

HISTORY

Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs

by

Mrs. Frederic Libke

I BEGINNINGS

1915 - 1920

1915- Mrs. Clark J. Tisdell, president of Muskogee Musical Arts Society, was appointed President of Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs by National Federation of Music Clubs for purpose of organizing the state federation. The attempt being unsuccessful, Mrs. Tisdell resigned. Some Oklahoma music clubs continued to pay dues to NFMC, with the result that a few Oklahoma clubs have music-federation-membership pre-dating OFMC organization, e. g., Tulsa Hyeckka's NFMC membership dates from 1913; Muskogee Musical Arts' from 1916. (Some clubs confuse their early general-federation membership with music-club-federation membership.)

1917- Mrs. E. D. Bevitt, Muskogee Musical Arts Society, First State President, elected at Organization Convention, Muskogee, April 3-4, 1917. OFMC Constitution, modeled on NFMC's, adopted. Slate of officers elected. Evening Musicale presented by club representatives April 3. Galli Curci concert, April 4, attended by delegates. Number of charter clubs given variously as nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. Evidence for twelve seems strongest.

* Muskogee	Musical Arts Society
*** Muskogee	Ladies Saturday Music Club
* Muskogee	Music Study Club
*** Tulsa	Hyeckka
*** Tulsa	Piano Study Club
*** McAlester	Fortnightly Music Department
*** Sapulpa	Symphony Music Club
*** Okmulgee	Wednesday Morning Music Club
** Stigler	Musical Coterie
* Tahlequah	Music Club
** Claremore	Harmony Music Club
** Nowata	Wednesday Music Club

- * Named in Muskogee Phoenix, April 3, and/or April 4, 1917, and elsewhere.
- ** Named in 1932 Souvenir Edition Okmulgee Sunday Times-Democrat, giving as source organization-meeting "Minutes in possession of Mrs. A. D. Cochran, Sec'y."
- *** Named in both publications.

Mrs. Bevitt resigned August 1917 on moving from the state. Mrs. Elmo Wilkins, First Vice President, automatically succeeded to presidency. Other officers elected at organization meeting included Mrs. Claude L. Steele, Muskogee, Second Vice President; Mrs. A. D. Cochran, Okmulgee, Secretary; and Mrs. Maude Whitaker Harmony, Sapulpa, Treasurer.

1917-1920 Mrs. Elmo Wilkins, 2nd President. December, 1917, Mrs. Ora Frost, Tulsa, elected 1st Vice President by mail ballot. By spring of 1918, four more clubs had joined OFMC, to make the total membership sixteen:

Bartlesville	Musical Research
Ardmore	Philharmonic
Enid	Madrigal
Sapulpa	Fiducia

Second state Convention, Okmulgee, March 28-29, 1918. Due to World War I, flu epidemic, post-war depression -- no conventions in 1919 and 1920. For two years OFMC inactive, but organization status maintained, and (some) clubs paid music-federation dues to State and/or National. Mrs. Wilkins withdrew from Federation activity due to illness in her home.

OFMC: 16

II

The TWENTIES

1920-1921 Mrs. Ora Lightner Frost, 3rd President. Feeling is strong on the part of those whose memories go back to this time, with these three viewpoints variously held:

- 1- Mrs. Frost, as 1st Vice President, automatically became president when Mrs. Wilkins became inactive, even tho Mrs. Wilkins did not resign.
- 2- Mrs. Frost did not become president, but merely acting-president.
- 3- Mrs. Frost was President of Hyeckka District -- and as District President, not State President, directed OFMC's re-activation in 1920.

A State Board meeting was held in Tulsa. CALL was issued in December, 1920, for State Convention in Oklahoma City in January, 1921. Theme: "Mid-winter



Mrs. O. R. Hisel

Mrs. O. R. Hisel Honored By Music Club Federation

Of interest not only to her many friends and acquaintances in Muskogee, but throughout the state of Oklahoma, will be the news that Mrs. O. R. Hisel, 408 South 15th Street, has been awarded a citation by the Oklahoma and National Federations of Music Clubs for her work in correcting early history records of the Oklahoma Federation.

The year 1921 was used by both Federations as the time the Oklahoma Federation was organized. Correctly, the Oklahoma Federation was organized in Muskogee in April, 1917. At that time sixteen music clubs of Oklahoma met at the call of Mrs. E. D. Bevitt, President of the Musical Arts Society, the hostess club.

Mrs. Bevitt, called this meeting upon the request of Mrs. A. J. Ochser, the National President. Mrs. Bevitt, an outstanding organist, was elected the first president of the new Oklahoma Federation. Four months later she resigned due to the family moving to Jamestown, New York. Mrs. Elmo Wilkins of McAlester, then vice-president, succeeded Mrs. Bevitt as president and served a period of four years.

The corection in history record due to Mrs. Hisel's work has been accepted by both State and National Federations of Music Clubs.

Mrs. Hisel will be presented the citation at the state convention next

April when it convenes in Lawton. She is historian of the Musical Arts Society, and also historian for the Northeast District of the Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs.