and the chairmanship of the interracial department of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention. Community services have included organization of the Matron's Club, which purchased land and constructed a swimming pool for the youth of the community; organization of the Friendly Friend Club of McAlester, Oklahoma; regional chairman of the Southern Region of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; and leader in the establishment of the Genevieve M. Weaver Library at Ponca City, Oklahoma. Mrs. Weaver has functioned in most of the elective offices of the state federation and has served as president of the Southwest Region and second vice president of the National Association.[1]

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[1]"Personalities," National Notes, XL (Fall Issue, 1951), p. 21.

Major achievements of Mrs. Weaver's administration were: (1) expansion of the scholarship loan fund, (2) institution of the high school award, (3) systematic business practices in federation business, and (4) assistance to Langston University. Peace-time goals of equal educational opportunity for Negroes in Oklahoma and family life education were emphasized. Cooperation with state agencies for the advancement of civil rights was a continuous objective of this term of office.[1]

Mrs. Mildred P. Williams, 1948 to 1952

The tenth executive of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was Mrs. Mildred P. Williams, a science teacher in the Dunbar Elementary School of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her educational preparation included the Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State Teachers' College at Pittsburg, and the Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, New York City. As president of the Tulsa City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Williams rendered significant service to the city of Tulsa. The area of her service has encompassed church, civic, social, and educational organizations and institutions. National recognition in club work was accorded Mrs. Williams by election to the offices of Chairman of the

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1945), p. 8.

Policy Committee and Co-chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.[1]

As president of the Oklahoma Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Williams launched the official publication of that organization, Sooner Woman. An emphasis of her administration has been the coordination of the national, regional, and state programs. The following excerpt has expressed the importance attributed by Mrs. Williams to the humanitarian program of the federated clubs:

> Our organizers were farsighted women. They recognized the handicaps of Negroes, particularly with reference to educational, recreational, and industrial opportunities. They recognized the need for uplift work in all levels of community life, so they set about establishing day nurseries, furnishing boarding homes for single girls in cities, and establishing industrial homes for problem girls and boys all over the country. National Association women have provided nursing care and hospitals in cities and towns that had no hospitals; they have shared their own meager means in order to conduct kindergartens, establish libraries, homes for delinquents, and through scholarships provided educational opportunities not otherwise available.[2]

Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson, 1952 to 1956

Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson, eleventh president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a native of Texas, has given outstanding service to Oklahoma as an educator. Her educational preparation began in the public and

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[1] "Of Human Interest," The Ninth Biennial Session of the Southwest Region of the N.A.C.W.C. (August 20-24, 1955), p. 23.

[2] Ibid.

private schools of Texas, and continued at Chicago Musical College; Langston University; Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia; and the University of Oklahoma at Norman, from which institution she received the Master of Education degree.[1] Her public service record has been broad, including director of fraternal orders, state and national leadership in church activities, and promotion of local, district, and state music festivals. As president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Mrs. Roberson expanded the junior federation program, developed the summer camp at Lake Murray into a significant recreational program, and promoted the organization of new clubs.[2]

Her challenge to the club women of the state to accept the responsibility for good government has been recorded in the following excerpt:

> As women and leaders we must learn more about government and its function in the lives of people. We often hear people say, "I want nothing to do with government and politics. As leaders, politics is your business, for politics is government in action. It is as good or as bad as the people who participate in it. An alert, well-informed, active citizen will help preserve our democratic form of government. An indifferent citizen will endanger it. . . .[3]

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[1]Letter from Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, March 3, 1957.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting (Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1954), p. 11.

Velma Echols, a member of the Shawnee Junior Federated Club, paid this tribute to Mrs. Roberson:

> In the city of Shawnee, Oklahoma, clothed in the vigor of her useful years, lives a woman, as busy as the pioneer woman of yesteryear, and as productive in her sphere. She takes not one child, but throughout her brilliant career, she has led hundreds of boys and girls into the fuller life through her contributions to their careers.[1]

Mrs. Jessie B. Hibler, 1956-

Mrs. Jessie B. Hibler, twelfth to achieve the office of president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, was born in Marlin, Texas. Her education, begun in the public schools of Texas, was completed in the public schools of Oklahoma and Langston University. Service to her fellowman was the way of life to this minister's wife. Her success as a mother of nine, all of whom enjoyed careers of significant service to humanity, has made Mrs. Hibler a woman of wisdom and discretion. She has served as president of the Baptist Missionary Union of Muskogee, treasurer of the Army Mothers' Club, and Bible instructor of the Union Baptist Missionary Society, as well as treasurer of the Sunburst Club. Mrs. Hibler was a charter member of the Art and Culture Club of Muskogee and has given forty years of service to the federated clubs of Oklahoma. Service in the offices of

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[1]Velma Echols, "Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson, A Tribute," Oration delivered at the convention of the Oklahoma Association of Colored Girls' Clubs, McAlester, Oklahoma, July, 1954 (Personal files of Mrs. Roberson, Shawnee, Oklahoma).

Chairman of Mother, Home and Child, Peace, and the Executive Board, then first vice president, preceded her election to the state presidency. Mrs. Hibler's administration has the challenge of contributing to the successful integration of the public schools in Oklahoma.

Summary of State Presidents

The consistent development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been a service of the leadership of the twelve presidents of the organization. Each has served in some capacity before achieving the executive office. Table 17 has summarized the data on offices held prior to election as president of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Table 18 has assembled data with reference to educational preparation and occupational experience of the twelve presidents.

Educational preparation, occupational experience, and motivation to contribute to the advancement of the Negro in Oklahoma made these women a decisive factor in furthering the educational program of their communities. It has been their vision and direction that has made the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs an educational force in the community life of Oklahoma.

The Office of Treasurer

The office of treasurer in any organization has demanded efficiency in accounting, dependability, and personal

TABLE 17

OFFICES HELD BY EXECUTIVES OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS PRIOR TO ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF STATE PRESIDENT

President	Previous Offices
Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson	
Mrs. Judith C. Horton	Organizer Chairman of Ways and Means
Mrs. Anna H. Cooper	Treasurer
Mrs. Nellie Weaver Greene	Chairman of Domestic Art Chairman of Ways and Means
Mrs. Adelia E. Young	Chairman of Art Statistician
Mrs. Lucy Elliott Hutton	
Mrs. Maude J. Brockway	Organizer Second Vice President Chairman of Executive Board
Mrs. Lula E. Kiff	Parliamentarian Recording Secretary First Vice President
Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver	Chairman of Scholarship Loan First Vice President
Mrs. Mildred P. Williams	Second Vice President Chairman of Executive Board
Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson	Chairman of Music Second Vice President
Mrs. Jessie B. Hibler	Parliamentarian Chairman of Juniors Chair-mother Chairman of Executive Board

TABLE 18

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION AND OCCUPATIONS OF TWELVE STATE PRESIDENTS

Name	Term of Office	Education	Occupation
Jacobson	1910-1915	Kansas State Teachers' College, Emporia	Teacher
Horton	1915-1919	Oberlin College, Ohio	Teacher
Cooper	1919-1924	Langston University, Oklahoma	Teacher
Greene	1924-1928	Fiske University Howard University	Teacher
Young	1928-1932	Langston University	Teacher
Hutton	1932-1936	Tuskegee Institute Langston University	Teacher
Brockway	1936-1940	Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock	Teacher Religious Educator
Kiff	1940-1944	Arkansas Baptist College	Teacher Religious Educator
Weaver	1944-1948	Central College, Texas Washburn College, Kansas Langston University	Teacher-Librarian
Williams	1948-1952	Kansas State Teachers' College, Pittsburg Columbia University	Teacher
Roberson	1952-1956	Bishop College, Texas Chicago Musical College University of Oklahoma	Teacher
Hibler	1956-	Langston University	Religious Educator

integrity. The responsibility and drudgery involved in the demands of the office in a state organization with a program of the scope of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs have limited the field of candidates. A survey of the minutes of the annual proceedings of the Oklahoma Federation from 1910 to 1956 revealed that six persons have held the office of treasurer. It is worthy of note that the beginning years of the organization were accompanied by frequent change. From 1910 to 1914, three persons served as treasurer. From 1914 to 1957, only three individuals have served, the latter two treasurers having been in office for terms of twenty and seventeen years, respectively. Table 19 shows the treasurers of the state federation and their terms of office.

TABLE 19

PERIOD OF SERVICE FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Name	Residence	Term of Office
Mrs. W. H. Twine	Muskogee	1910-1911
Mrs. Luke Hodgkins	El Reno	1911-1912
Mrs. Lena T. Austin	Muskogee	1912-1914
Mrs. Anna H. Cooper	Eufaula	1914-1920
Mrs. Emma Backstrom	Enid	1920-1940
Mrs. Geneva B. Faver	Guthrie	1940-

The importance of the office of treasurer has been recognized by the special provision that the term of office not be restricted to the four-year limitation of all other state offices. The first treasurer who gave the office a degree of stability was Mrs. Anna H. Cooper who served from 1914 to 1920. A tribute to her service was her election as third president of the Oklahoma Federation. Two persons to whom the heavy responsibilities of the office became a labor of love were Mrs. Emma Backstrom and Mrs. Geneva B. Faver.

Mrs. Emma Backstrom, 1920 to 1940

Mrs. Emma Backstrom, a pioneer citizen of Enid, Oklahoma, was organizer of the two federated clubs of that community, The Royal Garden Club and The Home Economics Club. She worked with what was termed "the welfare group," in Enid. Any family needing assistance was directed to this group of women. Mrs. Backstrom was a member of the A.M.E. Church and president of the missionary society and the stewardess board.[1]

Mrs. Geneva B. Faver, 1940-

Mrs. Geneva Faver assumed the office of treasurer in 1940 and has served without interruption since that date. Mrs. Faver, a pioneer citizen of Guthrie, Oklahoma, has functioned as a leader in many areas of service. She was the

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[1]Letter from Mrs. Leona B. Jones to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, August 22, 1956.

first music teacher hired to teach in the Guthrie public schools. The Negro high school of Guthrie has been named for her husband. Some special services rendered to the public by Mrs. Faver have included: secretary of the Logan County Republican Central Committee, juror in Federal Court, chairman of the city library board, and member of the library board. Mrs. Faver donated a forty acre tract of land for use as a camp site for Negro boys. The location of this site was three miles south of Meridian. The presentation was a memorial to Mrs. Faver's husband, Stonewall Jackson Faver.[1]

The Pattern of Organization

The major subdivisions of the state organization by constitutional provision were: the six regions, city federations, local clubs, and the junior department, officially designated as the Oklahoma Association of Colored Girls.[2]

The Region

The plan of regional organization was first presented to the state federation by Mrs. A. E. Young, fifth president of the group. The recommendation called for a division of the state organization into four districts with the four population centers as the basis for districts. The population

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[1] Interview with Mrs. Geneva B. Faver, July 27, 1956.

[2] Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws, pp. 1-14.

centers suggested were: Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Muskogee, and McAlester.[1] The proposal was not put into action. Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, seventh president, offered a regional plan dividing the state into six geographical regions. This plan was adopted with the designated regions: Southern, Northern, Western, Central, Eastern, and Northeastern.[2]

The Constitutional directive for regions provided:

> For the enlistment of our women and for the better execution of the work, the state shall be divided into Regions and each Region shall have the same set-up and officers as that of the State Federation.
> Each Region shall hold a one-day session at some specified time before the State Federation, and shall elect their Regional officers.[3]

The Region has demonstrated its effectiveness as a coordinating agency between local and state programs. It has served to train women in the official duties of club work, to acquaint them with the state and national programs, and to afford opportunity for local clubs to present problems, projects and plans. The region has served as a clearing house for business, financial reports, and summarization of statistics. Local club women have realized a feeling of belonging to the state organization through the regional plan. Table

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting, p. 14.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting, pp. 3-5.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws, p. 8.

20 shows the number of towns, clubs, and members in each region. Data utilized for the table was assembled from regional reports presented in the April 27, 1957, Executive Board meeting of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 20

NUMBER OF TOWNS, CLUBS, AND MEMBERS IN THE SIX REGIONS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Region	Number of Towns	Number of Clubs	Number of Members
Central	6	22	254
Eastern	2	18	255
Northeastern	5	20	714
Northern	5	12	140
Southern	5	11	155
Western	5	19	262
TOTAL	28	102	1273

The City Federation

The term city federation has been interpreted in the constitution of the state organization as follows:

> A City Federation shall be composed of three or more clubs, properly organized and working together, supporting and maintaining a common major objective; this should not hinder individual clubs belonging to City Federations from supporting minor charitable, civic, educational, and religious activities.[1]

[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws, p. 3.

The city federation as a division of the state federation has facilitated club work in areas of concentration of Negro population. Smaller communities have a record of instability in the city federation organization. Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Muskogee, and Okmulgee have stable and highly effective city federation organizations.

The Muskogee City Federation. Organized in 1910, with forty-five members and three clubs, the Muskogee City Federation has achieved a creditable record in community building and expansion of the federated club program. In 1918 this organization purchased property for a library for Negroes, raising the purchase price of $3,000.00 in three months. Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, who has headed this city federation for a number of years, has stated the objective of the organization as: "the betterment of the social, civic, and educational conditions of all people."[1]

The Oklahoma City Federation. This unit was organized in 1911 and has had a continued record of growth and achievement. The purposes in the early period of the organization's history were cultural and literary. Federation meetings were held in churches. The first property was purchased under the management of Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, a site located at 501 N.E. Fourth Street. This property was later sold and a site

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[1]Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, "A Report on the History of the Muskogee City Federation" (unpublished manuscript, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1957), pp. 2-4.

purchased at 615 N.E. Fourth Street, the location of the present home, officially known as the "Brockway Community Center." The building included an executive office, an auditorium, dining rooms, a kitchen, a beauty salon, and rooms for women and girls. Other achievements of the organization were the establishment of a day nursery, a branch library, and a home for cadet nurses. During the war period, this organization arranged for homes for relatives visiting servicemen, assisted with home weddings, and contributed in many ways to the morale of the servicemen and their families.[1] Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson has related many cases of meeting fiancees of servicemen and chaperoning the young ladies until weddings were consumated. Many letters have been received by Oklahoma City women thanking them for courtesies during the war period.[2]

The Okmulgee City Federation. This unit was organized in 1927. The purpose was to provide a medium for cooperative action of the club units. Objectives accepted by the organization were: improving homes, school, and community. Projects achieved by this group have included day nurseries, baby clinics, and the Adams-Suggs Home.[3]

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[1]Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, "A Report of the Oklahoma City Federation" (unpublished manuscript, Oklahoma City, 1957), p. 1.

[2]Interview with Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, July 4, 1956.

[3]Okmulgee City Federation, Souvenir History (Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1954), p. 4.

The Tulsa City Federation. Organized in 1924, this city federation made an excellent record in stimulating club work and community development. Projects sponsored by the Tulsa City Federation have been: a woman's exchange, a day nursery, a receiving home for girls, and the "Mildred P. Williams Center."[1]

The city federation has facilitated the achievement of major projects through united action. Its success in areas of population concentration has been derived from the potential for service of numerous local clubs with large club memberships and their need for a coordinating agency. The instability of the city federation in more sparsely populated areas has been due to the inability of a limited club membership to function adequately at two levels of club responsibility.

The Local Club

Constitutional requirements for local clubs were cited as follows in the minutes for the organization of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs:

> Clubs eligible to membership in the Federation shall:
> 1. Be composed entirely of women, not less than ten in number.
> 2. Be consistent with the principles set forth in Article II.
> 3. Make application in writing to the recording secretary, accompanied by a copy of its constitution, roll of members and facts as to its eligibility, said application to be submitted to the Executive Board.

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[1] "Of Human Interest," p. 23.

4. Be subject to the ruling of the majority.
5. Pay ten cents per member into the treasury of the Federation annually.[1]

The local club has constituted the foundation for the city federation, the region, the state, and national organizations. The goals of the program at every level have had significance in proportion to their appropriateness to the needs of the membership at the local level.

The Junior Department

The junior federation officially designated as the Oklahoma Association of Colored Girls has been a duplication of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs adapted to girls. The junior club has served as an agency for development of senior federated club workers and a source of perpetuation of the adult organization. The most significant objective of the junior department has been the development of girls, socially, mentally, morally, and physically.

In summary, the pattern of organization of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has provided for an efficient operation of the club program. The regional plan, the most recent of the subdivisions of the state organizations, has functioned to strengthen the state organization and improve local club programs. The city federation has been least productive in the development of the state body.

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization, p. 17.

Its limitations in the community of lesser population have been the placing of increased duties as well as demands of time and money on a population too limited to support the added program without undue sacrifice. The plan has not handicapped local clubs in that where the city federation has not contributed to club development, it has been abandoned. The local club has been the foundation of the club structure.

The junior division has not developed as rapidly as the state adult organization. The explanation for this disparity between the senior and junior divisions has been the many activities which demand the time of junior club members above and beyond club obligations. Those phases of the junior club program which make less demand of time have been most consistently supported. Accordingly the junior state meeting in the vacation period, the summer encampment, the oratorical and music contests have been popular and stable.

An over-all view of the organizational pattern of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs revealed some points of weakness. There have been, however, more evidences of strength than of weakness. The pattern has functioned with excellent productivity and has shown promise of continued contribution to the development of the organization.

Summary

Chapter III has traced the development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colo. Women's Clubs from its origin to

its growth into a powerful organization contributing significantly to the community life of Oklahoma. The National Association has been related to the origin and development of the Oklahoma Federation. Significant aspects of the organization have been examined as an effective approach to a comprehensive view of its development.

The pioneer clubs and pioneer clubwomen were portrayed as the initiators of the movement to form a state federation. The expansion of the federated club movement over the state was noted. The development of the Oklahoma Federation was viewed from the aspects of: (1) number of towns in which federated clubs functioned, (2) number of members, (3) expansion of the departmental program, and (4) financial and property assets.

The interrelationship of the state and national levels of the federated program were emphasized. The administrations of the twelve presidents were evaluated. The contribution of the office of treasurer to the state organization was presented. The pattern of organization was examined as to its adaptability to the objectives, program, and projects of the Oklahoma Federation.

The evaluation of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has shown the organization as a significant force in the development of community life.

CHAPTER IV

THE PROGRAM OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Introduction

The program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs evolved in the cooperative efforts of Negro women seeking to make a contribution toward the solution of vital problems which faced the pioneer Negro citizen in Oklahoma. The significance of these problems has been verified in their persistence from pioneer days to the present. The philosophy and objectives of the organization, as expressed in addresses, symposiums, papers, resolutions, and programs of action, have given emphasis to five areas of interests: (1) civil rights, (2) community development, (3) prevention of juvenile delinquency, (4) youth education, and (5) adult education.

The central objective and underlying motivation which has permeated the federated club movement has been service. The national and state motto, "Lifting As We Climb," has pervaded every level of the federated program. The aspirations of federated club women have been expressed by members of

the organization in a number of slogans, songs, and poems. Two songs have been accorded official sanction by the Oklahoma Federation: "Song of Oklahoma Club Women," by Mrs. Josie Craig Berry, and "State Club Song," by Mrs. Harriet Price Jacobson. Copies of these official songs have been recorded in Appendix B.

The penetration of the ideal, "Lifting As We Climb," in the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been illustrated in the official insignia of the organization. Miss Manila Johnson of Guthrie, Oklahoma, the creator of the emblem, has portrayed a woman with helping hand extended to a child beneath her as both attempt the ascent of a rugged peak. At the annual convention of 1919, the retiring president, Mrs. Judith C. Horton, presented this design to the state federation. Official endorsement of the design as the official emblem of the organization was given.[1] In 1930, Mrs. Horton reported the acceptance of the design by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.[2]

The continued growth of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs had its source in the dedication of club women to the ideal of service. This chapter will be

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting (Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1919), p. 1.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Meeting (Sapulpa, Oklahoma 1930), p. 23.

devoted to a description of five aspects of the program of the Federation.

Civil Rights

Interest in the advancement of civil rights was dominant in the minds of the pioneer membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. In 1910 the first business after the organization of the Oklahoma Federation was the endorsement of the work of the Constitutional League which at that time was endeavoring to secure favorable legislation for Negroes in Oklahoma.[1]

Among the early club women who gave direction to the organization's program of civil rights was Mrs. Drusilla Dunjee Houston, founder of a seminary for Negro girls at McAlester, Oklahoma, and president of a Baptist sponsored school for Negro girls at Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Mrs. Houston projected continuously two themes in her speeches and publications--Negro history and civil rights. Her book, Wonderful Ethiopians, was widely read by the Negro of Oklahoma.[2]

A study of the resolutions adopted in the annual sessions of the Oklahoma Federation has presented evidence of the continued striving of club women for civil rights. Table 21 summarizes significant resolutions in this category.

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting, p. 7.

[2]Interview with Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, June 1, 1956.

TABLE 21

CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Resolution	Year of Adoption
Endorsement of Constitutional League	1910
Protest Lynchings	1911
School Legislation for Equalization of Educational Opportunities	1912
Condemnation of Racial Stereotypes	1913
Endorse Woman's Suffrage	1914
Protest Presentation of Dixon's Plays	1915
Sustaining Membership in N.A.A.C.P.	1916
Registration for Exercise of Suffrage	1919
Integration of Negro in All Areas of American Life and Culture	1954
Employment of Negro Teachers in Integrated Schools	1957

The most constructive action by the Oklahoma Federation toward the advancement of civil rights for the Negro was financial support to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The call for financial aid to the civil rights agency was first presented to the Oklahoma club women by Miss Freeman of New York City. This event has been recorded in the minutes of the sixth annual meeting:

> Miss Freeman (white) of New York, was then introduced

> to the congregation by Mrs. A. J. Edwards of McAlester. Miss Freeman is touring the South lecturing in the interest of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The lecture was quietly listened to, with interest, after which an offering was taken up, to help the cause for which she pleaded.[1]

Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson has summarized data with reference to the support of the N.A.A.C.P. by the Oklahoma Federation from 1916, when it became a sustaining member, to 1939.[2] The Constitution and By-laws of the Oklahoma Federation has provided that annual fees of $25.00 and $50.00 be given the state and national divisions of the N.A.A.C.P., respectively.[3] This pattern of support to an organization dedicated to civil rights has been implemented by the local federated clubs.

The Oklahoma Federation has united with other state organizations in programs promoted in the interest of civil rights. The 1919 report of the legislative committee has presented an account of united action:

> Owing to the turbulent times and changing conditions since our last report, there have been many important matters concerning our people in this state, to be considered. Because of the largeness of these matters, the importance of their proper consideration and solution and the knowledge that union gives strength, we have tried, as far as possible, to cooperate with other race organizations, who were working to promote the same

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting, p. 7.

[2]Personal Papers of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, 1939.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws, p. 13.

> interests as ourselves. We served on a committee consisting of representatives from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Oklahoma City Branch of the Y.M.C.A., the Oklahoma and Grady County Councils of Defense and the Negro Division of 'Four Minute Men,' who presented a petition to the Governor, calling his attention to matters of much concern to our race in this state, and asking for legislation upon many unjust provisions of our laws that are harmful to our liberty and rights. As a result of this petition, the Governor sent a special message to the Legislature, dealing with some of the matters presented. . . .
>
> When the Legislature convened, we sent letters to various members of the Assembly, calling their attention to the following matters and asking that some action be taken to remedy existing evils:
>
> First: that our registration laws be made so definite that every official will correctly understand the law and that nothing will excuse him from performing his duty with fairness and justice to all.
>
> Second: that some provision be made to put down that spirit of lawlessness prevalent in some portions of our state and which has frequently burst into mob violence.
>
> Third: that proper laws be passed concerning the unjust discrimination practiced on railroads and street cars.[1]

The interrelationships of the program of the federated clubs with other movements and persons active in civil rights programs have been maintained. Roscoe Dungee, Editor of The Black Dispatch, and a veteran champion of civil rights, was presented in the forty-third annual meeting at Chickasha by the legislative committee. The following excerpt has recorded recommendations posed by this exponent of civil rights:

> That we should resent and speak against the spending of enormous sums of money for new parks for Negroes. We do not want Jim Crow Parks, but we want to be free to go wherever we want to go. . . .
>
> We ought to, through P.T.A., N.A.A.C.P., and other

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, pp. 18-20.

> organizations do something along the line of civil rights in our communities. Tell them we want Freedom, Democracy, and everything else that anybody else wants.[1]

In 1954 the following resolution was approved:

> That the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs authorize the Legislative Committee to draft an official letter making known the stand of the organization for full and complete integration of the Negro in American life: the school, transportation, municipal facilities, participation in government, F.E.P.C., and all the rights and responsibilities of First Class Citizenship.[2]

The minutes of the forty-fifth annual meeting included a statement of a panel developing the topic: "Integration." The discussion was followed by a resolution to urge all federated club women to become active in furthering integration in their local communities.[3]

Rights of women have been an objective of federated club women. The Oklahoma Federation has made a forceful statement of goals to be sought in the area of women's rights:

> One major battle must yet be fought and won, the legal right to hold major state offices. Women are now entitled to all voting privileges accorded men. Women may now be elected to either House of our Legislature or to either House of our National Congress. Women are not barred from holding any Federal office--even the presidency of the United States. Yet the laws of our own Oklahoma make them ineligible for any state office save three.

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-third Annual Meeting (Chickasha, Oklahoma, 1953), p. 18.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting, p. 22.

[3]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-fifth Annual Meeting (Sapulpa, Oklahoma, 1955), p. 9.

> No woman of Oklahoma, no matter how high her qualifications or how eagerly her services may be desired by the people, may hold any state office except that of State Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Clerk of the State Supreme Court. But we shall march on asking no right or privilege not enjoyed by citizens of the other sex, and not beseeching or praying for, but demanding equal and just rights with them--nothing more, nothing less.[1]

The civil rights program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has sought to initiate appropriate action in the interest of the equal rights of Negroes and to give support to programs of organizations advancing the status of Negroes in the economic, political, and educational aspects of community life.

Community Development

The program for community development has been most productive at the local level with the state program contributing motivation and direction in this area of work. The first address delivered to an assembly of Oklahoma Federated Club women had for its title, "The Club Woman and Community Interests." Excerpts from this address have recorded the marked emphasis on community life which has continuously characterized the federated club program.

> Thus far I have spoken of the Club as the thermometer of public sentiment without regard to the race of the women composing the club. I feel, however, that I shall not have done my full duty until I have specified a few of the obligations that rest upon the Colored Women's Club with regard to 'Community Interest.' For, mark

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[1]Rainey, op. cit., p. 21.

> you! Colored women have their own peculiar problems in every community--problems which are local and specific if not general. None but colored women--intelligent, consecrated colored women--can meet these demands.[1]

The theme of community interest manifested in the first meeting of the Oklahoma Federation has continued with numerous local projects exemplifying this basic interest. Table 22 summarizes discussion topics in this area which have been featured at annual meetings of the federation.

TABLE 22

DISCUSSION TOPICS PERTINENT TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTED IN ANNUAL MEETINGS FROM 1910 TO 1916

Discussion Topics	Year
The Relation of the Club to the Home	1910
The Value of Mothers' Clubs	1911
How Can the Club Reach the Women Who Most Need Its Influence?	1912
How to Lessen the Death Rate Among Negroes Civic Improvement in Negro Neighborhoods	1913
What Can the Negro Physician Do to Help Improve the Sanitary Conditions in the Homes of the Masses?	1914
City Problems Confronting the Negro Segregation and the Way to Remedy This Evil	1915
Art Applied to the Home A Higher Standard of Race Morality	1916

[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization, p. 1.

The approach to the establishment of programs of community development shifted from general discussions in the annual meetings to departmental bulletins and guides provided by the state federation to local club women. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the work in improving local communities was presented in an annual address in 1915. An excerpt from this address was:

> I have mentioned only the tangible things accomplished but greater by far are the intangible results of our labor for race uplift in the state of Oklahoma; for every little club is creating sentiment for bettering home and civic conditions in its special locality in a way that cannot be measured: creating a sentiment for higher living, higher class of entertainment, more of the spirit of charity, greater race pride, love and loyalty; creating a sentiment that shall work out a new order of things for the race. . . .[1]

A synthesis of regional reports included such projects in community development as beautification of city parks, cemeteries, school sites, health clinics, participation in financial drives for humanitarian projects and investment in property.[2]

Club reports published in Federated Women listed such community development projects as assisting in building and maintaining community centers, purchasing playground equipment, providing shrubbery for landscaping school sites,

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting, p. 25.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-third Annual Meeting, pp. 5-6.

sponsoring convalescent homes, purchasing uniforms for school bands, equipping rooms at hospitals, gifts to hospitals for mentally ill, purchase of wheel chair, contributions to humanitarian drives, sponsoring needy children through school, providing recreation for youth, and purchasing equipment for schools.[1]

Miss Elizabeth Carter Brooks, fourth president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, has given this view of the work of the local clubs:

> The development of local club work may be seen in the formation and incorporation of day nurseries, kindergartens, working girls' homes, club houses, orphan homes, homes for girls, homes for boys, also homes for the aged, and infirm that are owned and controlled by the women of the National Association of Colored Women.[2]

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

The objective of the prevention of juvenile delinquency was accepted by the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs as a major goal in the first years of the state federation. Concern for the welfare of Negro youth and alarm over unfavorable environment was expressed in the first annual meeting:

> Whereas, there is a growing tendency among our boys to frequent pool halls, gambling dives and houses of dissipation, and
> Whereas, these evils are rapidly destroying the

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[1]"Club Reports," Federated Women, 1948, 1949, 1953, 1954.

[2]Davis, op. cit., p. 5.

future manhood and usefulness of our boys,

Be it resolved, that we, the State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, give our hearty approval to the city authorities for the passage of an ordinance prohibiting boys from visiting and frequenting such places, and that we pledge our moral support and influence to the city authorities to help enforce this ordinance.[1]

This concern was not a transient attitude for in the 1912 annual meeting a committee was appointed to visit the Governor and the Legislature requesting the establishment of a reform school for delinquent Negro youth.[2] In 1913 a committee of women visited the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Their reaction to this visit has been recorded as follows:

> Everything was provided for our comfort from special care to the guards who escorted us through the buildings and explained the different lines of work to us. They were courteous and kind. Warden Dick impressed us as a Christian gentleman and seems to be striving to bring about that reformation in the prisoners that only kindness and Christian treatment can accomplish. We left the prison more determined to establish a state reformatory for the Negro youth.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> The report from our president, Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, was listened to with much attention by the Federation and visitors. We feel from this report that the president is alive to the interest of the Federation and is doing all she can to put the work on a firm and lasting foundation. Her report caused much discussion. A motion was offered by Mrs. Judith C. Horton of Guthrie, making Mrs. Jacobson chairman of the committee to press for this bill for the establishment of a State Training School for delinquent colored youth, she having full power to select or appoint the remaining members of this committee. A motion was offered and carried that each

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting (Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1911), p. 12.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting (Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1912), p. 7.

> club be taxed five dollars to help push forward the work of the legislative committee, until the bill is passed allowing the training school.
>
> A motion was offered by Mrs. Smith and carried, that each club secure names of influential people and send them to the chairman of the legislative committee to be used as she thinks best to create an interest for the establishment of said training school.[1]

The dedication of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson was demonstrated in the persistence with which she worked toward the goal of establishing a training school for delinquent Negro youth. In January, 1913, a petition to the House of Representatives and Senate of the State of Oklahoma was completed with forty-five signatures of influential people of the state. The text of this petition follows:

> Article 21 of the Constitution provides for a Reformatory School, and chapter 17, article 42 provides for juvenile offenders; and whereas, no provisions have been made for colored youthful offenders of the reformatory school or school of correction for the colored youths of the state of Oklahoma, and since there is no place except in the jails and penitentiary which are wholly unfit for youthful offenders;
>
> We, the undersigned citizens and tax-payers of the State of Oklahoma respectfully petition your honorable body to establish a school of reform for the colored youths of the state who violate the law or who are incorrigible.[2]

The text of Mrs. Jacobson's letter to the House of Representatives which accompanied the petition was:

> The petition of the undersigned officers and members of the Oklahoma State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting (McAlester, Oklahoma, 1913), pp. 6-7.

[2]Personal papers of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

most respectfully show:

That said Federation has for its object the moral and intellectual elevation of the Negroes of the State and the general welfare of the children in their homes;

That said Federation is striving to prevent crime and the violation of the law by members of our race and especially by children and youths;

That there is at present no institution in the state for the reformation of Negro children;

That chapter XVII, Article 42, of our State Constitution provides for juvenile offenders and Article 21 of said Constitution and chapter for a reformatory school;

That the lack of such an institution is a menace to our homes, to morale, and to obedience of the laws of the state; therefore, your petitioners do most earnestly, humbly, and respectfully ask that suitable laws be enacted for the establishment of a training school for incorrigible Negro boys and Negro girls and youthful offenders.[1]

Signers of the petition included:[2]

Attorneys-at-law	12	Realtors	2
Farmers	6	Stenographers	2
Physicians	2	Editor	1
Bankers	2	Veterinarian	1
Clergy	2	Merchant	1
Judges	2	Cotton Buyer	1
		Hotel Proprietor	1

The leadership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs focused the program of the organization toward the achievement of the goal of training schools for delinquent youth. Excerpts from correspondence with state officials with reference to the stated objective have been included in this study to document the continuous efforts of the organization.

Mr. U. T. Rexroat, member of the House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, pledged support to the movement:

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[1] Ibid. [2] Ibid.

> I remember the bill concerning the incorrigible Negro boys and girls of this state as introduced some days ago. I will certainly vote and use my influence to give you the desired relief, as I think it is very important that you have a place for them in order that they might get early training in the useful arts and occupations.[1]

Mr. J. H. Maxey, Speaker of the House, gave recognition to the project of the federated club organization: "I assure you that the Legislature will give your bill a fair and careful consideration."[2] Mr. George L. King, of Kingfisher County, registered support: "I am heartily in favor of the measure to which you refer in your letter, and anything I can do to further this matter will be done with a willing spirit and a 'steady hand.'"[3]

In 1914 the topic, "Practical Plans for Securing a State Training School for Delinquent Boys and Girls," was discussed in the annual meeting.[4] The Fifth Legislative Assembly, which was in session in 1915, became the focus of

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[1]Letter from U. T. Rexroat, Member, House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, Fourth Legislature, Ardmore, Carter County, February 10, 1913, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[2]Letter from J. H. Maxey, Speaker, House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, Fourth Legislature, Oklahoma City, February 11, 1913, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[3]Letter from George L. King, Member, House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, Fourth Legislature, Kingfisher, Kingfisher County, February 14, 1913, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[4]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Meeting (El Reno, Oklahoma, 1914), p. 9.

the efforts of the state federation of clubs to achieve their goal for this project.

Data to support the urgency of the need for training schools were supplied by John P. Hopkins, Truant Officer, Oklahoma City Public Schools. An excerpt from a letter of information from this official was:

> During the last year, from September 1, 1913, to May 30, 1914, I handled 362 colored children, the majority of these children being truants. This year from September 1, 1914, to January 15, 1915, I have handled 195 children, the majority of these also being delinquents.
>
> It would be impossible for me to give you the correct number, but a great many appear before the juvenile court, not a few of whom would be sent to correctional institutions were there such an institution in this state. As it is, they are released from court and of course are free to violate the law again in a short time.[1]

The approach to Legislator Jesse B. Norton, Oklahoma County, was followed by this pledge: "I will state for your information that I am heartily in sympathy with the provisions of this Bill, and assure you that it will receive my hearty co-operation and support."[2]

The legislative committee of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs employed a circular letter as a means of keeping the bill for the training schools for Negro youth before the members of the Fifth Legislative Assembly.

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[1]Letter from John P. Hopkins, Truant Officer, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, January 19, 1915, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[2]Letter from Jesse B. Norton, House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, Fifth Legislature, Oklahoma County, January 26, 1915, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Significant passages from this letter were:

> You are aware of the fact that there is at present, no institution in the State for the reformation of Negro children. Statistics show that the number of juvenile offenders is constantly increasing. Boys and girls who might be trained into useful men and women are daily drifting into those forms of vice which will ultimately make them confirmed criminals.
>
> As a Federation of Negro women, we are earnestly striving for the moral and intellectual development of our people in this State. We are putting forth every effort to prevent crime and violation of the law by members of our race and especially by the youth. We are trying to hold up to our children those ideals of purity and honor which will raise their standard of manhood and womanhood and which will make them loyal citizens.[1]

Statements of support were made by the following:[2]

Senators	House Members
Campbell Russell	J. A. Marsh
Thomas J. O'Neil	Howard M. Drake
C. L. Edmondson	C. H. Ingham
J. Elmer Thomas	Amos A. Ewing
G. E. Wilson	
O. C. Shaw	

A report on action in the passage of the legislation for the establishment of the training school was made to Mrs. Jacobson by Representative Amos A. Ewing.

