

The
PALIMPSEST

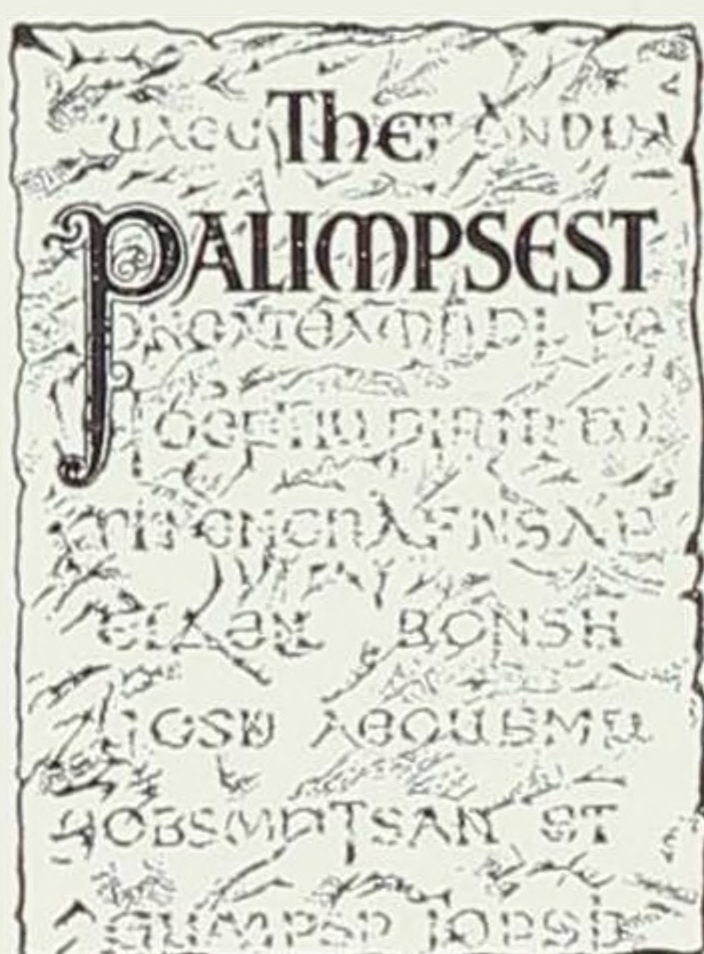


IOWA BUS DELEGATION TO BOSTON GFWC CONVENTION

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The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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HAZEL P. BUFFUM

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Cover

Front — All aboard! for the Iowa delegation to the 1950 Convention in Boston.

Inside — Map of the Eight Districts of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs.

Back — The Sixtieth Anniversary Convention in 1953 at Burlington.

Author

Hazel P. Buffum, wife of Dr. Hugh S. Buffum of Iowa State Teacher's College, has served the I. F. W. C. for twenty years as a member or as chairman of various committees and one department.

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Historical Beginnings

Early in 1868 the Press Club of New York City tendered a farewell dinner to Charles Dickens, who had just concluded a successful reading tour of the United States. Women members of the press, eager to attend the brilliant literary affair, applied for but were denied tickets for the dinner. Among them was the well-known writer of that day, Mrs. Jennie June Croly, whose indignation at this slight to her sex prompted her to call a meeting of women leaders at her home. Out of this meeting in March, 1868, came the organization of Sorosis, a club exclusively for women.

The rapid movement westward of the American frontier in the fifties and the quickening experiences of the Civil War were beginning to give women a sense of their own value and with it a hope that they, too, could make a contribution to both the culture and the welfare of mankind. They were inspired by the writings of Sarah Josepha Hale, Louisa May Alcott, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. They were equally thrilled by the work of

Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, and of Annie Wittenmyer and Clara Barton in the Civil War.

They were not expected to attend the Dickens dinner, indeed! We can see them in their tiny bodices, voluminous skirts, and dainty bonnets, gathering in prim meeting, but what they had to say was said with emphasis.

Sorosis grew and flourished, proving a great satisfaction to its members. In March of 1889, when the club's twenty-first birthday was in prospect, the members felt a celebration was proper. Invitations were forwarded to all known literary clubs in the country, asking them to send delegates as their guests. Ninety-seven clubs were invited, and sixty-one responded. Two Iowa clubs, the Tourist Club of Cedar Rapids and the Marshalltown Woman's Club, sent delegates.

The birthday party was delightful in every way, and the exchange of ideas was most inspiring. The conviction grew apace that it must happen again — in fact, it must happen regularly. Plans were made to meet the next year to effect an organization. Accordingly, at a meeting in New York City in 1890, a constitution and bylaws were adopted, officers were elected, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs came into being. Five Iowa women were present — Mrs. W. W. Walker, Cedar Rapids, Ladies Literary Club; Miss Albright of the Cedar Rapids Tourist Club; Mrs. Mena Erz, Ladies Literary Association, Dubuque;

Mrs. Ellen G. McClain, Nineteenth Century Club, Iowa City; Mrs. E. W. Getz, Woman's Club, Marshalltown. Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown of East Orange, New Jersey, was the president.

The federation idea, unlike some others, traveled far and fast. Each delegate carried it back to her home state and began to work enthusiastically for federation there. Mrs. Anna B. Howe urged her club, the Marshalltown Woman's Club, to celebrate its seventh birthday in 1892 by inviting all of the Iowa literary clubs they could find to be their guests. Invitations went out to all known clubs; others were sent to postmasters, who were asked to deliver them to any woman's club of which they knew — which accounts for one invitation falling into the hands of a woman's suffrage club. Suffrage was not yet a subject which ladies' literary groups discussed.

The would-be hostesses waited anxiously for the day to come, fearful of the response. Great was their joy when, on a day in December, eighty delegates representing thirty-five clubs arrived in Marshalltown to share in the celebration, ready to entertain ideas of great import.

They met in the Congregational Church. The guest of honor was Mrs. Jessie Malory Thayer of Chariton, who was a member of the General Federation's committee of correspondence. Mrs. J. M. Whitaker, president of the hostess club, gave the address of welcome, and guests were asked to give

short reports of the work of their clubs. Even the suffrage club delegate responded, saying that she "felt like a lion among lambs." At the close of the meeting an encouraging letter from the president of the General Federation was read. Mrs. Thayer appointed an Iowa committee of correspondence to carry on the work. In the evening the members of the Marshalltown Woman's Club received their guests in the charming, flower-decked home of Mrs. G. F. Kirbey, where they became acquainted and where many life-long friendships were begun.

Four months later the state committee called a meeting with the definite purpose of organizing an Iowa Federation. An invitation was extended by the Des Moines Women's Club to meet on April 27 and 28, 1893, at the Christian Church of Des Moines. This time plans were made with a confidence which was justified on the afternoon of April 27 when eighty-eight delegates from thirty-seven state clubs, and many visitors from the city clubs, gathered expectantly. Mrs. James G. Berryhill, president of the Des Moines Women's Club, presided graciously, welcomed the delegates, and stated the purpose of the convention.

Delegates from forty-four clubs answered the roll call and gave three-minute reports of the work of their clubs. Temporary officers were elected, and committees on permanent organization, credentials, and constitution were appointed.

Having completed the preliminary work of organization in the afternoon, the delegates were ready to enjoy the hospitality of the Des Moines Women's Club that evening, when the "elegant home of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Hubbell on Terrace Hill, Grand Avenue" was opened for a reception. It was spring in Iowa, and not only was nature burgeoning, but these women were filled with joy at being present at the budding of a great organization. Their mood was fully met by the flowers, the music, the program, and the warm cordiality of all present.

The next morning, April 28, business proceeded smoothly at the Christian Church as the proposed constitution and bylaws were submitted and adopted. In them the stated object of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs was "to bring into communication with one another the various Women's Clubs throughout the State, that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful." The usual officers were named, with this difference: "The President of each Federated Club shall be Vice President of the State Federation, or the Club may appoint another member as Vice President." Groups applying for membership in the Iowa Federation were required to show that no sectarian or political test was required, and that while distinctly humanitarian movements might be recognized, their chief purpose was not philanthropic nor technical, but "social, literary,

artistic or scientific culture." Meetings were to be held every two years in May beginning in 1895, and the dues were \$2.00 per club for a biennium.

The following thirty-five clubs signed the constitution and bylaws in the order indicated, thus becoming the Charter Clubs of the Federation. Those starred are still federated.

- Boone* — Lowell Club, Monday Club.
Cedar Falls — Tuesday Club.*
Carroll — Clio Club.*
Clarinda — Study Club.
Cedar Rapids — Ladies Literary Club.
Council Bluffs — Thursday Club.
Clarence — Columbia Club.
Creston — Ladies Literary Club.*
Des Moines — Monday Club,* Conversational Club,
 Tourist Club,* Women's Club, Review,* Unity Circle,
 Frank Russell Circle, T V Club.
Grinnell — History Club.
Iowa City — N. N. Club.
Indianola — Monday Club.*
Jefferson — Friday Club.*
Marshalltown — Witenagemote,* Woman's Club,*
 Hawthorne,* Calisopian, Entre Nous, Shakespeare.
Manchester — Thirteen Club.*
Nashua — Isabella Club.*
Newton — Friday Club.
Nevada — Women's Club.*
Oelwein — Tuesday Club.*
Ottumwa — Shakespeare Club.
Webster City — Wednesday Club.
West Union — Tourist Club.*

Officers elected for the first biennium were:

President — Mrs. Virginia Berryhill, Women's Club, Des Moines.

