

HISTORY
of
NORTH ZULCH PROGRESSIVE CLUB.

History of North Zulch Progressive Club
organized as Shakespeare Club

Number of club members:

Mrs. J.A.Andrews

Mrs. Arthur Dowell

Mrs. W.M.Dowell

Miss Carolyn Keefer

Miss Ruby Keefer now Mrs. W.R.Mc Mahan

Mrs. T.S.Hollis

Mrs. A.L.Lipscomb

Miss Nelie Lipscomb

Mrs. W.T.Taylor

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Miss May Ola Taylor ,now Mrs. J.F.Hoke

Mrs. Foster Hoke

Mrs. Herman Zulch

Motto: "Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us."

Its Purpose: To unite in a strong bond of friendship the social element of North Zulch.

Its aim : to build up , to go forward and to broaden out.

Time of organization, - Oct. 1929.

A group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. W.T. Taylor. One of the party acting as president arose and said: "We have met at this time for the purpose of organizing a study club. We will delve into the very depths of literature for the purpose of stimulating our brain power by thinking the thoughts of the authors. "

Dr. Harry K. Knowles says we learn to do by doing and learn to think by thinking."

This is true in every phase of life, the child learns to walk by walking, a musician learns to play by playing, a singer by singing, so it follows that we learn to think by thinking.

Shakespeare's works took in more different thoughts than any other writer, I believe, so if it is satisfactory with the members of this club, we will begin with the study of Shakespeare.

Elsie Robinson had on her desk a doll, around which was another and larger one and around that a still larger one and so on until it was made up of twelve dolls within that one toy. She kept it as a reminder of life's changes.

Most people think of life as a definite

thing, but that isn't so. You were alive at ten years old, you are alive today, but if you have developed normally you are a different aliveness.

Your opinions have changed, your attitude on most every subject has changed. You are still you, but you have around you different dimensions, You have, as it were slipped from one husk into another. You have advanced with each change, not perceptible, scarcely, but the change goes on neverthe less.

We met twice each month and according to plans, read and studied Shakespeare.'s works.

For pur enjoyment and as an incentive for others to join our club, we made more than one "historical" trips- visted old Washington and places of interest in Huntsville.

We had enr account of our trips published in the Madisonville Meteor. By so doing our club became known to Mrs. J.W.Fincher, President, of Fourth District T.F.W.C.

Very soon we had an invitation from her to join the Federation of Women's Clubs.

We were over joyed. With this invitation, there was another inviting us to attend the Fourth District Convention which convened at Bryan.

Several of our members accepted this most cordial invitation and found the District Club work most interesting, inspirational and enlightening.

Excerpt from a letter from Mrs. J.W.Fincher:

"My Dear Mrs. Taylor:

So glad to get your letter of April 14, 1931, and your clubs application for membership in the Federation. The Sorosis Club and the Bluebonnet Home and Garden Club, both of Houston, signed your application and it has been sent to the Membership Chairman."

Excerpt from a letter signed by Ola E.Young, Mrs. J.L.Young, of Mineral Wells:

"Sept. 30th 1931.

I am very much pleased to tell you that the application of your club for affiliation with the Texas Federation has met all requirements and now you are to be formally received at the coming state meeting which will convene at Lubbock Nov. 9th to 12th 1931. You are entitled to elect or appoint your club delegate and send her on to the coming meeting.

Your clubs name has been sent to the State President's office, to the Federation News office, and to your district president. From them you will get much valuable material for club helps, and you will receive the Federation News, FREE."

We received a second invitation from Mrs, Fincher, this time she invited our delegate to join her party from Houston to Lubbock.

It was a merry group your scribe found when I entered the train at Bryan.

They had a special car and refused admittance to others, but three A. & M. College boys entered anyway. The ladies told them they charged \$100 each to ride in their coach, that this amount when paid would go to the Permanent Home Fund. The boys failed to pay and refused to leave so some of the group made clowns of them. They first made their faces white with powder then spotted them with rouge and lipstick. This spectacle furnished amusement for the entire crowd, the conductor and all who chanced to pass through the car, thrown in.

The boys were fine sports, would be as quiet as mice for awhile then scream out suddenly to awaken any who might be trying to sleep. At Dallas we took a Pullman and arrived in Lubbock at about seven in the morning.

We were officially registered at the Hilton hotel and attended a luncheon in its spacious ball room. The favors were little bouquets tied with ribbon.

At Hotel Lubbock an entire floor was reserved for our party.

It would be impossible to give even a brief review of the many fine reports and splendid addresses.

Every chairman of every committee urged that the work be continued and enlarged upon in her respective work.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs does not only take in the commonplace things of our every day life, but reaches out into the more complex phases and endeavors to raise the standard of living both for the individual and the community in which she lives.

On my return, I gave a report of the Convention, and was honored by an invitation to appear before the Ladies Reading Club of Madisonville to give an account of the great meeting at Lubbock.

Points from the first report of the Shakespeare Club of North Zulch to the District Convention:

" The Shakespeare Club being solely literary in its original function, on becoming Federated made such changes as were necessary to include many departments of usefulness as outlined by the Federation.

At the first meeting a Mother's Day program was well carried out, one feature being an original poem read by one of the members.

Texas Day each one present answered to the roll call with the name and brief discussion of some noted Texan.

Texas birds and flowers were studied at another meeting, each member bringing a wild flower or flowers.

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One of the group presented the club with a note book of pressed wild flowers , all labeled. The book had been prepared in college. At this time it was reported that one of our members gave to the Sam Houston Home at Huntsville, a quart of Blue Bonnet seed for planting the past fall.

Poetry Day , original poems were read by two of the members along with other readings from Texas writers. Texas and American music and art was not forgotten. A large portrait of Shakespeare was presented to the club by our talented artist, Mrs. C.C.Martin.

In answer to the roll call at the first meeting in each month, it is optional to use a quotation from Shakespeare or quote from some Texas writer.

At our second meeting a helpful hint was required. By doing this we learn many new wrinkles.

Two health programs were rendered. At the first it was our privilege to be entertained by four little girls from the Seventh grade.

Report of Years Work 1932-33

Our club meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month. It is a wonderful privilege to cooperate , even though in a meager form, with the splendid work that is being done by the women of our state and nation.

For the past year, we have devoted the second

Thursday to the study of Shakespearin Drama. The Fourth Thursday has been given to miscellaneous programs as follows: Health Day, Texas Day, Bible Day, Beauty Spots and Historical Places in Texas, Child Welfare Day, Club Day, Poetry Day, Washington Day and Civic Improvement Day.

The following activities have been sponsored by the club this year: Planted permanent shrubs in Huntsville Park; Superintended landscaping in some of the club members homes; Promoted clean up day as a result of our civic improvement lesson; encouraged an extensive canning campaign, which resulted in the canning of two thousand or more cans in our club and was an incentive to many housewives outside the club.

We sponsored a community booth at the county fair and won third prize. One of our members, Mrs. Frank Benish, received five first prizes and two second prizes at the fair.

The most interesting part of our work has been the charity and goodwill movement which won wholehearted support. We have served as many as four hundred free meals, sent out boxes of clothing and food to destitute families and kept one family continuously. Mrs. W.T. Taylor in cooperation with her husband bought and deeded to the county a tap off the public highway about four hundred yards long. This is known as Taylor Tap. It has since been hardsurfaced by the state, and the highway through the town has been designated No 160.

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We held open house to all ladies and husbands
of North Zulch on Friday evening, Aug. 30th,

honoring the State's Business Woman's President, Mrs.
Vice

Blanche Mc. Comb, and the president of Grimes County

Federation, Mrs. Pearl Taylor.

The address of

both was greatly enjoyed. (Mrs. Mc Comb was elected
President of Texas Federation of Women's Clubs but
passed away soon after the honor was conferred upon her.
By her death the state lost a most worthy and experienced
leader.

We joined the Dollar Gift Collection and added our
little bit to the Penny Art Fund.
Signed and approved by the President, Mrs. A.L.Lipscomb, Sr.

When Mrs. J.L.Brock was President of the Fourth
District, we took part in filling the Penny Banks.

During her term as President, Mrs. C.C.Martin entertained
and invited Mrs. Brock and other members of her club from
Bryan.

We have sent delegates to a number of District
Conventions and once to the State Convention when it
convened at Austin.

We attended when the Convention was held in
Navasota, Feb. 10th (I don't remember the year)

At this meeting Mrs. R.W.Jenkins outlined "Federation
Objectives" for the year. Most of these were carried

out in part if not altogether by our club.

We sponsored a community fair Sept. 27th, 1935.

A table of examples of Thrift was exhibited. Typed pages taken from pamphlets sent out by the U.S. Agricultural Dept. were pinned on a sheet in order that the public might gain some valuable information.

An exchange of plants and flower seed was carried out several times during ^{spring} time of the years.

July 11, 1940, it was moved and seconded that we each bring a book to start a circulating library. Then we joined the Book of a Month club.

Mrs. Florence Campbell, teacher of Home Economics in our school presented to the club an invitation to unite with her in an adult sewing class to meet regularly. The invitation was accepted.

During the war boxes of candy, cigars, cakes etc were sent to boys over the seas.

At this time some of our members joined the hour of prayer and the reading of the Bible at the specified time.

We sent a contribution of \$1.00 to the Birthday Jubilee Fund; \$15.00 to the Tubercula fund, several dollars to the cancer collection as well as the Red Cross sent \$1.00 to the Mc Closky hospital for flowers. (These collections were at different times.)

Several years ago we began using the "Good House-keeping Club Service.

Since then at every meeting, from two to eight subjects treated therein have been read and discussed. We find this a splendid source of information and advice.

Our club has the agency for plasticizing baby shoes. This is a wonderful opportunity for mother's to have their baby's first shoes tenderly, lastingly, and beautifully preserved.

One of our members has one room in her home set apart for a museum. She has rocks and shells galere, birds and parts of animals preserved in alcohol.

She has several rocks said to be three million years old. One contains a portion of an ancient lizard imbedded in the rock. Such a lizard has long been extinct.

It is her hobby to collect antiques as well. Among her collection, she has a bonnet more than a hundred years old. It a split bonnet, made of such fine linen it resembles silk . Jewelry molded by her grandfather in the first jewelry shop in Huntsville is in her collection. There are a number of things more than a hundred years old.

During the war we had lessons on the arm insignia.

Our club has both a Christian and a United States flag. At several meetings we have had salutes given to both flags.

The club bought and planted a Spanish Elm dedicating it to the memory of the three boys of our town who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Our goal now is to buy a bronze plaque for the purpose of preserving their names.

We are responding to several requests from the 4th District chairman of different departments. A penny for each member was contributed to the Musical Penny Fund and the Penny Art Fund .

Histories of our club and of the county have been added to the report of the 4th District which convenes in Bryan, Feb. 28th to Mar .I.

A poem has been sent to the chairman on poetry.

Until recently, we kept up our trips to historical points. We visited San Antonio, San Jacinto Battle ground and some other places of interest in and around Houston; old Washington on the Brazes, Independence, Huntsville, Baylor University- taking advantage of the Browning room, Miss Ney's Studio, Miss Emma Johnston's studio, Bastrop State Park and one member visited Palo Duro

State Park and gave description of same.

That we might attain our goal in a spiritual way, which is the first and greatest step in the course of life, we begin each program with prayer and Bible reading with talks thereon. Then something is read which tends to inspire us to better and higher living.

We close with this motto: So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

After the close of each meeting we spend a social half hour or more during which time the hostess serves refreshments.

May Ella Taylor, Pres.
(Mrs. W. T. Taylor.)

Courtesy of the Woman's Collection Texas Woman's University