

In the April 4-5, 1975 biennial convention, the Division International Relations Representative was given approval to write a letter from the Division to Ambassador Scali in the UN thanking him and offering our appreciation of his response to the Yasir Arafat display of animosity before the General Assembly of the United Nations, threatening the existence of the State of Israel and the curbing of Israel's right to speak in the Middle East Debate. This was the beginning of the "New Majority" with Yasir Arafat as its spokesman.

The Division letter commended Ambassador Scali's statement that the UN Charter holds the key to expected action of all nations who have been pledged to the United Nations. That open door says that the purpose of the UN is "to practise tolerance and to live together in peace with one another as good neighbors." Ambassador Scali pointed out that the United Nations is not a legislature, not a law maker, that its purpose is conciliation, that the majority is not always right; that thoughtful yet vigorous exchange of views can take place in debate between countries, and that actually this is our one best hope for peace among nations.

Copies of the letter were sent to President Ford, and upon the advice of Carol Leimas, AAUN Representative to the UN, to Senators Bumpers and McClellan, and Representatives Alexander, Mills, Hammerschmidt, and Thurton, and to Carol Leimas and to Mary Averett Seelye of the AAUN Staff. The outcome of all this was that Ambassador Scali was relieved of this office and replaced by Dr. Moynihan of Harvard University who was more aggressive. Now, Gov. Scranton replaces him. We had asked our Congressmen to raise United States financial support of the UN, as Carol Leimas had suggested. Congress did continue support but lowered the amount we gave.

The "New Majority" has, by their voting together, threatened and disturbed the peaceful functioning of the UN but they do not have the ability to carry out their threats. A 1976 Great Decisions article states that a new principle of nation voting could help in this muddled situation. Certainly, more than ever our support of the UN is needed.

The Jonesboro branch has always kept in contact with our legislators and congressmen and does not hesitate to express approval or disapproval publicly. The branch is especially obligated to the legislative program chairmen who have kept members alerted to approaching legislation and the need for action, and who then, upon branch consent, have carried through. Among the outstanding legislative program chairmen of this decade are Bea Phillips, Leo Bartholomew, Phyllis Morse, Brenda Heringer, Lu Couch, and Nancy Herrreich.

Following are some of the important issues. The branch sought Senate ratification of the conventions proposed by the UN years ago, and in particular at that time in 1965 of the Human Rights Convention through Senators Fulbright and McClellan. The branch held a well publicized successful meeting at the Craighead County Courthouse with our legislators present to answer questions on the additional one cent sales tax proposed. Members were asked to be informed on Senate Bill 444 before the meeting. The branch has supported art in the grade schools continuously. The branch went on record as opposing a veto by President Nixon of the Health and Education Act and favored overriding his veto. Except for one congressman all who received telegrams were sympathetic. The branch opposed also cuts in foreign aid.

A branch open meeting in October 1969 had the convention delegates present to discuss the Constitutional Convention and to answer questions. There was discussion of AEA opposition to Governor control.

In 1970 a resolution was accepted as follows:

1. Urge congress to improve the efficiency of the Administration and funding of Federal aid to education from kindergarten through high school.

2. Federal aid for a more comprehensive health education program including: drug abuse, pollution, and ecology.
3. Supplemental salary for welfare recipients for family income; and a solution to their family separation problem.
4. Approval of the housing project.

Messages were sent to our legislators in the special session called by Governor Rockefeller reaffirming our views on the tax question. During the summer, a vote of the branch by mail secured unanimous approval for a new state library, and for local urban renewal. An open meeting on the Constitutional Revision was given by the branch with seven candidates for delegate positions speaking. Dorothy Stuck of Marked Tree, a member of the Study Commission for a New Constitution, reviewed the work. Dr. Vance spoke for Amendment 53 which proposed no school age restrictions in the constitution. The branch members had been supplied with copies of the final proposal for a new state constitution and worked for its passage -- without success. Apparently those who favored the constitutional changes were talking to each other -- and not to the majority of voters!

Action was taken for Act 434, the Child Care Licensing Act; for eighteen year old voters; for saving the Buffalo River as a scenic river; against legislation that doubled retirement benefits for legislators; for the law to remove the evolution restriction in teaching from a state law; and to up-hold the Arkansas Merit System.

In October 1970, approval by branch was given on ERA and on withdrawal from the SE Asian war. In 1973 the branch supported: a two year extension of the Child Development Bill, with the Ribicoff amendments; the sum of \$150 million recommended for foreign policy; and the equal employment opportunity bill. The branch voted in favor of an educational policy that the state should provide 90% of public school funds to equalize educational opportunity for all children in the state. This proposal had been considered by a state committee, but not yet proposed officially. The branch voted its opposition to the death penalty.

In 1967, Mrs. A. Hall Allen, Division Legislative program chairman of Little Rock, spoke to the branch on, "How Shall We Elect our Supreme Court Judges?" In January 1970, it was moved, seconded and passed that we urge that a woman be given consideration for appointment to the Supreme Court. A group of members visited the Women's Prison at Cummins and the Girls Training School at Alexander in 1972.

Each year the branch places a large United Nation advertisement in the Jonesboro Daily Sun. One year, the senior editor of the paper paid for the ad. For two years, contributions with the names of civic group members paid. Last year, October 24th slipped by us!

In January 1973 legislators were contacted urging the passage of the Kindergarten Bill - which did pass as did the Child Care Center bill. A bill to increase retirement benefits for teachers was reported. A "Parents Anonymous Group" was formed. It was voted to write to Governor Bumpers asking that vocational education funds be added to the existing program.

In March 1974 millage was increased in the school election. Teachers tenure in the Jonesboro School System became a critical subject for study in 1975. Kenneth Camp, state representative from Jonesboro, spoke to the branch about the January 1975 extended session and the necessary two-thirds vote required before a bill can be introduced at that session.

Most controversial items were a constitutional amendment to the state constitution to affect salaries of constitutional officers, and to limit malpractice cases against physicians. These items were continued to the January regular biennial session of



the legislature as were the other two: rate increases on utilities, and retirement benefit legislation. The Equal Rights Amendment is the present number one concern of the Branch as it is of the Division, and of the Association.

