

# Centennial Salute—Durham County Black Achievements



A GATHERING OF LOCAL LADIES AT ALGONQUIN CLUB HOUSE

## Part III — 1956-1981

The progress in achievements by black citizens of Durham County began to accelerate in the political arena as more and more blacks began to seek positions in the "power structure and decision-making" among the majority group.

The greatest progress was made during the 1960's and 1970's after passage of the Civil Rights Legislation, Interstate Commerce Act regarding housing accommodations and the funds for many institutions based on affirmative action and desegregation of facilities regarding women and especially minorities.

The 1970's were also the period of much growth in black achievements in areas of communications. Most blacks had been trained in the broadcast media earlier and more and more are now in the field of print media. Many of them received their earlier experiences with the black press. Sports have been outstanding in providing such greats as Dr. LeRoy Walker, Olympic coach; John Lucas, of both tennis and basketball, Bonnie Logan, tennis; Sam Jones, Wes Covington, Ernie Barnes of sports and art success, and many others.

The Algonquin Club, formerly located on the site of the now W.D. Hill Center, was the early site of many tennis beginnings for black youths of Durham. It was also the site of many social gatherings for children and adults.

1963

Peaceful sit-in at Howard Johnson Restaurant, then located on Highway 15-501 (Chapel Hill Blvd.). College and high school students arrested and labeled 'demonstrators'.

1963

Dr. S.P. Massie elected to serve as third president of NCCU. Forced stepping down by Dr. Massie of Dr. William Brown, Research and Education chairman, and Dean G.W. Kyle, undergraduate dean, created a furore.

1963

Ervin Hester, first radio broadcaster of WSRC.

1963

Mrs. Frances Eagleson, long time registrar at NCCU, retires along with Dr. Elder, second president.

1964

Hubert H. Humphrey dedicates new North Carolina Mutual building at corner of Duke and Chapel Hill Streets. Many dignitaries were on hand.

1965

Several black students now enrolled in previously all-white Durham City Schools.

1965

Dr. A.L. Turner, first black dean and professor at NCC School of Law retires. Prof. D.G. Sampson appointed as dean.

1966

IBM moves to Research Triangle Park. (Important because many high salaried blacks accompanied them and were able to purchase homes in developments such as Emory Wood, Bluestones and Old Farm).

1966

Dr. A.L. Whiting named fourth president of NCCU

1967

Burning out of buildings in black communities.

1967

Dr. T.R. Speigner appointed to City School Board.

1968

Women In Action For Prevention of Violence and Its Causes organized to aid in orderly desegregation of school system. Mrs. Elna B. Spaulding, organizer.

1968

Dr. Martin Luther King assassinated, April 4.

1968

First black law firm in state of North Carolina organized by Pearson, Malone, Johnson, DeJarmon, Associate-Clifton Johnson, first assistant solicitor and now Resident Superior Court Judge, Charlotte.

1969

State Legislature changes name of North Carolina College at Durham to North Carolina Central University.

1969

September 1 - LeMarquis DeJarmon named dean of NCCU Law School.

September 17 - Disastrous fire destroys Law Library and other areas.

1970

Dr. Leroy T. Walker named head coach for the U.S. Olympic Track Team. He was spearheader for Pan-African track meets later.

1971

W.J. Kennedy II, first chairman of Durham Social Services Department.

1971

Louis E. Austin, editor-publisher of *The Carolina Times* dies.

1971

NCCU becomes member of Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

1971

Miss Deborah Long, first newswoman for WTVD.

1971

White Rock Baptist Church enters its newly-built facility.

1972

J.C. Scarborough, Sr., dies. Owner and operator of oldest funeral operation in Durham. Now run by fourth generation grandson. Facility only one other than Service Printing Company in old Pettigrew St.-Roxboro St. area.

1973

Mrs. Wanda Garrett, first female independent television producer — "Black Unlimited."

1975

Mrs. Josephine Clement elected to Durham City School Board. She had served an appointive term prior to election. Named chairman.

1976

Bi-Centennial Celebration. Many blacks from Durham listed in "Who's Who in Black America" for achievements.

1976

February - St. Joseph's AME Church moves to new facility.

1976

June - Rev. Phillip R. Cousin, Sr., elected bishop in AME Church.

Rev. W.W. Easley, Jr., introduced as minister by then Bishop Baber.

1977

H.M. Michaux, Jr., appointed U.S. Attorney for Middle District.

1977

W.G. Pearson, appointed first black judge.

1978

Attorney LeMarquis DeJarmon appointed to N.C. Arbitration Panel Board. Retires from Law School faculty.

1979

Dr. Cleveland Hammonds chosen superintendent of Durham City Schools.

Ms. Karen Galloway becomes first female judge.

1979

Ms. Crystal Swain, anchor for Channel 28. Now director of Community Relations for WTVD-Channel 11.

1980

Miss Beverly Burke becomes 12 and 6 p.m. news anchor for WTVD, Channel 11 or Cable 6.



THE SMITH BROTHERS SERVED COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II — Sons of Mrs. Ara Smith and the late Larkin Smith, Sr. of Durham, are: (Seated) Arthur; (standing l-r) Joseph, Aaron and Larkin, Jr.

1974

Dr. Lavonia Allison, first Democratic Party chairman of Durham County.

1974

H.M. Michaux, Jr., elected to North Carolina Legislature.