> House Bill No. 447 was amended in the Senate, changing its location from Langston, Logan County, to McAlester, Pittsburg County, and the House of Representatives concurred in these amendments this 11:30 A.M.
>
> The appropriation for the building is $10,000.00. They will not have the building closer than two miles to the penitentiary building. I yet hope to have an appropriation of $15,000.00 inserted in the general appropriation of Bill for maintenance for the years 1916-17; in

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[1]Circular letter issued by the Legislative Committee of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, January 30, 1915.

[2]Official letters of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1915.

this way I may fail, but I hope not. I had a talk with the Governor this noon and was assured that he would sign the Bill the very hour it was placed on his desk.[1]

In the fifth annual session of the Oklahoma Federation a full report on the legislation enacted to establish a training school for Negro boys was made. A portion of that report was as follows:

> Without going into details I will say that the most untiring efforts were put forth in planning and carrying on a campaign for the school. The bill which was again introduced at our last legislative session was, after much discussion and revision, finally passed.
>
> The entire appropriation allowed was $15,000: $10,000 for buildings and $5,000 for maintenance for two years, or until the next meeting of the Legislature. Location, McAlester. Institution for boys only.
>
> We were much disappointed in not securing a larger appropriation and some provision for girls, but when we consider the fact that all land needed will be taken from the state prison farm, native material used, and convict labor employed in the erection of the building, we can readily see that the entire provision means considerably more than the money appropriation and that a very large per cent of cash appropriated can be used for proper equipment.
>
> The building is now in course of erection and it is thought will be ready for occupancy some time in September. It is 70 x 50 feet in size, three stories high, constructed of stone, and thoroughly fire-proof throughout. We understand that it will be an entirely separate and distinct institution from the state prison, that there will be a superintendent and four instructors to begin with and that it will be conducted along lines similar to the Boys' Training School at Pauls Valley.[2]

The achievement of a training school for Negro boys

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[1]Letter from Amos A. Ewing, House of Representatives, State of Oklahoma, Fifth Legislature, Logan County, March 22, 1915, to Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting, pp. 11-12.

was the initial step in the program for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Continued action in this area has been evidenced by this excerpt from the minutes of the seventh annual session.

> We were successful in obtaining the passage of a law changing the location of our State Training School for incorrigible boys instead of abolishing it as had been the plan of some of our officials.
>
> Through the special efforts of Representative Ewing, House Bill No. 217 was passed, changing the location and making an appropriation of $25,000 for new buildings, equipment and maintenance. House Bill No. 108-R was also passed making an appropriation for the purchase of additional land for the orphans' school at Taft and for the installation of a water works system.
>
> Bill No. 101, providing for a school for incorrigible girls was passed and will be erected at Taft for the girls in 1918.
>
> We have made a special effort this year to secure a library for the boys' school. We asked for an appropriation of $250 which was not allowed. We sent circular letters to each club and many individuals, also published appeals in several of our papers . . .[1]

The women of the federated clubs maintained a cooperative relationship with the program of the training schools for Negro youth. A newspaper account of Mrs. Jacobson's investigation of the Training School at McAlester gave information concerning the standards maintained at the institution:

> During the year 1917-18 the school had an enrollment of 103 boys from 21 counties; 23 boys were received during the year and 12 paroled, leaving 73 in attendance December 1, 1918.
>
> The building now occupied is large, well lighted, heated and ventilated, and is kept scrupulously clean. All the work of the school, such as cooking and cleaning

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Meeting (Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1917), pp. 7-8.

is done by the boys. They also make all their own clothing, mend their shoes, do all the general repair work about the building and have made most of the furniture used in their dormitories and dining hall.

Farming is the work provided by the state. In this, the boys are becoming quite proficient, having planted, cultivated, and harvested more than a hundred bales of cotton during the past year.

Their school work follows the regular public school courses provided by the Board of Education for the first eight grades.

According to the plan adopted by the State Board of Affairs, their time is divided equally between study and work, three days each week for study, three for work. Special attention is given sanitation, hygiene, agriculture, and vocal music. They have a large playground where they have baseball, basketball, croquet, merry-go-round and other apparatus. Time is devoted each day to these healthful exercises under proper supervision.

They have three well prepared, nourishing meals each day, and while the food is plentifully served, nothing is wasted.

Special attention is paid to personal cleanliness; regular bathing, care of teeth and frequent changing of clothes is required. The three lavatories, one for the large boys, one for those of smaller size and one for special cases, are large, clean, and thoroughly fumigated often. Each boy has a bed to himself with plenty of warm, clean bedding.

. . . . . .

Perhaps the most forcible thing which came to me during the visit of a day and night, was the perfect order and excellent discipline maintained. It seemed almost impossible to believe that among so large a group of so-called incorrigible boys, there should be such courteous behavior, such strict attention to duty and such earnest effort on the part of the boys to improve themselves. Each boy seems to feel that he has been placed there not merely for punishment, but in order that he may be encouraged and helped to make a good man and a useful citizen of himself.

Each one is held strictly accountable for all misbehavior, while each endeavor to do right is met with that sympathy, encouragement and reward which means so much in the proper development of character.

There is a system of credits whereby each boy is given a number of merits each month. Extra merits are given for extra work, study or conduct, while credits are taken away from those already earned for poor work, lack of study or bad conduct. Fifteen hundred merits entitles a

boy to recommendation for parole, providing there is someone who can support, educate him, and place him in proper home environment, or provided he has reached that point where he can be placed upon his own responsibility.

Sunday School is held every Sunday morning and church services every Sunday afternoon. One period a week is given to non-sectarian Bible study, while evening prayers are had every night at eight o'clock.

. . . . . .

. . . Mr. Lilley is ably assisted in his work by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis, teacher and matron, respectively. The State Board of Affairs is to be commended for securing the service of so efficient a corps of instructors.

This school will soon move from McAlester into its new home at Boley where we trust that its present high standard of efficiency will be maintained and the splendid results this far secured be continued.[1]

Information of interest pertinent to the program maintained at the Boys' Training School has been presented in a report to the Board of Managers of Eleemosynary Institutions, which reads as follows:

Plant and Equipment

. . . . . .

Our plant consists of one three story brick and concrete fireproof building, situated on the state farm, one and a half miles northwest of the center of the city of McAlester, Oklahoma. . . .

. . . The various departments are as follows:

One dormitory of 60 beds.
One dormitory of 20 beds.
One general bath room equipped with adequate lavatory, and toilet accomodations.
One large hall on each floor running the full length of the building.
One large reading and study room.
One office room.
One guests' reception room.
Five rooms for employees, with 2 baths.
One hospital ward of 10 beds and bath and toilet.
One large school room of 50 desks and 75 feet of blackboard.

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[1]The Black Dispatch, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, December, 1918.

One small manual training room equipped for teaching elementary wood-working.
One room for sewing and mending.
Kitchen, dining room and pantry of adequate size and well equipped.

. . . . . .

Inmates

The number of inmates enrolled since the beginning is 150, received from 30 counties as follows:

Blaine	1	Kiowa	1	Okfuskee	1
Canadian	4	Latimer	1	Oklahoma	20
Carter	5	Leflore	1	Okmulgee	5
Coal	3	Logan	14	Pittsburg	8
Creek	5	McClain	3	Rogers	1
Grady	1	McCurtain	4	Seminole	1
Hughes	3	McIntosh	3	Sequoyah	2
Jefferson	2	Muskogee	35	Tulsa	11
Johnson	1	Noble	2	Wagoner	6
Kingfisher	1	Nowata	2	Washington	3

Commitments

. . . Reference to the orders of commitments on file discloses the offenses of those sent here to be as follows:

Larceny	42	Forgery	4
Delinquent	69	Robbery	2
Homicide	1	Attempt Rape	2
Patricide	1	Incorrigible	9
Burglary	19	Horse Stealing	1
Breaking and Entering	6	Shooting to Kill	2

. . . . . .

Family or Social History of Inmates

Very little can be learned from an inmate concerning his family history or of his own record of delinquency. By carefully questioning each one of them, however, and by using every other available source of information, we are able to submit the following data concerning their family history:

Both parents living	61
Mother only living	42
Father only living	29
Neither parent living	16
Having step-mother	11
Having step-father	16
Parents divorced or separated	20

Living with father and mother	28
Living with mother only	55
Living with father only	24
Living with other relatives	28
Father now in prison	4

[1]

The point of view of the federated club women in working for the removal of the Training School from the area adjacent to the State Penitentiary was strongly supported by J. H. Lilley, Superintendent of the Training School.

The legislative committee report in the 1919 annual session of the Oklahoma Federation referred to the expansion of the state organization's program for Negro youth by calling attention to a bill introduced in the Legislature by Senator Kerr of Muskogee, which prevented the consolidation of the Deaf, Dumb and Orphan School at Taft, with the school for incorrigible boys at McAlester. Notation was made of letters sent to members of the Legislative Assembly requesting an appropriation for a library and manual training department for the Training School at McAlester. Funds to underwrite a deficit due to inadequate appropriations for maintenance of the school were requested. Additional facts cited were: a mass meeting to protest consolidation of the Training School and Orphans' Home, and another mass assembly to initiate a movement for a tuberculosis hospital.[2]

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[1]J. H. Lilley, "A Report to the Board of Managers of Eleemosynary Institutions," Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 30, 1920.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, pp. 18-19.

The continuity of this program of cooperation with the Training School was indicated in the report of Mrs. Anna H. Cooper, third president of the Oklahoma Federation, giving an account of a visit to the Boys' and Girls' Training Schools at McAlester and Taft, respectively.[1]

A reporter's evaluation of Superintendent J. H. Lilley of the State Training School for Negro Boys reads as follows:

> No article with reference to the success of this school would be complete without reference to its superintendent. . . . He is a quiet, energetic man, rather of the Booker T. Washington type of educator.
>
> Lilley is a humanitarian as well as an instructor and executive. He does not believe in inhumane punishment to drive an idea home. There are no black holes and bread and water for an offender. . . .
>
> In the office of the superintendent is to be found a peculiar record of the graduates of this institution, in the way of a file of letters from former students. All of these letters express gratitude and respect for the school which gave them an opportunity to make good. But the most significant note sounded in each of these letters is 'work.' Each student either mentions the fact that he is at work or is preparing to go to work.
>
> A thorough and comprehensive list of these boys, of course, is hard to obtain, but Lilley and his coadjutors keep up a diligent inquiry as to the welfare and behavior of his former charges and he has no hesitancy in saying that at least 90 per cent of his former students are making good. . . .
>
> Many educators, thinkers and observers have visited this institution since its establishment and studied its operations. Not one has been able to pass carping criticism on its management or results obtained.[2]

Superintendent J. H. Lilley continued in the direction

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Meeting, p. 8.

[2]The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 5, 1924, p. 2-D.

of the State Training School for Negro Boys until his death in 1934. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs commemorated the service of this educator with a monument on the grounds of the Boys' Training School at Boley, Oklahoma. The 1936 Minutes of the State Federation carried this account of the unveiling of the Lilley monument:

> Thursday morning at 10 o'clock the group gathered in a parade which led to the Boys' Training School, where a band concert was in progress conducted by the Training School band. We assembled around the grave of the late Mr. Lilley and after a short program in which many fitting tributes were paid to the late Mr. Lilley by distinguished visitors, the Lilley monument, which was erected by the Oklahoma State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, was unveiled. Mrs. H. P. Jacobson, chairman of the Lilley Memorial Committee, presided.[1]

On January 21, 1939, a special meeting of the legislative committee of the Federation was called. A report of this session has been recorded:

> Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
> January 21, 1939
>
> The Legislative Committee of the State Federated Clubs of Colored Women met by request of Mrs. Maude J. Brockway at the Brockway Community Center. . . .
>
> After the many suggestions made, the committee voted to ask endorsements from all organizations of influence for the removal of the Girls' Training School from Taft to a more desirable location. The committee asked the acting secretary, Mrs. S. R. Hill, to send out questionnaires to the heads of each organization for endorsement.
>
> The Committee voted to empower Mrs. H. P. Jacobson to draw a bill for the removal of the Girls' Training School from Taft to be presented in the Executive Committee for approval in a call meeting during the Teachers'

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting (Boley, Oklahoma, 1936), p. 6.

> Association in February, 1939. The same to be presented the Legislators (State) to be passed or vetoed while the State Legislature is in session. The meeting was to be called by the Chairman, Mrs. H. P. Jacobson.
> . . . . . .[1]

The text of the circular letter issued by the State Federation included this call for cooperation:

> We, the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, are desirous of your approval and cooperation in the plan of removing the Delinquent Girls' Home from Taft to a more desirable location.
> . . . . . .[2]

A report to the April 28, 1945, Executive Board of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs revealed that the removal of the Training School for Girls from Taft was not achieved. An excerpt from this report was:

> Your committee on legislation wish to submit the following report for your consideration:
> 1. In regard to changing the location of the Girls' Training School, nothing could be done at this time, owing to war-time conditions.
> . . . . . .
> We worked with the Oklahoma City P.T.A. in sponsoring a bill (No. 95) by Washington in the interest of juvenile delinquency. This bill in conjunction with other bills of the same nature was passed.[3]

In the decade of 1940 to 1950, the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs shifted its approach in handling

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[1]Report of the Legislative Committee of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, January 21, 1939.

[2]Circular letter issued by the Legislative Committee of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, January 21, 1939.

[3]Personal papers of Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1945.

juvenile delinquency from concentration on assistance to the training schools for Negro girls and boys to a broader program of child welfare. Although assistance has been continued, these institutions have not received major emphasis in the program of the Federation as was characteristic of the period from 1911 to 1939. The most recent contact with the program of the training schools was recorded in the minutes of the forty-fourth annual session when Mr. Wayne Chandler, Superintendent of the Boley Training School, appeared before the assembly to discuss the program of the institution. An excerpt from the record of this visit was:

> Mr. Chandler in his address, enlightened us on some pertinent facts about the school at Boley. He mentioned the type and amount of food bought for the boys, as well as the type of training and activities they engaged in.
>
> He stated that full participation in the activities was required. He also stated that when the boys are sent back to their respective communities, the schools do not accept them as wholeheartedly as they should. He asked our cooperation in getting the communities to accept the boys as regular citizens rather than criminals.[1]

Projects for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

The most significant projects fostered by the state federation in the area of prevention of juvenile delinquency through youth developmental activities were the summer camp and the junior clubs. The provision of supervised recreation and guidance in worthy use of leisure afforded by these

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting, p. 7.

projects have been constructive factors in safeguarding youth from juvenile delinquency. The first report from the junior club department of the Oklahoma Federation was recorded in the annual minutes by Mrs. Eliza Coopwood:

> As head of the juvenile department, I have done what I could to carry out the duties imposed upon me by this office. I have sent messages to nearly every town and community in Oklahoma where a club is in existence or where I thought one likely to be formed. I am happy to say that many responded readily, and many juvenile clubs were organized, some of which are now in good working order.[1]

Progress in the junior club organization has been documented in reports made at the thirty-fifth annual session:

> The Oklahoma State Federation of Colored Women made a wise decision when they decided that the Junior Federation should be reorganized. First, that the junior organization should be patterned after the senior organization; second, that the junior organization should serve as a fertile and well supervised training unit in club work for junior girls; third, that juniors should be allowed to hold all offices in the junior federation, giving them an opportunity to become efficient administrators by actual participation in conducting and executing the business of their meetings. . . .[2]

Major activities reported for junior clubs have included: instrumental and vocal music and oratorical contests, art exhibits, group discussion of teen-age problems, "Parade of Modern Roses."[3] Activities characteristic of junior clubs

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting, p. 12.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting, p. 8.

[3]Ibid., p. 16.

at the local level have included fund drives, such as Red Cross, March of Dimes, and Christmas Seals; panel discussions; camping; and talent shows.[1]

Development of leadership has been a cardinal objective of the junior federated club program. Participation at the local, state, and national level has opened avenues of discovery and development of talent which contributed significantly to the educational advancement of club girls. An instance of achievement realized by a federated club girl was the case of La Ronnia Mae Dobson. An account has been published in a club journal:

> Champion orator of the National Association of Colored Girls, the junior department of the National Association of Colored Women, is La Ronnia Mae Dobson of McAlester. She captured the title at Atlantic City, where the juniors held their annual meeting simultaneously with that of the N.A.C.W.
>
> The grand prize--$100 in cash--was presented to Miss Dobson by Mrs. Irma V. Thompson, National Supervisor of Girls. There were four other contestants--Teresa Littlejohn of Nebraska; Charlotte Martin, Ohio; Janie Goodwin, South Carolina; and Juanita Perteet, Georgia.[2]

The camping program sponsored by the Oklahoma Federation, although not continuous, has been an effective approach to the goal of worthy use of leisure time. It has functioned with the exception of a few summers from 1930 to the present.

The report for the 1950 junior club summer camp

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[1]"Junior Clubs," Federated Women, XI (Summer, 1948), pp. 18-19; V (Summer, 1954), pp. 7-11.

[2]"National Contest in Oratory," The Sooner Woman, I (September, 1950), p. 15.

showed fifty girls in camp. Recommendations for the improvement of the project which were adopted in the 1950 annaul session were:

> 1. That all senior clubs sending groups of girls to camp, send a sponsor or sponsors, so that girls may feel that they have a proper protection in their units and at night.
> 2. That the state sponsors be permitted to submit a program of activities for the summer camp, at the April Board meeting and secure names of junior sponsors who are to attend, and a statement from those sponsors of activities they wish to direct while in camp.
> 3. We recommend that due to the high cost of living, camping fees for one week be increased to $5.00 per girl.[1]

The report on the summer encampment for 1955 listed eighty-six girls from the following communities: Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, Watonga, Bartlesville, Anadarko, Shawnee, Colbert, El Paso, Okmulgee and Texas. A classification of campers showed: 86 campers, 15 sponsors, 2 cooks, 2 waterfront men, 3 small children, and 1 nurse, a total of 109 persons.[2]

In addition to the state federation sponsored camps, local federated clubs have directed camping activities for youth. Mrs. Maude C. Wayne has sponsored summer camps for Negro youth on her farm near Sapulpa. Mrs. Mary Rose Cooke directed summer encampments for club girls and other youth

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Meeting (Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1950), p. 15.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Forty-fifth Annual Meeting, pp. 4-5.

at a number of camp sites in Pittsburg and Latimer counties. Local camp projects have not replaced the state federated camp, but have rather afforded opportunities for summer recreation in an area more accessible to local youth.[1]

There has been a significant proportion of correlation in some areas of the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. The activities promoted toward the objective of community development have in their very nature contributed toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The federated club woman's sense of community responsibility has been one of the most potent forces in making communities safe for the wholesome development of youth.

