

## 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.

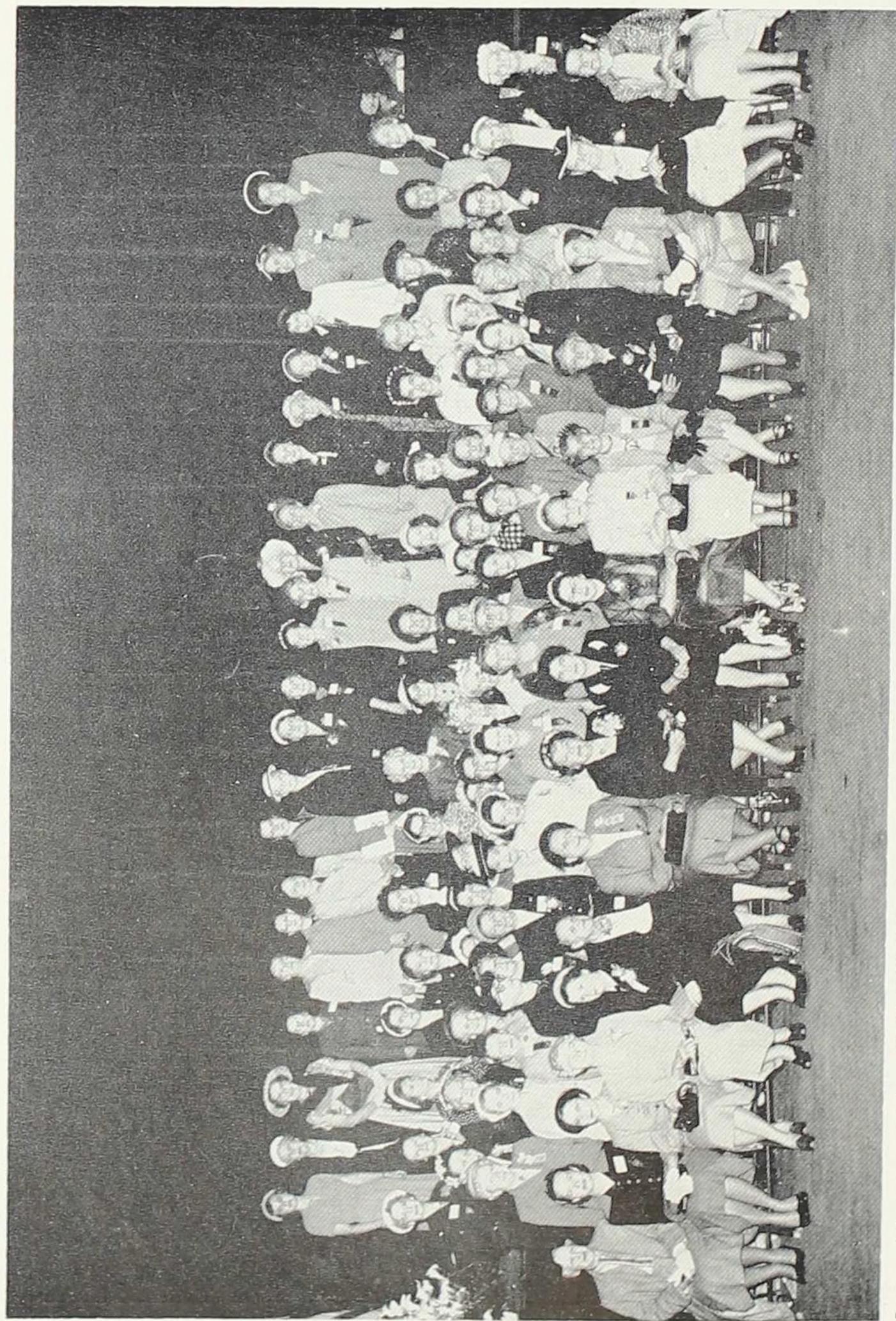
A foundation fund of \$20,000 was established through small contributions from clubs and was completed in 1937.

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.

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