Under the leadership of the following implementation chairmen, the branch has pursued these interesting and timely Topics: Ruby Haynes, "Education An Antidote to Poverty," 1965-67; Cisty Davis, "Society's Reflection in the Arts," 1967-69; Maurine Sullivant and Ruth Jane Stuck, "The Human Use of Urban Space," 1969-71; Alice Oliver and Bea Phillips, "We the People," 1971-73; Judy Spears, "Woman Searching for Self," 1973-75; and Virginia Laird, "Twentieth Century, Deciding Now," 1975-76.

We wish to give special recognition to the First Vice Presidents, the program development chairmen who have served well in this decade. They are Brenda Heringer, 1966-68; Pat Burrell, 1968-70; E. Boone Watson, 1970-74, and Alice Oliver, 1974-76. Also deserving recognition for their dedicated service to AAUW are Marguerite Brown our continuing treasurer, and Grace Matthews, now deceased, former historian.

The branch presidents who served from 1966 to 1976 are: Dr. Mildred Yance, 1966-67; Ruby Haynes, 1967-68; Brenda Heringer, 1968-71; Phyllis Morse, 1971-73; Lillian Chaney, 1973-75; Jean Merriman, 1975-76.

#### Little Rock Branch

Serving the Little Rock branch as presidents were: Mrs. Virginia Minor, 1965-67; Mrs. Lillian S. Robinson, 1967-69; Miss Kathryn M. Smith, 1969-71; Mrs. Frederick Frueauff, 1971-72; Mrs. John O. Koehler, 1972-74; Mrs. Alexander Mille, 1974-75; Miss Bonda Sue Deere, 1975-76.

The Little Rock branch has made a number of named contributions to the Educational Foundation Program. Persons honored are: Mrs. D. D. Terry, 1966; Mrs. James H. Rice, Sr., 1967; Mrs. T. W. White, 1968 (deceased); Mrs. E. J. Homann, 1968; Little Rock Branch, 1970; Mrs. Margaret Hower, 1971; Mrs. W. Peyton Kolb, 1972; Mrs. Theessa Roundtree, 1973; Miss Christine Poindexter, 1974 (deceased); Miss Lola Mae Welchel, 1975; and Miss Gay Gattis, 1975. In 1972 a special named contribution was made as a memorial to Mrs. Flo Marks. The branch anticipates having one named contribution in 1976.

In February 1973, Little Rock branch celebrated its Golden Anniversary. Of the seven charter members, four were present, Mrs. D. D. Terry, Mrs. James H. Rice, Sr., Miss Myrtle Charles, and Mrs. J. H. Cochran. In fifty years the branch increased in size from seven members to one hundred eighty-four members.

Projects during the past decade have included a tutoring program at College Station and the Reading is Fundamental program. The RIF program was begun in 1973 under joint sponsorship of AAUW and the Friends of the Library. Mrs. Jeanne Whitesell, area representative of education, coordinated the program for AAUW. The program is continuing at this time with several book distributions each year enabling many children to have a book of their own, who would not have been able to otherwise.

Mrs. Theessa Roundtree, membership chairman, has led an active recruitment of new members. At the 1975 Seattle Convention the Little Rock branch received recognition as a branch having at least a 15% increase in membership. Current membership as of March 15, 1976, is 217.

#### Magnolia Branch

The Magnolia branch of the American Association of University Women is an active, vital organization sustained by a well educated, civic minded membership. During the past ten years it has grown from a membership of 11 to our current one of 39. The organization's continuing interest in education is attested to by the study programs presented at the monthly meetings, by our support of AAUW fellowships, and by projects undertaken in the public schools. In addition, we have taken up a number of other community projects.

In the past ten years the Magnolia branch of AAUW has studied many topics, including: "Expectations for Education"; "Science, a Creative Discipline"; "The Law and the Citizen"; "We the People"; "Global Interdependence: Budgeting for Earth"; "A Dollar's Worth"; and "Issues in Communications." Implementation of these topics was carried out through guest speakers, group panel discussions, study of recommended reading materials, practical projects such as price comparison surveys, and discussion of individual accomplishments of our members.

It is in the realm of civic activities that the Magnolia branch of AAUW takes it's greatest pride. Our number one project is, of course, on behalf of AAUW fellowships. During the past decade our organization endowed a \$500 named grant in honor of Mrs. R. H. Cole. Several money raising projects have been carried out on behalf of fellowships. Among these are benefit bridge parties and the sale of Arkansas whetstones. The project of which we are most proud is, however, the children's plays which we sponsor. The first of these plays was brought to town four years ago, with excellent results. Since that year we have sponsored three plays a year, with one play being produced during the day as well as after school. This permits children from outlying school districts to be bused in to see the plays. As a result of these plays, we have been able to make an annual donation of about \$7 per member, as well as give an annual scholarship to an outstanding upper class woman at Southern State College. In addition we are providing cultural enrichment to many children who might otherwise confine their theatrical experience to movies and television.

Other civic projects in the realm of education have included the tutoring of students at the high school, the taping of high school textbooks to aid those who have reading difficulties, and grading junior high tests to give the teachers more time to plan lessons.

On the ecological side we have become interested in recycling. Hearing that the paper companies no longer accepted unbleached paper, we wrote requesting that they reconsider their stand, but our request was refused. A small committee of members then turned to the production of a recycling booklet which was distributed through church and civic organizations. A study was made of the economic feasibility of buying a paper baler and recycling paper on a large scale. It was determined that it was possible to make a profit recycling paper, and an attempt was made to interest certain groups in town in the project, but to no avail.

We believe that, as an organization, we have been of help, both in keeping our individuals well informed of what is happening in the world around us, and in educating and helping our community. We are looking forward to the next ten years.

#### Malvern Branch

1966-67. President, Mrs. Floyd Lunley, began the year with 29 members. Our main project for the year was an active participation in the organization of a Mental Health Unit in Malvern community. The branch also initiated a book sale, the proceeds of which went to the Fellowships Fund.

1967-69. Mrs. Joe Morrison, president, led our branch this year, a membership of 40 members in a study of several very interesting topics. Among the activities participated in was "open house" for our new library. We also assisted the Sheridan branch in their organization. Mrs. Eudor Fields, one of our members, was elected to the Constitutional Convention. Members participated in the Frontier Parade in the community. We had fun decorating for the division convention April 19 in Hot Springs.

