



Geraldine Mayhew (center) explains the problems of Charlotte textile workers to Barbara Strong and Leatha Moore, both textile workers in Huntsville, Ala. (Photo by Eileen Hanson)

Geraldine Mayhew Attends Workshop On Working

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

When a black woman in the South goes to work, she can expect to earn only 30 cents for every dollar earned by a white male. White women fare only slightly better, earning 40 cents to the average white male's dollar.

The problems of low wages and lack of skills brought together 20 women from 11 southern cities June 27-29 in Huntsville, Ala. for a workshop on Southern Working Women.

Attending the workshop from Charlotte was Geraldine Mayhew, member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 2351, and the A. Phillip Randolph Institute.

"The problems of working women are low wages, lack of day care, and not knowing our rights and benefits," she said. "I learned from the other women that some are even worse off than we are in Charlotte. Some have to fight even for the chance to vote," referring to two black women from Pickens County, Ala. who had been convicted of voter fraud when they tried to register black senior citizens to vote.

Other conference participants came from local unions in Laurel, Miss., Huntsville and Mobile, Ala.

Other were leaders in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Equal Rights Councils or welfare rights organizations.

The women's workshop was sponsored by the Southern Educational Project of the Equal Rights Congress and the Youth Project, a funding agency with offices in Atlanta.

After a weekend of training in civil rights and labor law, community organization and leadership skills, the women will return to their own communities to share their knowledge with other women. Seminars and skill development workshops in 13 southern cities will be part of the on-going program of the Southern Working Women's Project.

"There are many laws, such as the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act that women can use to advance on the job, but most women don't know what the laws are or how to use them," said project coordinator Janie Self of Mobile.

All the participants felt they could improve their pay and benefits by forming unions in their workplaces.

"We can only get justice by organizing people, by organizing the South," said Gloria Jordan, leader in a

16-month old strike of poultry workers in Laurel, Miss.

The women learned about the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, a series of amendments to the National Labor Relations Act.

"Taft-Hartley is one of the most reactionary labor laws in the western world," said Rita Valenti of Birmingham who led the session on labor rights and laws.

"If we can abolish Taft-Hartley it would be easier to get unions and better jobs for women," said Ms. Mayhew.

For Small Farmers

Hampton Hopes Her Alcohol Will Ease The Energy Crunch

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

Home brew may not solve the nation's energy crisis, but Yvonne Hampton hopes her alcohol still will ease the energy crunch for the South's small farmers.

As Director of the Small Farm Energy Conservation Project of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Mrs. Hampton passed through Charlotte recently accompanying her "still" on its trip from Vermont to Epes, Alabama.

Mrs. Hampton plans to train small farmers in the Black Belt to make their own alcohol fuel. The portable still, built by FSC staff member Al Ulmer, will travel from farm to farm demonstrating the home brew technique.

"We fire the boiler with locally grown wood, use corn mash and an enzyme to break down the starch into sugar," said Ulmer. "From this beer we distill 200 proof alcohol that can be used for fuel in tractors and other small farm equipment. The farmers use the leftover corn mash to feed his livestock."

Each bushel of corn yields about 2.5 gallons of

alcohol fuel, at a cost of 70-80 cents a gallon. This depends on the farmer growing his own wood and corn, and using the mash for cattle feed.

Ulmer said his still costs about \$2,000 made entirely from recycled parts.

"This project won't solve the energy problem, but it will allow small farmers to be energy self-sufficient," he said.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives services 100 co-ops in 14 southern states.

"Our members are mostly black, but also some are white and Mexican," said Ms. Hampton. "We are trying to save a place for the small farmer in face of growing agribusiness."

The Federation provides training, loan funds, credit unions, consumer co-ops, health centers and women's opportunity programs.

The project grew out of the 1960's civil rights movement when harassment, evictions and mechanization of farms were used to eliminate jobs for blacks and poor whites in the rural South who were beginning to gain political power through the vote. Local co-ops were formed to help these small farmers.

In 1967 the Federation of Southern Cooperatives formed to share financial and technical resources and survival skills.

Today over 10,000 small farmers are involved in this grass roots movement that is giving hope to thousands of blacks and low income people across the rural South. The Federation's main office is located in Epes, Alabama.

County Offices

Will Close For

Holiday Friday

All County agencies and offices will be closed Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

This includes all units of the Health Department, the Department of Social Services, all branches of the Public Library, the Register of Deeds Office, and the Tax Offices.

The two County landfills, Harrisburg Park and Holbrooks Rd., will remain open, and all County emergency services, including County Police and the ambulance service, will operate as usual.



MRS. YVONNE HAMPTON
.....Poses in front of her alcohol

Kincaid Focus On Health Care

Randall Kincaid, the Democratic ninth district Congressional candidate, has been focusing on health care issues this week in the Charlotte community. This is the second of ten "Issue of the Week" programs he is sponsoring.

Among his activities, Kincaid has toured Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital, visited the Community Health Association screening clinic and spoken be-

fore the Mooresville Jaycees. He visited the Heart Association hypertension screening clinic and visited the Well Child Clinic at Belmont Community Center.

Kincaid will ride in the Hickory-Grove Independence Day parade on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

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BY JOE BLACK



By the Way

Time has a way of sneaking up on us and before we know it, it is D-Day. This time D-Day is the U.S. census count that will take place in 1980.

Somewhere, somehow, Black and other minorities have acquired the notion that we are "beating" the man when we fail to tell the truth when asked how many people reside in our house or apartment. I don't know the reasoning behind this conjecture, but I am going to state some facts and then let you decide who really loses when we cheat the census count.

Fact 1. Population totals are used to determine how many representatives from each state will go to Congress. (I know that we are not satisfied with only sixteen Black Congressmen.)

Fact 2. Revenue sharing allocations by the Federal Government are apportioned annually on the basis of the local and state population. (This has a direct bearing on food stamp programs, work incentive programs, CETA, child nutrition act, etc.)

Fact 3. Should you lose your birth certificate and not have a way to document your birth, the age search branch of the U.S. Census Bureau can provide proof from your census record. This document is accepted as a substitute birth certificate by all federal and state agencies.

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation