

The Charlotte Post

VOLUME 21 NO. 23

FEBRUARY 22, 1996

75 CENTS

Changes for state NAACP

'95 election results are certified legal

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

There will be no new N.C. NAACP election.

According to a Feb. 13 memorandum from the state chapter's executive director, the October election of new officers, including Valerie



Woodard

Woodard of Charlotte as second vice president, will stand.

Woodard, who had unsuccessfully run for president of the Charlotte chapter in

1994, ousted Kermit Waddell, also of Charlotte.

In the memorandum, executive director Mary Peeler said William Penn, director of branch and field services, upheld the election results.

Peeler quoted Penn's letter: "You are hereby advised that the National Board's Special Committee designated to review and resolve such disputes, has concluded that although there were violations of NAACP procedures in the conduct of the election, the results of the election would not have been otherwise had the violation not occurred. For this reason, the Committee determined that the results of the election should stand and so ordered."

Woodard is among five new officers who say they want to take the state chapter in new directions.

Z. Ann Hoyle of Hickory, the former third vice president who was elected treasurer in October, said she's ready to go to work.

"I'm simply ready to do the job I was elected to do," Hoyle, a Hickory City Council member who beat incumbent treasurer James Florence of Fayetteville, said Tuesday.

No board meeting has been held with the new members, Hoyle said. A Feb. 3 state chapter meeting was cancelled because of a snow storm. The 12th annual Kelly M. Alexander Sr. Humanitarian Award Banquet has been reset for March 16.

State NAACP president Kelly Alexander could not be reached for comment.

Hoyle said Alexander is responsible for setting the next board meeting.

"The president announces those," she said. "We are waiting for that."

See NAACP page 8A

Inside

Editorials 4A-5A
Community News 3A
Lifestyles 9A
Religion 11A
Arts/Entertainment 1B
What's Up 5B
Sports 8B
Classified 13B

To subscribe, call (704) 376-0496 or FAX (704) 342-2160.
© 1996 The Charlotte Post Publishing Company.

E-mail: charpost@clt.mindspring.com

Brooklyn Memoirs



PHOTO/CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Neighborhood holds a special place in Charlotte's black history

People remember back to the good old days in Brooklyn

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

When folks talk about Brooklyn these days, their eyes shine and their hearts still flutter a bit.

It was a special place, they say, where people cared for people, especially the children. Where teachers visited homes and helped pay for drama costumes and other school needs they knew parents couldn't afford.

Where, as Ruth Sloane, says in her choreopoem, "The Second City," "other people's chaps better not get caught doing wrong: aunts, cousins, to no relations at all would set a chap straight at a drop of hat. No talking back - uh uh - no matter who you belonged to..."

"The community was a close-knit community," said Curtina Perkins Simmons, a Johnson

C. Smith University professor whose family moved to Brooklyn in 1942. "People lived together like family. We were a diverse group of people struggling side by side with the same group of values, attitudes and basic beliefs."

Simmons was about a year old then and lived in Brooklyn until at age 16, when her mother and stepfather, Zoel S. Hargroves Jr., moved to Griertown.

"People just knew each other," she said. "We were made to feel very much a part of that community. Our neighbors were very caring people."

"I felt freer when I lived in Brooklyn as a young person than I do today," Simmons said. "Freedom is a state of mind."

Vermelle Diamond Ely recalled that there was no

See MEMORIES page 8A



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Top: Business people of Brooklyn in front of the Queen City Drug Store on East Second Street, c.1910.

Above: Ruth Sloane, writer of "The Second City" used some of Rose Leary Love's memoirs of Brooklyn in her play, which opens Feb. 29 at Theater Charlotte, which commissioned the work. (See story Page 8A)

Rose Love's story of 'People Place'

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

It's fitting that a school teacher would record the story of Brooklyn, Charlotte's Second Ward community of some 7,000 African Americans.

Rose Leary Love, who died in 1969, taught in Charlotte's schools for more than 40 years, at Biddleville and University Park elementary schools and also taught one year in Indonesia. She wrote poems, stories and books for children.

Love was born in Brooklyn in 1898. Her father was a lawyer so respected, she writes, that the entire bar attended his funeral in 1904. Her mother and several other relatives were school teachers.

Through the years she recorded her thoughts and recollections about "a people place."

Her "warm and charming" memoirs have been published by the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The book, titled "Plum Thickets and Field of Daisies," will be released Friday and celebrated with a reception at the Main Library uptown.

"We own the original manuscript," said Bruce Adams of the

See ROSE page 2A

IBM grant not worth as much as taxpayers put up

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

IBM's \$2 million grant to the Education Village may not be as good a deal as it appears, according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg school officials.

The Reinventing Education grant, one of 10 across the country, has been the subject of dispute of late, since the school board decided to allow students from throughout Mecklenburg County to apply for admission. A third of the four-school complex's seats will go to inner city students, a third to nearby neighbor-

hoods and a third to parents who apply for lottery by admission.

IBM has held up the grant, contending its original agreement with the school system stipulated that a third of the seats in the Education Village's would go to children of parents who work in the University Research Park.

The school board made minor changes in the pupil assignment plan, but refused in a 5-4 vote last week to limit the lottery for the additional seats to research park parents.

The school board will discuss

the issue again Tuesday and board chair Susan Burgess has tried to work out a compromise with IBM.

But board member George Dunlap said the board should not back down. Support for IBM was led by John Tate, whose employer, First Union, is expanding its presence in the research park, along with John Lassiter, Lindalyn Kakadelis and Pamela Mange. Burgess, Dunlap, Sam Reid, Arthur Griffin and Louise Woods voted against IBM.

"Everybody wants what is best for our children," Dunlap said. "We want business part-

nerships. But there's some misleading information when people say 'you are going to turn your back on \$2 million.'"

"This deal they keep talking about was a deal between IBM and (former Supt.) John Murphy. At no time did the previous board vote on or accept the deal."

First, Dunlap said, the board represents all the children of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and must be fair to everyone.

"I met last week with some parents from Hidden Valley who were upset that their kids get split up (after elementary

school). They want their children to go to the Education Village," he said. "In the lottery process, those willing to meet the stipulations, can at least apply and have the opportunity to go. If we give IBM those seats, they are cut off and don't have the opportunity to go."

Second, the federal government grants to the school system's magnet program require that they be open to all students in the county. Third, Dunlap said, the board cannot bow to IBM when other businesses have formed partner-

See IBM page 2A

Housing Authority salutes residents who overcame

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Former public housing resident Shedrick Barber, now a NationsBank senior vice president, was a below average student until the seventh grade.

Barber made the honor roll each year after that, all the time working in the evening and at night.

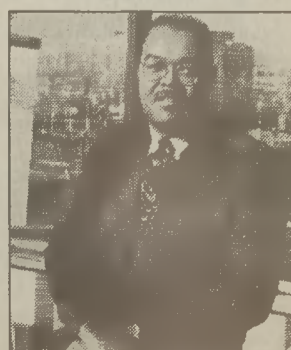
"My mother told my brother, my sister and me we would have to help her help us," Barber said. "We would have to get a scholarship to go to

college. That was my mission."

Barber's success story, including a degree from the University of Virginia, is the kind other public housing residents need to hear, says Harrison Shannon, Charlotte Housing Authority's executive director.

So he's organizing a Resident Alumni Association of former public housing tenants who will not only inspire, but work directly with current residents to help them reach self sufficiency.

"Nothing beats role models



Shederick Barber

and mentors," said Shannon. "This will truly build people and move people through the system quicker. They will be encouraged on a lot of different fronts."

The program kicks off tonight with a reception at Renaissance Place restaurant on Tryon Street uptown. As many as two dozen public housing alumni are expected to attend. The reception and the alumni association are open to former public housing residents from anywhere, not just Charlotte.

Barber is one of a half-dozen public housing alumni slated to be honored at the reception.

Others include: architect and U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt, who lived for a time in a Charleston, S.C., project; former Earle Village resident Wialillian Howard, owner of meeting planning business and Charlotte city employee;

Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board vice chair Arthur Griffin, who lived in Fairview Homes; Rev. James Samuels of Little Rock Charlotte.

See HOUSING page 3A