Youth Education

The objective of fostering the educational development of youth has been a central force in the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. A marked consensus of opinion among federated club women that contributions toward the education of youth should be significant objectives has made the program in youth education a vital and expanding movement.

The initial approach to the project of youth education was that of campaigning for better schools. In the second annual meeting of the state federation the president

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting, p. 7.

was empowered to appoint a committee of five to wait upon the Governor and Legislature asking that a reformatory be established for the youth of the race, and also to visit the State Board of Education, asking that Negro history be added to the curriculum in all Negro schools.[1]

In the sixth annual session the following resolution revealed a continued concern with reference to the education of Negro youth:

> Whereas, the school terms in many places in Oklahoma are being shortened, and
> Whereas, that Negro boys and girls need the same amount of training as boys and girls of other races;
> Be it resolved, that club organizations, wherever active, use all their influence against this evil.[2]

In 1919 the legislative committee of the state federation made this report:

> We also cooperated with a committee from the State Teachers Association, whose special object was to obtain a much needed revision of the school laws. This committee finally succeeded in securing legislation to the extent that the separate schools in cities of the first class were taken from under the supervision of the county commissioners and placed entirely under the supervision of the city boards of education.[3]

This cooperative leadership in the interest of better schools for Negro youth has been continuous in the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

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[1] Ibid., p. 7.

[2] Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting, p. 22.

[3] Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, p. 18.

The Development of the Scholarship Loan Fund

The major financial program for aid in the education of youth was the scholarship loan fund. The initial approach to this project was that of building financial resources. In the fifteenth session of the state federation the educational fund was reported to have been increased to $1,200.00, which was invested with the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, Enid, Oklahoma. Of this amount, $1,006.00 was raised by the department and $194.00 was appropriated from the general treasury. Miss Marguerite L. Divers of Guthrie, Oklahoma, who was voted upon and accepted as the first student to receive the scholarship loan, entered Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Kansas, January 28, 1926. It was in this year that this fund was officially designated as the "Student Loan Fund" and changed subsequently to the "Scholarship Loan."[1]

The first requirements for eligibility to a scholarship loan were:

1. The recipient must be an Oklahoma orphan girl of good moral character.
2. She must have graduated from an accredited high school.
3. She must have attained an average standing of scholarship and citizenship.
4. She must attend an accredited college or university.

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting, pp. 14-16.

5. She must pay back the principal on an installment plan as soon as she begins to receive a regular salary.[1]

Requirements for the scholarship loan have been revised, according to the constitution of the state federation to read as follows:

1. The recipient of the Scholarship Loan must be an Oklahoma girl with good moral character and in verified need of financial assistance.
2. She must be a graduate from an accredited high school.
3. The applicant must have an average of "B" in scholarship.
4. The applicant must be in good health and furnish the committee a health certificate.
5. A transcript of the applicant's High School record must accompany the application.
6. A recommendation from the Principal of the school of which the applicant is a graduate must also accompany the application.
7. The applicant must attend our State University at Langston, Oklahoma, provided the course she desires is given at Langston.
8. The applicant must be able to secure the signatures of three persons willing to assume the responsibility of paying the amount of the loan, provided the applicant fails in carrying out the contract. The applicant must also sign the contract before a Notary Public agreeing to pay the amount of the loan, at the expiration of four years, or upon employment after graduating or leaving school. Payments at the rate of $20.00 per month until the amount of loan is paid.
9. The applicant receiving a four year scholarship is entitled to $125.00 per year.
10. The applicant must be insured in some reliable insurance company, and the State Federation as beneficiary. For other information concerning Scholarship Loan contact Scholarship Loan Chairman.[2]

Minutes of the 1928 annual session of the Oklahoma

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1935), p. 19.

[2]Ibid. (revised, 1947), pp. 8-9.

Federation of Colored Women's Clubs included a letter from the first recipient of the scholarship loan, written August 26, 1928, to the club women of Oklahoma:

> As I am unable to be with you in person, I shall try to tell you on paper, though inadequately, how much your interest and support have meant to me.
>
> Without your aid I should not have been able to complete the four year course, for it is not easy for a Negro student to graduate from a white college, even when it is as liberal in spirit as Pittsburg Teachers. To me you are more than a mere organization; you are real, personal friends. And it was the knowledge that my friends from an entire state were watching my course and silently praying for my success. And I am glad to say that I have been successful up to the present. I lead no classes, but neither do I follow any. Because of your generous faith, no failure nor breath of scandal marred those four years.
>
> I shall begin repaying the loan as soon as I receive my first month's check, but I feel that I can show the reality of my appreciation by getting into your ranks and doing something to help other girls obtain an education. I want to become a club woman myself; I want to interest other girls in this work; I want as many of our girls as possible to obtain the benefits I enjoy.
>
> I wish the further aid of your suggestions as to the best means of arousing such interest. Wherever I am I assure you that I shall be rooting for the club idea. If I can induce others to see that an education for many of us lies only in the cooperation of the rest and that the federation of clubs forms a band of mutual aid and sympathy, I shall be paying a large part of my debt to you.
>
> With heartiest wishes for continued progress, I am
>
> Always a co-worker,
>
> Marguerite L. Divers[1]

The contribution of the scholarship loan to the development of Negro womanhood in Oklahoma was pointed up in a letter from a prospective graduate of Langston University, Miss Barbara L. Stigall, as she writes:

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting, p. 19.

> I am very happy to write of some of the many benefits of the Scholarship Loan Fund. Quite frankly I don't see how I could have managed financially without it. . . .
>
> In my opinion there is so much more represented here apart from the monetary values. It is a symbol of the faith in us. And we in turn feel that not only must we return the money but that we must strive to achieve that kind of finer womanhood for which all of you stand.
>
> It was my high school principal who introduced me to the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. At that time, it seemed impossible for me to attend an institution of higher learning. But thanks to your moral and financial support, I plan to graduate in May and be of service to God and my community. I hope that other young people will take advantage of this opportunity which you afforded me.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> March 4, 1957 Barbara L. Stigall[1]

Table 23 summarizes the names, dates of high school graduation, years of entrance to college, dates of graduation or withdrawal, and amount of money borrowed by the loanee from the Scholarship Loan Fund of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Table 24 presents additional data with reference to the twenty-one scholarship loan recipients.

Tables 23 and 24 reveal that the twenty-one students who have received assistance from scholarship loans represent eleven communities, and have entered seven different colleges. A total of $5,543.61 has been appropriated from the Scholarship Loan Department for their expenses in college. A summary of the family situations of the recipients has revealed: 9 orphans, 6 with one parent, 3 with 2 parents, and 7 with brothers and sisters.

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[1]Letter from Barbara L. Stigall to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, March 4, 1957.

TABLE 23

DATA CONCERNING RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP LOANS FROM 1924 TO 1956[a]

Name	Date of High School Graduation	Year of College Entrance	Date of Graduation or Withdrawal	Amount of Loan
Marguerite Divers	1924	1924	1928	$ 504.10
Florence McGee	1924	1925	1929	241.00
Leona Gant	1929	1929	1934	120.00
Pauline Ellis	1929	1929	1934	71.50
Dorothy Yates	1931	1931	1936	416.33
Opal Moore	1934	1934	1937	327.00
Dorothy Smallwood	1937	1937	1941	233.68
Margaret Washington	1937	1937	1938	100.00
Martha Ray Milliner	1939	1939	1940	50.00
Erma Jean Lane	1947	1947	1951	500.00
Ozella Brandy	1948	1949	1952	375.00
Maurice Mitchell	1948	1948	1951	375.00
Ella McElhanon	1950	1950	1954	125.00
Earline Thompson	1951	1951	1952	125.00
Sadie Mae McGruder	1951	1952	1957	125.00
Evergreen Whitney	1951	1951	1955	105.00
Betty Jean Ingram	1951	1951	1955	500.00
Ariline Lee	1952	1952		375.00
Arnell Davis	1953	1953	1954	125.00
Barbara Jean Tunley	1953	1953		375.00
Barbara L. Stigall	1953	1953		375.00
TOTAL: 21				$5543.61

[a]Data assembled from reports of Scholarship Loan Fund Department, 1924-1956.

TABLE 24

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED AND FAMILY SITUATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP LOAN RECIPIENTS, 1924 TO 1956[a]

Name	High School and Community	College Entered	Family Situation
Marguerite Divers	Faver High School, Guthrie	K.S.T.C., Pittsburg	Orphan
Florence McGee	Manual Training, Muskogee	Kansas University	Orphan
Leona Gant	Boley High, Boley	Langston University	Orphan
Pauline Ellis	Douglass High, Oklahoma City	Hampton Institute	Orphan
Dorothy Yates	Langston High, Langston	Langston University	Orphan
Opal Moore	Booker T. Washington, Enid	Langston University	Orphan
Dorothy Smallwood	Douglass High, Oklahoma City	Langston University	Orphan
Margaret Washington	Booker T. Washington, Tulsa	Langston University	Orphan
Martha Ray Milliner	L'Ouverture High, McAlester	Langston University	Orphan
Erma Jean Lee	Grayson High, Okmulgee	Langston University	1 parent 6 siblings
Ozella Brandy	Manual Training, Muskogee	Langston University	1 parent 2 siblings
Maurice Mitchell	Douglass High, Oklahoma City	Spelman College Atlanta, Georgia	1 parent
Ella McElhanon	L'Ouverture High, McAlester	Langston University	2 parents 6 siblings
Earline Thompson	Douglass High, Bartlesville	Langston University	

TABLE 24--Continued

Name	High School and Community	College Entered	Family Situation
Sadie Mae McGruder	Manual Training, Muskogee	Nursing School Los Angeles	2 parents 6 siblings
Evergreen Whitney	Dunbar High, Watonga	Langston University	
Betty Jean Ingram	Booker T. Washington, Tulsa	Talladega, Alabama	1 parent 3 siblings
Ariline Lee	Manual Training, Muskogee	Langston University	2 parents 6 siblings
Arnell Davis	Dunbar High, Shawnee	Langston University	1 parent 3 siblings
Barbara Jean Tunley	Dunbar High, Okmulgee	University of Oklahoma, School of Nursing	1 parent
Barbara L. Stigall	L'Ouverture High, McAlester	Langston University	1 parent

[a]Data for table assembled from reports of the Scholarship Loan Department of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1924 to 1956.

The second recipient of a scholarship loan from the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, a mother and teacher in the public schools of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has given this evaluation of the scholarship loan fund:

> 1. It helps many to go to school who otherwise would not have the chance.
> 2. It helps many complete one or two years who would have to drop out if they couldn't get this aid.
> 3. It gives an inner feeling of security that is so needed and that many do not have.
> 4. It really lives up to the motto, "Lifting as We Climb," for you know that borrowing money is not easy even when you are out in the world and working.
> 5. It is a labor of love where a helping hand is extended to help many in need.
> 6. After we have grown up, rubbed shoulders with the world we have a deep sense of gratitude toward those who have helped you and others.[1]

Occupational information for these twenty-one scholarship loanees was limited. Eleven were not accounted for as to occupation. The remaining ten showed the following: five teaching, one nursing, three in school, and one mentally ill.

The Scholarship Loan Fund Department has aided talented and financially insecure youth to achieve higher goals of educational development than would otherwise have been realized. This program has continued to expand in financial strength and number of applicants granted scholarship loans.

The High School Award

Realizing the importance of encouraging every girl

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[1]Letter from Florence Fairchild to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, March 21, 1957.

in the state to finish high school, the state president of the Federation presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted on August 30, 1945:

> Resolution No. 4. Whereas the Oklahoma State Federation touches in a general way upon the activities and lives of the girls of the State of Oklahoma, the future leaders of our race, be it resolved that we do all in our power to assist, to encourage, and to interest our girls in finishing high school.
>
> Whereas there is such a diversity in the education that a child receives in Oklahoma, it shall be our aim to bring about equal education for every child, regardless of race, creed, or color. All children in Oklahoma should be educated therefore, we must obtain through legislation comfortable, well-built, well equipped, well cared-for buildings. Qualified, well-paid, prepared teachers must be employed. Our girls must be kept in school, stimulated, encouraged, and made to feel the necessity of obtaining a high school education. In an effort to inspire this end, I do hereby recommend that the O.S.F. of C.W. establish an Annual High School Award to include each high school in cities where federated clubs exist.
>
> The award is to be made to the girls as measured by rules and regulations drawn up by a committee appointed by the president in this meeting.[1]

The major contribution of the high school award has been its recognition of the importance of the education of youth and the cooperative relationship it has promoted with the school program. Article 12, High School Award, of the Constitution of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs included provisions for the implementation of this program:

> 1. Contestants must be of school age, regularly enrolled in an accredited high school, and passing in all

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting (Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1946), pp. 10-11.

subjects.

2. Prior to balloting, the principal or some member of the faculty, appointed by the principal, shall give ballots to faculty members who teach senior girls. The girl whose name appears most frequently on the ballots receives the award, provided her scholarship is not less than an average of "B".

3. The award is to be made at commencement season on a date agreed to by the principal, and by a federated club woman appointed by the state president.

4. High School Award Ballot used in nominating the senior girl receiving the highest score in the following:

1. Scholarship
2. Character (modesty, truth, courtesy, conduct)
3. Poise and personality (ability to master unexpected situations with grace and dignity)
4. Service (unselfish deeds, cooperation without personal motive)
5. Leadership (ability to direct and to inspire cooperation)
6. Friendliness (ability to make and keep friends, just and unbiased)
7. Participation in religious activities
8. Participation in extra-curricular activities
9. Participation in other activities of community
10. Church member or connection.[1]

Table 25 summarizes the number of recipients of the High School Award from 1950 to 1956. Data for the table were assembled from the minutes of the annual sessions of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs for those years.

Promotion of youth education by federated club women has functioned on the state, regional, and local levels, with the total program making a significant contribution to youth education in Oklahoma.

The Regional Program in Youth Education

A survey of the minutes of the annual meetings of

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Constitution and By-laws, pp. 9-10.

TABLE 25

RECIPIENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL AWARD,
1950 TO 1956

Year	Number of Recipients
1950	5
1951	17
1952	12
1953	18
1954	18
1955	23
1956	16

the state federation from 1945 to 1956 has afforded data with reference to constructive programs in youth education on the regional level. Some specific regional projects have been in the form of entrance fees, scholarships, and other types of aid to outstanding girl graduates of high schools within the region. The Northern region has awarded the entrance fee annually to an outstanding girl graduate. The Western region made scholarship awards of $50.00 or more to a selected number of girls for college study. The Eastern region reported annual scholarship awards. The Northeastern region in addition to annual scholarship awards presented Langston University with an electric water fountain. Southern region gave a college chest to the outstanding girl in the graduating class of each high school where federated clubs function. Central region made annual scholarship awards.

The regional division of the Oklahoma Federation has,

through the annual "Princess Revue," contributed to the scholarship loan fund. As a coordinating mechanism between local and state programs, the region has strengthened youth education in the state.

The Program of the Local Club in Youth Education

The impact of the youth education program of the federated clubs has been most forceful at the local level. The direct relationship of the sponsoring organization and the recipient has stimulated greater support from club women and greater appreciation from the public. The following projects have been illustrative of the local youth education activities: Muskogee City Federation "Nellie Weaver Greene Day" scholarship; Okmulgee City Federation scholarship award; the Ada Lois Sipuel Club of McAlester, aid to needy college students; the Art and Culture Club of Muskogee, project in the discovery and fostering of talented youth; the Art and Culture Club of Watonga, award to students achieving the honor roll during each reporting period in the local high school; the Decagynian Club of Guthrie, sponsorship of talented youth; the DuBois Club of Shawnee, assistance to girls in college; the Friendly Friend Club of McAlester, college chest award, the Madame Depriest Club of McAlester, salutatorian award and college chest contribution; the Mary Bethune Art and Culture Club of McAlester, college chest contribution; the Magnolia Art and Civic Club of Tulsa, "Good Shepherd Student

Nurses Fund;" the Silver Leaf Club of El Reno, aid to college students; and the Sunshine Club of Chickasha, scholarship for worthy students.

This organized promotion to youth education has been a worthy investment in the educational development of youth. In addition to financial aid, the federated club has functioned in the local community in school-community projects. It has been an accepted opinion with administrators of Negro schools that federated clubs have contributed toward a favorable environment for good school programs.

Adult Education

The federated clubs of Oklahoma have enriched the lives of senior citizens of Oklahoma through programs of an educational nature. Whereas the clubs have not subscribed to a formal program in this area, their activities have stimulated the continued educational development of adults. Dr. Charles H. Thompson of Howard University has made a significant statement with reference to adult education:

> But adult education is not concerned exclusively, or even primarily with remedial instruction to develop functional literacy. It is concerned, primarily, with the broad cultural development of the people in many different ways. It is concerned with the implementation of the principle that education is a continuous process throughout life, and assumes in general that formal schooling at least to the point of functional literacy has been completed. . . .
>
> What is even more important than lack of formal schooling on a large part of our population, however, is the cultural poverty of many sections of our country and a large part of our population. Many sections of the

> country are not only culturally backward, but do not have adequate resources, either material or spiritual, with which to attempt to remedy this condition.[1]

The objectives of the National Association of Colored Women which have been adopted by the Oklahoma organization have embodied the motivation of educational development in adults. The approach of the departments to adult education has been illustrated in this excerpt from the report of the Domestic Science Department as recorded in the minutes of the first annual session of the Oklahoma Federation:

> We, your committee on Domestic Science, realizing the necessity of special training along the line of household economics, and realizing that the mothers of our race should be made to feel that in order to preserve the integrity of the home and make our homes pleasant and attractive to our children, we should make special preparation for our duties as homemakers.
>
> We have, therefore, during the past year, presented to the different clubs of the state a special outline, containing suggestions for the study of Domestic Science. . . . Our educational laws now require the study of this subject in our schools, and every wise mother will do well to keep in touch with a part of the every day life of her child.[2]

Symposiums, forums, addresses, and discussions at state meetings have given direction to the adult education program at the regional and local level. A sampling of topics presented in the annual meetings of the state organization during two periods, 1911-1916 and 1950-1956, respectively,

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[1]Jessie P. Guzman, Negro Year Book (Tuskegee, Alabama: Tuskegee Institute, Department of Records and Research, 1947), pp. 103-104.

[2]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting, pp. 10-11.

have been summarized in Tables 26 and 27.

TABLE 26

DISCUSSION TOPICS IN STATE MEETINGS,
1911 TO 1916

Year	Topic
1911	Why We Should Study Domestic Science
1912	How to Lessen the Death Rate among Negroes
1913	The Kindergarten as a Factor in Child Education
1914	The Child
1915	The World War: Its Affect on European Children
1916	Economics of the Home

TABLE 27

DISCUSSION TOPICS IN STATE MEETINGS,
1950 TO 1956

Year	Topic
1950	Family Life Education
1951	Mental Hygiene
1952	Forum on Voting
1953	N. A. C. W. in World Affairs
1954	Boley Training School
1955	Integration in the Public Schools
1956	

Yearbooks of local clubs have revealed a continuous program of adult education within the perspective of the every day problems of the club woman in her community and family life. The East Side Culture Club of Oklahoma City has conducted a well organized study program from the

inception of the organization to the present. Table 28 has listed study topics for years designated. The plan utilized by the club has been the selection of an area of study for a period of one year. In some instances a topic was continued for two or more years. Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, who organized this club in 1907, has evaluated the program of study conducted by this organization as a highly constructive one. The cultural level of the Negro in Oklahoma City has been advanced through the adult education program of the federated clubs.[1]

TABLE 28

ANNUAL STUDY TOPICS OF THE EAST SIDE CULTURE CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, FROM 1907 TO 1945[a]

Year	Study Topic
1907	Literature
1909	Architecture
1912	Negro History
1913	Legal Status of Women, Property Rights, The Negro Woman in Politics, Civic Improvement
1914	Community Improvement
1915	English History
1917	Goethe
1918	European Countries
1921	Who Who's of the Negro Race
1922	Books (Negro)
1924	United States History
1927	Books of the Month
1929	Book Reviews
1941	Community Improvement
1942	Community Improvement
1944	Trends in Negro Music
1945	Negro Achievement

[a]Assembled from collection of yearbooks of the club.

[1]Interview with Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, July 28, 1956.

The analysis of yearbooks for fourteen clubs, revealing topics and frequency of appearance of topics as listed in twenty yearbooks, is presented in Table 29. In addition to study topics, a diversity of educational ventures have been utilized by federated clubs in the educational development of the local community.

TABLE 29

STUDY TOPICS LISTED IN TWENTY YEARBOOKS OF FOURTEEN CLUBS WITH FREQUENCIES FOR EACH TOPIC

Topic	Frequency of Mention
Negro History, Race Progress, Race Problems	55
Holidays and Seasonal Topics	31
Book Reviews	29
Homemaking	27
Gardening	26
Citizenship	25
Leisure Time	20
Club Work	18
Religion	14
Health and Hygiene	12
Art	11
Music	10
Poetry	5

The Decagynian Club of Guthrie, Oklahoma, gave this description of its adult education program:

> At various times the club has decided to study music, history, and art. One year an instructor was hired to give the group art lessons once a week. Outstanding lecturers have been invited to meetings for the enlightenment and enjoyment of all.[1]

[1]Report of Decagynian Club, Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1956.

The Renaissance Club of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, received commendation for work in the area of mental health. An excerpt from a letter of appreciation for this activity reads:

> I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you and the members of the Renaissance Club for the personal interest you exhibited toward our patients. . . .
> Now let me commend you and Mrs. Scott and all of the others who are giving their time, energy, patience, and understanding in working with the youth of your city; I cannot think of anything more worthy than this.
> Our little mentally defective children, our mentally disturbed patients and our employees as well, were so proud of the personalized gifts from you . . .[1]

The quality of some educational projects fostered by federated clubs has been indicated in the achievement of Mrs. Mary Rose Cooke, Historian of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. This selection from a newspaper account of her accomplishments reads:

> The scrap book prepared by Mrs. Mary Rose Cooke of McAlester, Oklahoma, state historian of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, won top honors recently at the annual convention of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs in Washington, D. C.[2]

The library has been utilized in the club adult education program. Prior to the integration of Negroes and whites in the use of public facilities in the communities of Oklahoma, many federated clubs maintained libraries. Mrs.

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[1]Letter from Robert E. Lee, Business Manager, Taft State Hospital, Taft, Oklahoma, to Ida Morrison, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, January 13, 1955.

[2]McAlester News Capital, McAlester, Oklahoma, August 18, 1954, p. 8.

Judith C. Horton has made this forceful statement on the relationship of the library and the club:

> The fact that so many libraries have been created by clubs leads us to ask: 'What have libraries done for clubs?' In many instances more than half of the circulation of the solid books in the ordinary library is due to the use made of them by club women. The people that read will soon become a thinking people, because whenever a great truth or principle takes hold on us, it forces us to action. Thus we see the Club becomes the center of advanced ideas and progress in a community.[1]

Exhibits, forums, lectures, and concerts sponsored by federated clubs and the participation of clubs in the educational enterprises of the community have stimulated educational growth in the adult population.

The cooperative climate afforded has served to encourage individual initiative. Mrs. Elmira S. Ridley, a charter member of the Margaret Washington Club of Guthrie, Oklahoma, has exemplified this value of the federated clubs. Mrs. Ridley, who studied job printing at Langston University, was encouraged in this venture by her selection to print some editions of the annual minutes.[2] Regional meetings have been utilized as an opportunity not only for exhibit of skills, but for the sale of articles made by federated club women. The Tulsa City Federation at one time sponsored a Woman's

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[1]Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Proceedings of the Meeting for Organization, p. 3.

[2]Letter from Mrs. Elmira S. Ridley to Willa A. Strong, McAlester, Oklahoma, March 18, 1957.

Exchange.[1]

The adult education program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been planned and implemented basically in terms of the needs, interests, and objectives of the membership. The program has expanded beyond the membership into the total community life. The nature of the adult program, although informal and flexible, has been a planned program in that study topics, cultural activities, and educational projects were formulated by elected or appointed committees for periods of one or more years. The federated club has functioned to expand the interests of its members, involve them in a wider range of activities, and increase their capacity for community service. Mental health and personality development have been fostered by the atmosphere of acceptance and the challenge of the adult education program of the federated club.

Summary

The objective--to raise to the highest possible standard the home, moral, intellectual, religious, and civic life of women--which has been accepted as the goal of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, has found expression in a comprehensive program. Significant aspects of this program have been: (1) civil rights, (2) community development,

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[1]"History of the Tulsa City Federation of Colored Women, 1924-1951," The Sooner Woman, I (Summer, 1951), p. 9.

(3) prevention of juvenile delinquency, (4) youth education, and (5) adult education.

The civil rights program, an early project of the state federation, has maintained its importance in the planning of the state organization. Leadership in this area has to a large measure been assumed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The state federation has within recent years formulated a civil rights program which called for financial aid to the national group and cooperative participation with other state organizations for action to meet contemporary problems. The intensity of the federated clubs' support of civil rights has not decreased, although the space in time and proportion of program devoted has lessened. The point of view has been that of assistance to the most effective approach to civil rights rather than initiating action through the federated clubs.

Community development has been a continuing program with federated clubs. The program has been as diverse as the problems and needs of the varied communities served. The over-all objective of improved family and community living has guided the program on state, regional, and local levels.

The prevention of juvenile delinquency was accepted as a major objective in the beginning years of the Oklahoma Federation. The initial approach to the problem was one of bringing about the establishment of training schools for

Negro girls and boys. After the achievement of this goal, the approach shifted to one of child welfare and child development.

The program in youth education has been in a large measure one of financial aid to the college student and has operated on a local, regional, and state level. Cooperation with the public schools and fostering youth activities have characterized this program.

The program in adult education has centered around the membership of the federated club. The projects and activities fostered in this division have extended to the total community. The adult education program, although informal and flexible, has met an urgent need in Negro community life and the opportunities for the expansion of the program in adult education have increased with the expanding adult population in contemporary society.

The total program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has functioned in the local community as a significant force in the educational development of the youth and adult population.

CHAPTER V

THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

The preceding chapters of this study have presented the origin and development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in historical perspective. This chapter has for its purpose the portrayal of the current status of the organization. The value of research into this factor has been the assessment of the resources of the organization for continued contributions to the community life of the Negro in Oklahoma, and the evaluation of the role of the organization as an educational influence in the development of community life.

Four questionnaires were prepared for the purpose of collecting data for this chapter. Copies of these instruments have been placed in Appendix A. The questionnaire to the membership was designed to assemble data relevant to certain characteristics of the individual federated club woman: age, occupation, education, years of membership, church affiliation, participation in community activities, and the current functioning of the program of the Oklahoma Federation

of Colored Women's Clubs. A cover letter (Appendix A) accompanied this initial questionnaire. The second questionnaire called for the presidents of local clubs to evaluate the program in youth education and adult education. The third questionnaire was an instrument for assembling data on the marital status of the club membership. The fourth and final instrument was sent to members of the Executive Board of the Federation for the purpose of collecting information as to their educational preparation and community leadership.

The interview was utilized to facilitate the successful administration of the questionnaire and to supplement the questionnaire through additional data acquired. Two types of interviews were used: the group interview and the individual interview. The August, 1956, and April, 1957, sessions of the Executive Board of the Oklahoma Federation were the bases of two group interviews. The April and September, 1956, meetings of the Southern Region of the Oklahoma Federation were utilized for additional group interviews. Individual interviews were held with all past presidents and a representative number of the current staff of officers of the state organization, including the present state president.

The data derived from questionnaires and interviews will be presented in a series of tables and graphs. Assumption of adequacy in quantity and representative character of the data has stemmed from the following facts:

1. Of the 950 questionnaires circulated to the

membership of 85 clubs, 501, or 52.5 per cent, responded with questionnaires either completely or partially executed.

2. Of the 85 presidents of local clubs queried as to their evaluation of the youth education and adult education programs, 50, or 56 per cent, responded.

3. Returns were received from 37, or 74 per cent, of the 50 presidents of local clubs queried as to marital status.

4. Twenty-two, or 70 per cent, of the Executive Board reported information concerning educational preparation and community leadership.

Communities represented in the survey included a wide range of population classes. Table 30 presents these communities with their respective populations. The geographical area covered by the communities in which respondents to the questionnaires resided is presented in Table 31, with the communities listed according to the regional divisions of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

The organization of the data relevant to certain characteristics of the federated club woman as presented in this study has a dual function: (1) to present the data as it related to the individual federated club woman, and (2) to view the data as it related to the local club as an entity.

Profile of a Federated Club Woman

The data gathered relating to the current status of

TABLE 30

POPULATION DATA ACCORDING TO RANK ORDER FOR TOWNS REPRESENTED IN THE SURVEY OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Town	Population
Oklahoma City	243,504
Tulsa	182,740
Muskogee	37,289
Enid	36,017
Lawton	34,757
Shawnee	22,948
Stillwater	20,238
Ponca City	20,180
Bartlesville	19,228
Okmulgee	18,317
Ardmore	17,890
McAlester	17,878
Chickasha	15,842
Sapulpa	13,031
El Reno	10,991
Guthrie	10,113
Cushing	8,414
Sand Springs	6,994
Wewoka	6,747
Perry	5,137
Watonga	3,249
Atoka	2,652
Checotah	2,638
Eufaula	2,540
Langston	785
Luther	409

the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs revealed certain patterns of personal characteristics and activities representative of the membership of the state federation. This material has been organized according to the following plan: age, educational preparation, marital status, occupation, years of membership in a federated club, church

TABLE 31

REGIONAL LOCATION OF TOWNS REPRESENTED IN THE SURVEY OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Region	Town
Central	Luther
	Oklahoma City
	Shawnee
	Wewoka
Northeastern	Bartlesville
	Sand Springs
	Sapulpa
	Tulsa
Northern	Guthrie
	Langston
	Ponca City
	Stillwater
Southern	Ardmore
	Atoka
	Checotah
	Eufaula
	McAlester
Western	Chickasha
	Cushing
	El Reno
	Enid
	Lawton
	Perry
	Watonga

affiliation, and activities in which federated club women participated.

Age

The analysis of the data relevant to the age of the

federated club woman as listed by 444 respondents to the questionnaire yields the following information: range of age extended from the twenties into the eighties; 34 per cent had ages within the 40-49 interval; 78 per cent were within the 30-59 range; and women under 30 and over 59 totaled 22 per cent. The determination of factors basic to this preponderance of the middle-aged in the membership of the Oklahoma Federation has not been assayed. The proclivity of the middle-aged to participate in community activities has received comment by Robert Cooley Angell in his study of American cities. Angell stated that in response to the question: "Do you feel you are doing as much for the community as you want to?" significant differences were found with respect to age. He concluded that "the moral order of the community is shared more completely by middle-aged people than by any other group."[1]

Figure 10 presents a graphical illustration of the age distribution of the membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Table 32 summarizes the age distribution for federated club women according to ten year intervals.

Heterogeneity of age within the individual club was viewed as a significant factor in evaluating the organization

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[1]Murray G. Ross, Community Organization (New York: Harper Brothers, 1955), p. 57.

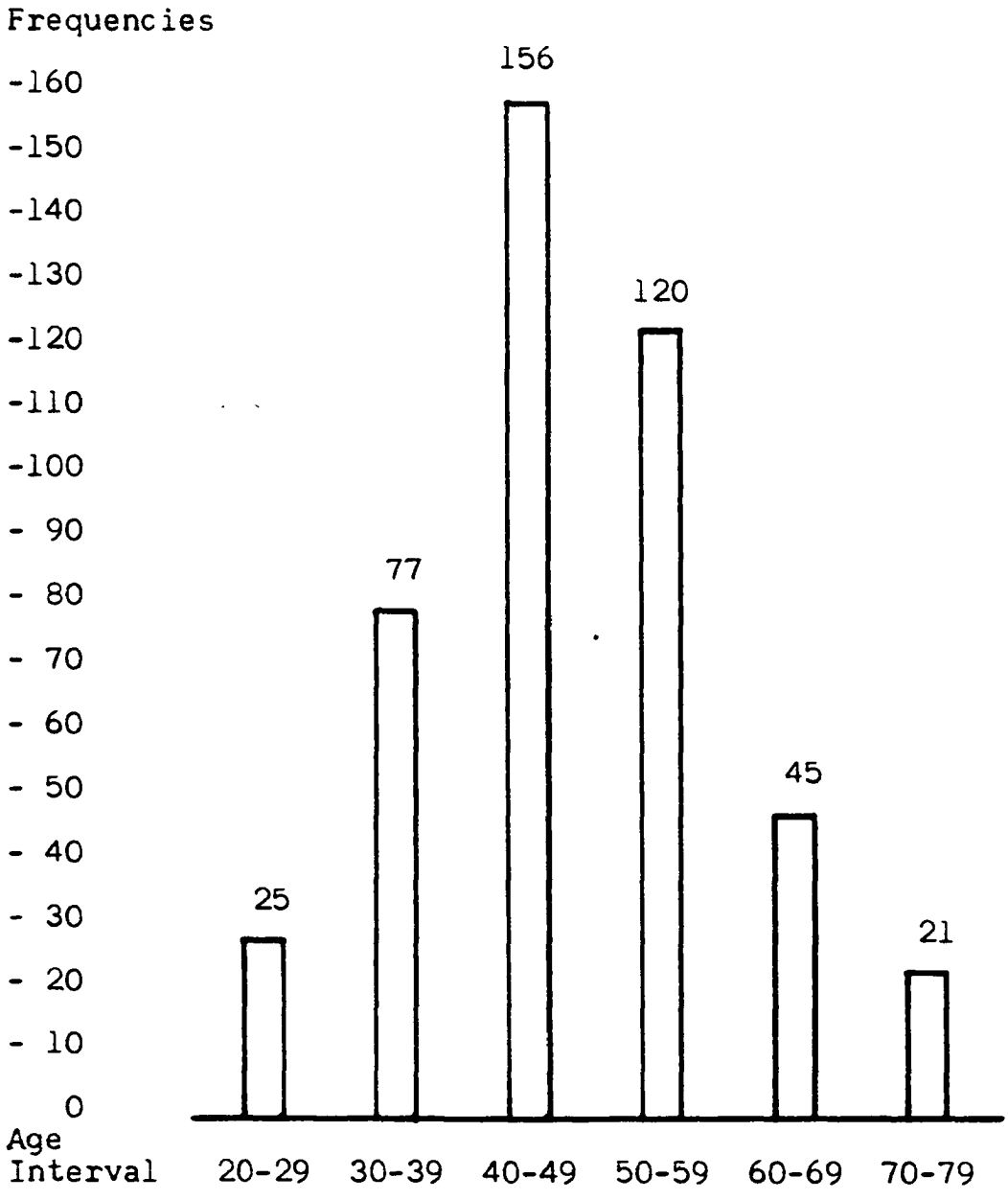

Fig. 10.--Age distribution of the membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 32

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Age Interval	Per Cent of Ages Within Interval
20-29	5
30-39	17
40-49	34
50-59	27
60-69	11
70-79	5.8
80-89	0.2

as an educational force in community life. Such dissimilarities provided for the recruitment of younger members and their training in the duties and responsibilities of the organization. Stability and continuity in the program of the group have been strengthened through heterogeneity of age within the membership. Table 33 presents the age range distribution of membership according to individual local clubs.

Education

The questionnaire to the federated club membership provided for information on three levels of educational preparation: elementary school, high school, and college. Of the 409 respondents, 169 had attained a high school education, 151 had reached the college level, and 89 had not gone beyond the elementary level of formal education. Figure 11 presents this data in graphical design. The percentage of

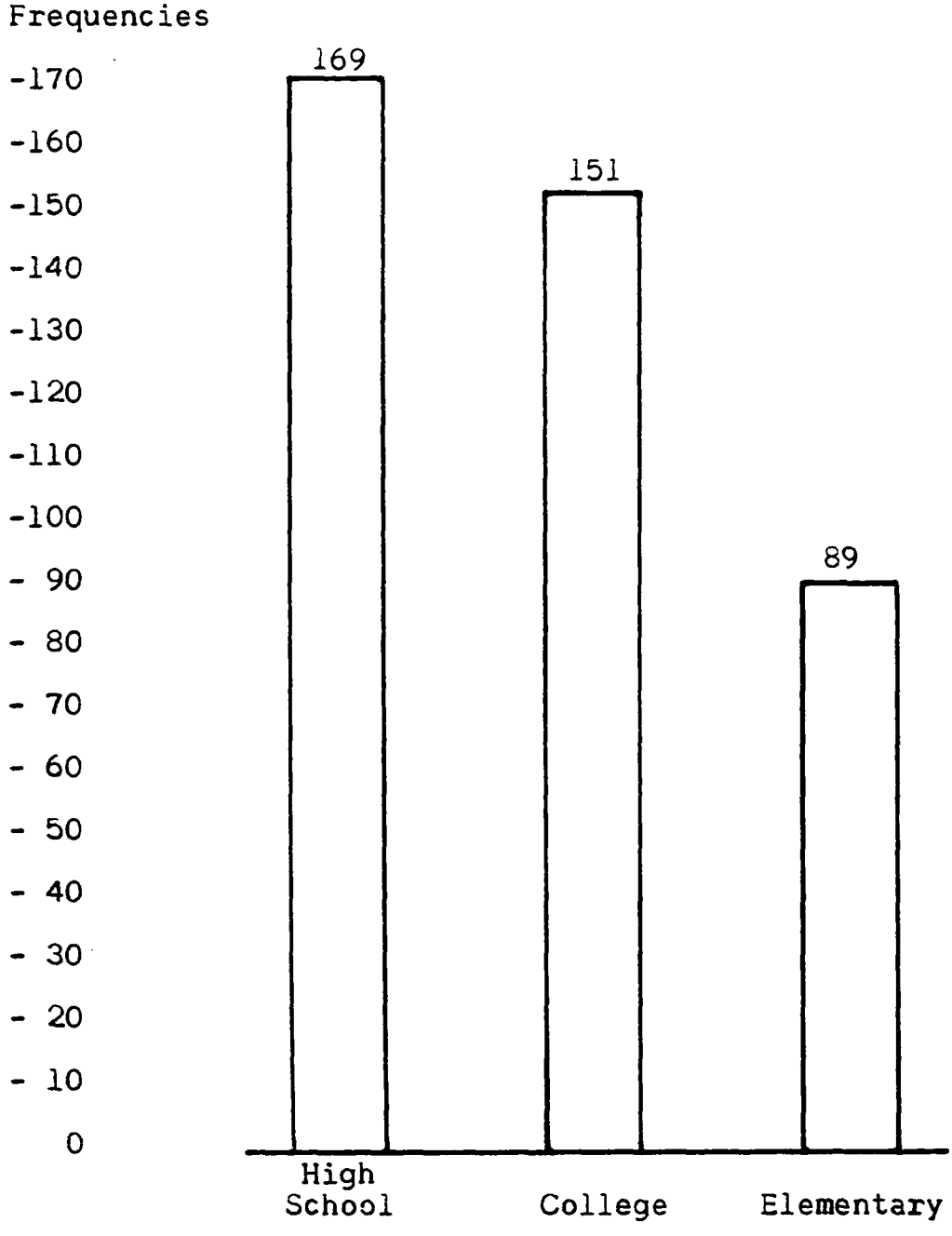

Fig. 11.--Educational attainment of the membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 33

AGE RANGE OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL FEDERATED CLUBS ACCORDING TO RANK ORDER OF FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

Age Range within Individual Club	Frequency of Occurrence
30-60	7
20-50	6
30-70	5
40-60	5
30-50	4
20-40	4
40-70	3
30-40	3
50-60	3
50-70	3
40-50	2
20-70	2
20-60	2
50	2
40	1
30-80	1
60-70	1

the respondents achieving the three levels of educational preparation is shown in Table 34.

TABLE 34

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Educational Level	Number of Members	Per Cent of Members
Elementary School	89	22
High School	169	41
College	151	37

The factor of heterogeneity in educational preparation of the membership has significance. The point of view subscribed to in this study was that heterogeneity of educational preparation increased the effectiveness of the federated club as an educational force in the community. The varied educational backgrounds of the membership tended to create a learning situation within the federated club and promoted cooperative relationships with the community. Table 35 presents the educational levels of members within the individual club units.

TABLE 35

EDUCATIONAL LEVELS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL FEDERATED CLUBS

Educational Levels within Individual Federated Club	Number of Clubs
Elementary School-High School-College	23
High School-College	17
Elementary School-High School	6
High School	5
College	3

Marital Status

The family situation representative of the membership was regarded as significant in evaluating the impact of the organization's program on community life. Marriage and motherhood have characteristically involved a wider range of community relationships than were characteristic of unattached

individuals.

The questionnaire on marital status was circulated to the 50 presidents of local clubs. Of those queried, 37 responded. The federated clubs covered in the instruments returned included a total of 554 members of which 400 were married, 315 were mothers, 137 were widows, and 17 were single. The respondents were instructed to interpret the term "single" as referring to those members who were not and had not been married. Married women and widows constituted 97 per cent of the membership covered in the survey, with single women accounting for the remaining 3 per cent. Table 36 summarizes the data on marital status of the membership of federated clubs.

TABLE 36

MARITAL STATUS OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL FEDERATED CLUBS

Marital Status	Per Cent of Members
Married	72
Widows	25
Single	3
Mothers	57

The federated club woman as presented in the data of this study has been characteristically a part of a family group.

TABLE 37

OCCUPATIONS LISTED FOR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Occupation	Frequency of Listing
Teacher	72
Beautician	13
Domestic Service	11
Clerical	10
Cafeteria Management	6
Seamstress	6
Catering	6
Mortician	5
Proprietor of Business	4
Librarian	4
Nurse	4
Agricultural Extension Agent	2
Retired Teacher	2
Accountant	1
Ceramist	1
College Counselor - Writer	1
Home Demonstration Agent	1
Insurance	1
Journalist	1
Milliner	1
Musician	1
Real Estate	1
Religious Education	1
Speech Therapist	1
Upholsterer	1
TOTAL	157

Occupations

The occupational interests of the membership of the local federated club have significant relationship to the extent of the involvement in the community life. Twenty-five specific occupations designated by questionnaire respondents are presented in Table 37. A total of 465 respondents listed either specific occupations or occupational areas which have been

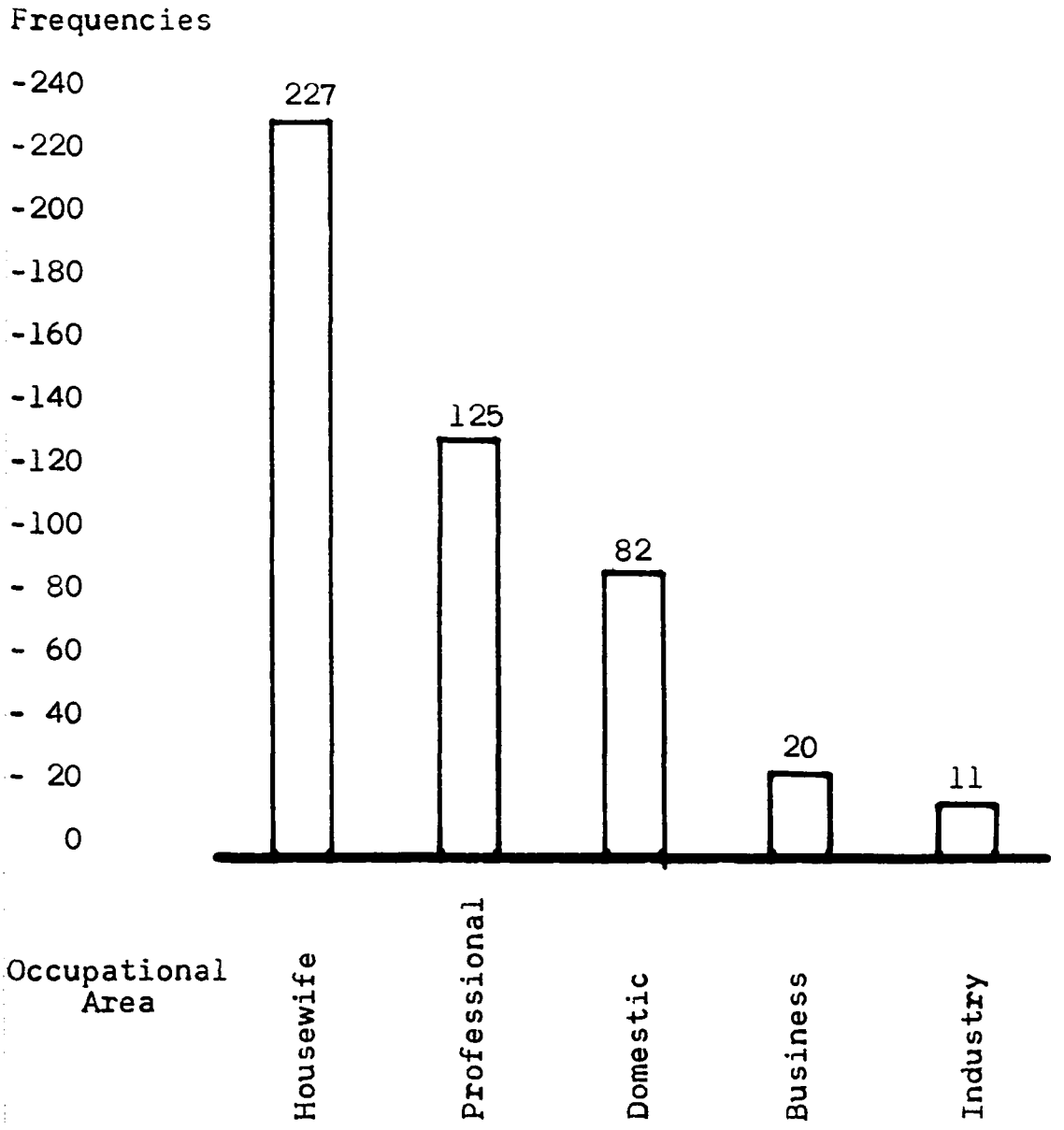

Fig. 12.--Occupational areas listed by members of federated clubs.

classified under five categories: (1) housewife, (2) professional, (3) domestic, (4) business, and (5) industry. Figure 12 gives graphical illustration of the proportion of the membership with occupations in each of the five stated categories. In the list of specific occupations, teaching totaled 72 or 46 per cent of the designations.

Table 38 states the percentage of the respondents listing occupational data according to the classification of the five categories. The category of housewife included 49 per cent of respondents; professional, 27 per cent; domestic service, 18 per cent; business, 4 per cent; and industry, 2 per cent.

TABLE 38

OCCUPATIONAL AREAS LISTED BY MEMBERS OF FEDERATED CLUBS

Occupational Area	Per Cent of Members
Housewife	49
Professional	27
Domestic Service	18
Business	4
Industry	2

An analysis of the varied occupations listed by the membership of individual federated clubs revealed a pattern of heterogeneity. This recurring pattern of representativeness of the total community life within the individual club

has denoted depth of interrelatedness of federated club program and community life.

Table 39 presents an organization of the data with reference to heterogeneity of occupations within the individual club.

TABLE 39

OCCUPATIONAL AREAS LISTED BY MEMBERS WITHIN INDIVIDUAL CLUBS

Occupations within Individual Club	Number of Clubs
Professional-Housewife-Domestic Service-Business	15
Professional-Housewife	11
Professional-Housewife-Domestic Service	8
Business-Housewife-Domestic Service	4
Housewife-Domestic Service	4
Professional-Housewife-Business	4
Housewife-Business	4

Years of Membership

The data with reference to years of membership in a federated club for individual members revealed a relationship to the age factor. The marked decrease of members with age designations beyond 59 set limits to long term memberships. Table 40 summarizes data with regard to length of membership.

The range of years of membership of individuals in federated clubs has extended from 1 to 50 years. The frequencies of years of membership in a federated club by five

TABLE 40

YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN A FEDERATED CLUB FOR MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Years of Membership	Per Cent of Members
1- 5	29
6-10	25
11-15	16
16-20	12
21-25	6
26-30	7
31-35	2
36-40	1
41-45	1
46-50	.03
51-55	.03

year periods is presented in graphical form in Figure 13.

Church Affiliation

Questionnaires received from 501 federated club women showed one hundred per cent church membership. This data has confirmed a general characterization that "a federated club woman is a church woman." Table 41 summarizes the per cent of the membership of federated clubs with affiliations in the stated denominations.

An examination of the data with reference to church affiliation of the federated club membership revealed representation of most denominational groups, with this pattern of heterogeneity being repeated for the local club. The proportion of federated club women with membership in Protestant

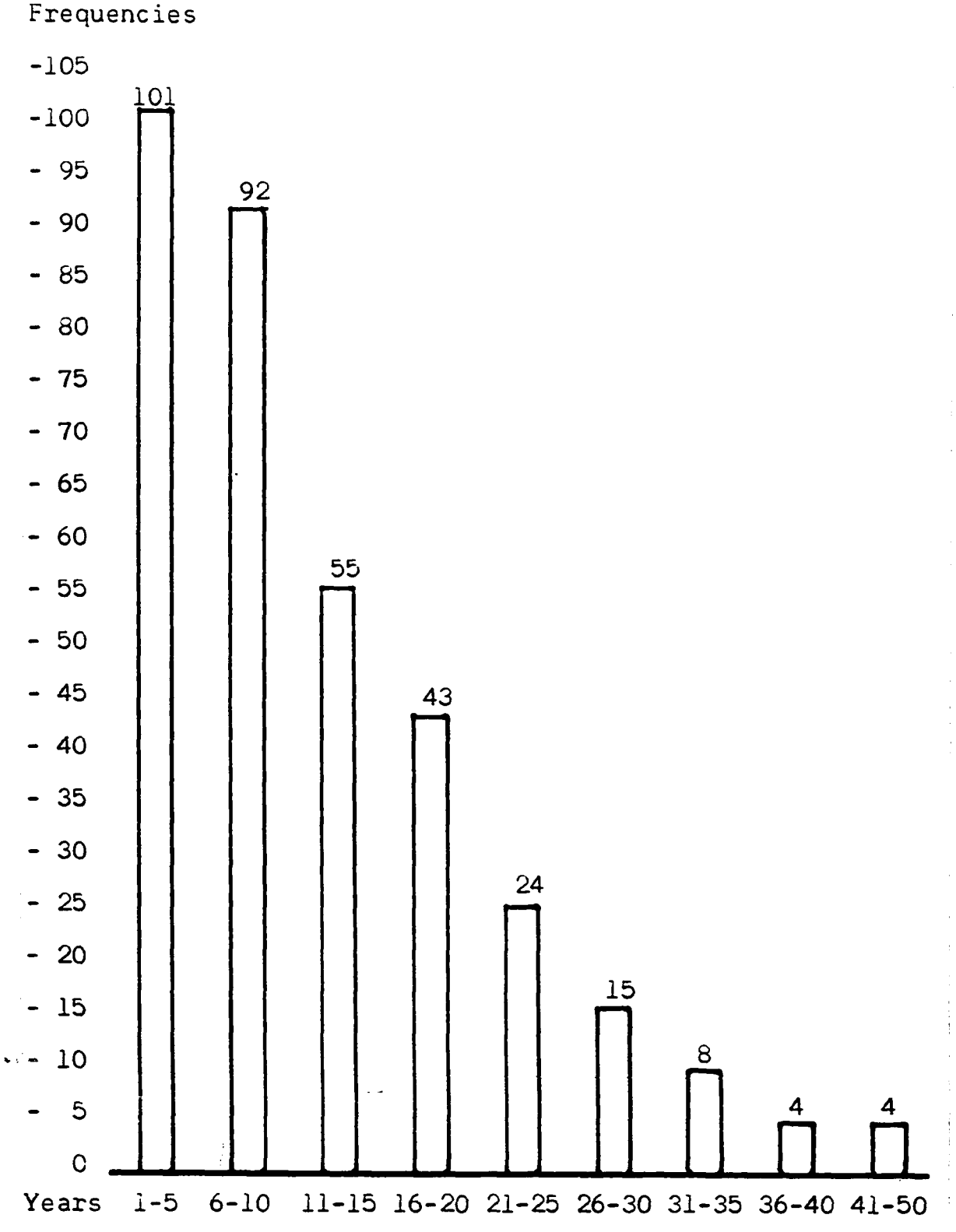

Fig. 13.--Years of membership in a federated club for members of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 41

CHURCH AFFILIATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Church Affiliation	Per Cent of Membership
Baptist	55
Methodist	31
Catholic	5
Church of God	4
Presbyterian	1.6
Church of God in Christ	1.6
Seventh Day Adventist	0.8
Christian Scientist	0.8

churches as compared with the number with membership in Catholic churches was 95 to 5 per cent, respectively. This distribution confirmed the church affiliation pattern of the Negro community. The approximately one hundred per cent involvement of federated club women within the church life of the community contributed to the power of the federated club to influence community life. Figure 14 presents data with reference to church affiliation of federated club women.

Activities

The participation in community life by the federated club woman has been the source of the growth and stability of the organization. Table 42 has assembled a list of activities in which federated club women participated.

The significance of this varied list of activities has been the representation of the federated club woman in

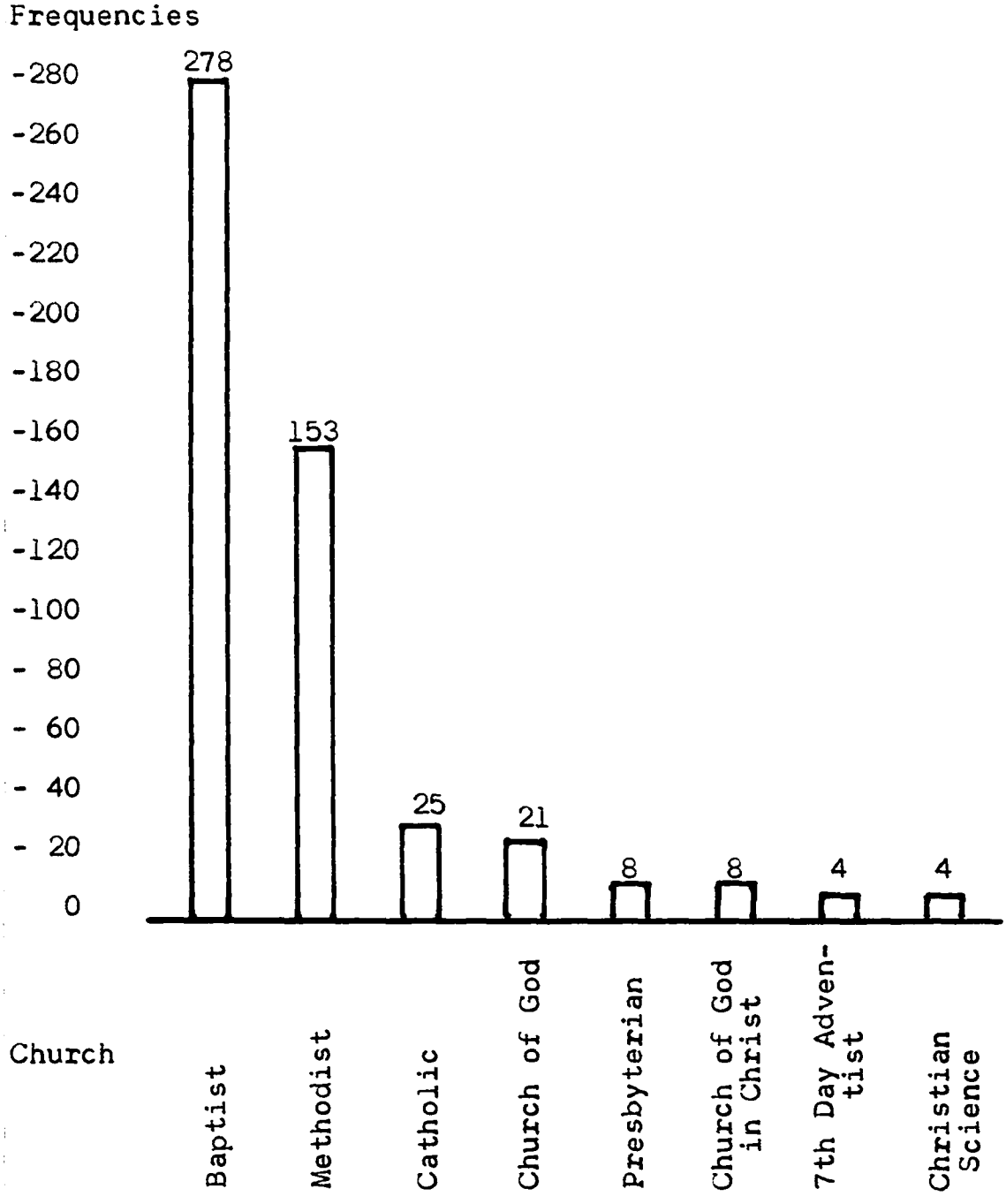

Fig. 14.--Church affiliation of the membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

TABLE 42

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS PARTICIPATED

Activity	Activity
American Legion	Mental Health Association
Army Mother's Club	Missionary Society
Adult Homemakers Club	Mothers of the World
Boy Scouts	N. A. A. C. P.
Church	Pre-Teen Club
Campfire Girls	Race Relations Group
Y. W. A. Girls	Red Cross
Council of Federated Churches Women	Religious Education
	Sunday School
Chamber of Commerce	Teen Town
Community Center	Urban League
Four-H Club	Urban League Guild
Farm Women's Club	United Church Women
Friends of the Library	Vacation Bible School
Fraternal Orders	Veterans of Foreign Wars
Home Demonstration Club	Y. W. C. A.
Hospital Drives	
Junior Red Cross	

all phases of community life. Figure 15 presents a graphic representation of the major activities in which federated club women participated. The term major has been used to denote activities in which large numbers took part. Figure 15 shows a difference in interpretation of church membership and church activity. All respondents listed a church affiliation whereas only 325 listed church as an activity. This variation may have stemmed from the respondent interpreting a second listing of church as an activity as a duplication of the statement of church membership.

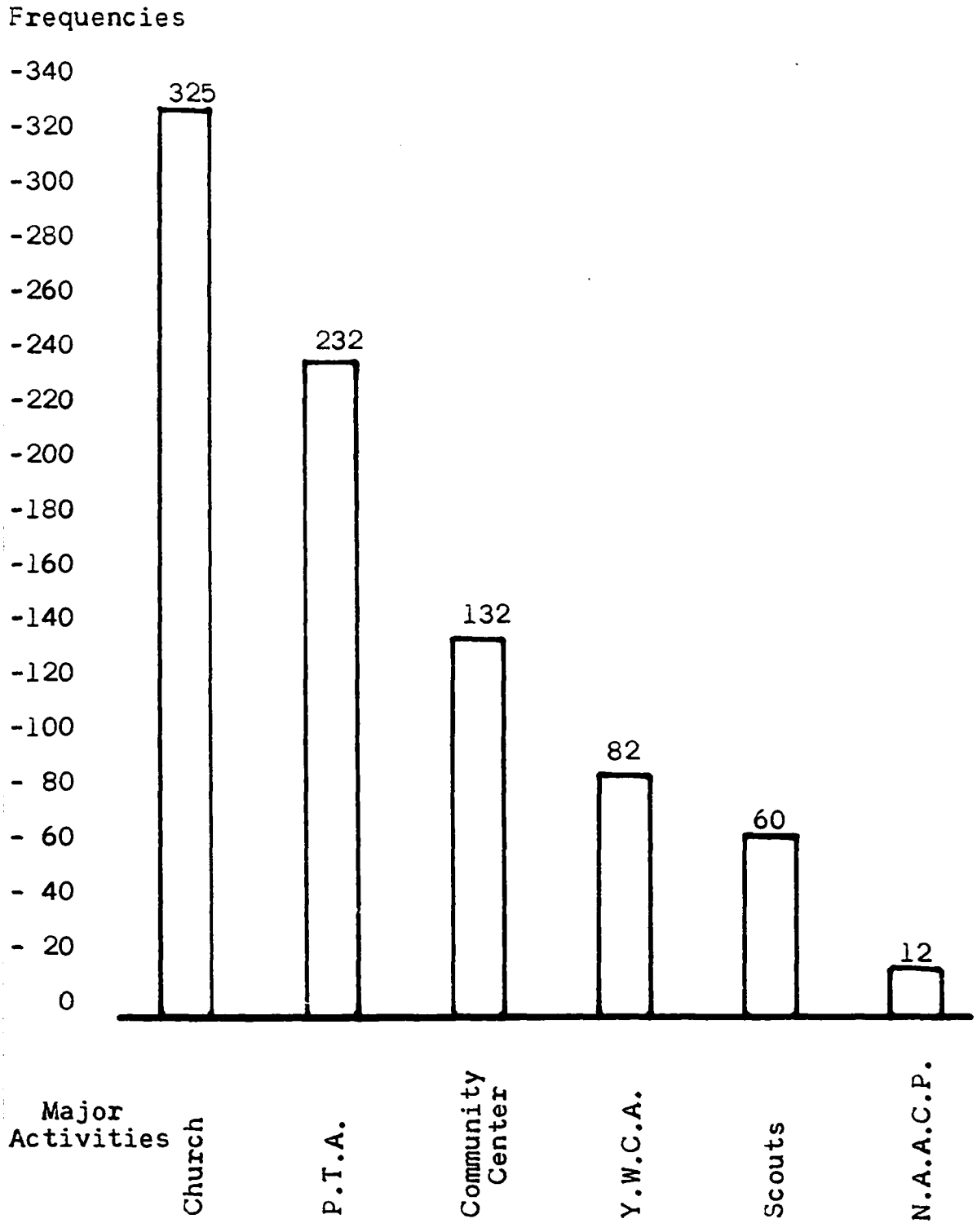

Fig. 15.--Major activities of the membership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

Summary

Generalizations inherent in the data of this study have been: women in the middle years of life predominate in the membership of the federated club; the majority of the membership have attained either a high school or college level of formal education; the federated club woman has shown more homogeneity in marital status than in any other area examined in this study--97 per cent were either married or had been married and 57 per cent were mothers; the occupational interests of the membership were varied with teaching the predominant occupational area; the majority had been affiliated with a federated club from 1 to 5 years; church affiliation was representative of the denominational pattern of the community; federated club women have manifested broad interest in community activities. In general, the federated club woman has been deeply involved in community life and through this involvement has contributed to the educational development of the community and the perpetuation of the organization.

Evaluation of the Educational Program of Local Federated Clubs

The presidents of 85 federated clubs were asked to evaluate the club's educational program for youth and adults. Of the 50 respondents, 38 rated the program in youth education as good or above while 12 conceived their program as below a rating of good. The adult education program was rated

as good or above by 36 with 14 clubs rating the program as below good. A summary of the ratings is shown in Table 43.

TABLE 43

EVALUATION OF THE YOUTH EDUCATION AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF THE LOCAL FEDERATED CLUBS BY CLUB PRESIDENTS

Rating	Youth Education		Adult Education	
	Frequency	Per Cent	Frequency	Per Cent
No Rating	5	10	6	12
Fair	7	14	8	16
Good	18	36	18	36
Very Good	10	20	11	22
Excellent	10	20	7	14

This data has supported the assumption that the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has functioned in the local community as a significant educational force.

The Current Program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

The current program has been viewed in terms of activities in five categories: (1) civil rights, (2) community development, (3) prevention of juvenile delinquency, (4) youth education, and (5) adult education.

Civil Rights

The federated clubs have accepted support of civil

rights as an objective of the organization on local, regional, and state levels. The current type of participation has been, by and large, one of financial support through membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The federated club woman has participated in citizenship projects advancing civil rights in the local community, state, and nation. The federated club in the operation of the current program has initiated few projects in the area of civil rights. The most recent movement toward civil rights promoted by the Oklahoma Federation was the launching of a campaign to place Negro teachers in integrated schools along with Negro children.

Community Development

Work for community development has been the core of the federated club program with action in this area being as varied as the needs of the local community. Table 44 has assembled activities listed by members of local federated clubs as contributing toward the development of the community.

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

The current program in the prevention of juvenile delinquency has been focused on child development as a major interest. Activities listed by federated club women in this category have been assembled in Table 45.

TABLE 44

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY FEDERATED CLUBS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Activity	Activity
Building American Legion Hut	Electric Lights on School Campus
Building Park Concession Stand	Flower Gardens
Cemetery Beautification	Good Will Projects
City Park Improvement	Home Beautification
Clean-up Campaigns	Health Center
Community Center Maintenance	Library Maintenance
Club House Maintenance	Purchase of Recreation Grounds
Contributions to Rest Home	Prevention of Industrial Invasion of Residential Areas
Chat on Cemetery Road	Street and Safety Markers
Care of Needy	Support of Porter's Rest Home
Entertaining Community Leaders	

TABLE 45

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY FEDERATED CLUBS FOR THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Activity	Activity
Appointment of Truant Officer	Girls' Clubs
Banquets: Mother-Daughter, Father-Son	Hiking Parties
Boys' Clubs	Musical Organizations
Church Youth Center	Memberships: Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A.
Craft Classes	Saturday Night Recreation
Cooperation with Juvenile Court	Scouting Program
Equipping Playground	Study of Drop-outs in School
Family Fun Nights	Teen Town
	Youth Forums

Youth Education

The education of youth has continued to increase in

importance in the program of the local federated club. An evaluation of the programs in youth education has been pointed out in a prior section of this study. Activities contributing to youth education are presented in Table 46.

TABLE 46

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY FEDERATED CLUBS FOR YOUTH EDUCATION

Activity	Activity
Aid to Handicapped Children	Library Project
Assisting Orphan in School	Music Award
Baby Clinic	Organize Junior Clubs
Cooperation with School	One Hundred Dollar Scholarship
Cooperation with P. T. A.	Livestock Show
College Chest	Purchase School Uniforms
Cash Gifts to College Students	Purchase Instruments for Band
	Purchase School Equipment
Clothing for School Children	Room and Board for Student
Equipment for Girls' Rest Room	Salutatorian Award
	School Lunch
Educational Materials for School	Scholarships
	Sponsor Local Artist
Financing Kindergarten	Sponsor a Child in School
Hobo Art Shop	Savings Bond Award
Helping with Nursery	Sponsor Music Study Group
Helping Girl and Boy in College	Unveiling Picture of Former Principal and Presentation to the School
Helping Girls in High School	
High School Award	

Adult Education

Adult education has encompassed the entire federated club program in that the involvement of the membership in the promotion of all areas of the organization's activities has contributed to the development of the federated club woman.

Activities listed by members as contributing to adult education have been assembled in Table 47.

TABLE 47

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY FEDERATED CLUBS FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Activity	Activity
Adult Study Courses	Food Demonstrations
Adult Evening Classes	Flower Culture
Art Demonstrations	Homemaking
Book Reviews	Home Nursing
Business Course	Lectures
Current Events	Mental Health
Dramatic Recitals	Music Appreciation
Discussion Groups	Panel Discussions
Educational Programs	Sewing Classes
Fashion Shows	Study of Literature
First Aid	Study of Legislation

Summary

This examination of the activities of local federated clubs within the framework of the five categories of the program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has presented evidence that the current program has functioned effectively in the community. Figure 16 presents the frequencies of listing of activities in the four categories of: community development, youth education, prevention of juvenile delinquency, and adult education. Civil rights was not included in this graph as the current program of the federated clubs in civil rights is one of financial support and

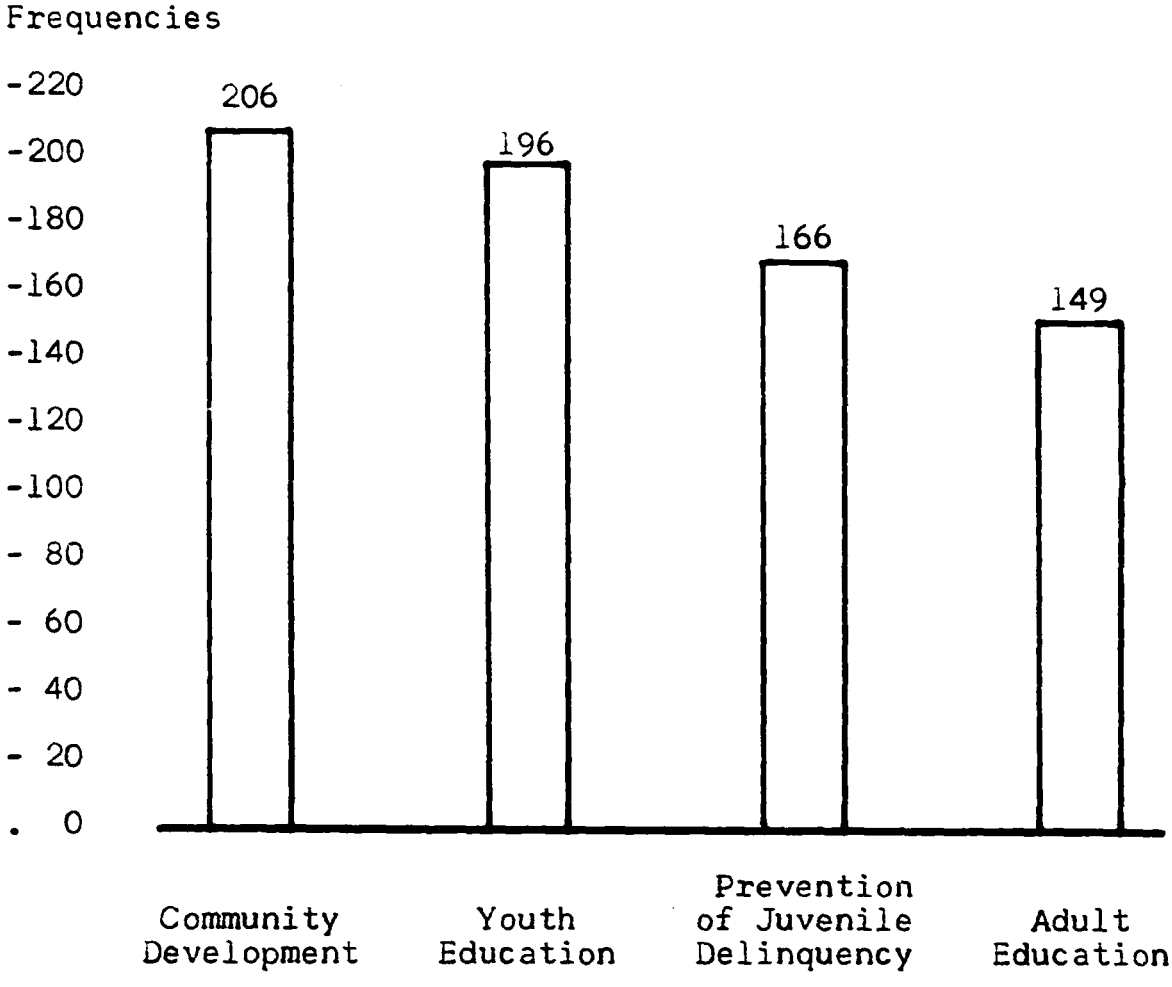

Fig. 16.--Frequencies of federated club sponsored activities in four areas of the current program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

cooperation rather than one of sponsorship of activities toward the achievement of civil rights.

The Executive Board of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

The planning and implementation of the program of the Oklahoma Federation has been largely directed by two official bodies: the advisory board, composed of the current president of the organization and all living past presidents; and the Executive Board composed of all elective and appointive officials. The advisory board has been previously evaluated. This section of the study will be devoted to the evaluation of the educational preparation and community leadership roles of the current executive board.

Educational preparation data has included a statement of formal education beyond the high school level. Community leadership roles listed included current positions and positions recently held. These two types of leadership roles were included for the purpose of presenting a broader picture of the variety of services rendered to the community by the members of the Executive Board. Data on educational preparation and community leadership roles are shown in Table 48.

Summary

Significant aspects of the current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs as evaluated through an analysis of the data of this study have been:

the federated club woman has functioned in the local community as a representative citizen with a wide range of community interrelationships and stable family connections; the program of youth education and adult education promoted by the local club have been constructive and creditable as viewed by presidents of local federated clubs; federated club women have participated in a variety of community activities; the current program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has maintained its traditional objectives with modification in view of current community life; the leadership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been vested in women of a high level of educational attainment and a marked dedication to humanitarian service.

A general summation of the current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been that the state organization has shown stability of structure, continuity of program, and progress in planning for the needs of the Negro in contemporary Oklahoma community life.

