

## IN AND AROUND ROCKY MOUNT

By R. D. Armstrong

**ROCKY-MOUNT** - Tension began to ease here early last week between the members of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and a local building contractor who plans to construct an apartment complex near the church.

The problem developed recently when the contractor, who is white, brought a parcel of land that jutted between the present site of the Ebenezer Church and some newly acquired property land nearby.

The church, which is located on Raleigh Road in the southwest quadrant of Rocky Mount, has a membership of approximately 400 and is pastored by the Rev. Thomas Walker.

Picketing of the area began last Saturday morning following a series of church meetings during the previous week. A quickly called conference between the building contractor and church officials Sunday afternoon brought the two parties to the conference table for negotiations.

A thirty-day cooling-off period was announced during which time some agreement is expected to be reached.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles Edwards of 734 Peter Street were honored on their fiftieth wedding anniversary recently at their daughter's home, Miss Carolyn Edwards, in Washington, D.C.

Miss Edwards' home in Washington was beautifully arranged for the wedding anniversary with a motif of gold flowers and ribbons. More than forty guests were present for the occasion, including members of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, natives of Rocky Mount, have eight children. They are: Mrs. Geraldine Green of Wilson; Miles, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa.; William, Blackwood, N. J.; Jerome, Wareshow, S. C.; Mrs. Connie Kirkland, Philadelphia; Ronald, also of Philadelphia; Robert of Rocky Mount, and Carolyn of Washington.

There are fifteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren in the family.

Miss Cynthia Clarey, a graduate of the phased out Booker T. Washington Senior High School now residing in Binghamton, N. Y., was recently awarded a Special Study Scholarship from the National Opera Institute of Washington, D. C.

After completing high school here Miss Clarey did her undergraduate work at Howard University and her advance work at the Julliard School of Music in New York City. She appeared here as guest soprano soloist with the North Carolina Symphony about two years ago.

This summer Miss Clarey will be soloist for the Greenwich Choral Society in Greenwich, Conn. Also, she is scheduled to perform in England during the early part of the summer.

While in school here Miss Clarey, a native of Smithfield, Va., resided with A.A. Neville and the late Mrs. Annie Lee Neville at 419 Atlantic Ave.

Club Camaraderie, a local women's organization, presented a check last week to the Rocky Mount Boy's Club in support of the club's work here.

The club was organized in January, 1956 and has been actively engaged in sponsoring unity and love through its membership. The club also has as one of its objectives helping needy families and individuals in the community and providing entertainment for the members.

Officers of the club are Mrs. Eva McNeil, president; Mrs. Fannie Petway, vice president; Mrs. Arvenia Slade, secretary; Mrs. Lizzie Byrd, asst. secretary; Mrs. Beatrice Bullock, financial secretary; Mrs. Arstena Boddie, ass't financial secretary and Mrs. Bernice Davis, treasurer.

Dennis Reed is executive director of the local boy's club was not available to receive the check, however, chairman of the board of directors, Woody Brown, did the honors on behalf of the club.

The Rhomania Banquet, sponsored each year by the Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority is connection with annual Debutante Ball, was held Sunday afternoon at John Bulluck's Restaurant.

A banquet crowd of more than three hundred was on hand for the delightful event. Twenty-six prospective debutantes, their escorts, parents and friends enjoyed the delightful meal and a program which was presented by the debs.

The sorority, which has been sponsoring the colorful ball here for the past twenty-eight years, has also been involved in the observance of Black History Month. The chapter has provided newspaper articles to the local daily paper and to two local radio stations.

The crowning feature of the yearly ball and other events leading to it, will be the ball and pageant itself which is scheduled for the Community Center on Friday evening, March 12.

The debutantes are also scheduled to appear on the "Together with Eve" television show which emanates from

WNCT-TV, channel 9, in Greenville, on Sunday, March 21. The time has been set for 9:30.

Also in sorority news last week was the observance of the Golden Anniversary of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The local Chi Omega Chapter was founded on the campus of Brick Junior College near Enfield in 1925. The chapter, which had six charter members, was moved to Rocky Mount when the junior college was phased out in 1933. There are thirty-three active members today.

One of the founders of the national chapter at Howard University, Miss Anna Easter Brown, was teaching at Brick Junior College at the time Chi Omega was founded and was instrumental in its organization.