1969-71. Mrs. Mack Treadwell, led us in action and support in "Junior Citizens Clean-up". Mrs. J. H. Gibbs led us in field trips during the year to make us aware of the pollution problems in our community. A service project was a party for the



children at the Colony in Arkadelphia. Malvern branch received credit for saving a beautiful Magnolia tree in downtown Malvern which was to be cleared by a construction company in the building of a Kroger store. In informing our community about problems of ecology, members went to the schools in the county and set up interest centers.

1971-73. Under the leadership of Mrs. James Betts and Mrs. C. J. Baker, Cultural Interest chairman, the 39 members were delighted and informed with programs of recordings and local talent of music and poetry by Arkansas authors.

1973-75. During the administration of Mrs. Eric Phillips, a project of interest to all was the Youth Home Organization. An unusual program was prepared and executed by Mrs. Paul Locke honoring our only charter member, Miss Helen Austin (organized 1949). Our members assisted the Malvern Womens Club in conducting a free Art School for two weeks.

1975-76. Mrs. Roy Franklin, with 28 members, has led the branch in several Bicentennial activities. We have become aware of both contemporary and historical women that have been prominent. A part of each program is a "Mystery Guest." (One of our members portrays a noted woman in history.) We will also be actively participating this year in the 100th anniversary of our community. Our accomplishments are better informed branch members.

#### Mena Branch

Nestled in the Ouachita Mountains, not far from the foot of Rich Mountain, the second highest peak between the Appalachians and the Rockies, lies Mena. It came into being largely because the Kansas City Railroad was routed through this area. Born on August 19, 1896, the city was named for Queen Wilhelmina of Holland because many of the Dutch business men contributed financially to the railroad. Mena's population has remained in the neighborhood of 5000.

Mena, county seat of Polk County, owes its prosperity to lumbering, cattle raising and poultry production. Also offering employment to the men and women of the area are the Cowden Manufacturing Company, which makes jeans and shirts; the US Motors, which manufactures electrical equipment; the Teague Leather Goods, which creates all sorts of leather articles; and the Dix Foundry. These industries add much to the economy and keep unemployment figures below the national average.

The city is justly proud of its educational institutions. It has a primary school, two middle schools and a brand new high school, ready for occupancy in the fall. The Rich Mountain Vocational Technical School opened in August 1975. In connection with this institution, Henderson State University is offering college classes at the freshman and sophomore level. Young men and women of Polk, Scott, Sevier and Montgomery counties are availing themselves of the opportunities offered.

In 1948 through the efforts of Mrs. Marguerite McMillan, the Mena branch of the American Association of University Women was formed. Ten women -- Miss Elizabeth Cunningham, Miss Mary Dixon, Mrs. Rachel Goforth, Mrs. Edith Harlan, Miss Faith Kirsch, Mrs. Marguerite McMillan, Miss Aileen McWilliam, Mrs. Bonita Musgrave, Mrs.

Betty Ann Reed and Miss Louise Vaughn -- met the third Monday in September 1948 for the first time. It was hard to recruit members then because only graduates of the University of Arkansas and Hendrix College in Arkansas were eligible for membership. For years the branch remained at the minimum requirement of ten. In fact, in the early years when Mrs. Reed's husband was sent to Europe, she kept her membership in Mena so that the branch could remain in existence.

The Mena branch has always been interested in the graphic arts. In 1950 Miss Elizabeth Cunningham, who was then chairman of the arts, sponsored a showing of local talent. Several hundred viewed the pictures displayed in the store windows along Mena Street and in the Elks' Lodge. At present the local librarian, Miss Lana Cook, a member of AAUW, encourages the area artists to show their works in the Mena Public Library. Another project to which the branch contributed both money and time is the legislative one. Many hours were spent by members, especially by the Legislative Chairman, Mrs. Marguerite McMillan, securing signatures to have legislation put on the ballot. Of course the Educational Foundations Programs have benefited from a dollar per member since the organization's inception. Last year Miss Aileen McWilliam sponsored the sale of whetstones and the branch contributed through her efforts approximately \$69 to these programs.

Some members of the branch have achieved outstanding recognition. In 1954 L. Dorothy Lester was named Arkansas Woman of the Year; in 1963 her college, Buena Vista of Storm Lake, Iowa, honored her with the Doctor of Divinity Degree for her outstanding service in her ministerial work. Miss Aileen McMillan was selected as Outstanding Teacher of Biology in 1965. Mrs. Helen Ruth Teague served as Arkansas Division Treasurer. Mary Louise Spencer and Rachel Goforth have served as president of the Arkansas Association of School Board. Dr. Mary Louise Spencer is now supervisor of the Rich Mountain Vocational Technical School; she is the only woman in Arkansas to hold such a position.

At present the Mena branch has 27 members. They are Mrs. Harry Ahlbeck, Mrs. Bobbye Arwood, Mrs. Jan Atchley, Mrs. Vern Austin, Mrs. Mianie Benner, Mrs. Lillian Burtch, Mrs. Vernice Cobb, Miss Lana Cook, Mrs. Gladys Davis, Mrs. Rachel Goforth, Mrs. Edith Harlan, Miss Kittie Hughes, Miss Faith Kirsch, Miss Lucy Lacefield, Mrs. Lucile Lance, Mrs. Inez Lane, Mrs. Rosa Lang, Dr. L. Dorothy Lester, Mrs. Edna McCormack, Mrs. Sue McDaniel, Mrs. Hazel McRee, Miss Aileen McWilliam, Mrs. Gladys Price, Mrs. Gussie Scott, Dr. Mary Louise Spencer, Mrs. Helen Ruth Teague and Mrs. Othela Watkins.

Officers for the present biennium are: Vernice Cobb, president; Louise Davis, first vice president; Sue McDaniel, second vice president; Edna McCormack, secretary; Jan Atchley, treasurer; Lucile Lance, corresponding secretary; Inez Lane, legislative chairman; Lucy Lacefield, publicity; Faith Kirsch, bulletin editor; Aileen McWilliam, centennial fund.

For the almost three decades of its existence the Mena Branch of the American Association of University Women has shown a slow but steady growth.