Vice-President — Mrs. Mary W. Cogswell, Ladies Literary Club, Cedar Rapids.

Recording Secretary — Mrs. Margaret E. Greig, Columbia Circle, Clarence.

Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. Anna B. Howe, Woman's Club, Marshalltown.

Treasurer — Mrs. Maria Weed, Tourist Club, West Union.

Auditor — Mrs. Adaline M. Payne, Women's Club, Nevada.

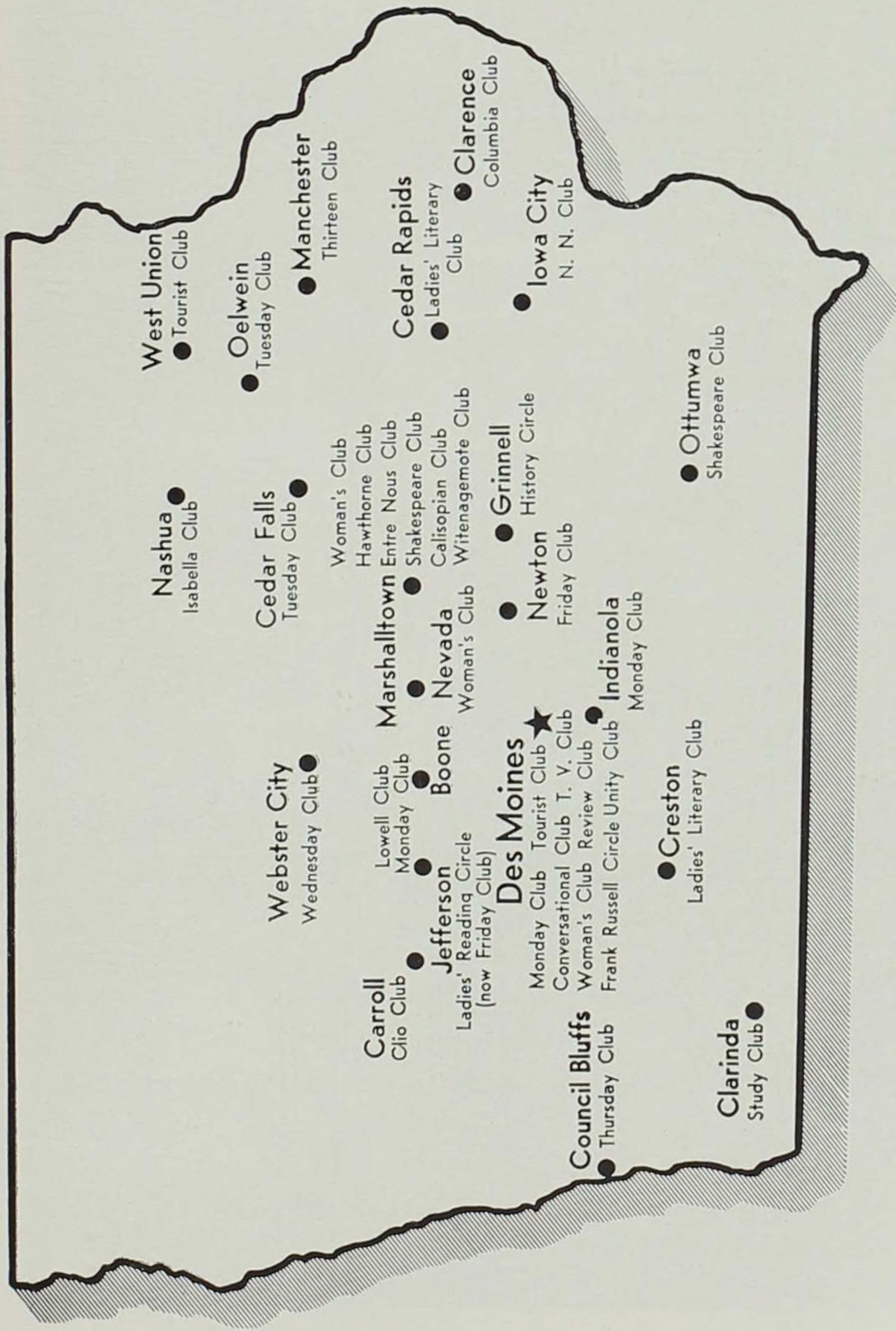
Feeling that they were leaving the infant Federation in safe hands, the delegates returned home to report their achievement.

Twenty-one days later, on May 19, at the meeting of the General Federation Council in Chicago, the new Iowa Federation was received into membership, being the first state Federation to join the General Federation. Mrs. Berryhill not only presented Iowa's application for membership, but was acting president at the Council meeting — a fact which later caused her to be named honorary vice-president of the G. F. W. C.

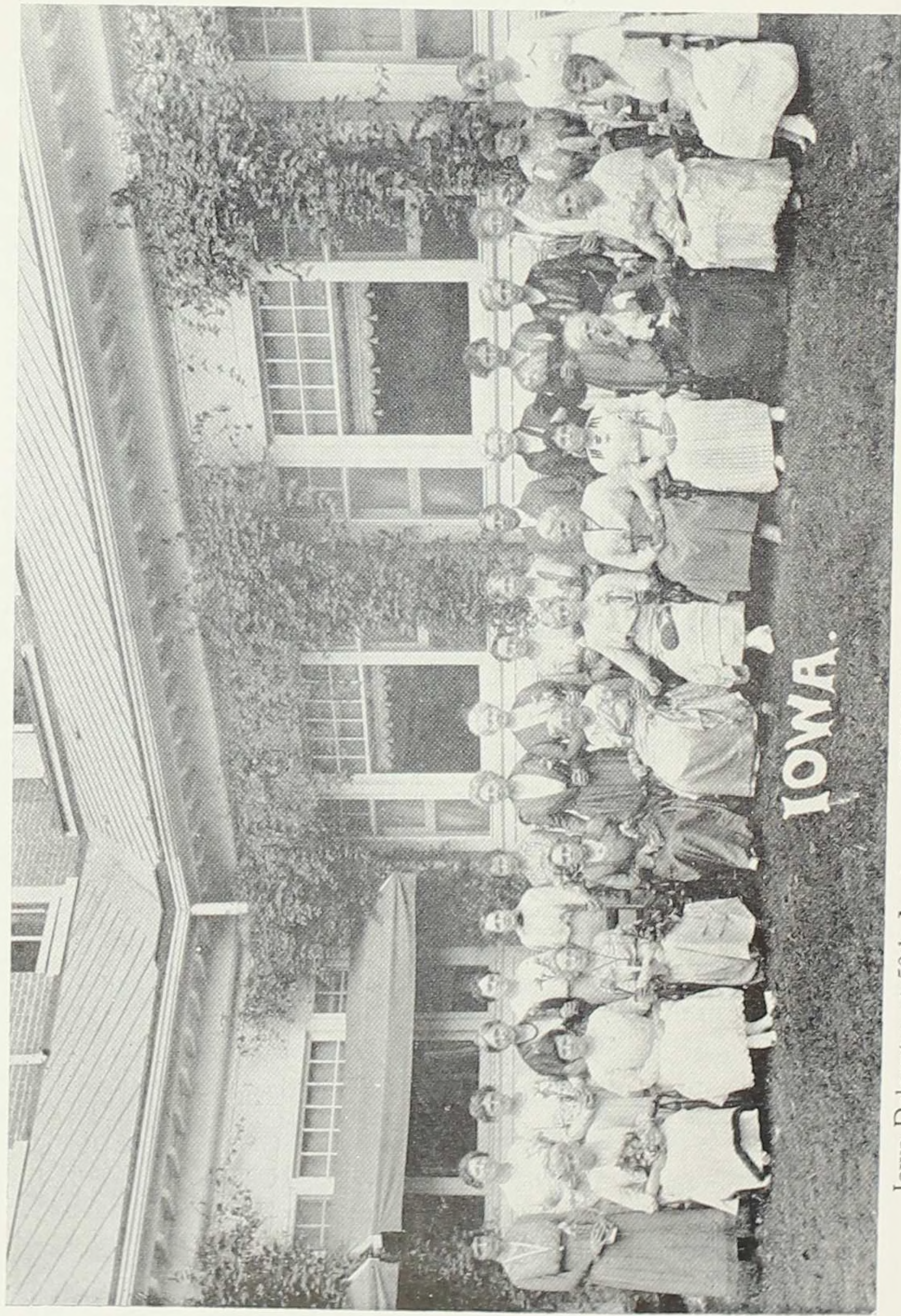
Moving fast, not permitting apathy to take hold of the new project, the officers were alert and active. Equally so were the member clubs as they spread the gospel of federation across Iowa. If at any time their faith in the future of the Federation faltered, it was never evident.

At the G. F. W. C. biennial meeting in Philadelphia, Iowa was in the van. Mrs. Thayer was appointed a member of the nominating committee. Mrs. Berryhill gave an address titled, "What Is Our Shibboleth?" and was elected director from Iowa. She also called a meeting of the officers of all state Federations, which was helpful to the new groups. But when Mrs. Thayer rose to make her report on the work in Iowa there was pointed discussion as to the necessity of hearing reports. Then up rose Mrs. Julia Ward Howe saying, "I think we had better let this little woman make her report; she won't say anything that will hurt us." Which established at one stroke the right of chairmen to give their reports in Federation conventions. A complete report of the convention was carried in the club organ, *The New Cycle*, and was mailed to each club president.

The first Iowa biennial convention held in the Congregational Church of Cedar Rapids in May, 1895, drew 200 delegates. A perfectly planned convention awaited them. They were to learn that the I. F. W. C. had grown from 35 to 98 clubs with 50 towns represented. The Dubuque Ladies Literary Association presented resolutions recommending that a petition be sent to the state legislature urging that body to raise the age of consent to 18 years. This was adopted, and thus started the trend of Iowa endeavor toward welfare work. At this meeting, too, Mrs. Thayer gave



MAP SHOWING THIRTY-FIVE CHARTER CLUBS OF IFWC IN 1893



Iowa Delegates at 50th Anniversary GFWC Convention in 1918 at Hot Springs, Arkansas

a stimulating address on village improvement, asking the question, "Where is that 'away' to which your town throws its tin cans and rubbish?" This was the beginning of the Federation's civic interest, and from it grew many civic projects and organizations.

This convention had attracted wide attention, for it was the first of its kind in the Midwest, and Chicago newspapers sent reporters to cover it. After all, these were the "Gay Nineties," and it was startling to discover in the midst of them this very serious, lofty-minded new movement, led by women.

Mrs. Anna B. Howe, whose initiatory idea had resulted in the I. F. W. C., took office as the new president in 1895, with the thought that the Iowa Federation was now ready to take on new responsibilities. Three new committees were appointed: legislation, library, and reciprocity. An historian was also appointed, and the Federation colors — turquoise and silver — were chosen.

At the Dubuque biennial in May, 1897, it was found that the number of member clubs had risen to 174. The clubs were generally small, about one-third having less than twenty members. The library committee reported that five libraries had been set up, three more were being maintained, and fifty traveling libraries had been established. The committee had been asked to aid in securing the passage by the Iowa legislature of Judge Hor-

ace M. Towner's traveling library bill. The prompt support of this bill by clubs helped to give Iowa its traveling libraries.

The legislation committee reported the failure of the bill to raise the age of consent to 18 years, but could report the raising of the age to 15 years at the second session of the legislature. In response to a request from the State Senate for advice as to the preference for a state flower, the convention decided on the wild rose, and so notified the Senate.

Two years later, at the Burlington biennial in 1899, Mrs. Emma M. Van Vechten of Cedar Rapids, in her president's report, noted that the I. F. W. C. was next largest to New York and Illinois, and had the club of youngest women of any state Federation. She found that the aim of the Federation was illustrative of the motto of the G. F. W. C., "Unity in diversity." Its objects were to compare methods of work, raise the standard of intellectual culture, encourage the progress of education in Iowa, broaden social life, and, above all, to be of special service and help to the local community.

Comprehensive reports were given of the work of the library, education, and art committees. Truly the Iowa Federation could be called the organization of the open book, for from its inception literature, libraries, and education have been its primary concern. The art committee had made

fine progress in encouraging the study of art in the public schools. The need for the study of home economics was so convincingly stated that a committee of home economics was promptly created.

The importance of journalism and the press was acknowledged by giving them a large place on the program. Miss Alice French (Octave Thanet) spoke tellingly on the "Perils and Opportunities of American Club Women." But perhaps the most amusing and yet enlightening remark reported was made by the governor of Colorado when he welcomed the G. F. W. C. to Denver. He said, "When the Israelites were broken with corruption and dissensions God gave a woman to judge them. Deborah ruled for forty years, and the Bible adds, 'then they had a rest.' "

Was the Federation a Deborah? It is very sure that it did not intend to give the people a rest, either at the end of the present sixty years, or forty years hence. But the nation had come through the Spanish-American War and was facing a new century. In Iowa the Federation of Women's Clubs was poised, ready.

HAZEL P. BUFFUM

The Federation Grows

The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs was well established as it faced the twentieth century. Its members could not know what that century would require of them, but they could be sure that it would be very different from the fading Victorian era. Transportation, industry, and science would make a vast difference in life, but they could not foresee that this would be the test-tube age when the basic assumptions in all areas of human affairs would be questioned and re-thought. Nor could they know that two world wars would be fought, a paralyzing economic depression would envelop the world, and two great political ideologies — Democracy and Communism — would be locked in a death struggle before the century would reach its halfway mark. Neither could they know that in all this the United States would be the chief protagonist. What they did know was that whatever befell, women would carry their share of the load and they believed the Federation would help them.

The pioneer groups which preceded the women's clubs early expressed a longing for "better things" and so in small towns a few women would join their interests and their talents to become a

club — “an organized group of women in the community which can be depended on to promote movements looking toward the betterment of life.” Each club, because it was an entity, followed its own procedure. And whether its program was that “better thing,” a study of Shakespeare and Browning or a perennial quilting bee, its members had learned the value of joining forces — of federating. But they also had much else to learn. The twin purpose of culture and service could be transferred to the larger group with confidence in the advantages to be gained. The story of the Federation is the story of the individual clubs. Whether small or large, rural or urban, junior or senior, each club is individual and has a unique contribution to make, but all have much in common. Perhaps the quality which more than anything else gives them power is their togetherness.

During the earlier years when the membership of the Federation expanded, the growing influence of the organization was manifest. When Mrs. J. W. Richards of Waterloo was elected to the presidency at the 1909 convention in Davenport, the news was rated as the “lead” story in the May 22 *Des Moines Register and Leader*, ahead of the important Senate tariff debates then occupying the nation’s attention. At this same convention Judge H. E. Deemer of Red Oak told club members their legislative program would be aided by the adoption of woman suffrage. Judge

Deemer also praised the Federation's work on behalf of juvenile courts and child labor legislation.

Sometimes, as in war, a democratic group has difficulty in harnessing the potential of energy available; so it is with the Federation. Its plan was to have a democratic organization which could develop and grow as necessary. Its officers came from the clubs all over the state. It can be said of the presidents — and they are representative of the other officers — that they were and are women of the upper middle class, keenly intelligent, with better than average formal education. All are deeply religious, have winning personalities, are friendly, kindly, and of immense good will. Almost all are mothers. Their husbands are for the most part either business or professional men. Skilled in leadership, these women serve the Federation in many capacities on their way to the top offices; after their terms they continue to serve wherever needed. The presidents have also been liaison workers between the Iowa Federation and the General Federation. Four served as national General Federation Officers: Mrs. G. F. Van Vechten and Mrs. B. B. Clark as treasurer, Mrs. H. C. Taylor as recording secretary, and most recently Mrs. H. C. Houghton as president.

Membership in the Federation mounted rapidly. There were 35 clubs in 1893; in ten years, 284; in twenty years, 450; in thirty years, well over 800; in 1933 the peak was reached when 931 clubs

were federated with a membership of over 40,000 women. In 1937 Iowa won first place in the G. F. W. C. membership contest.

As the Federation grew in numbers it was seen that the work could be better organized if the state were divided into districts. In 1905 it followed the Iowa Bankers Association plan of 16 districts, changing in 1909 to the 11 congressional districts, and in 1941 to the present eight. Finding these groups still too large, it carried the division down into counties in 1919. Clubs still had direct contact with the state organization, but found it helpful to meet in these smaller groups at the county meetings in the spring and the district meetings in the fall. District directors were made voting members of the Board in 1909, and the first vice-president was made their chairman at the same time. The county chairmen were placed under the second vice-president in 1923.

Organized in Des Moines, the Federation seemed logically to center there. After a previous recommendation to that effect, the I. F. W. C. headquarters was established there in 1925, being housed at the Hotel Fort Des Moines with a headquarters secretary in charge.

The work of the Federation was carried on by officers and committees without remuneration, but some money was essential. The original dues of \$2.00 per club for a biennium — of which 25 cents was sent to the G. F. W. C. — was changed

to 10 cents per member in 1909. The next raise was to 35 cents in 1921 and finally to \$1.00 in 1951. The dues pay for the rent of the headquarters, the salary of the headquarters secretary, the publication of the *Clubwoman* and *Blue Book*, the biennial convention, and some expense for the president, other officers, districts, departments, and committees. The Iowa Federation was the first to have universal membership in the G. F. W. C., and when dues were raised to 35 cents per member, 10 cents of that was sent to the General Federation, thus initiating the Iowa plan which other states have since followed. Of the present \$1.00 dues, 25 cents is sent to the G. F. W. C. Mrs. Robert J. Johnston of Humboldt has been the financial wizard of the Federation, serving as treasurer, chairman of the finance committee, and financial adviser.

The Federation has always believed that one of the best means of carrying on the work is through a periodical publication. The first such paper, *The New Cycle*, was sent to club presidents. In 1903 the *Mail and Times* became the official I. F. W. C. organ. In 1915 an eight-page paper, *The Iowa Federation Bulletin*, was published and sent to club presidents. In 1919 it became *The Iowa Federation News* and was sent to every member. At that time the periodical was put on a new financial basis; two years later it was partly financed by advertising. In 1927 it

became the *Iowa Clubwoman*, was published five times yearly, and had from twenty to twenty-four pages. Mrs. F. W. Weitz was appointed editor in 1919, continuing in that capacity until she was called to the editorship of the *G. F. W. C. Clubwoman* in 1944. Mrs. Eugene Cutler, who had served on the magazine staff for many years, was the logical successor to Mrs. Weitz. These two women have known the Federation as perhaps no others have, for across their desks have flowed the records of what the Federation is and does. They have been sensitive to meanings behind those records and have expressed that understanding with tact and wisdom.

In the 1897-1899 biennium the first I. F. W. C. yearbook was sold to members for 5 cents a copy. As the Federation grew the *Blue Book* kept pace, recording leadership, membership, work, and convention reports; copies were sent to all officers, committees, and club presidents. The corresponding secretary was charged with collecting the material, arranging for its publication, and mailing it.

As the Federation developed, it discovered many ways to improve life. The impact of major historical events opened new service opportunities which developed into great achievements under the guidance of carefully chosen committees. In time committees of allied interests were assembled as divisions of departments, and eventually each department, division, and committee had full

district representation, thus facilitating the dissemination of ideas and work to all member clubs.

Club interest in literature has continued through the years, though programs are not now confined to a study of the classics. An Iowa woman, on her way home from the East on a train, was delighted when her seatmate exclaimed as they crossed the Mississippi, "Iowa! I have always heard that that is where the women read next year's books though they may wear last year's hats." Although literature was the first cultural interest, it had no special committee until 1909, and then it was linked with library extension. Later becoming a division in the fine arts department, literature has planned adult reading courses, set up standards for book reviews, and encouraged members and youth to attempt creative writing.

This primary interest in literature caused the appointment of the library committee in 1895. Books, essential to the "better life," must be made available to everyone. Traveling libraries were needed for Iowa's rural population. Clubs needed libraries for their programs. And if there was no other way, and you were determined to have a library, you could kill, dress, and fry forty chickens for a progressive benefit dinner as one club member did. The library committee supported the establishment of the State Library Commission and continued to encourage constructive library legis-

lation. The number of free libraries climbed from 4 in 1895 to 96 by 1907. The committee conducted a campaign to establish county libraries in every county in the state. During both World War I and World War II it collected thousands of books which were sent to cantonments at home and to rest areas abroad. After the wars the library committee sponsored memorial shelves in libraries to honor the war dead.

Careful program planning must be done if members are to retain interest in their club activities. The work of the reciprocity committee, appointed in 1895, was incorporated in 1901 into the club program committee. There was much discussion among clubs as to whether programs should be "encyclopedic, original or borrowed." An exchange program committee starting in 1929 selected and sent programs in to headquarters to be available for all to use. Mrs. H. A. Little has served the Federation as program consultant for years and in 1937 prepared a useful *Program Booklet*. Mrs. Pearl Bennett Broxam did a great deal to help clubs build effective programs. Her very pointed remarks on "messalaneous" programs usually brought results. Twice she served as program chairman of state biennial conventions.

"Village Improvement" began as a housewifely dislike for the unsightliness of tin can and trash heaps, but quickly encompassed all sanitation, beautification, and protection for a town or city.

It became the community service committee in 1935. This is a field in which each club can make itself felt in its own community.

Legislation is one of the Federation's best working tools. Long before they had the right to vote, clubwomen in Iowa were working to secure passage of laws which affected the welfare of children, the home, and the community. The legislation committee, first appointed in 1895, receives recommendations from other committees, marshals arguments, and presents them to the legislature. Where it will help, all clubs are informed and asked to study the matter and then write their opinions to senators and representatives from their own districts. One Iowa Federation president states in her biennial report: "It may be coincidence, or it may mean much, but no bill the Federation endorsed lost and no bill it opposed passed during this biennium."

Education has been at the top of the list of "better things" for which the Federation has worked ever since 1899, when an education committee was appointed and instructed to petition for a compulsory education law at once. It did so and helped secure the passage of the law. Vocational and ethical training, adult education, and the establishment of kindergartens were advocated. During the first World War thousands of programs teaching patriotism and loyalty were prepared by the I. F. W. C. and released by the

State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Federation worked with the State Teachers Association to improve schools, teacher training, and pay, and endorsed a statewide system of teacher retirement and annuities. During the depression it opposed the lowering of teachers' salaries, and the removal of vocational training and art from the curriculum. The School Code Revision was supported. In 1941 the president was first invited to take part in the Council for Better Education. State Superintendents Agnes Samuelson and Jessie M. Parker have served actively as advisers to the Federation department of education.

The committee on education of the deaf and blind became a part of the education department in 1921. Its chairman was made a member of the State Commission for the Blind in 1923. Working together, the I. F. W. C. and the State Commission have accomplished much to make life better for these handicapped people.

While the Federation has never permitted sectarian tests for membership, nevertheless religion played a most important part in club life. It was not until 1931 that a division of religious education was placed in the education department. Later it was made a separate committee of religious emphasis. Its field has been much broader under this title, and its influence is felt in all areas of club life.

In 1903 the State Historical Society of Iowa ac-

quired a complete file of Federation publications. In 1915 the governor issued a Greater Iowa Day Proclamation at the request of the Federation. By 1923 the I. F. W. C. was so history-minded that a committee on Iowa history and landmarks was created and placed in the education department. Through this committee the Federation inaugurated an essay contest in local community history for high school pupils in Iowa, an enterprise in which the State Historical Society of Iowa offered not only its hearty cooperation but \$1,000 in prize money. In succeeding years the Federation also cooperated with the Society in observing Iowa History Week, in 1932 working on the program, "Black Hawk and the Treaty of 1832," and in 1933 on "The White Tide Breaks." Both years a copy of *THE PALIMPSEST* was sent to each club in the Federation.

Art was the second of the fine arts to claim attention. Early in the new century the art committee, appointed in 1897, secured the loan of a fine collection of paintings for exhibit in Iowa. It sponsored a poster contest in the public schools on the fifth Liberty Loan drive and offered the prizes to winners. Through the work of this committee the Iowa Federation joined with the General Federation in sponsoring plans for a national art gallery.

An art critic was secured to give lectures at all district meetings in 1924-1926. Throughout the

years this committee has endeavored to make Iowa art-conscious and has encouraged Iowa artists by holding exhibits of self-portraits and other paintings by Iowans at biennial conventions. Mrs. Louis Pelzer of Iowa City and Mrs. Louis Anderson of Fort Dodge are two of those who have ably carried on the work in art begun by Mrs. Anna B. Howe of Marshalltown.

The Federation's emphasis on the American home first became evident with the appointment of the committee of household economics in 1899. A mother's child study committee was set up in 1903. In 1905 study of the Iowa Pure Food Law was recommended; the law was passed in 1907. During the first World War the committee secured 102 home demonstration agents in Iowa.

In 1926 the I. F. W. C. and G. F. W. C. cooperated in bringing the first American Homes National Congress to Des Moines. The American home department advocated uniform marriage and divorce laws. The first family relations conference was held in Ames in 1935, where all problems of the home were considered. Home finance, insurance, banking, and investment have all been given a place in the work of this department. In 1939 the G. F. W. C. adopted the Iowa slogan of "Making Home a Hobby."

The G. F. W. C. advocated conservation work in Iowa by requesting that a forestry committee be appointed in 1901, but in 1909 the I. F. W. C.

is said to have preceded all other states and the G. F. W. C. in creating a conservation committee. Again, in 1915, it was first to appoint a committee on preservation of natural scenery. This helped in creating sentiment for acquiring state parks. The conservation department supported a State Conservation Board, and urged the employment of a park and regional planning engineer to work out a 25-year program for Iowa. It supported the measure against pollution of rivers and streams, and pledged cooperation with J. N. "Ding" Darling, Chief of the United States Biological Survey in the Wild Life Conservation program. It urged a \$300,000 appropriation for an Iowa Conservation Commission.

The woman always associated with the outstanding conservation work in Iowa is Mrs. Francis E. Whitley. She was dedicated to making Iowa conservation-conscious and to that end would rise in any meeting to ask if she "might say a few words on conservation." Nationally recognized for her work, she was called to speak before congressional hearings on conservation. In Iowa a newly planted forest near Lake Aquabi was named in her honor, and today Federation members are proud to note the bronze name plate and enjoy the beauty of the trees.

A good roads committee was created under conservation, and here another former I. F. W. C. president, Mrs. H. C. Taylor of Bloomfield, per-

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



1919-1921 — (*front L to R*): Mrs. J. W. Cory, Mrs. H. W. Spaulding, Mrs. F. S. Barberry — (*back*): Mrs. E. F. Armstrong, Mrs. Galen Tilden, Mrs. J. F. Lake, and Mrs. E. Whitley.



1951-1953 — (*L to R*): Miss Sara Nott, Mrs. E. E. Taylor, Mrs. Harold Nissen, Mrs. Martin Van Oosterhout, Mrs. Emil Hesselschwerdt, and Mrs. Clark Mechem.

THIRTY PRESIDENTS OF THE IOWA



Mrs. J. G. Berryhill
Des Moines
1893-95



Mrs. H. J. Howe
Marshalltown
1895-97



Mrs. G. F. Van Vechten
Cedar Rapids
1897-99



Mrs. M. V. D.
Hutchinson
Ottumwa
1899-01



Mrs. W. H. Bailor
Des Moines
1901-03



Mrs. T. J. Fletcher
Marshalltown
1903-05



Mrs. J. J. Seerley
Burlington
1905-07



Mrs. J. A. Nash
Audubon
1907-09



Mrs. J. W. Richards
Waterloo
1909-11



Mrs. H. A. Miller
Des Moines
1911-13



Mrs. B. B. Clark
Red Oak
1913-15



Mrs. F. E. Whitley
Webster City
1915-17



Mrs. J. W. Watzek
Davenport
1917-19



Mrs. H. W. Spaulding
Grinnell
1919-21



Mrs. E. F. Armstrong
Fort Dodge
1921-23

FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS — 1893-1953



Mrs. H. C. Taylor
Bloomfield
1923-25



Mrs. J. F. Lake
Shenandoah
1925-27



Mrs. Wm. Milchrist
Sioux City
1927-29



Mrs. Galen Tilden
Ames
1929-31



Mrs. Wm.
Larrabee, Jr.
Clermont
1931-33



Mrs. Eugene Henely
Grinnell
1933-35



Mrs. H. C. Houghton
Red Oak
1935-37



Mrs. Eugene Cutler
Des Moines
1937-39



Mrs. Carl W. Reed
Cresco
1939-41



Mrs. David
Lennox, Jr.
Marshalltown
1941-43



Mrs. R. B. Pike
Sioux City
1943-45



Mrs. J. H. Hager
Waukon
1945-47



Mrs. A. D. Wiese
Manning
1947-49



Mrs. F. C. Lovrien
Spencer
1949-51



Mrs. Martin
Van Oosterhout
Orange City
1951-53



Three recipients of IFWC Scholarships discuss their good fortune: (L to R) Miss Margaret Hammes, Emmetsburg; Miss Rina Villeverde, Panama; and Miss Jean Langford, Jefferson.



Mrs. Hiram C. Houghton and Mrs. Martin Van Oosterhout were among the ladies briefed by Embassy officials in Buenos Aires during GFWC Good Will Tour of South America.

formed great service. She toured the state, speaking for good roads wherever people would hear her, and was so persuasive that Iowa probably came out of the mud much sooner because of her.

A music committee, appointed in 1905, has worked to raise the standard of music appreciation through the years. It has encouraged the organization of vocal and instrumental groups all over the state, and has made possible an all-state chorus which sings at biennial conventions. A contest for an Iowa Federation song resulted in the song, "We Build." Thousands of records and phonographs were sent to cantonments and hospitals in 1917. A Star-Light Sing sponsored in a southwestern county brought together a thousand people to sing the heartwarming songs everyone knows. Music, being the universal language, is one of the best of the "better things" women seek and appreciate.

Clubwomen are concerned not only for the welfare of their own, but also for that of all humans. It is true that they are apt to short-circuit an abstract argument by asking, "You mean like Jimmy Jones?" In Iowa they first attacked child labor, helping to secure the passage of an adequate law. They believed that there should be a research laboratory for studying the needs of children, and fully supported legislation which brought about the establishment in 1917 of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station at the State University.

Working with other groups they succeeded in securing the appointment of an Iowa Child Welfare Commission. Children's clinics were held, and a campaign was carried on for diphtheria inoculation and compulsory smallpox vaccination of school children.

The Federation cooperated in the organization of the Iowa State Council of Parent Education, worked for amendments to adoption laws, and for the Children's Code which came into existence in 1922. The needs of dependent and crippled children were studied and a survey made in 1929. The American Medical Association appointed a member of the health committee to serve as chairman of their committee of women's and children's welfare. The Federation president, on invitation of President Herbert Hoover, attended the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. The I. F. W. C. is also represented on the Iowa Commission for Children and Youth.

The industrial committee, appointed in 1903, later became the industrial and child labor committee. The social service committee worked to secure a trained worker in each county. The civil service committee surveyed conditions in state institutions in 1909. Work for a Vital Statistics Bill began in 1915. Full cooperation with the cancer control program and the tuberculosis X-ray project were given. In 1919 a psychopathic ward in the University Hospital was endorsed.

The division of law observance made a survey of the criminal courts in 1925. Later, crime prevention was emphasized, and abuses of the pardon and parole system were denounced, while assistance was given in a survey made by the National Probation Association. The Federation opposed all legalized sale of alcoholic beverages, demanded changes in the liquor laws, and aided in the enforcement of the law requiring the teaching of the effects of alcohol and narcotics in the public schools. The safety committee effectively promoted driver training in the schools, securing the course in many places. It also promoted safety in the home by making available copies of the safety rules.

The time when a parlor play was first given for a club program is not known, but a safe conjecture is that it would be very close to the first meetings. The drama division of the fine arts department has stressed appreciation of great drama, presentation of one-act plays, and the use of drama in programs. Again Mrs. H. C. Taylor and Mrs. Broxam must be given credit. Mrs. Taylor's attic theater was used to develop one-act plays, and Mrs. Broxam, drama teacher and radio program director, served the Federation as chairman of drama and chairman of fine arts.

Poetry was the last fine arts division to be named and was really taken from the literature division. It has concerned itself particularly with

the writing of poetry, and has published two books of verse written by clubwomen. The I. F. W. C. first named a poet laureate in 1931 when that title was given to Mrs. Lewis Worthington Smith.

The Iowa Federation, which was not too receptive to the idea of woman suffrage in 1893, found it had changed its mind by 1911 when it formulated a resolution relative to a ballot box "free to all regardless of sex." Two years later Iowa was the first Federation to adopt — almost unanimously — a resolution favoring equal suffrage. Then they worked to educate women for the ballot, which right was granted in 1920.

An American citizenship department was created in 1922, which helped those who were preparing to become citizens whether they were of foreign birth or minors. Political science, economic problems, and Americanization — subjects of deep interest to new voters — were placed in care of committees. Mrs. Max Mayer of Des Moines was the Iowa Federation's best informed, most eloquent worker in this field of public affairs and gave her talents freely as leader and speaker.

With the close of the first World War interest in international relations rose sharply. First as a division and then as a department, this work has loomed large on the Federation program. Under this department the I. F. W. C. cooperated in the first Conference on the Cause and Cure of War. It succeeded in securing 42,000 names on the

petition endorsing the World Court, worked for international reduction of armaments, and supported the G. F. W. C. action on the sanctity of treaty obligations. In 1945 it sent a message to the Secretary of State requesting that women be permitted to sit in on peace plans. Three women sat as consultants at the San Francisco conference which launched the United Nations. Mrs. Ralph Finkbine of Atlantic, as chairman of the department of international relations, has of recent years kept the Federation informed and active in this field. Her work has been recognized nationally.

It was noted in 1899 that the I. F. W. C. had the "club of youngest members" in the General Federation, but it was not until 1919 that a Junior Club became federated. Two years later a Junior Clubs committee was appointed, which did much to encourage Junior groups. In 1935 the work was given department status, and the first Junior Council was held in Des Moines. Three state conferences were held in the next four years, and Iowa Juniors were given recognition at G. F. W. C. conventions. The peak of Junior membership was reached in 1938 with 98 clubs having 2,412 members. Much of the credit for building Junior club work in Iowa is due to Miss Lulu Green of Des Moines, who was chairman of the Junior department or adviser for a number of years, and also to Miss Edith McBeth of Des Moines, who began as a Junior herself.

The club institute committee grew out of the 1913 committee of parliamentary reference. This work on all phases of club procedure has been a part of district and county meetings. In 1935 an All-State Club Institute was held in Iowa City.

