

Denton Texas Branch
American Association of University Women
Seventy-Five Years in Retrospect

As members and friends of the Denton Branch of the American Association gratefully recall the founding of the Branch and its services to mankind, we review with pride its achievements over seventy-five years which have furthered the causes of women and have enhanced the intellectual atmosphere of the community within which it functions. Organized in October of 1927 in Denton, Texas, by twenty-three charter members dedicated to these causes, and paying a \$2.00 membership fee, it named as its first president Mrs. George Fritz.

Over the years the Denton Branch has been represented outside of Denton by Dr. Anna Powell, who served as president of the Texas Division of AAUW and as vice-president of the Southwest Region, and by a number of Branch members who held posts on Division and Association committees. In addition, International Grants have been named for Branch members Miss Jessie Humphries, Miss Lila McMahon, and Dr. Autrey Nell Wiley; and Association Fellowship holders who have been or are Branch members are Miss June Hyer, Dr. Autrey Nell Wiley, Dr. Helen Hewitt, and Dr. Sarah McIntire.

During its seventy-five years of service, the Denton Branch has advanced the causes of education, especially for women and girls, by supporting educational funds, by increasing local awareness of the importance of all fields of learning, and by participating in local endeavors focusing on cultural and educational interests. Reflecting the goals of both the Texas Division and the Association, the Branch, has for many years conducted fund-raising activities to further scholarships awarded at Denton's institutions of higher education, Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas, as well as fellowships awarded by the Association. In the 1950's the Branch sponsored sales of booklets of tickets to various series of art films shown in a local theater; in the 1960's it held several used-book sales; and in more recent years it has planned tours of homes decorated for the holidays. These projects have both supported the scholarship and fellowship funds and made available to the Denton public opportunities for learning and pleasure.

In recent years the Branch has conducted, with the Lewisville Branch, several Expanding Your Horizons sessions for girls in middle schools of the Denton area; the sessions have informed students of opportunities for women in the fields of science and mathematics. Early in 2003, also with the Lewisville Branch, it offered the first Transitions Conference: A Conference for Women Considering Returning to School.

Additional services of the Branch have included contributions to various international projects such as provision of food, clothing, and school supplies to needy persons in other countries. Locally the Branch has contributed to city and county libraries and has sponsored public lectures and book reviews as well as its own Branch-meeting programs.

Remaining focused on educational opportunities for women and girls, the Denton Branch of AAUW has ever been aware of the needs of the general public.