

First Three Negro ASC Appointees Are College Grads, Top Farmers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The first three Negro appointees to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) State Committees are college graduates and outstanding farmers who grow everything from tobacco and livestock to cotton and fish.

They are John Gammon, Marion, Ark.; Caldwell McMillan, Annapolis, Md.; and Geo. W. Spears, Jr., Merigold, Miss., who were appointed recently by Secretary Orville L. Freeman as the first ever to serve on the important ASC farm policy making committees of their States.

"The long overdue move," said Secretary Freeman, "is part of a stepped up program to bring the agencies of Agriculture into full compliance with the spirit and the letter of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

As State committeemen, these three farmers will help to formulate ASC policies in their States with respect to acreage allotments, price supports, the new tobacco program, feed grain and wheat programs, cost-sharing soil and water conservation work, the conservation reserve, and loans for grain bins.

For their part-time services will be at the rate of \$46.48 per day plus traveling expenses for every day they work. On the average State committeemen work five to ten days per month.

The crops the committeemen will be mainly concerned with in Arkansas and Mississippi are cotton, peanuts, rice, soybeans, and feed grains; in Maryland tobacco and feed grains crops they themselves grow like other farmers in their States.

Gammon, a graduate of Arkansas State College, and a former USDA employee, has been farming since 1936. He now operates 1,000 acres, growing cotton, wheat, rice, soybeans, hay, vegetables, livestock and catfish.

He has sold as many as 25,000 fish during a season to buyers who came to his farm from as far away as North Carolina.

Automatic deepwell pumps keep the water at the proper level for his fish and rice. The rest of his farm is mechanized, too. Four tractors pull the plows and other equipment on his farm, a combine harvests his rice, wheat, and soybeans; and a mechanical cotton picker gathers his 150-bale cotton crop.

This leaves Gammon time to serve as president of his division

of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and manager of his gin cooperative which gins nearly 3,500 bales of cotton a year.

Mrs. Gammon helps with the record keeping when she is not busy with her work as associate home demonstration agent. Their daughter Ida Marie, a graduate of Fisk, used to help, too, before she joined the Peace Corps and flew off to Thailand. She is now Mrs. Ida Marie Wilson living in Salisbury, Md.

McMillan, a graduate of Cornell University and a former teacher at Tuskegee, grew up on a farm near Demopolis, Ala., and has always wanted to farm. His opportunity came when he motored to Baltimore from Tuskegee in 1947 to visit his brother.

Sightseeing in the Maryland countryside he spotted a 100-acre farm for sale near Annapolis. It was love at first sight. He and Mrs. McMillan, a Missouri home demonstration agent whom he had met the year before during her attendance of summer school at Tuskegee, made the down-payment and wrote a letter of resignation to the Alabama institution.

They have since sold 23 acres of the farm for a housing development and now raising corn, hogs and tobacco on their 77 acres. "I can handle it all by myself, except during peak seasons," says McMillan, "and it makes us a good living."

Some things for themselves and their two children come out of Mrs. McMillan's salary as associate home economist of home and adjoining county.

Spears, a graduate of Alcorn A. and M. College and a former vocational agriculture teacher, followed in the footsteps of his father who went from teaching to farming. After seven years of teaching in south Mississippi, he decided to join his father in the delta and become a farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Spears now own 200 acres on which they grow cotton, corn, soybeans, cattle, and hogs, and are among the most progressive farmers in the fertile delta area.

Mrs. Spears, a graduate of Mississippi Valley State College, teaches at the local school in addition to helping out on the farm. Her oldest son, a graduate of Alcorn, is a Soil Conservation Service technician, their daughter is attending Philander Smith College, and their youngest son is in high school.

How N. C.-Born Nina Simone Rose To Fame In Musical World

Both professionally and personally, Nina Simone is a combination of many unusual and diverse qualities—all of them important many of them misunderstood and most of them universally appreciated.