#### Monticello Branch

The Monticello branch was organized on December 1, 1932, while Mrs. H. G. Hotz was division president. Mrs. Aubrey Gates, who was elected first branch president at this meeting, moved away before the second meeting, and it was necessary to elect another president. Mrs. T. C. Deal was chosen. Mrs. Deal completed the organization of the branch and guided through the first two terms (four years). Other charter members were Frances Barnett, Jessie K. Rannels, Kathleen Cole (Mrs. Earl Baxter), Martha Stinson (Mrs. Gilbert Kinney), Clara B. Kennan, Mrs. Melvin Geist, Mrs. Nelson Gilbert, Mrs. James H. Hutchinson, Mrs. E. A. Lambert, Mrs. H. A. Buffalo (Mrs. Elfred Engstrom), Mrs. Paul Lewis, and Mrs. Yates Trotter.

Early in its history, the branch began encouraging young women students at A & M College. For ten years it gave a scholarship each spring to a high ranking junior girl and a gift at graduation (a sterling silver spoon) to the highest ranking woman graduate. It provided sponsorship for the women's honorary society of the college. Each spring it gave a morning party for all senior girls of the county, both high school and college, and gave educational and vocational counseling. For four years it conducted a kingergarten in connection with the public schools of Monticello. It furnished a bookshelf for adolescent girls in the county library.

Early study groups took the form of book reviews, open to the public. These proved very popular. Soon, however, they gave way to serious study groups, and later as the war came on, to public forums, sometimes held in the Public Library.

From its earliest days, this branch promoted general culture and creative arts. They sponsored two talented local youth in an original program. They brought to town for public presentation, Charles J. Finger, Robert Penn Warren, Dr. and Mrs. T. D. A. Cockrill, Dr. J.B. Hunter, Dr. Isabella Wilson, Dean Margaret Justin, and Mrs. Bernie Babcock. Through the Cockrills, this branch was one of the earliest to become interested in the purchase of the Whitfield Wild Flower Paintings, and its members were heavy contributors and helped furnish valuable publicity. The branch has held art exhibits, and the arts chairman, particularly Mrs. Crump, has worked with the public schools to promote creative effort.

International Education was constantly carried on in the branch. In its second period, most of its forums and study groups dealt with related questions.

The branch has regularly supported fellowships, contributing the assigned quota or more to the fund. One of its charter members later became the recipient of the Vassie James Hill Fellowship under her maiden name, Mary C. Randolph.

Early, the branch promoted permissive legislation favoring public kindergartens and tax supported libraries. It sponsored one of its members, Mrs. W. R. McCloy, for appointment to the county board of education. Its most extensive, and intensive, legislative effort came, however, when under the leadership of Mrs. E. Glenn Cooper it initiated the movement for reform of the election laws and voting procedures in the state. Beginning with the study of the present laws, the branch saw the need for reform and proposed desirable rules.

By sending mimeographed copies to all branches in the state, Monticello branch enlisted all in the cause. At the next state board meeting, reform of the election laws was adopted as a state project.

Meanwhile, in Monticello, Mrs. Cooper and the branch were bombarding the town with publicity on the question. Columns of publicity appeared in the local paper, with explanation and comment. Letters on the subject were invited, and a prize offered for the best. A group from the branch visited every woman's club in town and each public school, explaining the project and carrying out an actual balloting as it would be under the rules they proposed. A public forum was held at which prominent lawyers and others spoke on the subject and offered suggestions. As the campaign became state wide, Mrs. Cooper and her associates, both state and branch, proceeded with the same drive and efficiency. The story of the division's work for the project belongs in general history, not in the history of the Monticello branch. But Mrs. Cooper and the Monticello branch did University Women proud in the intelligent and forceful way in which they initiated this needed project and promoted it.

Through the years, Monticello branch has had its share in division leadership. Ruth Powell was elected state vice president. Mrs. Crump served two terms as state arts chairman. Mrs. Horace Adams served as state chairman of international relations. Eleanor Massell was elected state treasurer while a member of Monticello branch. Several years later Clara Kennan was state treasurer for three years, except for one semester of that time, while she was out of the state on leave of absence, Mrs. T. C. Deal was state treasurer. Later Mrs. Deal served as state fellowships chairman. Mrs. Irene Puckett served as first vice president. Mrs. Diana Hoxley is presently serving as world pluralism topic chairman.

For many years the branch met in a dinner meeting on the fourth Monday night but has changed to meeting in the bank community rooms with light refreshments. The morning party for the seniors of the county became a sit down luncheon for many years until it became too large and reverted to the morning party and was finally dropped and emphasis placed on prospective members of AAUW. When the Monticello A & M graduates were accepted as members (1963) there was an increase in membership. At present we have two potluck meetings during the year with prospective members as guests.

Mrs. Jerry Tompkins (Marcia) was listed in Who's Who in 1967 for her many accomplishments.

Various money raising projects have been used for Fellowships, such as teas, a book fair, magazine sales, potlucks with recipe sales, sale of AAUW calendars and sale of American Flags as a bicentennial project. We had a very active paper recycling project for a while but the demand ceased and we had to stop until it should become needed again.

#### Paragould Branch

On February 2, 1946, the Paragould branch of the American Association of University Women was reorganized. Three members of the Jonesboro branch directed the reorganization. The members were Miss Lillian Barton, Miss Eleanor Lane, and Mrs. Tom Burress.

From 1947 to 1959, the Paragould branch was involved in many activities. Some of these were raising funds for the county library; providing a bookmobile; sponsoring



an art exhibit and a state wide art contest; aiding in the Civil Defense Program; having Fellowship teas; and presenting Christmas musicals in cooperation with the Paragould Council of Parents and Teachers.

During recent years, the Paragould branch sponsored four successful recycling campaigns and an ecology post for high school students. In addition, the group published a booklet on layman's law for students. The booklets were distributed to government classes in all the county schools. The members also backed resolutions aimed at improving the quality of education in Arkansas. Finally, the Paragould branch sponsored a series of eight college lectures entitled "Meet the Professor." All interested persons in Paragould and the surrounding area were invited to attend the weekly discussions.

#### Pine Bluff Branch

As the Pine Bluff branch failed to get its history from July 1947 through April 1967 in Volume II, a brief summary of these years is included in Volume III.

During the early years of this period our branch was represented at the state level by Miss Juanita Baldwin who served as division treasurer for 1948-50, and by Mrs. A. D. Farrell, whose state art committee started the Children's Art project in 1946. The Pine Bluff branch cooperated with and supported locally all phases of this project, including The Children's Traveling Art Exhibit and art contests in schools. Mrs. J. P. Sullivan and Mrs. Robert E. Jernigan have served as state implementation chairman for education.

In March 1950 our branch was awarded second place in a Table Setting Show and Homenaking Exhibit sponsored by a local jewelry store.

In April 1953 we were the hostess club for the Arkansas Division convention at which Mrs. William Nash was elected president.

A workshop was held by the Division president, Miss Pauline Hoeftzel, in Pine Bluff in July 1962. Mental health was the main topic of interest. As a continuation of this interest, one of our members, Mrs. Ray Toler, attended the Governor's Conference of Mental Health in Dallas and also a conference in Little Rock.

During these years several open meetings and forums were held on subjects such as: National Compulsory Health Insurance; How Shall I Vote? and Get Out The Vote. John F. Hilliard, executive assistant of Federal Security Agency in Dallas, headed the panel on health insurance.

The branch cooperated in circulating petitions for the voting machine amendment, Amendment 54. We were represented by a speaker at a public hearing held in Little Rock for this same amendment. In March 1962 our group was responsible for the demonstrating of voting machines in the lobby of a local bank. Through the years we contributed to the AAUM state legislative fund.

In the art field, we were represented at an Art Workshop in Little Rock in 1960. In April 1960 a luncheon was held to acquaint representative citizens of Pine Bluff with the fund raising program conducted for the center by Winthrop Rockefeller.

Our group made a monetary contribution to the Arts and Science Center in Little Rock. The McPharlin prints were displayed for ten days in the lobby of a downtown building in 1962. A few years later the visits of the Artmobile to Pine Bluff were sponsored by our group. Soon Pine Bluff became interested in having its own art center, and we made a contribution to that fund. In 1968 we toured our new Southeast Arkansas Arts and Science Center. We have held several meetings there and continue to support it as a group and as individuals.

We have twice entertained AAUM representatives from Mexico: Dr. Grovas in 1950 and Mrs. Arias in 1957.

One of our members, Opal Simmons, attended the National Convention in Boston in 1957.

In the educational field our projects were as follows: Programs on Get Acquainted with Your Schools; Federal Aid to Schools; New Methods in Teaching Mathematics; supporting the Little Rock branch in opposing the teacher "purge" of 1969; supporting legislation affecting welfare of teachers; a visit from Miss Christine Heilig in support of nursery school education; working for the passage of increased millage for our local schools.

In May 1961 the Strategy for Survival Conference held in Little Rock was attended by a member of our branch and four students whom we sponsored.

Several joint meetings were held with Delta Kappa Gamma for book reviews.

Some of our projects during the years 1947 through 1967 included:

Awarding library pins to Pine Bluff High School students who did outstanding library work during the school year. These were presented on behalf of AAUM by a member at the Awards Assembly in May.

Sponsoring a "College Advisory Week" and giving parties for graduating seniors to introduce them to AAUM.

Contributing to the Erie Chambers Memorial Library Fund at the state Sanitarium at Booneville.

Giving books at Christmas to the Boys' Industrial School.

Contributing our share each year to Fellowships and to the Blanche Dowd International Fellowships Fund.

Sending representatives to Girls' State from 1960-1966.

Sponsoring a hand-writing contest in local schools in December 1963 with winners' samples being displayed in the lobby of a local bank.

Attempting to increase membership by the customary Fall tea.

Buying Easter Seal Bond and working with Easter Seal Society.

The American Field Service has received our support in money and time since the program began in Pine Bluff in 1962. AAUM had a part in interesting Pine Bluff in this program by bringing to our city as a visitor an exchange student who was staying in Harrison during 1957-58.

In February 1961 we began work toward our pledge of \$450 for the national headquarters building in Washington. It was completed in August 1969. Money raising projects for this purpose and our other activities included: "Friendship Baskets";



a hat sale in a vacant downtown store building in August 1969; a white elephant sale, rummage sales; sale of Arkansas place mats and notes; sale of tote bags and towel calendars; sale of Hiram Smith Arkansas Whetstones.

The 1971 National Convention held in Dallas was attended by Mrs. Maeleen Arrant. She also served as Area Representative for Education for the state division in 1974-75.

"Dynamic Learning" was the emphasis at a September 1973 luncheon meeting. Sue Frueauff, state president, and Nevis Standefer of the Conway branch, were guests along with Virginia Charberlin and a group from Magnolia who presented the program by means of a puppet show.

Some of our "action" projects since 1967 have been:

- Contributing clothing and other items to the Girls' Training School.
- Collecting books and magazines for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.
- Collecting paper for the recycling project headed by the League of Women Voters.
- Contributing canned goods to the Youth Homes, Inc.
- Distributing pamphlets on ecology (Save your Environment - Start at Home)
- Sponsoring two delegates to "Women in the Arts" Conference at the Southeast Arkansas Arts and Science Center
- Working with the Jefferson County Coalition of ERA

The Pine Bluff branch has consistently cooperated with the city and surrounding area by being represented on boards and by attending meetings of such groups as the Southeast Arkansas Speech Clinic, the Jefferson County Family Guidance Clinic, Community Art Center, Pine Bluff Planning Commission and Urban Renewal. In 1973 we had branch representation on the Governor's Advisory Conference for land use and on the Master Park Plan Committee for Pine Bluff.

Because of a program presented in the spring of 1975 to our group by Rita Clubbs, a worker with SCAN, our branch became interested in helping with this work through a contribution. Several of our members also expressed a desire to take the training course to become volunteers.

One of our outstanding programs this year was that given in November 1975 by Mrs. Betty King of the Sociology Department of UAPB on "Women Around the World."

Our branch was awarded a certificate for achieving a 15% increase in membership for the period April 1, 1973 through March 31, 1975. This was done at the national convention in Seattle in June 1975.

We have 24 members on roll this year and are giving \$5.00 per member to the Educational Foundation Program. On our current roll are two charter members: Mrs. Ernest Alexander (Helen Hogg) and Miss Gussie Carmical.

