

**During Black History Week**

# CMS Explores Black History Through Music, Drama, Art

February is Black History Month, and "Black History Week" is being observed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Students are using more than books to learn about black history. They are exploring it through music, drama, art and discussions with prominent black citizens.

Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt will speak to students at Allenbrook on Friday, February 15, at 8:30 a.m. about the importance of Black History Month and the responsibilities of being mayor. On Friday, February 22, at 1 p.m., the Mayor will visit kindergartners at Albemarle Road Elementary.

Jazz artist Michael Porter of the Afro-American Cultural Center will explore African rhythms in American music with students at three schools. Porter will present a concert using a variety of

## Amay James

### To Remember A Great Lady

She was college educated in a time when few women, especially black women, pursued higher education. She was a teacher and a missionary to poor people in Mecklenburg County. And even though she died in 1944, the spirit of Amay James lives on in the Presbyterian church, the community center and the elementary school that bear her name.

Friday, February 15, has been set aside as "Amay James Day" at Amay James Elementary School. AT 1 p.m., members of Amay James Presbyterian Church are invited to attend a special ceremony at the school during which a portrait of James will be unveiled and hung in the school lobby. "It's important that all our students, black and white, know about the valuable contributions this woman made to our community," says Phyllis Beam, assistant principal. "She devoted her life to poor people."

Students have gathered a collection of videotaped interviews with people who knew James. One of those interviewed is Alex Byers, Garinger-Independence area superintendent and a former student of James. The taped interviews are now a permanent collection in the school library. For more information, contact Beam at 375-1996.

instruments at Billingsville Elementary School on Friday, February 22, at 9 a.m.; and at Windsor Park Elementary School on Thursday, February 14, at 9 a.m.

Dr. Robert Albright, president of Johnson C. Smith University, will speak to students at Allenbrook on Thursday, February 14, at 9:30 a.m. about the importance of education.

For more information on activities at Albemarle Road Elementary, contact Beth Bass, assistant principal, at 537-9228; at Allenbrook, contact Brenda McKinney, teacher, at 392-0169; at Billingsville, call June McKinney, assistant principal, at 375-1158 or 333-8264 and at Windsor Park, call Ellen Flamer, assistant principal, at 537-6131.

Hawthorne Traditional Junior High School will hold another open house on Wednesday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to give parents whose children are interested in attending Hawthorne next year a chance to find out more

about the traditional approach to education.

Hawthorne will have openings for seventh and eighth graders in 1985-86.

Applications to the system's five alternative schools (including Haw-

thorne) are available at all elementary, middle and junior high schools and at the Education Center. Parents must fill them out and return them to the Education Center by March 31. Parents must be residents of Mecklenburg County at the time of application.

Students will be selected for the alternative schools by lottery on Thursday, April 18, at 9 a.m. at the Education Center. For more information concerning alternative school applications, call Charlotte Hampton, pupil assignment director, at 379-7044.

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