Generally performers in the music world achieve distinction either as a fine vocalist or as a great musician. Defying generalities, recording artist Nina Simone offers both talents with equal brilliance. Her facility for vocal phrasing complements the dexterity with which she improvises a melody on the piano. As a singer her repertoire reaches into the musical realms of jazz, blues, folk, spirituals and pop—bringing to each her own inimitable styling. In evidence at the keyboard is the studied discipline of the concert pianist, abetted by the broad, imaginative scope of the jazz improvisationalist.

Miss Simone first arrested public attention during the summer of 1959 via her recording of the Jewish classic, "I Loves You Porgy." Its success was rewarded with personal appearances at New York's Village Gate, Town Hall and Carnegie Hall. Other club appearances followed in Chicago and Washington, D. C. and recognition came from her fellow professionals in the form of invitations to appear at the Philadelphia, Detroit and Newport Jazz Festivals—where she was an outstanding success.

Born Eunice Waymon in the North Carolina small town of Tryon (population about 2,000) on February 21, 1935, Nina's father was a handyman; her mother a housekeeper-by-day, but an ordained Methodist minister at night. It was "God's music" that initially was to influence her.

From the age of four, Nina had been playing piano by ear. She picked out melodies on the family piano and played hymns on the organ in church. Soon she sought broader musical horizons and, often to her parents' chagrin and disapproval, improvised, embellished and—perhaps often—enriched the basic gospel music that had been so much a part of her formative years.

The sixth child in a family of eight, she conspired with two of her sisters to form a trio called the Waymon Sisters and at outside functions. Following one of these performances at the Tryon theatre a woman from the audience went backstage to congratulate Nina on her playing. Learning that there never had been a formal piano lesson in her musical background, the woman took a personal interest and arranged for Nina to receive classical piano lessons from a local teacher, Mrs. Lawrence Mazzanovich.

With professional insight, her teacher realized that Nina possessed genuinely rare talent which, if properly guided, could develop into artistry. She was, in fact, so impressed with the child's potential that when lesson fees were no longer forthcoming from Nina's backstage benefactress after two years, Mrs. Mazzanovich continued them without charge. To insure advanced musical training for Nina she established a "Eunice Waymon Fund" by arranging local

"Highly qualified men such as these," said Secretary Freeman, "are the type we like to have on our ASC State Committees. Others will be appointed as vacancies arise."



GETS SCHOLARSHIP—Mrs. Eugenia M. Young, teacher at Little River School, Durham County received the N. D. E. A. Scholarship May 15 to attend Indiana University for the English Institute for Elementary Teachers June 20th to August 12th. Mrs. Young has been a teacher in the Durham County system for the past 10 years. She also received the B.S. degree from Fayetteville State Teachers College and Master of Science degree in Elementary Education at Indiana University.

Visiting Editors Hear Truth About Alabama

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—Gov. George C. Wallace's vaunted "anti-distortion tour" of Alabama ran into an unscheduled challenge here when the visiting out-of-state editors left his banquet to hear the "truth about Alabama" from Dr. John W. Nixon and Julian Hall, president and field director, respectively, of the Alabama State NAACP.

Armed with facts about the state, Dr. Nixon and Hall answered questions fired by 50 newsmen for more than two hours. The NAACP news conference was held in the same ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel Inn where Gov. Wallace had just failed in an attempt to convert a hospitality banquet into a press conference. Resentment was expressed by some of the editors against the Governor's maneuver.

The NAACP leaders told the editors and reporters of the economic, political and cultural discriminations confronting Negroes in the state. They invited the guests to contact NAACP branch leaders in the counties they visited on the tour.

Angered by the reaction of his invited guests and their participation in the NAACP news conference, Gov. Wallace failed to attend the farewell boat and beach party in Mobile which ended the four-day tour the following day, June 9.

recitals in and around Tryon and asking for audience contributions to the fund. This enabled her to attend high school in Asheville from which she graduated as valedictorian and go on to the renowned Juilliard School of Music, in New York. At Juilliard she studied piano and theory with Carol Friedberg.