A press committee, appointed in 1909 to take charge of Federation publicity, was later made the press and publicity department. It has been said that not a single I. F. W. C. project would have been possible without the expert publicity prepared by Miss Blanche Wingate of Des Moines. She also taught club "reporters" how to present their information in newsworthy fashion while she served as chairman or adviser of this department.

In 1919, at the request of the Iowa Department of Agriculture, the I. F. W. C. appointed a State Fair committee whose work has been to prepare the programs which are presented in the Women's and Children's Building during Fair Week.

As the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs grew and developed, it showed clearly that it had a genius for initiating new work and a genius for cooperation. Through discussions, lectures, and publications it has been able to reach conclusions and spread information. By working, giving, and voting it has accomplished its ends. It has demonstrated beyond a doubt that women can and do carry their share of the load.

HAZEL P. BUFFUM

Ideas and Achievements

The quite considerable achievements of the Iowa Federation are the sum of individual answers to that all encompassing question, "How can I best secure to myself life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" As the individual sought these better things, she usually found that her difficulty was to discover a way to take hold of a tremendous problem. If money proved to be the way, being very practical, she turned Scotch, and saying, "Mony a mickle makes a muckle," she found ways to coax the "mickles" out of pockets. Few can resist a real bargain, so bargains with an eye on the lowly penny must be offered. If time was the way, that extra hour is a great medium of exchange, and if law was the way, a vote which cannot be bought, can buy great good. The Federation, composed of women, has set up great bargains in human betterment, and women have rushed to take advantage of them.

The General Federation requested each state Federation to contribute \$100 for a scholarship in English to be offered to young women. At the Boston convention in 1906 Iowa oversubscribed its pledge by \$5.00. At the next Iowa meeting Mrs. Anna B. Howe suggested that that \$5.00 be

made the nucleus of an Iowa Federation scholarship fund, and a resolution to that effect was adopted in 1907. In two years the fund rose to \$265 and was assigned to create two Iowa University scholarships for young women. At the 1911 biennial convention a resolution was adopted creating a revolving loan fund, using as a nucleus the surplus in the scholarship fund. Each district was to name a student candidate, and all Iowa secular and private colleges in good standing were to be asked to place one or two tuition scholarships at the disposal of the Iowa Federation. At the same time the scholarship and loan fund committee was to be created to care for the work. This was an ideal way to help young women to help themselves prepare for a life work without having to accept charity.

Loans are granted to deserving Iowa girls for college, business, or nursing study. Loans up to \$500 are made for any one year of college, and if her records are satisfactory the student will be granted further loans. The maximum loan for a three-year nursing course is \$500. Interest on all loans is 3 per cent and repayment is made at the rate of not more than \$50 per month. To date there have been 1,200 borrowers taking 1,646 loans.

It has been the policy during the last decade to set up special scholarships to train young women in relatively new fields of study, thus helping pro-

vide Iowa with trained personnel in fields in which the state is deficient. Thus six occupational therapy scholarships totaling \$1,600, two \$500 social work scholarships, one \$500 psychiatric social work scholarship, and one psychiatric nursing scholarship at S. U. I. have been awarded. A number of \$250 nursing education scholarships have also been awarded.

Graduate scholarships honoring Anna B. Howe, Mrs. Parker J. Holbrook, and Harriet I. Lake are awarded biennially. Each has a cash value of \$250. Each is backed by a trust fund of \$5,000. The Helen Watzek Memorial Scholarship is awarded to undergraduates and has a value of \$125. Two new freshman scholarships of \$500 each have been created and will be awarded soon. The woman whose devotion has most contributed to this great achievement is Miss Harriet I. Lake of Independence. She was treasurer of the scholarship and loan fund committee for many years.

In 1927 Mrs. Ethel Towne Holmes, executive secretary of the newly organized Iowa Commission for the Blind, brought to the attention of the Federation the need for some kind of work, both as occupational therapy and as financial aid, which blind women could carry on in their own homes without supervision. In searching for something which could be standardized, would be useful to clubwomen, and inexpensive, Mrs. Holmes decided on towels. The Federation president saw

the possibilities of such a project and encouraged the committee on education of the deaf and blind to put it into execution. As a result, about seventy-five blind women work at hemming the towels each year. To have the deep satisfaction of doing needed work is necessary to human dignity. From 1928 to 1953 Iowa blind women have hemmed and Iowa clubwomen have bought 731,277 towels. The blind women are paid nine cents for each towel hemmed.

As the first World War was declared, the New Jersey Federation art chairman thought of a way to meet a need. She suggested that every clubwoman in her state contribute one penny a year for furthering art projects. In 1930 the General Federation adopted this project and promptly spread the idea to the state Federations. Three years later the Penny Art Fund was launched in Iowa. It was placed in the care of the art division and a treasurer was named to receive the pennies and keep the records. It is preferred that each member take a penny from her purse and give it at a specific time and place. The very act makes her a little more art conscious. That idea is expressed in the slogan, "Penny wise — art conscious." The pennies add up and are kept in the state to be used as the art division thinks best. The fund is used in Iowa to encourage Iowa artists by buying their paintings and using them as prizes for clubs reporting the best work done for art furtherance in

their communities. Clubs are divided into classes according to membership, so that the small study club need not compete with the large departmental club, but the report of a club of twelve members receives as careful consideration as that of its sister club of five hundred. Such club projects as giving prizes for the best art work done in the school, or Mason City's Sidewalk Art Exhibit which was enjoyed by 1,000 visitors, attract the attention of the judges. This biennium the art division offered the first Penny Art Fund Scholarship, named for the long-time fund treasurer, Florence Kinney, and awarded it to an S. U. I. student. The second award, honoring Lucy Anderson, will be given at the close of the biennium. Surely a penny is a mighty mite when contributed to the Penny Art Fund.

The art division also sponsors the Rotary Art Show. It is a traveling exhibit of twenty paintings, either oil or watercolor, by Iowa artists. All paintings are for sale, but when one is sold it is replaced in the exhibit by another of equal merit by the same artist. The club hanging the show pays expressage one way and a fee of \$2.00, and may usually have it for several days before it must be sent on. This biennium, two shows have been traveling in order to meet the demand.

During the 1939-1941 biennium the Pan-American Exchange Scholarship was created at the suggestion of Mrs. F. A. Turner of Corning.

The department of international relations, working through the Institute of International Relations and with the cooperation of the State University of Iowa and Iowa State College, set up this project. Under its provisions a South American young woman is brought to Iowa for study in her chosen field; in exchange, an Iowa girl studies at a South American school. The first South American school to cooperate was the University of Chile; since then several others have been added. Twelve girls have studied in Iowa under this scholarship, and five Iowans have studied in South America. The scholarship was set up with \$800 from the scholarship and loan fund, and clubs were asked to make contributions and to buy attractive Pan-American Exchange seals at a penny apiece to increase this fund which awards \$700 to each student. The schools were asked to waive tuition and if possible to provide some teaching work for the student. This venture in international friendship is one of the most satisfactory that Iowa sponsors.

The department of international relations has worked with the "Save the Children Federation" since the second World War in school rehabilitation. Netherlands school rehabilitation was carried on for several years, and this past biennium the department has established the "Aid to Grecian and Italian Schools" project. Five Greek schools were sponsored for \$150 each, while seven

children were cared for for one year, and two for two years at a cost of \$90 per year. This is done through contributions from clubs which also sent boxes of food, clothing, and school supplies. The letters from school children show how this work is appreciated.

The new division of Indian affairs in the department of public affairs has presented a new state project, a scholarship at Haskell Institute for Iowa girls of Indian parentage. Contributions from clubs, backed by a loan from the scholarship and loan fund, have made it possible to make the award to two Indian girls this biennium.

The ceramics exhibit, a long-time project, is loaned by ceramics manufacturers and is excellent in quality. Description of the pieces accompanies the exhibit, which is available to clubs for a \$2.00 fee and express charges one way. Anna Lane Dixon has been curator for many years.

The school for brides is sponsored for the Federation by the Junior clubs. The Extension Service of Iowa State College has provided materials for these schools and has aided in working out the procedure for them.

The poetry division of the fine arts department for many years has conducted contests in writing poetry as the best means of encouraging amateur poets. As many as 175 club members have entered their poems in one year. The prizes have been nominal, but the recognition and the con-

structive criticism of the judges have been rewarding. The first anthology of poems by Iowa clubwomen, titled *Silk of the Corn*, was published in 1933. In 1937 the anthology, *Flame on the Hills*, was dedicated to the Iowa Federation.

The annual Iowa play production festival for community players is co-sponsored by the Extension Division of the State University of Iowa, the drama division of the fine arts department of the Federation, and the department of speech of the University. Women's clubs are privileged to present their best plays in the University Theater with all the aid the speech staff can provide. Afterwards they have the opportunity of taking part in a conference of critical discussion led by Professor Edward C. Mabie or one of the staff. It is not a contest, but ratings are given by a competent judge not connected with the University. Again Mrs. Broxam and Mrs. Taylor should be credited with much of the success of this project among the clubs.

