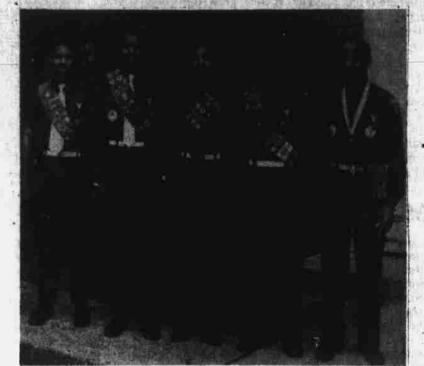
4-THE CAROLINA TIMES-SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1982 SCOUT TROOP FOUNDER STILL HIKES WITH THE BOYS



Explorer Advisor James W. Carrington (far right), who was Troop 55's first Eagle Scout, stands with four other Eagle Scouts in a 1971 photo.



Troop 55 of 1961 assemble in the spacious edifice of Old White Rock Baptist Church for photos. The church was a casualty of the city's urban renewal program that ripped through and destroyed the prominent black residential and commercial district called Hayti.



By Donald Alderman When he was 17-years-old back in 1932, James W. Carrington, then a Hillside High School student, wanted to be a Boy Scout. But there were no scout troops in Durham at the time that accepted blacks.

That didn't deter Carrington who, along with six other "aggressive boys'', formed Troop, 55, Durham's first scout troop for blacks, and now one of the city's oldest troops. The troop, head-

quartered at White Rock Baptist Church, observes it's 50th anniversary next week, with a two-day celebration that will reunite several of the original members of the troop, many of its participants over the past half century, and other scouts from around the country. The celebration will begin Friday, July 16, and run through Sunday, July 18.

Carrington, 67, retired printer, who says he can still "hike 20 miles any day", will participate in the celebration program. He was Troop 55's first Eagle Scout.

The troop has come a long way since it was formed in July, 1932, by seven high school buddies and Carrington, who now advises the troop's Explorer Scouts (age 14), remembers the old days well.

"The first troops were some of probably most ag-Hillside's gressive boys," he said during a recent interview. "We were involved in many things before and thought that form-

ing a troop was an excellent opportunity for blacks."

There were times, according to Carrington, that some of Durham's white scout masters. didn't want black scouts to wear their uniforms north of the railroad tracks, though several local white scout leaders had helped the yongsters

form the troop. Some of the troop's early members are now well known Durhamites. They include William Pearson, II, now a Durham District Court judge, was an assistant scoutmaster, as was the later John A. Spaulding. The troop's first scoutmaster was William Powell.

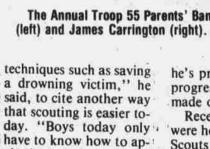
Scouting has changed somewhat also, Carrington says.

"It was much harder to make Eagle in the early days," he said. "The special projects had to be much more involved than now and we had little to work with."

He said advances in techniques scouting make scouting progress easier for youngsters today, but he hastened to add that that's not a negative observation. "Scouting is still a

good way for boys to develop leadership abilities, discipline and determination," he said. "It still makes good men for society.'

said each He youngster chooses. special projects ranging from making electrical gadgets to demonstrating the principles of first aid. "We had to ply the techniques." demonstrate lifesaving



But Carrington says

he's proud of the steady progress the troop has made over the years. Recently, two scouts

were honored by the Boy Scouts of America for giving aid to an injured person. They received the Medal of Merit - a first for Troop 55. And for the first time. Troop 55 currently has

five Eagle Scouts. According to Scoutmaster Jimmy Lawton, Troop 55 emphasizes brotherly love, self-reliance and honesty.

Louis E. Austin workd until his death in 17



In the early 1960's the late Dr. Miles Mark Fisher (left), a staunch supporter of Troop 55 and pastor of White Rock Baptist Church from 1932 to 1965, received a pla-que from Henry Gillis (right), another Troop supporter. Seated at the right are Scout-master Nathaniel B. White and George Nixon, a local educator.