The following women have served the Pine Bluff branch as presidents during these years:

Lois Hogg (Mrs. George Lea), 1947-49; Mrs. G. T. Weaver, 1949-51; Mrs. Gibson Anderson, 1951-52; Miss Juanita Baldwin, 1952-54; Miss Dollie Smith (Mrs. J. H. Shoemaker), 1954-56; Mrs. Stephen Matthews, 1956-58; Mrs. Ray Toler, 1958-60; Mrs. M. M. Riggs, 1960-62; Mrs. Albert Moore, 1962-64; Mrs. B. M. McFall, 1964-66; Miss Sue Wherley, 1966-69; Mrs. Odis Jones, 1968-70; Mrs. J. H. Shoemaker, 1970-72; Mrs. Roy Dobbins, 1972-74; Mrs. W. J. Freeman, 1974-76; Mrs. G. H. Bitely, president elect 1976-78.

#### Rogers Branch

Rogers, a rapidly growing town of northwest Arkansas, was settled in 1881 when the Frisco railroad started bringing train service through here. Benton County was organized in 1836 by settlers primarily from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and the Carolinas.

Today Rogers has a population of 13,189, an increase of 90.1% in the last decade. This influx is credited to the Chamber of Commerce in bringing in industry such as Continental Can Co., Daisy Manufacturing Co., Bear Brand Hosiery, Emerson Electric Co., Union Carbide, Moser Furniture, etc. Because of the recreational facilities around Beaver Lake, as well as the Ozark Mountain terrain, many tourists come to Rogers. Many retired persons return to this area to establish homes because of the mild climate. Population in Benton County has increased 41.4% during the last decade. With this increase in population our unemployment ranges about the same as the national average.

Our schools have developed from no school building during that first year to one high school, with Northwest Central rating, two junior high schools, and six elementary buildings. Our children are from the eastern half of Benton County. In 1883 a number of Rogers business men decided to build a building for the school children on the ground where Elmwood Junior High now stands. During the two years before this the children had attended a country school on the west side of Rogers. The business men ran into financial trouble, and the new brick building was taken over by the Congregational Church and the Rogers Academy soon became one of the outstanding educational institutions of the Southwest. It was sold to the Rogers School District in 1913.

AAUM members of Rogers and Bentonville met together for about ten years. They met alternately in the two towns. They were never officially recognized as the Rogers-Bentonville branch, but they were fondly known as the Rogers-Bentonville branch. During this period we grew to a membership of about thirty which was enough for each town to have its own branch. Bentonville organized their new unit in 1973.

One of the annual highlights of this period was the AAUM art exhibit by the elementary school children for the schools in Rogers and Bentonville. In addition to the suggested topics for programs we have had:

TRAVELOGUES - By members who have traveled extensively, especially to Russia, The Holy Land, and the Far East.

ADDRESSES - By senators, representatives, and prominent citizens on impending legislation and local projects, including the literacy programs.



FILMS - From the American Cancer Society, as well as other sources.

OTHER PROGRAMS - By individual members on current subjects such as recycling and solid waste disposal.

In 1972 we backed the Benton County Community College program that we hoped would materialize, but it did not. Another project started in 1972 was a search for paintings executed prior to 1914. We assisted Smithsonian Institution in the bicentennial inventory of American Paintings.

We have worked closely with the ERA program, and have supported the Fellowship program each year wholeheartedly.

During this decade our membership has increased to forty-two members. The branch received a membership certificate for an increase of fifteen per cent during the past two years.

Our fund-raising project for the Fellowship fund is the sale of stationery depicting the new bridge over Beaver Lake on Highway 12 east of Rogers.

#### Russellville Branch

Founded in 1931, the Russellville Branch AAUW had 32 women on its 1975-76 membership roll with Sue Frueauff serving as branch president. Serving as presidents before 1975 have been: Annie Laura Jagers, Joyce Dempsey, and Charles Jones. Division president for 1973-75 was Sue Frueauff. Mrs. Frueauff served also on the Association Committee to select the Executive Director for AAUW, Dr. Helen Wolfe.

In the summer 1974, the branch was hostess to the Arkansas Division two day legislative workshop on the Arkansas Tech campus. Since 1971, the branch has been represented at all division meetings and workshops, and regional conferences.

Interest in the legislative program has been of primary importance. In recent years the branch has been hostess for public meetings with the area representatives and senators. These meetings take place just before the opening sessions of the Arkansas Legislature and serve as a means of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and priorities.

Endorsement of and public support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has been a longstanding project of the branch. Several branch members have worked with the Arkansas Coalition for ERA. Currently the Russellville members are interested in the local implementation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In cooperation with the League of Women Voters, AAUW members are circulating petitions throughout the county in support of voting machines for Pope County.

Support of the Educational Foundation Programs has always been of utmost importance to Russellville members. Fund drives have taken many avenues. Working with the division Fellowship chairman, Smith Whetstones were sold, chances on a Jimmy Lile knife were sold, bake sales and auctions were held at branch meetings, and members staffed the county paper collection depot each spring. In 1974 contributions to Fellowships reached a high of \$292.00 which was \$9.73 per capita for the branch.

Implementation of the Dynamic Learning Topic in 1974 led to the establishment of the Community Center of Learning for Pope County. The Center makes it possible for those who have special talents and interests to share their talents and interests with those who want to learn. Classes are free and meet weekly for one or two months. The branch continues to give financial assistance to the Center.

In 1975 the AAUW branch joined with other community groups in a fund drive for the construction of a new Russellville Public Library. Recently the branch has given money to the library for the purchase of books for the Women's Study shelf.

With the help of the Tech music department, a Children's Concert was held in May of '76. Directed toward the elementary school age child, it is hoped that the concert will become an annual event for the community.

The Association slide presentation is used each spring at the annual coke party for Tech senior women. At the college Honors Program each year, the Outstanding Senior Woman is presented with membership in AAUW.

#### Searcy Branch

The Searcy branch was organized October 18, 1946. The first president was Mrs. R.G. Denver. Other presidents have been Mrs. Hubert Smith, Miss Virginia Stotts, Miss Laura Cautrell, Mrs. George S. Benson, Mrs. Ray Yarnell, Mrs. E. R. Stapleton, Mrs. E. C. Pearrow, Mrs. Guy Vanderpool, Mrs. John Schrade, Miss Irene Johnson, Mrs. C. W. Green, Mrs. W. L. Roy Wellborne, Mrs. Buford Tucker, Mrs. Guy Thompson, Mrs. Shell Blakely, Mrs. Allen D. Hill.