Following a worship service last Sunday afternoon at the St. James Baptist Church, members of the chapter visited the grave site of Miss Brown here. During the week, the sorority had sponsored a dance for members of all Greek Letter organizations here and held a "closed" banquet Saturday evening at the Downtwon Holiday Inn.

Members of Chi Omega Chapter are also helping on the local level to implement the national program which has several components including scholarship and travel grants: Negro Heritage; Social Action; Job Corps; Leadership Schools; Federal Information and Projects; Career Guidance and Reading Experiences.

Miss Helen Hines, a member of the Rocky Mount City School staff, is president of the local chapter. Other officers are Mrs. Mary Edge, Miss Willie Settle, Mrs. Marla Battle, and Mrs. Rosa Brodie.

More than 300 teachers, principals, aides and parents met at the North Edgecombe High School at Leggett Saturday afternoon in an effort to develop a tutorial program under ESEA Title-I in Edgecombe County.

The day-long conference got underway with a business session which was followed by reports which described the State of ESEA Title I projects and activities in schools in the county.

William Brake, chairman of the Edgecombe Board of Education, extended the welcome to those attending the meeting. He also introduced the members of Board. Special guests in attendance were introduced by Lee Hall, superintendent of Schools in Edgecombe County.

Appearing on the program were Dr. Frank Weaver, assistant superintendent, Durham City Schools; Congressman L. H. Fountain (D-NC) and a native of the Leggett area; Dudley Flood, assistant State Superintendent and Harold Webb, Deputy Assistant State Superintendent.

Mrs. Rosa Purvis director of the Title I ESEA program in the county, planned and directed the program, which, according to Supt. Hall, was the first ever conducted in the state.

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Chester Harris, social chairman, Miss Sharon Pratt, program chair, Miss Ava Darlene Best.

"Have a Heart for Missions" was a huge success. The Youth Missionary Department reached out and touched, surprisingly enough, a mass audience came out to support the Youth Project. The NCCU Pentecostal choir was at its singing best, therefore the children's program reached monumental heights.

Miss Shelia Mason presided over the program. The invocation was conducted by Shelton Jones of NCCU. Miss Cathy Parrish projected a warm, friendly welcome to the guest choir and its many friends. The speaker was Sister Paulette Everette, a young minister of the gospel. Currently, the personable Sister Everette is president of the Pentecostal Fellowship on NCCU campus. Sister Paulette Everette is a senior pursuing her undergraduate studies in Health Education at Central. The pretty Miss is a native of Asheboro. She is described as a "born again and true minister of the Word of God."

The petite minister chose as a text: Acts 1:8 Subject; "Gazing but not Grazing."

A mini-coronation was presented by the youth leaders. The contestants were: Shawn Jeter, Willie Muse and Frank Pratt, Jr. They were escorted to the periphery of the rostrum by Jill Taylor, Lynecia Cooper and Lynn Hill. Here, reports were made as follows: 1st runner-up, Frank Pratt, Jr., 2nd runner-up,

Willie Muse. Winner: Shawn Jeter. Mrs. Stattie H. Russ placed the silver crown embellished with bright red Valentine-hearts. Mrs. Elaine Pratt bestowed the gifts of appreciation upon the participants. Other youth leaders present were Ms. Annie M. Dunigan, supervisor; directors; Mrs. Hattie P. Partin, Mrs. Annie E. Daniels, George B. Russ-Abner Mason, Jr., Tyrone Cameron.

## DR. M. NANCE IS NAMED TO BCP SERVICES

ORANGEBURG, S. C. - Dr. M. Maceo Nance Jr., president of South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, recently joined other nationally respected names in higher education and the business community as a member of the board of directors of College Placement Services, Inc.

Funded in part by the federal government and supported by close to 150 of the top businesses and industries in the country, CPS serves 106 colleges and universities, providing the means for minority college students to fulfill their career goals.

"It helps to open up career opportunities to minority students that they have not traditionally had," Nance explained.

The CPS program focuses on minority college students who need comprehensive career counseling and placement programs to equip them to enter the mainstream of competitive employment opportunities in business, industry and government agencies and to help them make beneficial choices among programs of graduate education.

Assistance offered to programs at participating institutions, including the Career Development Center at S. C. State College, is directed toward administrators, counselors, faculty members and career counseling and placement officers. Assistance is provided at no cost to those institutions.

Nance's term of service on the 12-person board expires in January, 1979.

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