The Annual Troop 55 Parents' Banquet of 1969. Standing were Nathaniel B. White

In 1969 Ralph Hunt (far left) became Troop 55 Scoutmaster as James W. Carrington (left center), a fifty year patriot of the troop, congratulates Nathaniel White (right center) for 26 years of service. White was scoutmaster from 1942 from 1968. At left is the Rev. Lorenzo A. Lynch, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church.

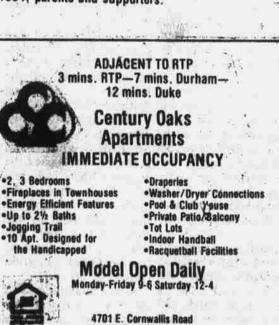


Troop 55 of 1954, parents and supporters.



TROOP 55





one 544-1781 Today!

Wilbert Mason is assistant scoutmaster and Marshall B. Revels, Jr., Juniore Assistant Scoutmaster.

The troop has been represented at all ten of the Boy Scouts of America National Jamborees, scouting affairs, where troops from around the country assemble to fellowship. Contributions from White Rock Baptist

Church, the troop's, sponsor, where a troop committee functions, usually helps to defray. the cost of these trips.

The troop also participates in various community projects such as cutting wood for low income families and helping to landscape the church grounds. Registration for the two-day 50th anniver-.

sary celebration begins at 6 p.m., Friday and runs through 10 p.m., at 412 Pekoe Street (home of C.C. Malone, Sr., and Mrs. Evelyn M. Thorpe) off Fayetteville Street in Durham. southeast Registration continues from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday at White Rock Baptist Church, 3400 Fayetteville Street. A 5 p.m. banquet at

as a loyal supporter of Troop 55. He was the founder, publisher and editor of The Carolina Times.

the North Carolina Central University Student Union highlights Saturday's activities, and an evening of entertainment follows, beginning at 8 p.m., featuring Grady Tate, a nationally known musician. Tate, Durham native, performs throughout the country and has recorded numerous albums.

During the Saturday evening banquet, all of Troop 55's Eagle Scouts who are present will receive special recognition. According to N.B. White, Sr., there about 40 Eagle Scouts of the

troop. The troop's 50th anniversary celebration ends Sunday morning with church services at White Rock.

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Troop 55 Forty "Eagle" Troops

Carl B. Whitted. October 17, 1946 Carl B. Whitted.....October 17, 1946 Clark Egerton, Jr...October 26, 1948 Leo Daniel Johnson, Jr...October 26, 1948 James M. Schooler, Jr...July 3, 1952 Henry W. Gillis...October 1, 1952 Stephen H. Starks, Jr...December 1, 1952 Wilbur Hamilton,...November 23, 1953 James F. Morris, Jr...November 23, 1953 William A. Clement, Jr...September 18, 1958 James W. Brown, Jr...December 20, 1960 Robert O. Perry. April 8, 1963 Chatry D. Perry. July 12, 1963 Joseph H. Thorpe. November 26, 1963

Spencer A. Irving, Jr	May 5, 1964
George W. Cox, III	January 26, 1965
lames A. Carrington	May 27, 1967
Canald A Fields	February 21 1970
Ronald A. Fields	October 2 1970
Haywood A. Allen, Jr	October 5, 1970
Edward R. Boyd	October 3, 1970
Robert L. Page	October 3, 1970
Kenneth Bright	
Anthony Armstrong	
Manley Michaux	
Clyde Moore, Jr	
Edward J. Clemons	October 25, 1976
Clark Egerton, III	January 4, 1979
Ralph Vaughn, Jr.	January 4 1979
losenh A Bettle	Sentember 28 1070
Joseph A. Battle	
Herbert Wingfall	
Frank Pratt	
lames Lawton	
Barry M. Revels	September 28, 1981
Eric M. Nails	
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