

Meet ATA Officers, Directors And Trustee Board

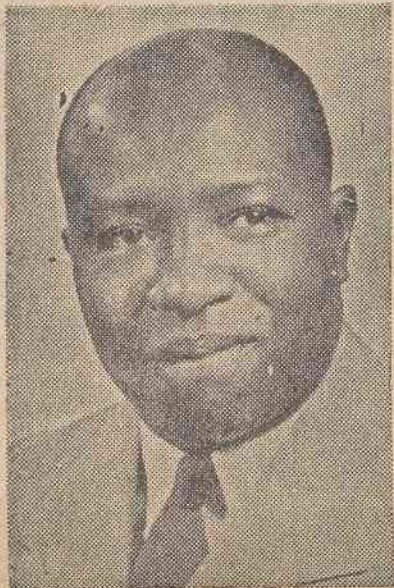
The Summer Echo is pleased to present here profiles of the general officers and of members of the Board of Trustees of the American Teachers Association in session here today through Tuesday.

We regret not having a photograph to accompany the biographical sketch of Mrs. Minnie D. Bell of Washington, D. C., a past ATA president and now a member of the organization's Board of Trustees.

May we take this opportunity also to thank the several officers and trustees for their cooperation in helping us to prepare this section of the special ATA issue of the Summer Echo.—Editor.

DR. T. R. SPEIGNER

The 38th president of the American Teachers Association is Dr. T. R. Speigner of Durham, North Carolina. Dr.



Speigner is professor of History and Geography at North Carolina College and has rendered outstanding service as the director of the state-wide program of Resource-Use Education.

Dr. Speigner is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He attended Wilberforce University and received an A. B. degree from Talladega College, M. A. from State University of Iowa, and the Luther College in Iowa honored him with a Doctor of Laws degree. He has done further graduate study at the University of Toronto (Canada).

Dr. Speigner holds memberships in the following organizations: American Historical Society, ATA, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. At present he is doing a History of the Lutheran Church among Negroes. For 17 years he was president of the Martin Luther Institute. In 1946 Dr. Speigner was elected president of the Alabama Lutheran Convention.

Dr. Speigner and his wife, the former Marie Jordan, have a son, "T. R. Jr." Mrs. Speigner teaches in the Durham City schools.

DR. C. W. ORR

Dr. Charles W. Orr, Vice-president of the ATA is director of instruction, Alabama A. M. College, Normal, Alabama. Dr. Orr was born in Crawford, Mississippi.

After receiving a Junior College diploma and trade degree from Alabama State College, Dr. Orr received a B. S. degree from Alabama State, the M. A. from Fisk University and Ed.D. from Columbia University.

He has held the following positions: principal of Tuscaloosa County Training School, 1935-38; principal of Druid High School, Tuscaloosa, 1933-44; supervising principal and director of Council Training School at Normal, 1944-54; director of instruction and director of the



Summer School at Alabama A. M. College, 1954.

Dr. Orr has been president of Alabama State Teachers Association, 1944-46; consulting editor of the *Journal Of Negro Educational Research*, president of the A. & M. National Alumni Association, 1940-54; member of the Board of Directors of Madison County Chapter of the American Red Cross 1955; life member of the NEA and ATA; vice president of the American Teachers Association; and member of American Association of University Professors, Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Vestryman; Chapel of the Holy Cross, which is the Episcopal College Center at A. and M. College.

Dr. Orr has contributed to the following publications: "The Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals", "The School Executive", and "The Clearing House", and "The Teachers College Record".

MISS MARY L. WILLIAMS

Miss Mary L. Williams of Charleston, West Virginia, is one of the very few females to hold the job of president of ATA. Miss Williams was in that position for four years (1940-44). At present she is



serving on the Board of Trustees.

Concerning the meeting beginning today, Miss Williams says: "This should be one of

our best ATA meetings, for much time has been spent in planning the program. The ATA is gradually becoming the only educational organization which can speak for the Negro teacher. As integration progresses and State Teachers Association merge with State Education Associations, the small group of Negro teachers is swallowed up and most of them are in the large crowd. Some organization must give the state groups courage to work with larger groups and some organization must speak for the Negro teacher on the national level. American Teachers Association can do and is doing this job now. We must make it possible for it to do a better job in the future."

Miss Williams is a graduate of Virginia State High School, received a B. A. degree from West Virginia State and M. A. from Ohio State University. She has served as president and secretary of the West Virginia Teachers Association, which group she has also served as member of the Board of Directors. Miss Williams is secretary of the Charleston NAACP, a member of AKA Sorority, a Girl Scout leader, Secretary of Board of Directors of the Matie V. Kee Home, and a member of the Board of Directors of State Federated Clubs.

Miss Williams, aside from being active in community projects, is a member of the First Baptist Church, director of religious education in the Church's School and teacher of leadership classes in the Church training school.

DR. W. N. RIDLEY

Serving on the Board of Trustees of the ATA is Dr. Walter N. Ridley, Petersburg, Virginia. Dr. Ridley formerly headed the Psychology Department at Virginia State College and has just accepted a challenging position as Dean of St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute in Lawrence, Virginia.

Concerning the forthcoming meeting of the ATA Dr. Ridley had this to say: "The American Teachers Association is interested in conserving Human Resources with justice and equality in America. This purpose is at once a warning, a goal and a challenge. I think we realize this is a test of our basic democratic attitude."

Dr. Ridley was born in New-



port News, Virginia and attended the local elementary and high schools there. He did his undergraduate study at Howard University and graduated *cum laude*. After receiving his M.A. at Howard, he did further study at the University of Minnesota and Ohio State University. He later became the first Negro ever to be admitted to graduate school and to receive a degree from the University of Virginia.

He is a member of Kappa Mu, Alpha Kappa Mu, Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Pi Honor Societies. He was charter member of the UNESCO, United States Commission. And he is listed in Who's Who in America.

Dr. Ridley is married to the former Henrietta E. Bonaparte of St. Paul, Minnesota and they have two children, Yolanda, 5, and Don Leroy, 9.

ELMER T. HAWKINS

Serving on the Executive Committee of the American Teachers Association is Elmer



T. Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins was formerly president of the 25,000 membership organization.

Hawkins received his A. B. from Morgan State College, A. M. from Hampton and has done graduate work at University of Chicago and is attending the University of Pennsylvania at present.

Aside from once serving as president of the ATA, he is Past Vice President of the ATA, past President of Maryland Educational Association, President of Kent Educational Foundation, Kent County, Md., a member of the Advisory Council, Maryland State Teachers Association, Chairman, Membership committee, Maryland State Teachers Association, and was recently elected to Executive Committee of the Maryland State Teachers Association.

He is at present serving as principal of H. H. Garnett School, Chestertown, Maryland.



MRS. LILLIAN R. JOHNSON

Serving on the Board of Trustees of ATA is Mrs. Lillian Rogers-Johnson of Clarksdale, Mississippi. She held the presidency of ATA in 1955.

Mrs. Rogers-Johnson is looking forward to the convention and made the following statement concerning ATA: "It is our belief that the American Teachers Association is needed now more than ever because of its peculiar interest in the promotion of equality of educational opportunity for every child, and equality of professional status for every teacher. We shall not be content until there is complete awareness on the part of teachers everywhere of the unique place this organi-

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