One of the continuing interests of the Searcy branch is international relations although the early years saw more emphasis on this than under the present nationally-structured programs. In 1968-69 the branch studied "The Growing Gap between Rich and Poor Nations." A guest speaker was Dr. George S. Benson, President of the National Education Program and President Emeritus of Harding College and a world traveler, especially to Asian and African nations.

The members of the branch usually provide the programs through speeches by individual members or panel discussions. However, local and state leaders have also been used as speakers. Often faculty or students from Harding College provide informative programs.

The arts have also been an area of interest to the Searcy branch. "Reflection of Society in the Arts" was the 1967-68 topic. In April 1973 the branch heard Dr. Townsend Wolfe, Executive Director of the Arkansas Art Center, discuss "A Dollar's Worth in the Arts." In April of 1968 the Arkansas Artmobile visited Searcy and several branch members served as hostesses.

Other informative topics have been studied since 1966. In 1969-70 "Human Use of Urban Space" brought as special guest speaker Searcy's Mayor Leslie Carmichael. In 1970-71 the branch studied "This Beleaguered Earth" and "The Academic Community." In 1971-72 a study of "We the People" found State Representatives John Paul Capps and James Harris and Judge Charles Yingling invited to speak.



During the 1972-73 study of "A Dollar's Worth," Attorney General Jim Guy Tucker was guest speaker. In 1973-74 the study was "Global Interdependence: Economic Issues" and Mrs. Perrin Jones, editor of the Searcy Daily Citizen, spoke to the branch. All four study topics were surveyed in 1974-75. A special guest was Dr. Herbert Lawrence, Instructional Administrator of KAT (Channel 2), who spoke on "Media: Issues in Communication." In 1975-76 the topic has been "Economic Facts of Life: Living with Less."

In 1974 Mrs. Sue Frueauff of Russellville, Division president, visited the Searcy group. In 1969 Mrs. Marie Jackson, Division president, visited the branch. The State Workshop was held in Searcy on the campus of Harding College in May 1969.

The Searcy branch has been interested in community and state issues and, as individuals, has often written letters supporting or arguing against proposed legislation or issues before the state. In 1974-75 Mrs. Nolan (Leona) Troxell, a member of the Searcy branch, was a candidate for Lt. Governor of Arkansas.

In 1974-75 the branch contributed \$100 to the Sheltered Workshop. Each year the group contributes to help send a girl from Searcy High School to Girls' State. In 1975 the branch decided to give a \$100 scholarship for two years, one year to a graduating senior girl from Harding Academy and the next year to one from Searcy High School.

The Searcy branch, which began with 26 members, now numbers over 50. The only charter member still active is Mrs. Hubert (Frances) Smith. In 1974-75 the branch received a certificate of commendation for attaining the national goal of a fifteen per cent increase in membership.

This branch has been well represented at division conventions and board meetings. Mrs. Mayme Puckett served as Division first vice president in 1965-67 and attended the 1965 Association convention. In 1969-71 Mrs. Buford Tucker was Division parliamentarian, and Mrs. Nolan Troxell was legislative chairman.

From 1947 through 1963 the branch gave an annual tea for senior girls of Searcy High and of Harding Academy. In 1964 the tea was replaced by a breakfast for graduating senior girls of Harding College. In 1971 this was discontinued and a letter was written to the senior women graduates of Harding College explaining the purposes of AAUW and encouraging each girl to join a group in the community where she would live after graduation.

Fellowships gifts of a dollar a member are budgeted each year but this is not the extent of the Fellowships contributions. In 1974 an additional \$25 memorial contribution was made to honor deceased member Mrs. W. C. Welch. Several times individual members have made memorial gifts to Fellowships. Since 1968-69, an annual "sack supper" has been a part of the year's Fellowships program. At this event each member contributes a specified amount, equivalent to the cost of a dinner meal, but brings her sack supper to the home of one of the members. In 1969 a pie snorgasbord was used to raise an additional Fellowships amount. Beginning in 1973 members began a practice which continues of purchasing stationery and note cards and placing the profits from sales in Fellowships. The Fellowships contribution for 1975 was \$347.50.

#### Sheridan Branch

The Sheridan branch has been very active in studying concerns of the world, our nation, our state, and our local community during the past 10 years.

In 1966 the study topic for the year was Revolutions in Modern China. Several interesting programs were given including "Chinese Society at the End of the 18th Century" and "Chinese Christmas Customs."

In 1967 and 1968 the study topic chosen for a two-year period was "Testing Values in a Changing World." Some interesting programs included "The Politics of Public Education;" "Society's Reflection in the Arts;" and "The Growing Gap Between the Rich and Poor Nations."

In 1969, Cultural and Social Influences was the program topic.

Several programs for 1970 were concerning the environmental quality of our nation and community.

During 1971, "The Role of Women in the Economy" was discussed. Many interesting ways of saving were presented.

The program topic for 1972-73 was "We the People." The branch studied the people of Mexico, Germany, Hawaii, Arkansas, and the people of the Children's Colony.

During the 1974 and 1975 "Woman, Searching for Self" was studied. Programs were given on "Dynamic Learning," "Media," and "Global Interdependence."

In 1976 the members have studied "Society and the Individual: Conformity vs Creativity."

Each year for the past 10 years the Sheridan branch has awarded a scholarship to a girl from Grant county to be used at the college or university of her choice.

Twice during the past 3 years the club has sponsored a coffee for candidates who were running for the local school board. This gave people in the community a chance to meet the candidates and ask them any questions concerning the race.

The Sheridan AAUW was active in taking part in the Grant County Bicentennial Celebration. The branch planted a tulip poplar tree on the lawn of the Grant County Courthouse. The AAUW also sponsored a dress review which was held during the County's three-day Bicentennial Celebration.

