

A Moment in Time - 70 Years ago  
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

When spring 1947 arrived the members of the Douglass NHA (New Homemakers of America) were well into their program for the 1946-47 school year. In their meetings they were learning parliamentary procedures, how to keep records of chapter business and how to use their singing skills in organization building. All of their chapter meetings involved singing several songs and the song leaders were noted in the minutes of the meetings. Some song leaders were Bertha M. Peete from the Stanton Community and Janeice Delk and Gerlean Reed from Douglass.

The NHA also provided opportunities for these rural teenagers to travel to surrounding West TN towns to participate in regional meetings. In March 1947, Annie Eva Graves travelled to Humboldt to such a meeting. Sometimes the entire chapter would go by bus to the regional meetings, at other times, only an elected representative would go. The news clipping accompanying this article reports on a national meeting held in Nashville, TN in 1960. A similar national meeting was held in Arkansas in 1961 and Carolyn Granberry from the Douglass Chapter was a delegate.

The Douglass organization of 1946-47 developed procedures to address members talking during chapter meetings and to train members in organizational protocol. Talking members had to pay a small monetary fine and every meeting included group recitation of the NHA creed and singing the NHA song.

1947 members were: Fannie Gray, President, Edna Watkins, Secretary, Ethel Mae Harris, Treasurer, Gerlean Reed, Avella Hunt, Hadester Boyd, Annie Eva Graves, Annie Ruth Miller, Bertha Mae Peete, Rosie Rice, Lizzy Powell, Maurine Jarmon, Mattie Middlebrooks, Shirley Bond, Beatrice Elcan, and Lettie Mae Jones. Mrs. Algee Outlaw, the Negro Supervisor of Schools, worked along with the Home Economics teacher as adviser to the group.