TABLE 48

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION AND LEADERSHIP ROLES OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Bruner, B. M.	Hampton Institute, Virginia, A.B.; European Travel, 1955.	School teacher; Instructor, Farm Women's Clubs; Secretary, Seminole Advisory Board; Church Clerk; President, Missionary Society; Trustee Board of Church; Lay Minister; Grand Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star.
Burns, Doshia		Executive Board, Urban League; President, Missionary Society; President, North Tulsa Women in Business; Woman of the Year, Daughters of Elks No. 133, Chairman, State Women in Business.
Dewberry, E. H.	Langston University, B.S.; Graduate Study, Denver University, University of Oklahoma.	Assistant Secretary, N.A.A.C.P.; Assistant Bible Teacher; President, Missionary Circle; Director, Choir; Teacher, Sunday School; President, Usher Board.
Cooke, M. R.	Flipper Key College, Muskogee County, Oklahoma	Assistant Director, Summer Camp; Girl Scout Leader, Cub Scout Den Mother; Brownie Leader; President, P.T.A.; Life Member, National Council Negro Women; Secretary, N.A.A.C.P.

TABLE 48--Continued

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Chambers, L.	Central Mississippi College, Kosciusko.	Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Court of Calanthe; Secretary-Treasurer, Household of Ruth; Pianist, State Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress; Organist, Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star; Worthy Counsellor, Queen Rose Court; Most Noble Governor, Household of Ruth; Notary Public.
Daniels, G. E.	Special Courses in Religious Education, Muskogee, Oklahoma.	Vice President, Collate Association; Musical Directress, Collate Congress; Teacher, Collate Woman's Association; Bible Teacher, Baptist Minister's Union; Pianist, Church; Sponsor, Singing Convention; Church Clerk; P.T.A. Unit Leader.
Dedman, B. C.		President, Missionary Society; Leader of Class No. 10; Sunday School Teacher; Organist, Senior Choir.
Dickenson, R. E.	Langston University, B.S.	Hostess, Junior Girls; Counsellor, Teen Town; Chairman, Usher Board; Chairman, Budget Committee Church.
Dobson, G.	Langston University; Smith's Business College, Tulsa, Oklahoma.	Past President, Oklahoma Congress of Parents and Teachers; Executive Board, Oklahoma Family Life Council; National Chairman, Juvenile Protection; Officer, N.A.A.C.P.

TABLE 48--Continued

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Duckery, K. L.	Columbia University, New York; Tulsa University, Oklahoma.	Precinct Registrar; Notary Public; President, District Usher Board; Chairman, Deaconess Board; Study Course Director of Missions; Sunday School Teacher; Community Center, Committee of Management.
Gorman, E.	Langston University, A.B.; University of Oklahoma, Ed.M.	School Teacher; Church Clerk; Chairman, Library Board; Community Building Committee; Associate Matron, Order of Eastern Star; Officer of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.
Griffin, H. C.	Langston University.	Secretary, Committee of Management, Y.W.C.A.; Secretary, Delta Patroness Club; Committee Member, Order of Eastern Star; Principal, Daily Vacation Bible School; President, P.T.A., Police Woman's Auxiliary Board.
Hornbeak, M. T.	Wiley College, Marshall Texas; Langston University.	President, P.T.A.; Member, National Life and Home Committee; Executive Secretary, Negro Chamber of Commerce; Financial Secretary, Church; Secretary, Methodist Episcopal Quarterly Conference.

TABLE 48--Continued

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Hughes, J. M.	Langston University, B.S.; Colorado State College, Greeley; University of Oklahoma; Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.	President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Secretary, Mathematics Department, Muskogee School System; Custodian of Finance, Manual Training High School; President, Church Choir; Assistant Church Clerk; Minister of Music.
Mewborn, S.		Past President, Missionary Society; Chairman of Finance of State Convention; Past Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star; Chairman, United Fund Drive; First Vice President, Missionary Society.
Ollison, M.	Langston University, B.S.; Cincinnati University; University of Oklahoma, Ed.M.	School Teacher; Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star; Worthy Counsellor, Court of Calanthe; Vice President, Alpha Xi Sigma Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Pianist and Directress, Senior Church Choir.
Ragsdale, O. V.	Langston University; Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg; Kansas University, Lawrence.	Member State Committee on Mental Hygiene; Officer, P.T.A.; Sunday School Teacher; Board of Directors, Red Cross; Negro Chamber of Commerce; Officer, Order of Eastern Star and Household of Ruth; Officer, First Baptist Church.

TABLE 48--Continued

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Robinson, E. J.	Hampton Institute, Virginia; Langston University.	Chairman, Executive Board, N.A.A.C.P. Conductress, Order of Eastern Star; Secretary, Home Demonstration Club; Chairman, Courtesy Committee, Home Mission Circle; Chairman, Health Committee, P.T.A.
Strong, W. A.	University of Kansas, A.B.; University of Chicago, M.A.; Syracuse University, University of Oklahoma.	Principal, Public School; Superintendent, Sunday School; Board of Directors, Red Cross; Speech Chairman, W.C.T.U.; Trustee, Church; Board of Management, Grand Avenue Community Center, McAlester; Past President, Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers.
Taylor, A. R.	Langston University, A.B.; University of Kansas, M.Mus.Ed.; University of Southern California, Los Angeles.	President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Director, University Choir; Director, Church Choir.
Tucker, E. M.		Financial Secretary, Church; Church Clerk; Recording Secretary, Church Club.

TABLE 48--Continued

Member	Educational Preparation	Positions of Leadership
Wayne, M. C.	New Orleans University; Wiley College, Marshall, Texas; Red Cross Summer Schools; Tennessee A & I State, Nashville.	President, United Voluntary Services; Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star; President, North Tulsa Red Cross; Life Member, Park Board of Lawrance Community; President, Woman's Home Missionary Society; State Treasurer, Oklahoma Spiritualist Association; Chairman, Youth Department, Wesley Methodist Church.
Wray, E. M.		Registrar of Precinct; Treasurer, Community Center; Directress, B.Y.P.U.; Chairman, Missionary Society.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has been a research project designed to portray the origin, development, and current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; to trace the major lines of development; to interpret the environmental forces which gave rise to the organization's program; to evaluate the personalities which provided leadership and shaped the course of its development; to present the current status of the organization; and to view the total program within the framework of the objectives.

The underlying assumption of the study, that the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has functioned as a significant force in the Negro community, has been assessed.

Summary

The data of this research have been summarized according to the following classifications: significant events, personalities, and program.

Significant Events

An interpretation of the record of any organization will reveal events which have been determining factors in the development of the organization and the shaping of its program. This section of the study has presented a condensation of the major events in the origin, development, and current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

In 1893, Miss Hallie Q. Brown, spurred on by the goal of Negro representation in the World's Fair and Columbian Exposition of 1893, went to Washington, D. C., and organized the Colored Women's League. The First Conference of Negro Women was called by Mrs. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and the Woman's Era Club of Boston to meet in that city, July 29-30, 1895. Out of this conference, the National Federation of Afro-American Women emerged. The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, organized in 1896, united the National Federation of Afro-American Women and the Colored Women's League. The first club organized by and for Negro women in Oklahoma was the Excelsior Club of Guthrie, Oklahoma, organized by Mrs. Judith C. Horton in 1906. Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson of Oklahoma City, organized the East Side Culture Club in 1907. The Frances Harper Club of Muskogee was established by Mrs. Lois Perdue in 1908. On April 16, 1910, the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was organized with the following clubs as charter members of the federation: East

Side Culture Club of Oklahoma City, Excelsior Club of Guthrie, Dorcas Club of Muskogee, Frances Harper Club of Muskogee, Ideal Reading Club of El Reno, Matron's Mutual Improvement Club of Muskogee, and Mother's Club of Hennessey.

Lines of development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs traced in this study have included: number of clubs, membership, communities in which federated clubs functioned, the expansion of the departmental work, and projects promoted. The number of clubs increased from 7 in 1910 to 96 in 1956. Membership expanded from 111 in 1910 to 1,273 in 1956. Communities in which federated clubs functioned rose from 5 in 1910 to 45 in 1956. Departmental work was augmented from no departments in 1910 to 43 in 1956. The financial resources of the organization totaled $6.60 in 1910 as compared to $2,470.66 in 1956. The scholarship loan fund, established in 1924 with $389.35, totaled $5,900.00 in 1956. Annual receipts from the Princess Revue project expanded from $105.35 in 1940, to $555.50 in 1956. The first scholarship loan was awarded to Miss Marguerite L. Divers in 1924. During the period 1924 to 1956 an outlay of $5,543.61 was invested in scholarship loans to 21 girls from 11 communities in the state. The High School Award, instituted in 1946, has been presented to 109 graduating girls of Oklahoma high schools.

A stimulating relationship has been sustained between state and national federations. The entertainment of the

National Association of Colored Women's Clubs by the Oklahoma Federation in 1941 with Oklahoma City Federated Clubs as host was the most significant cooperative venture of the two organizations.

Events of outstanding significance in the development of the program of the state organization were: the establishment of the Boys' Training School at McAlester in 1915 and the Girls' Training School at Taft in 1917, the inauguration of the summer camp movement in 1930, and the division of the state into regions and introduction of the Princess Revue in 1940.

These developments, by no means inclusive of all the creditable aspects of the organization's growth, have embodied the initial steps and culminating points in the growth of the state federation.

Personalities

Effective leadership has been the mainspring of the development of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Of the women whose leadership played strategic roles in charting the course of the organization's growth, the twelve state presidents have been noteworthy. They were: Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson, 1910-1915; Mrs. Judith C. Horton, 1915-1919; Mrs. Anna H. Cooper, 1919-1924; Mrs. Nellie Weaver Greene, 1924-1928; Mrs. Adelia Young, 1928-1932; Mrs. Lucy Elliott Hutton, 1932-1936; Mrs. Maude J. Brockway, 1936-1940;

Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, 1940-1944; Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver, 1944-1948; Mrs. Mildred P. Williams, 1948-1952; Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson, 1952-1956; Mrs. Jessie B. Hibler, 1956 to the present. The office of Treasurer afforded two officials of outstanding ability the privilege of serving the state federation--Mrs. Emma Backstrom, 1920-1940, and Mrs. Geneva B. Faver, 1940 to the present. Members of the Executive Board, the Advisory Board, and the Regional Chairmen have directed the current affairs of the organization.

The leadership of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been characterized by a high level of educational preparation, personal integrity, and dedication to humanitarian service.

A study of the current membership of the state federation revealed these dominant characteristics: 78 per cent of the membership fell within the age range of 30-59. Fifty-seven per cent had attained either the high school or college level of education. Ninety-seven per cent of the membership were either married or widowed. Forty-six per cent of those designating a specific occupation listed teaching as the field of employment. Fifty-five per cent had been members of a federated club from 1 to 10 years. Church affiliations were 95 per cent Protestant. Major activities, according to rank order of frequency of listing, were: church, P.T.A., community center, Y.W.C.A., Scouting, and N.A.A.C.P.

Program

The program of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was examined with reference to five major areas: (1) civil rights, (2) community development, (3) prevention of juvenile delinquency, (4) youth education, and (5) adult education. Civil rights was the initial area of interest in the program of the state organization. Activity in this program has been one of financial support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and cooperative action with movements initiated by other groups in the advancement of civil rights.

The program in community development has been central for the organization. The vitality, growth, and increasing effectiveness of the functioning of the state federation had its source in service at the community level.

Prevention of juvenile delinquency, as initiated in the second year of the organization's history, was a program of campaigning for the establishment of institutions for the rehabilitation of unfortunate youth. The current emphasis has shifted to one of contributing to programs of child welfare and child development.

The program of youth education has been basically one of contributing to the higher education of needy, worthy, and talented youth through scholarship loans and other forms of financial aid.

The over-all outcome of the program of the federated

club has been one of adult education. Specific approaches toward the goal of adult education have included study courses, community programs, and activities of educational import.

Conclusions

An objective evaluation of the data of this research within the perspective of the stated problem has given support to these generalizations:

1. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has functioned as an educational force in the community life of the Negro in Oklahoma. The objectives, leadership, program, and projects have involved educational goals and contributed to the educational development of youth and adults. Community living has been enriched in the implementation of these ideals.

2. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has been a definite factor in the moral integration of the community. The federated club with its broad range of diversity of age, education, occupation, and church affiliation has constituted a miniature democracy in which the dignity and worth of each individual has been recognized.

3. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has fostered the development of a constructive type of leadership which has given impetus to the advancement of the Negro in Oklahoma.

4. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

has shown flexibility in adjusting to current trends in community life.

5. A major weakness of the organization has been the placing of the entire responsibility of administration on elected officials whose occupational and personal responsibilities have set limits to their capacity to render the full measure of service needed. This limitation has per se restricted long range planning and permitted a series of uncoordinated administrative programs.

Recommendations

The assessment of the potentialities of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs for continued contribution to community life in Oklahoma has suggested these recommendations:

1. The employment of a field agent or executive secretary to serve the organization in program planning, consultative service, business transactions, and care of properties is needed if the organization is to render maximum service toward meeting the needs of contemporary community life.

2. The establishment of a headquarters to house the properties of the organization and to provide offices for employed and elected personnel. The research for this study revealed documents of great traditional value and properties of inestimable worth to the organization in the possession

of varied past and present officials.

3. The Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs should broaden its program in youth education to include all youth, irrespective of sex.

4. The adult education program of the organization should be expanded to include education for later maturity. The needs of women in the later years should give direction to the planning of the program in adult education.

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APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRES ADMINISTERED TO OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

Box 197
McAlester, Oklahoma
January 2, 1957

Dear Club President:

Your cooperation is requested in collecting data for a research project concerning the origin, development, and current status of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

Please have the enclosed questionnaires completed and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Pertinent information concerning the history and activities of your club will be appreciated. The following materials will be of value: yearbooks, programs, club histories, newspaper clippings, biographies of club women, reports on club projects, names and addresses of high school graduates your club has helped to enter college.

Any additional materials you wish to include will be appreciated.

Yours for "Lifting as We Climb,"

Willa Strong

QUESTIONNAIRE
TO THE MEMBERSHIP
OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1. Name of club in which you hold membership _____

2. City _____

3. Age bracket: twenties ___, thirties ___, forties ___, fifties __, sixties __, seventies __, eighty or over __.

4. Occupation: housewife ___, domestic service ___, industry ___, business ___, professions ___, list profession _____.

5. Educational level: elementary school ___, high school ___, college ___.

6. Years membership in club ___.

7. Church membership _____
Name of Church

8. Check community groups with which you work: church ___, P.T.A. ___, community center ___, Y.W.C.A. ___, Boy or Girl Scouts ___, list others _____

9. State how your club has advanced the following in your community:

Adult education _____

_____

Youth Education _____

_____

Community development _____

_____

Prevention of juvenile delinquency _____

_____

Note: Please fill in requested information and return questionnaire to the president of your club.

QUESTIONNAIRE

TO PRESIDENTS OF CLUBS

AFFILIATED WITH THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION

OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1. Name of Club _____

2. Town _____

3. Check rating descriptive of your club's program in the stated categories:

Youth Education	Adult Education
No Program ___	No Program ___
Fair _____	Fair _____
Good _____	Good _____
Very Good ____	Very Good ____
Excellent ____	Excellent ____

Note: Complete and mail (self-addressed postal attached).

QUESTIONNAIRE

TO PRESIDENTS OF CLUBS

AFFILIATED WITH THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION

OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1. Name of club _____

2. Town _____

3. Marital status of members: number married _____, number widowed _____, number single (have not been married) _____.

4. Number of mothers _____.

Note: Complete and mail (self-addressed postal attached).

QUESTIONNAIRE

TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1. Name _____

2. Town _____

3. Office _____

4. Colleges attended (if any) _____

_____

5. Degrees received (if any) _____

_____

6. List positions held in organizations other than federated clubs (include positions held within the period 1952-1957).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Note: Complete and mail at your earliest convenience. Self-addressed envelope enclosed.

APPENDIX B

OFFICIAL SONGS

OF THE

OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

CLUB SONG

Composed by Mrs. H. P. Jacobson

(Tune: Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes)

Lift up thine eyes, behold the light,
The day is drawing near;
Darkness has vanished with the light,
Hope drives away all fear.
To higher things tune heart and mind,
Spread joy and peace around,
And while we soar to heights sublime,
Lift others as we climb.

May we respond to duty's call,
To human cries of need;
Wherever sorrowing hearts are found
The burdened soul relieve.
Oh, may we have that faith so strong
That right will conquer wrong,
And as we live from day to day,
Illumine life's highway.

SONG OF OKLAHOMA CLUB WOMEN

(Josie Craig-Berry)

Humanity, thy tears,
Thy needs, thy wants, thy fears,
We'll strive to aid;
Nor as the meteor,
But as the constant star,
Whose light flames free and fair--
Staunch, unafraid.

Always for right we stand,
Always a helping hand
To those below,
Lifting as we climb.
Eternity and time
Will show our faith sublime--
Onward we go.

Home of our faithful band,
Truly "Beautiful Land,"
Thy needs we see.
Thy youth we'll help to save,
Help keep from felon's grave
Thy children, whom God gave,
Fair Land, to thee.

Black Race, in thy distress,
God, in his mightiness,
Shall succor send.
Let us light-bearers be
Throughout eternity.
Lord, we give praise to Thee.
Amen! Amen!

APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS





PRESIDENTS OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

The photograph on page 234 was taken during the annual convention of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in August, 1943. All of the living past presidents and the current president in 1943, Mrs. Lula E. Kiff, appear in the photograph. Mrs. Annie H. Cooper, president during the period 1919-1924, was deceased at the time of the portrait. Reading from left to right (seated) are: Mrs. Adelia E. Young (1928-1932), Mrs. Nellie Weaver Greene (1924-1928), Mrs. Judith C. Horton (1915-1919), Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson (1910-1915). Standing, left to right: Mrs. Lucy Elliott Hutton (1932-1936), Mrs. Maude J. Brockway (1936-1940), Mrs. Lula E. Kiff (1940-1944).

On page 235 appears a photograph of presidents of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs attending the 1956 annual convention. Reading from left to right: first row, Mrs. Jessie B. Hibler (1956-), Mrs. Harriet P. Jacobson (1910-1915); second row, Mrs. Mildred P. Williams (1948-1952), Mrs. Genevieve M. Weaver (1944-1948), Mrs. Maude J. Brockway (1936-1940); in rear, Mrs. Lula E. Kiff (1940-1944), and Mrs. Ellen M. Roberson (1952-1956).

These two photographs show all of the twelve presidents of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs with with the exception of Mrs. Annie H. Cooper. Of those pictured, Mrs. Adelia E. Young and Mrs. Judith C. Horton are deceased.