#### Springdale Branch

Spencer Farley Fine first landed in the settlement of Shilo, February 29, 1840. About the same time, William Davis Quinton entered the Winslow area, and soon they had traded land rights and a United States patent was issued to Quinton for 80 acres of land, which included what is now Springdale. Quinton then traded homesteads with Rev. John Holcomb, who had located near West Fork and John Holcomb received 600 acres, the original town of Springdale, in 1845. On Christmas Day, 1841, Quinton had deeded a plot of ground 99 x 330 feet for the historic Primitive Church and Rev. John Holcomb was the first preacher.



When the name Shilo was sent in for the post office, it was refused because there was already a Shilo recorded in Arkansas. A group meeting was held to find a new name, and several were suggested, however, after one of the women present remarked about the many springs, pretty trees and dales in the area, they decided on Springdale.

Poultry, cattle, fruit and processing plants of various kinds are the basis of the economy in the city with a present population of near 20,000. Springdale features about 75 churches of practically every denomination and its educational institutions consist of seven elementary schools, two junior high schools, one high school, a Vocational School, and a number of private kindergartens.

Springdale branch was organized in 1966 when Mrs. Lynn Smith called an organizational meeting on August 19. Mrs. Ben Lincoln of Van Buren, state membership chairman, met with the group of eligible women.

A second meeting, a coffee, was held in the Hospitality Room of the First National Bank on September 19, at which time Miss Gay Gattis of Little Rock, addressed the group and assisted in the organizing process. Also present for the meeting was Mrs. L. M. McGoodwin, Fayetteville, a past state president. Officers elected were: Mrs. Lynn Smith, president; Mrs. George Lingelbach, first vice president; Mrs. Robert Thompson, second vice president; Mrs. Walter Turnbow, secretary, and Mrs. Jerre Van Hoose, treasurer.

The charter was received November 11, 1966, and presented to Mrs. Smith by Miss Gattis of Little Rock. The twenty-four charter members included: Mrs. Hollis (Peggy) Bennett; Mrs. Herbert (Estelle) Bradshaw; Mrs. Lyle (Lois) Dean; Mrs. Charles (Rowena) Frederic; Mrs. Harold (Bea) Lawler; Mrs. Walter (Joyce) Le Fevre; Mrs. George (Nora) Lingelbach; Mrs. Vernon (Janie) Mathis; Mrs. James (Dorothy) Montgomery; Mrs. D. B. (Margaret) Patrick; Mrs. Davis (Geneva) Powers; Mrs. Art (Joyce) Pruett; Mrs. Otis (Bertie) Rowe; Mrs. Lynn (Virginia) Smith; Mrs. Charles L. (Lou) Thompson; Mrs. Robert (Gladys) Thompson; Mrs. Walter (Clara) Turnbow; Miss Mary Unbaugh; Mrs. Jerre (Judy) Van Hoose; Mrs. Scott (Nancy) Van Hoose; Mrs. C. A. (Margaret) Williams; Mrs. Ray (Jean) Wilmoth; Mrs. Lee (Betty) Wormack; Miss Jean Woods.

Community services or projects carried out by the branch have included city-wide clean up; Tom Sawyer Party; painting fence around Urban Renewal block downtown; sponsored Christmas Home Decoration contest; hosted a dance recital at Legion Hut; bought school clothes for a needy boy and currently buying trees to be planted in new city park. Most of these have been possible through the sale of old books and several white elephant sales.

Among the special guests who have attended branch meetings are Miss Merle Soto, international exchange student from Antofagasto, Chile, South American; Mrs. Virginia Minor, state president of Little Rock, and Ernie Deane, professor of Journalism at the University of Arkansas.

Mrs. Lingelbach, a past president of the branch, has served as state division chairman of International Federation University Women Committee.

Fellowships or funds supported by the branch have included 1967, \$25.00; 1968, \$68.00; 1969, \$54.00 and \$27.00 for Correta Scott King Fund; 1970, \$60.00; 1971, \$50.00 and \$25.00 for Eastside Youth Center; 1972, \$63.28; 1973, \$34.00; 1974, \$60.00; 1975, \$60.00; 1976, \$70.00.

The present officers are Mrs. Robert (Polly) Reed, president; Mrs. Clark (Era) Walker, first vice president; Mrs. Grover (Aline) Fuller, second vice president; Mrs. Larry (Mary) Douglas, secretary; and Mrs. George (Nora) Lingelbach, treasurer.

1966-76 members are Mrs. Herbert (Estelle) Bradshaw; Mrs. Larry (Mary) Douglas; Mrs. Grover (Aline) Fuller; Mrs. Walter (Joyce) Le Fevre; Mrs. N. D. (Hazel) Heathman; Mrs. Laurel (Ruth) Kinsey; Mrs. Clifton (Mabel) Bell; Mrs. George (Nora) Lingelbach; Mrs. Roe (Geneva) Matthews; Mrs. Vernon (Janie) Mathis; Mrs. M. O. (Ainee) Ranay; Mrs. Robert (Polly) Reed; Mrs. T. C. (Maudine) Sanders; Mrs. Lynn (Virginia) Smith; Mrs. Earl (Emily) Voss; Mrs. Clark (Era) Walker; Mrs. Jane (Bonnie) Whitmore; Mrs. Ray (Jean) Wilmoth; and Miss Helen Woods.

#### Van Buren Branch

The Van Buren branch was organized in 1970. Current branch officers are: president, Mrs. Wm. McBrayer; first vice president, Mrs. Gary Robinson; secretary, Mrs. Rex Yerby; treasurer, Mrs. Eugene Staton.

The titles of the addresses of two of our renowned AAUW members suggest to us our future in the twenty-first century: Dr. Blanche H. Dow's talk to the fortieth anniversary of the Region -- "The Past is Prologue," and Dr. Althea K. Hottel's in the same conference, "The Intellectual in a World in Revolution."

Nearing the end of this decade the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1975 as International Woman's Year (IYW) with the theme "Equality, Development, and Peace." We wore the buttons designed for the UN by Valerie Pettis of New York. As symbols, a dove, the biological sign for women, was used with the mathematical equal sign for the equality of men and women.

Now the United Nations has proclaimed a "Decade for Women," 1976-1986 and using the same symbols has prepared two pins as shown below with prices for quantities.

We urge that all members of the American Association of University Women continue work to exact from the next ten years the fulfillment of this deep hope of peace and equality.



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