To be continued next week

Sigma Gamma Rho's Week Long Boule To Cost Over \$125,000

NEW YORK—Putting together the finishing touches for a big convention that will attract 500 delegates and their families presents a giant sized headache, according to Mrs. Kate Hicks, public relations director for the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

She estimates that roughly \$125,000 will be sent by the sorors coming to New York for their week-long Annual Boule at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, starting August 1. Housing the majority of them in one hotel eliminates many of the housekeeping problems that used to exist when the nationwide sorority was smaller and convention delegates stayed at different hostels.

Aided by the hostess Kappa Sigma chapter and its 102 members, Mrs. Hicks' telephone is busy from morning until night as sorors phone here from more than 30 states with a million questions and requests. "Can you get five tickets to Sammy Davis' 'Golden Boy' show" or "can I hire a baby sitter at night so my husband and I can do the town" are just two of the frequently requested favors asked for her.

Coming by plane, bus, train and car, she estimates that at least \$50,000 will be spent on transportation. Once here another \$75,000 will go for hotel expenses that include rent and food, shows, night clubs and trips to the World's Fair.

Shopping chores that the delegates and their families may take could roughly put another \$20,000 dent in their pocketbooks. But the boule will not be all fun and good times. Mrs. Ruth Whitehead Whaley who holds the responsible job of Secretary to the New York City Board of Estimate, is the Boule hostess and plans at least a dozen "roll up your shirt sleeve" type of business sessions.

She's planned an agenda that will keep the membership in daily workshop discussions. With the Sigma Gamma Rho's boule theme: Horizons of Citizenship, Forward with a Purpose, in mind she wants them to carefully explore ways and means of how best to help President Johnson carry out his

anti-poverty programs on a grassroots level.

Another topic to be thoroughly talked about is their eventual purchase of a national headquarters in Washington, D. C. A potential location has been selected and if plans go through this will put a \$700,000 dent in their treasury.

MIAMI—The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers will attract some 600 officers and delegates June 19-23 for its 39th annual convention in Miami.

Mayor Robert King High will bring greetings to the group at its opening general assembly meeting at 9-15 a. m. June 21. Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, will deliver the keynote address.

Mrs. Jewett Hitch, president of the organization, will preside over two days of general sessions. The Congress also will hear Dr. Joe Hall, superintendent of the Dade (Miami) County Board of Public Instruction; Mrs. Jennelle Moorhead, President of National Congress of Parents and Teachers and Dr. Joseph N. Patterson, departmental head at Winston-Salem State College, N. C.

The group's activities June 19 and 20 mainly will be devoted to member registration and committee meetings. The day will conclude with a vesper service ending at the John F. Kennedy Torch of Friendship with a memorial service honoring the late President.

The fifth and concluding general session will be June 22, to be followed by the Florida Night Banquet at the City of Miami Bayfront Park Auditorium.

All general sessions will be in the Florida Room of the McAllister Hotel, 10 Biscayne Blvd.

The Florida State Chapter of the NCCPT is the host chapter and will entertain the delegates with a Biscayne Bay cruise on June 23.

Salisburyman Named to U.S. CR Advisory Post

WASHINGTON, D. C.—William L. Taylor, Staff Director-designate of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, today announced the appointment of Heclip M. Lee of Salisbury as a member of the North Carolina State Advisory Committee to the Federal civil rights agency.

Currently Executive Director of the Rowan Community Service Council, Inc., in Salisbury (a project of the North Carolina Fund), Lee has been Executive Director of the Virginia Council on Human Relations. While in Virginia, he was a member of the Virginia State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. A native of Georgia, Lee received a B.A. from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and a B.D. from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York.

J. Francis Paschall, professor of law at the Duke University School of Law in Durham, is chairman of the North Carolina Advisory Committee. The group is one of 51 units established in each of the states and the District of Columbia. The advisory unit provides the Civil Rights Commission with information concerning civil rights issues within the state. Members are citizens of standing in each state who serve on the committee without compensation.



600 Expected at P-TA Meeting In Miami, Fla.

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