1974

Addition to former Law School Building completed. Plans and land secured for current new building.

1974

Mrs. Elna B. Spaulding, first female county Commissioner for Durham County elected.

1975

Ervin Hester, first television news producer (anchored 6 p.m. news for three years).

1980

Albert L. Turner School of Law Building dedicated by Governor Jim Hunt and other dignitaries, September 18.

1981

North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers honors several lawyers.

1981

Black Cultural Arts Festival honors several local teachers and several students who had accomplished great things such as Ivan Dixon, Grady Tate, Shirley Caesar, Barbara L. Cooke, and others.

1981

Ms. Shauna Singletary anchors 12 p.m. news.



YOUNGSTER ENJOYING PARTY AT ALGONQUIN

1957

First peaceful Civil Rights Sit-In, led by Rev. Douglas F. Moore, and seven students at the Royal Ice Cream Parlor, Roxboro and Dowd Streets. Moore also led a one-man picket of the Duke Methodist Church Conference to admit black ministers to its Divinity School. It was successful and many young black ministers have and are still participating in the programs as well as black faculty.

1957

J.S. Stewart elected second black city councilman. Served from 1957-1973.

1958

Jocelyn and Andre McKissick enrolled at Durham High and Carr Junior High Schools, respectively.

1959

John F. Kennedy elected to Presidency. First Catholic to be elected.

1960

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King speaks at old St. Joseph's AME Church on non-violent movement. Present were many young Durhams as well as adults.

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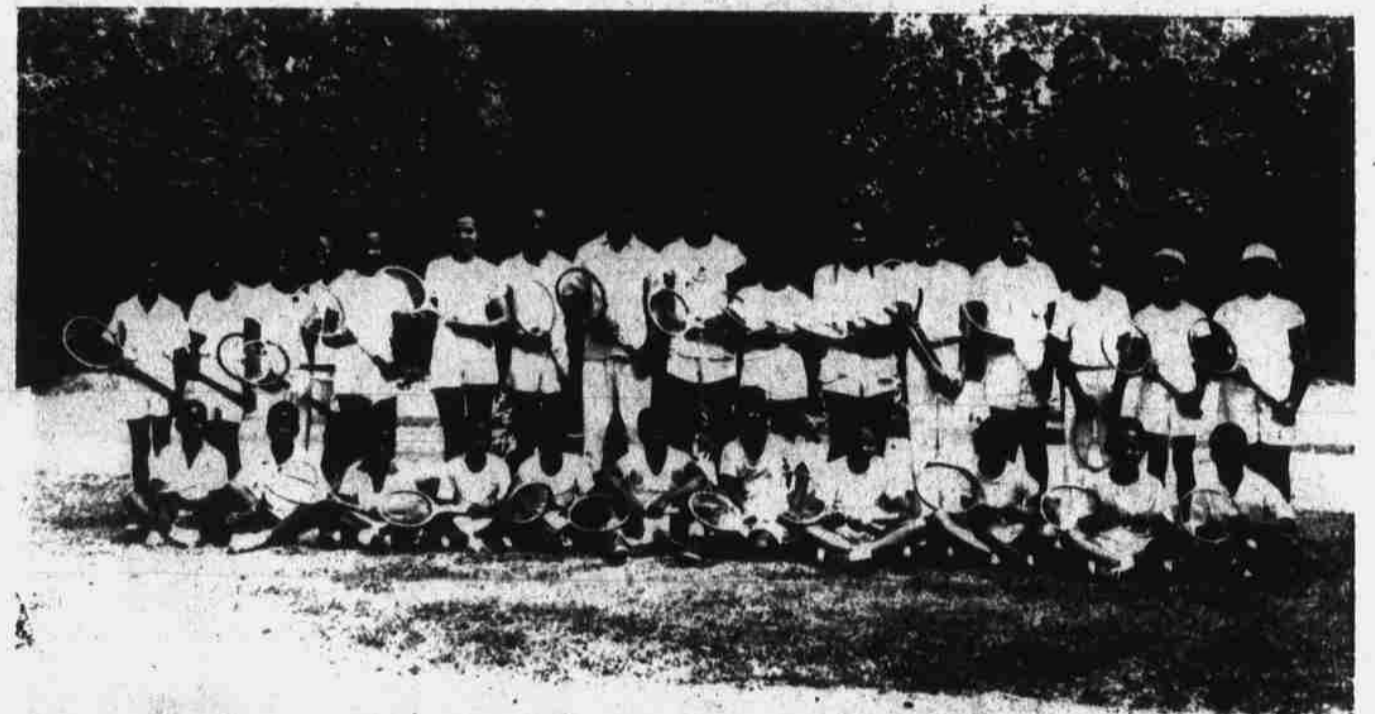
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1969



ALGONQUIN TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS



GEORGE WASHINGTON STEPHENS, Sr., a native of Caswell County, came to Durham as a youth at the turn of the century. He worked as a butler until he accumulated \$100 with which he started his first grocery store (1905-1936) at 1201 West Pettigrew Street (corner of Rowan St.). He also operated another store on Powe Street from 1929 to 1936.

One of the founders of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, and a trustee of Lincoln Hospital, Stephens led the group effort to keep Lyon Park School in the western section of the city.

Left is a picture of the first store. Right is a picture of the family standing on the porch of their then new home at 402 Powe Street.

