

Honor the Past: Celebrate the Future

1978 - 1980

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On October 5, 1978, the first meeting of the year was held at the Barbecue Lodge at 6:30 p.m. with new President Dorothy Hodgkins presiding. The speaker for the evening was Miss Ruth Jewell, Music Consultant for the State Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh. Her remarks covered the historical development of the concept of public school music in our State, its present status, and future goals for continued improvement. Nancy Wilkie was presented a past president's pin and was thanked for her outstanding leadership during the 1976-1978 biennium. President Hodgkins informed members of a policy revision adopted at the June 1978 workshop, which states that members of the Nominating Committee must be elected rather than appointed. New pages for insertion into red binders (yearbooks) were distributed to members. The flower arrangement provided for the dinner meeting was sent to Nora Jean Hill, who is recovering from a recent illness.

The annual Christmas meeting was held on December 7, 1978, in the Fellowship Hall of Gordon Street Christian Church. The guest speaker was Jessica Gardner, a junior at Parrott Academy, who shared her experiences of living with a Swiss family last summer as part of an experiment in international living. Peggy Albritton was granted a leave of absence for the remainder of the current year and for the coming year if needed. It was noted that Pat Rice had been selected as "Teacher of the year" for our district and would be entering statewide competition. Katherine Hinson, a former Kinstonian and retired teacher from Charlotte, was introduced to the group. She is now living in Kinston and has requested that her membership be transferred to Sigma Chapter. A social hour and Christmas bazaar followed the business meeting.

A luncheon meeting was held on January 27, 1979, at the House of Wang Chinese Restaurant. Attorney Vernon (Poe) Rochelle, a native Kinstonian, was the guest speaker. His talk covered social, economic, political, and educational issues and the role of national, state, and local government in these issues. President Hodgkins announced that Emily McCleary would represent Sigma Chapter at the leadership conference at St. Andrews College in March. Brass bowls were presented to Polly Oettingert and Agnes Freeman who have joined the ranks of the retired. The Chapter voted to take in three new members with initiation scheduled for the May meeting. Nomination forms were to be turned in by February 28.

At the February 8, 1979, meeting of the Executive Board, the policy was revised for sending flowers to members and/or family upon the death of a member. Three red roses will be sent to a member who is ill, to a member upon a death in the family, or to a family upon the death of a

Sigma member. Family members are defined as a mother, father, brother, sister, husband, and child.

On March 17, 1979, a breakfast meeting was held at King's Restaurant. Harpsichordist Joyce Lindroff, an artist in residence at Lenoir Community College, entertained the group with her musical talent and also gave a brief history of the harpsichord and the music of various periods written especially for the instrument. It was noted that Mary Sharpe Owens had been promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent in charge of curriculum for Kinston City Schools. President Hodgkins announced that all Delta Kappa Gamma honorary members from the state's 81 chapters would be honored at the State Convention. Dr. Rachel Davis is our honorary member. Sigma members votes to extend membership invitations to Belinda Huggins, Linda Paderick, Shirley Platts, and Mary Louise Smith.

A spring initiation ceremony was held in the Fellowship Hall of Gordon Street Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 1979. Shirley Platts and Mary Louise Smith were received into Sigma Chapter. The other two nominees declined their invitation. Emily McCleary reported on the Leadership Seminar held at St. Andrews College, stating that the topics discussed included affirmative action, stereotyping of women, and the role of women's present legislative actions. Sigma Chapter presented Mary M. Cauley her cap and gown for graduation from North Carolina State University on May 12, 1979, at which time she will receive her Doctoral Degree.

On October 4, 1979, an evening meeting was held in the cafeteria of the new Kinston High School. Cooper Stanton and Blanche Moseley conducted an impressive memorial service for Ethel Perry. The Program Committee, chaired by Peggy Kennedy, involved members in small group discussions concerning their interests and ideas for program topics for the year. President Hodgkins announced that our Regional Meeting would be held on October 10 at the Mount Olive County Club.

The annual Christmas meeting was held in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall of Gordon Street Christian Church on December 6, 1979. The President gave a special welcome to Gamma Epsilon Chapter members from Jones County and recognized Mary Ellen Warwick, Regional Director, and Opal Doty, a visitor from Eugene, Oregon. The Children's Choirs from Kinston's First Baptist Church presented an enjoyable program of Christmas music. The two chapters held separate business sessions. Sigma Chapter's President informed members of the selection of Polly Lynn Evans, Lenoir Community College student, as the Grant-in-Aid recipient and announced that Brenda Smith, grant in aid student at Campbell University, had moved to Maryland and would be dropped. The membership voted to reactivate the ad hoc committee on scholarships to select a student at a four-year college to receive a Grant-in-Aid in the Fall of 1980. The meeting concluded with the Christmas bazaar and social hour.

On January 26, 1980, a Saturday luncheon meeting was held at Dee's Restaurant and the Eta State President, Mary Thomas Smith, was the guest speaker. She emphasized the importance of each member in the decision-making process at the state and international levels. The treasurer reported that the Christmas bazaar netted a total of \$214.16. Dorothy Miller was presented a brass bowl in honor of her recent retirement. Forms were distributed for use in nominating new members.

On March 15, 1980 Sigma Chapter met at King's Restaurant for an 8:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. Mr. Brook Whitehorse, an engineer from Texas Gulf Sulfur Company, spoke on energy and its implications for education in the future. His comments were most interesting and thought-provoking. The Chapter voted to put some money in a savings account, with the amount and place of investment left to the discretion of the Finance Committee. Mrs. Leta W. Shoulars, Membership Chairman, distributed information on each nominee being presented for membership, and the group voted to take in two new members at the October meeting. A slate of officers for the 1980-82 biennium was presented and approved. Nora Ellen Darby moved that Sigma Chapter present the President with her president's pin at the December meeting during her first year of service rather than at the end of the biennium. The motion was seconded by Ruth Harrison and carried.

The final meeting of the year was held on May 8, 1980, in the sanctuary of Westminster United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. A memorial service in memory of Dr. Rachel Darden Davis was conducted by Sarah Jones Wooten and Polly Oettinger and closed with a prayer in song by Nora Jean Hill. Officers for the 1980-82 biennium were installed by Nora Ellen Darby. A brass bowl was presented to Edith Wiley, a recent retiree. The Treasurer reported that on recommendation of the Chapter and the Finance Committee, the sum of \$1,000 had been deposited in a savings account with First Citizens Bank & Trust Company. It was reported that Polly Lynn Evans would be transferring to UNC Wilmington in the fall and would again receive her \$100 Grant-in-aid. In view of two equally qualified candidates for the other grant in aid (Tammy Boone from North Lenoir High School and Cheryl Lee from South Lenoir High School), Sigma members voted to give three grants in aid for the coming year. Incoming President Marjorie K. Moore gave highlights of the Eta State Convention in Greensboro. The recent death of Dr. Elizabeth Brown, a Reserve Member, was announced. A social hour was held in the Fellowship Hall following adjournment.