

## **HISTORY OF THE MARY D. NEVILLE GUILD**

**(Prior to 1970)**

As I begin the 1960 report of the Mary D. Neville Guild of the Episcopal Church women, I can't help thinking back thirteen years to the beginning of the Guild – its very first year, because as it happened I was president then also! I'd like to give you a few comparisons.

In 1947, we had about 12 members – now we have around 56 active workers and our membership includes every woman in the church. Our first attempt to raise money was by a Children's Carnival, which cleared \$189.85. Late in the summer we made about \$118.00 at a polo game and our total for the first year was \$307.80. Nowadays as you know our money makers are the Fashion Show in the spring- this year clearing \$2,631.46 – and the rummage sale in the Fall - \$1192.55 and our total for 1960 was \$3224.01 – over 12 times as much as in '47.

In those days we were a Guild and nothing more. Everything we did and spent was for ourselves and we had no part in the great work of the Episcopal Church in our Diocese and in the world. It was not until 1951 that we became part of the Woman's' Auxiliary, as it was then called, and began to realize that the Episcopal Church existed in other places besides Upperville. We need to make at least 12 as much money – we hope to do 12 times as much good.

Of course we still give to our own church. This past year we supplied the money needed by the Altar Guild, we added new vestments for the Choir, we gave the Treasurer of the church \$300.00 and the Rector \$100 for his Discretionary Fund. We gave the money for last year's Church School Christmas party; the hospitality to Foxcroft (those hail and farewell punch parties) and we are the hostesses, as well as cooks and waitresses for this annual dinner which you have just enjoyed.

But since our early beginnings, we have gone outside our church to our community. In 1960, our contributions included the Paxton Home for Children, the Loudoun-Fauquier Health Center, the Upperville Fire Dept. and Buchanan Hall. We helped a local boy to go to college and a neighborhood girl to go to Teachers college.

We have gone out of our community to our Diocese and we contributed to the Bishop's Emergency Fund, the Bishop's Request Fund, the Blue Ridge School,

Church Extension, Virginia Theological Seminary, Mountain Missions and Personal Needs of Diocesan Missionaries, the Home For Ladies, Diocesan Home for the Aged, and St. Paul's College – Both these homes and the college are run by the Episcopal Church. These contributions came to \$650. There is another home in the Diocese in which we became interested as far back as 1949 – St. Anne's Home for Children. In that year, the Guild gave no money but because of our interest, our Sunday School sent \$15 to St. Anne's. A grateful letter of thanks showed that it was spent as follows: "Food for the table - \$5.00, Milk for the children - \$5.00, Cod Liver Oil - \$3.00, Shoes for a little girl - \$2.00" This year I'm happy to say we sent \$150 to St. Anne's. In 10 years our gift has multiplied 10 times – may it continue to increase. Jimmy Miller, the boy from St. Anne's adopted by the Guild, is now at Boy's Home in Covington. We give \$240.00 a year for his support and this year also gave \$100 to Boy's Home. We made a special gift of \$25 to Bishop Goodwin on his retirement. All the women of the Diocese contributed to a farewell present and he will receive a new car in January. It's to be a complete surprise – the only ones in on the secret are all the women in the Diocese.

Also we have gone out of our Diocese into the world. Not very strongly but still a step in that direction. We helped pay the salary of a Japanese clergyman in the Diocese of Kyoto and contributed to Elizabeth Saunders Orphanage at Oisi. This orphanage cares for children fathered by American soldiers when stationed in Japan. We sent some money to Liberia, to Mexico, to the Leprosy Mission, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and to the Interdenominational Religious Work Foundation. Our United Thank Offering, which goes to missions in our own country as well as all over the world, this year amounted to \$530. When we started it almost 10 years ago our offering was \$21. Mrs. Joshua Fletcher is the U.T.O. Chairman.

This is our money report but we work in other ways also. The Altar Guild takes charge of the altar flowers, linens and communion services every Sunday in the year, and they arrange the special decorations for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. This year they have embroidered beautiful designs for the kneeling cushions at the communion rail. Mrs. MacLeod has been the steady and reliable head of the Altar Guild for 1960.

The young members of our group have taken charge of the Church School nursery during the summer months and when Foxcroft is on Christmas and Easter vacations. Under the direction of Mrs. McCoy and helped by the Church School teachers they are undertaking, for the first time in our history,

a Christmas pageant to be given by the Church School the Sunday before Christmas. Mrs. Gall, Chairman of Christian Education, conducted a series of Lenten Study classes which educated very interestingly by many of our members. Mrs. Lawson, Chairman of Church magazines, has concentrated on getting the VA Churchman into every home. We have 67 who subscribe to it – 56 are new subscriptions this year. Also to benefit and enrich our minds, 6 of our members attended a Quiet Day, 4 the Christian Social Relations Institute, one spent 3 days at the Christina Educational Institute, 2 to the Little Institute, 5 to the Annual Meeting and 7 to the Spring Convocation. From these inspirational meetings, we have brought back ideas which we believe have and will strengthen our spiritual growth.

Incidentally, the Fall Convocation is next Monday, December 5 at Berryville from 10 to 3 and I hope every woman here tonight will be there! Don't forget to bring sandwiches!

Lastly, I do want to thank all of my officers and committee chairmen who have given me such unfailing and willing help. I have never called on one of them – or any member of the Guild - that they didn't respond wholeheartedly. May I mention in particular these big job holders – Mrs. Edward Burwell, Fashion Show Chairman; Mrs. Burner and Mrs. Nesbit, Rummage Sale Chairman and Mrs. Foxhall Taylor, Chairman of this Annual Dinner. And of course, there is a perpetual big job – Advice Chairman, ably filled by our Rector, Mr. Cox.

I enjoyed being the first president of the Guild but it has been a much more interesting and rewarding a job now that we Jolly Nevillers, as we have been called are not only a Guild but a part of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Virginia. I'm sure my able successor, Mrs. George Slater, will be able to do many things I have left undone and I know that she will have the support of every one of us in not only carrying on but improving our work in 1961.

Handwritten by Mrs. Isham (Lucy) Keith