The music division of the fine arts department for several years has offered a scholarship to an Iowa high school student of talent. It provides one week of intensive training at the Egyptian Music Camp at DuQuoin, Illinois. The benefits to both student and sponsoring club are lasting.

The "Adventures in Reading" project was initiated under the education department, but for some years has been sponsored by the literature

division of fine arts. The requirements are to read a specified number of books from a selected list covering many areas of interest, and to report to the literature division one's opinion of each book in fifty words. This past year over 2,200 members have taken part in this project. A certificate of merit is the participant's reward.

The Julia B. Mayer Campship Fund for girls was established by the Board of Directors of the Federation in March of 1945 for two purposes — to create a "living and loving Memorial" to Mrs. Max Mayer, whose service to youth was long and consecrated, and to make a contribution to the Youth Conservation program. Originally \$100 was set aside annually for the purpose of sending under-privileged girls of ten to eighteen years of age to camp for one period. The sum has now been doubled. Fifty-three girls have had the fine experience of a girls' camp since the campships have been established. In 1951 the Juniors assisted in the program, and six handicapped children were included.

The American home department sponsors "Friendship Scrapbooks" which stress freedom to play, to worship, and to vote, with their attendant responsibilities. They are sent to clubs abroad. It also sponsors American home workshops with the goal of having each club hold at least one such workshop each year. The plan is for a two-hour period to be spent hearing a minister, a banker,

a lawyer, and a clubwoman speak on the home from each viewpoint, with a discussion following.

From the UNESCO division of the education department comes the UNESCO Dorothy Houghton Scholarship. The sum of \$2,800, contributed by clubs, provides a scholarship awarded to a foreign woman for study in Iowa and was presented at the G. F. W. C. convention at Minneapolis honoring Mrs. Houghton. An Austrian teacher is now studying at S. U. I. under this award.

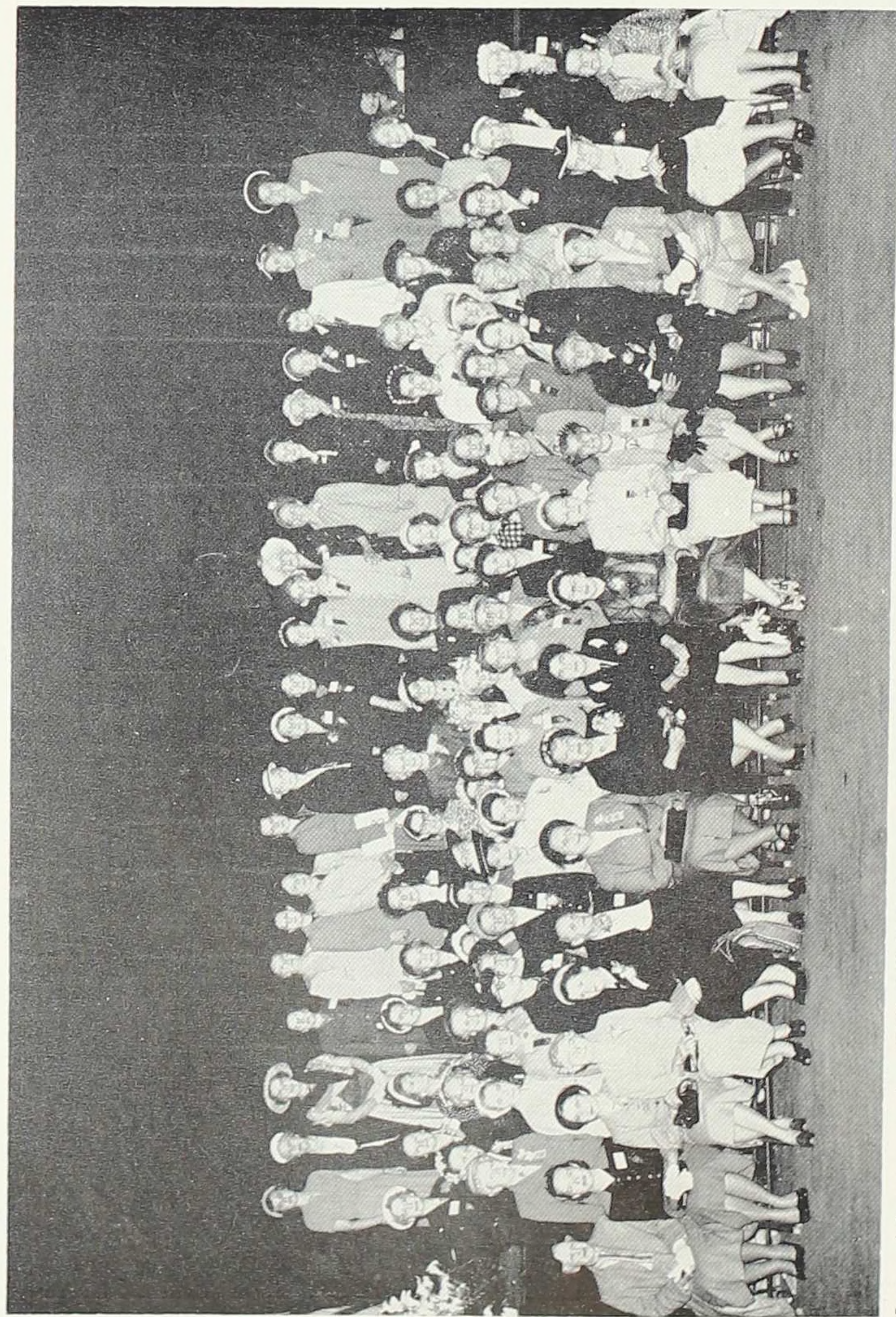
A foundation fund of \$20,000 was established through small contributions from clubs and was completed in 1937.

In 1941 Iowa News Flashes, Younkers department store, and the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs cooperated in making an historical film, "Partners in Progress." Younkers was eighty-five years old, Iowa nearly one hundred, and the Federation nearly fifty years old. The film was available for club meetings without pay.

Iowa Federation projects during the wars were legion. Every department added war work to its program. During the first World War, clubs turned themselves into Red Cross units, preparing bandages and hospital garments by the thousands. The Conservation department contributed knitted articles and money for yarn to the 10th and 20th United States Engineers in France. Between \$10,000 and \$11,000 was contributed by the I. F. W. C. to the General Federation's fund



Members of Cedar Falls Tuesday Club Holding Meeting of Charter Group No. 3.



Iowa delegates at the 1952 GFWC Convention in Minneapolis. National President, Mrs. Hiram C. Houghton, and Mrs. Martin Van Oosterhout, IFWC president, are seated in the front row center.

for furlough homes overseas. During the second World War the Iowa Federation assisted in bond drives, reporting a member purchase of over \$1,500,000 worth of bonds. In 1944-1945 bonds were bought for the Naval Armada amounting to \$812,938. Recruiting for the WAC was a special project. The Juniors gave a complete bridal costume for English brides, and have carried a long-time project for Schick Hospital veterans.

Under the slogan, "You win even though you lose," the General Federation has cooperated with the Kroger Company in two national contests — the "Build a Better Community Contest" in 1949-1950, and the "Build Freedom with Youth Contest" in 1951-1952. The Kroger Company furnished prizes of considerable money, and all federated clubs were eligible. The Iowa Federation took part, and many clubs entered the contest.

As the Iowa Federation comes to its sixtieth birthday it is good to try to sum up its achievements, but that is not really possible, for though the results of its major projects can be partially evaluated, the thousands of ways in which individual clubs and members have made life better in Iowa can never be totaled. Perhaps that is just as well, for the total might tend to self-satisfaction. As it is, the Federation, realizing that the atom of its possibilities has not yet been split to release its full power, continues its work.

HAZEL P. BUFFUM

The Federation Today

When World War II ended, the Iowa Federation, like many other organizations, was almost pulled off balance due to the sudden relief from war pressure. However, after a momentary gesture of joy over the victory, it steadied itself, took a deep breath, and faced the aftermath of war.

It faced a time in which wartime restrictions were gone, inflation was mounting, housing was inadequate, home and business equipment was worn out, reconversion of industry was in process, the population was restless, delinquency among young people was on the increase, schools were inadequate in staff and equipment. Larger numbers of little children and old people had to be cared for; many soldiers and civilians, mentally damaged by the pressures of war, had to be treated. Obligations to former ally and enemy must be met, and peace must be secured — in short, there was work to do.

It could not quite slip into its prewar habits of procedure — civvies seldom fit the returned soldier — but they were not to be discarded, for they had been tested and found good. But it must alter and streamline them a bit. Fine arts, education, the American home, community service, conserva-

tion, public welfare, and public affairs were still valid fields of endeavor, and that work must be continued.

During the war the youth of the land had been cruelly beset by pressures much too great always to be withstood. Now they must be helped with understanding and love to reorient their lives. At the insistence of Mrs. W. A. Seidler of Jamaica, the Federation undertook its important work of youth guidance. To that end, all departments and committees were asked to key their plans into the youth guidance program. This resulted in a unified program which could be incorporated into club work. In 1953, department chairmen became advisers to the youth guidance committee, and a division of "Character Building and Guidance" was placed in the education department.

The plight of the mentally ill was recognized, and a division of mental health was placed in the public welfare department. This division prepares material, furnishes speakers, sponsors workshops and conferences for mental institutes, and is seeking to create a healthy climate of public opinion toward mental illness as the first essential of successful treatment.

In spite of the vicissitudes of modern life, more people are living to a greater age than in the past. But the blessing of a long life may become a burden unless help is given. So the division of gerontology has been placed in the public welfare de-

partment to provide that help. The health, usefulness, mental and spiritual welfare of elderly people must receive expert attention. Thus, gerontology projects have been adopted by clubs and counties.

Remembering our almost prostrate allies after the war meant participation in many good will projects. Through its department of international relations the Federation shared in the national clothing campaign, the collection of canned goods, the "Mounds of Cloth," the wedding gift to Princess Elizabeth of CARE packages for needy Britons, the "Share a Shawl" project, cooperation with CROP, and others. In time the needs of the even more prostrate enemy were remembered, for children must be cared for even though their parents had been enemies. Again CARE and the "Save the Children Foundation" would carry out Federation behests, and supplies are going out to the German Youth Assistance Program.

Community service was resumed and many ideas for bettering communities were carried out. Increased interest in education and its changing emphases has been evident in work for school aid legislation.

After the war the Federation resumed its biennial conventions, but since proportionately few attend a state convention, the president borrowed an idea from a neighboring state and arranged for the officers and department chairmen to tour the

district meetings by bus during the fall of 1947, thus making possible more personal contacts between members and leaders. The resultant exchange of ideas led to better understanding and efficiency. The tour was repeated in 1949.

Other changes in Federation work were made, including making the Junior extension secretary a voting member of the Board of Directors. Higher rentals necessitated moving the headquarters into one room, Room 341, in the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Packets of club procedure material were prepared, member recommendations were assembled, and another reorganization of committees was carried out.

Then suddenly, under the guise of a police action to contain communism, all the anxiety and strain of war had to be faced again. Candles for South Korea were collected by the Iowa chairman of the Council of International Clubs, a Korean scholarship was created, aid to refugee children was provided, and over \$12,000 for CARE was sent by clubs in 1951-1952.

During this postwar period the Iowa Federation had the privilege of closer contact with the General Federation because one Iowa woman who had been Iowa's president was called into the line of General Federation vice-presidencies. Mrs. H. C. Houghton of Red Oak had given such excellent service to her state that her talents were widely recognized. From her father, Judge Hor-

ace Deemer, she inherited her gift of oratory and from her mother her executive ability. She was educated in Iowa schools and is a graduate of Wellesley College. She married Hiram Cole Houghton and they are the parents of three sons and one daughter. Mrs. Houghton served several terms on the State Board of Education. She began her service to the Iowa Federation as a young woman, holding many offices preceding the presidency, to which she was elected in 1935. She was elected president of the General Federation in 1950 at the Boston convention. Her two years as executive officer of this great organization demonstrated her broad interests. She led groups of officers and members on tours of Europe and South America. Resulting programs of friendship and good will have brought her decorations from the Greek and Dutch governments. She was honored by the state Federation with a UNESCO Scholarship named for her. The Iowa Federation is proud of Dorothy Deemer Houghton.

The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, now sixty years old, is composed of 843 clubs having 34,249 members. It is well organized to promote service, culture, and social life. The officers are devoted, and they secure results. It is progressive in program while conservative in character. The Federation is represented on educational and welfare councils and conferences by its president, thereby insuring active participation in progres-

sive movements other than its own. Its members are alert, generous, and responsible. At this milestone the Iowa Federation is what it always has been.

The officers for this thirtieth biennium are:

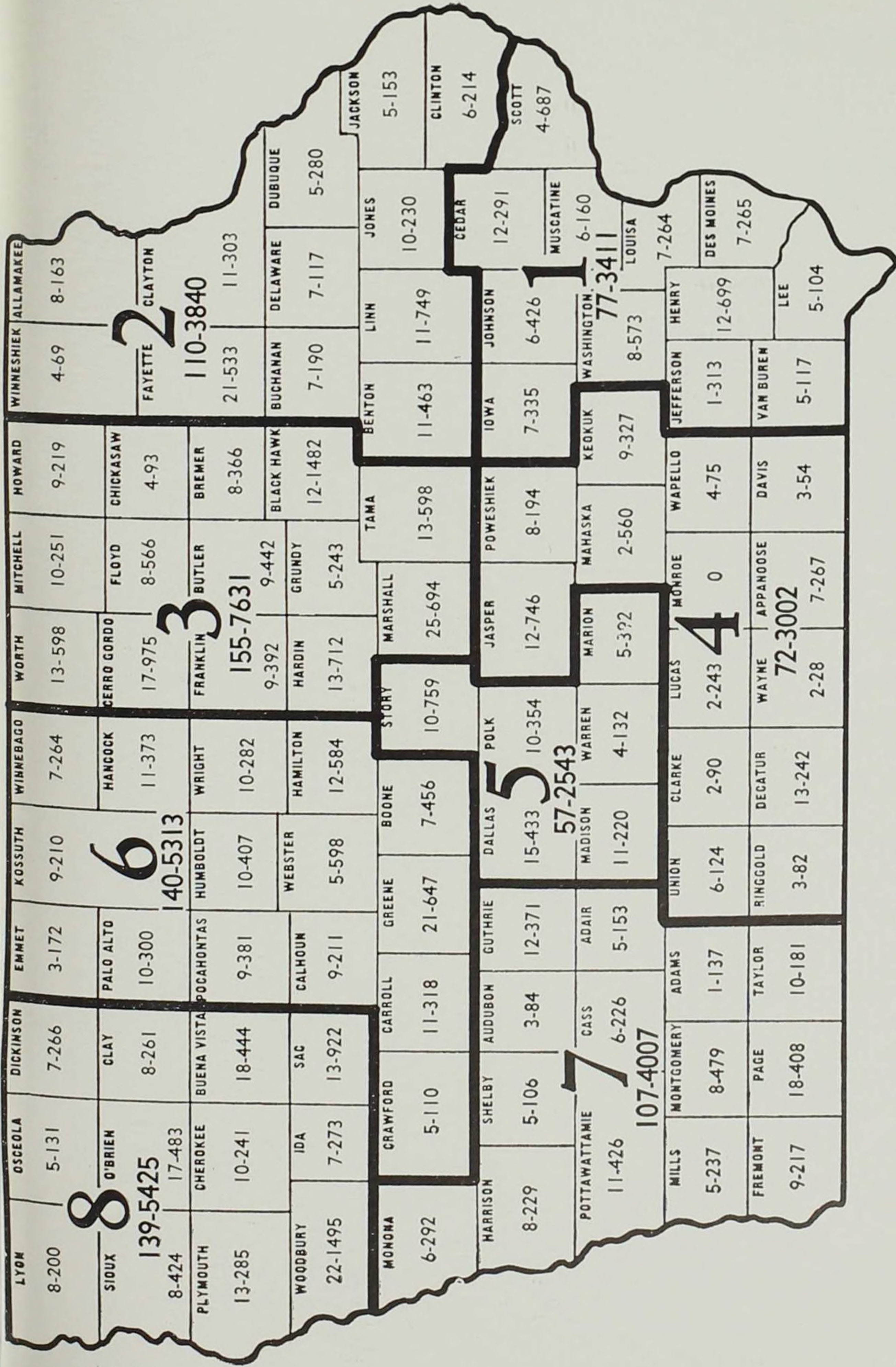
President — Mrs. Martin Van Oosterhout, Orange City.
First Vice President—Mrs. Harold Nissen, Walnut
Second Vice President — Mrs. E. E. Taylor, Traer
Recording Secretary — Miss Sara Nott, Marion
Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. C. Mechem, Thompson
Treasurer — Mrs. Emil Hesselschwerdt, Kalona

The Iowa Federation passed its fiftieth birthday almost without notice, for it came during the war, but in 1953 it celebrated its sixtieth birthday at the biennial convention at Burlington in May. As the delegates assembled they looked very different from those who gathered in Des Moines sixty years ago, though their hats were as daintily absurd, and their frocks as modish. But their purposeful, forward-looking spirit was the same. They came to hear the officers give an accounting of their stewardship, to listen to the summary of the two years of work, to compare methods and exchange ideas, to elect new officers, to catch a vision from some great speaker, to play a little and to dream a little, but always, while looking back for a moment, they also looked ahead, and they asked for —

Guidance divine for clear constructive thought,
For chosen words with truth and wisdom fraught,

For deeds that fit Thy plan; and may we be
Through every hour in sweet accord with Thee.
Then lead us, Lord, in thought and word and deed,
That we may know and meet the greatest need.

HAZEL P. BUFFUM



Eight Districts of IFWC showing number of clubs and members per county.

