

ABOUT THE MEETING PROGRAMS

The Charter Members, uncertain as they were in how to proceed with activities for their new club, agreed that the hostesses should provide programs "of not too strenuous nature." These ladies were busy with homes and several had young children. They accomplished the laundry duties with washers (not automatic) and solar-powered dryers in the back yards. Then the laundry had to be ironed. The iron was electric, but so heavy that the "pressing the clothes" was an appropriate term. They were their own dish-washers unless one of their youngsters was at the age to "learn discipline." Fast food, frozen food, and convenience foods were unknown words, "eating out" was out of the budget. To be responsible for a "strenuous program" was more than they wanted to accept. Attitudes changed and a cursory analysis of the programs through the years reveals a repetitive rhythm of cultural, informative, and entertaining subjects. Among many subjects, musical evenings, book reviews, fashion shows (once including the very fashionable wigs), dramas (even some productions of their own), presentations by "international" students, and travelogues were frequent subjects. Once, after returning from a visit in Dr. Martin's homeland, the Martins created atmosphere for the program by burning in their fireplace a piece of Irish "turf" (peat). On six occasions buses were chartered for tours to points of interest, once as far as the Eisenhower Library at Abilene.

For more than thirty years Christmastime festivities usually were planned for families and the programs included music, drama, group singing, recitations, and other performances usually by the children. Sometimes Santa appeared. "Planned Potlucks" at Christmas added to the enjoyment. It could be said that these dinners set the pattern for the traditional All-Campus Christmas Dinners with ambitious programs which began with the "new" Commons and continued in the Union to become the fabulous Olde Englishe Feaste.

Times of many special anniversaries or accomplishments have been properly observed. Probably the most impressive was the Centennial Celebration of the University in which we joined all constituencies of the college. The state centennial and national bicentennial provided topics for good programs as did elections and other political issues presented as analytical studies.

On Guest Night, husbands or friends were invited to an outstanding program of music, travel pictures, or other entertainment. Often dress was formal for the ladies, and the lace cloth was used on the refreshment table giving a proper background for the Punch Bowl and decorated cakes or cookies. Invitations were extended to the faculty women of Baker University for the November, 1964, meeting and they returned the invitation two years later, both occasions being most enjoyable. In more recent years the expanded University Program Series of cultural events and many other activities have encroached on the calendar, but these presentations have proven to be opportunities for excellent Guest Night programs by including a social time, often at one of the homes.