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Charlie McLean NAACP's His Life

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

You could have knocked Charles A. McLean over with a feather.

As the long-time NAACP state field director sat down for a breather during the recent state convention of the civil rights organization, two casually dressed young black men in their late teens sauntered up to McLean. "Could you give me some information about your organization," one asked.

"The NAACP?" McLean asked incredulously. "Yea, what is it and what does it do?" the teen started.

McLean's jaw dropped straight downward in almost total disbelief.

It's not hard to understand why. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been a big part of the 67-year-old McLean's life since since 1918 and there's a fairly simple reason.

"I'm not interested in Charlie McLean; I'm interested in black people," he tells anyone who comes along.

That commitment was instilled in him early. McLean's mother, Mrs. W.A. McLean, begun one of the state's first six NAACP chapters in Fayetteville in 1918.

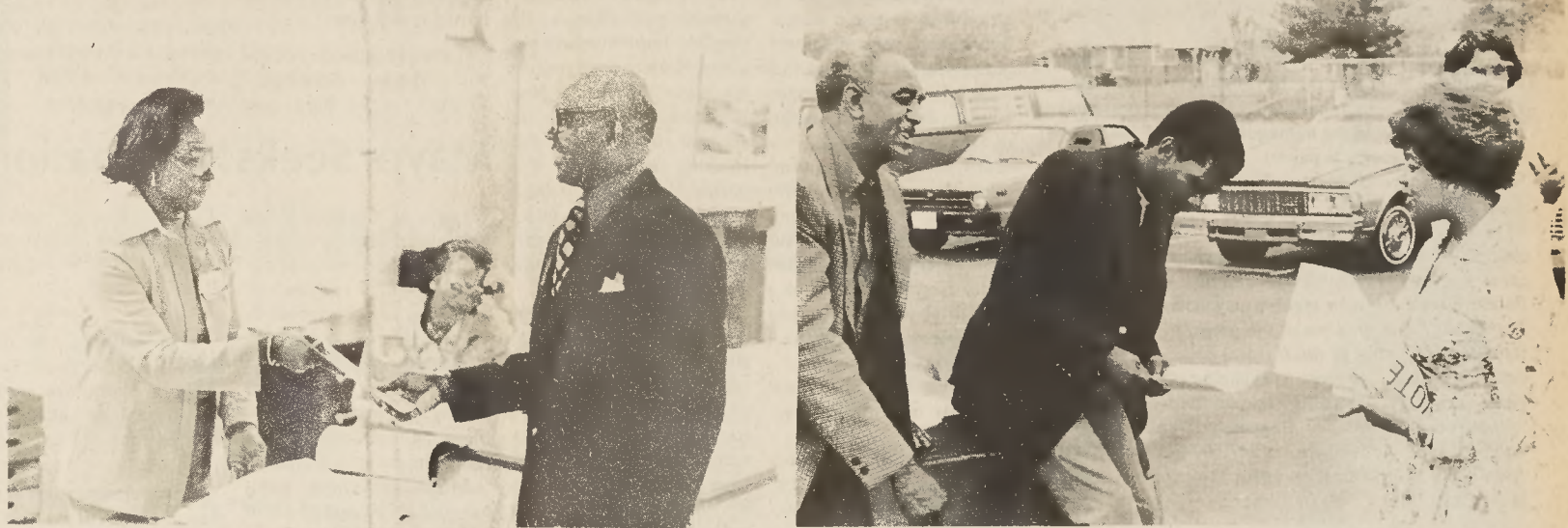
"She was pretty active in it," he recalled. "Crisis magazine started coming into our house; I began reading it and liked what I saw."

"By the time I got into high school, my mother got me a membership in the NAACP," said McLean.

After attending Winston-Salem State Teachers college and a brief stint teaching in Cumberland county, McLean went to West Virginia State College to study business administration in 1931.

As a student, McLean got interested in the Scottsboro Boys case (the trial of several Alabama blacks for the alleged rape of a white woman), so interested that he circulated a petition to colleges and universities around the nation and had it delivered to a newly-inaugurated President Roosevelt in 1933.

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John Clyburn, right photo, accepts his ballot from election registrar, Mrs. Haywood Barnes, during Tuesday voting at the St. Stephen's Baptist Church on

Bowen Boulevard. Left, Alderman Mrs. Vivian Burke, D-NE, stops to chat with election workers before casting her ballot at the Carver High School polling

place. Carver had the best voter turnout--- 43 per cent--- among the 18 predominately black precincts.

Low Turnout Dooms Blacks

By Sharyn Bratcher
and
John W. Templeton
Staff Writers

A low black voter turnout-- about 26 per cent -- doomed the chances of all four blacks seeking local offices in Forsyth County, including Democratic incumbents Rep. Harold Kennedy and school board member Beaufort O. Bailey, in Tuesday's elections. Also losing, after early strong showings, were Republicans Rodney J. Sumler for the state house and Clarence G. Watson for the school board.

There was a 41 per cent turnout overall in Forsyth County, based on final returns from the County Board of Elections. That turnout was fueled by higher than average voting in the western sections of the city, said elections board chairman H.B. Goodson.

"In the western part of the city, the precincts had more people voting by nine or ten o'clock in the morning than voted in the 1977 mayoral election," said Goodson Tuesday night.

"The low turnout in black precincts could be attributed to a fear of not being able to win-- to a fear that their vote would not make any difference to any single candidate," he said somberly.

Bailey, the first black ever elected to the city/county school board in 1972, plucked the blame for his narrow defeat (he was 210 votes away from fourth place in the race for the four seats) on the low black turnout. "That's what killed me and Harold Kennedy," he said. "I have no idea what can be done. Until we learn how to vote, we'll never do anything."

Kennedy said the low black turnout was not the only reason for his defeat. "There was a large number of whites who voted straight Republican and there was the effect of STOP," he said. "I was the only candidate who spoke out against STOP."

He added, "There were a number of white

Democrats who picked and chose who did not give me the same votes as the white Democratic candidates received. It was a single-shot in reverse."

"My biggest regret is that I lost the seat a black had held to a white Republican," said Kennedy. "There were only four of us (blacks) in the state House."

Both Bailey and Kennedy were the only members of their Democratic slates to lose. Both were supplanted



Beaufort Bailey

Harold Kennedy

by conservative Republicans who received heavy votes from the anti-tax organization STOP.

"I think the school board is going to have a few problems; I was a buffer between the black community and the rest of the community," said Bailey.

The news that no local black candidates would be elected produced angry reactions among black leaders interviewed at the headquarters of victorious Rep. Steve Neal, D-N.C.

Long time activist Mrs. Velma Hopkins stamped her foot so hard her shoe fell off and silently cursed. County Commissioner Mrs. Mazie Woodruff, who did not face election this year, shook her head and noted, "It's going to happen all over the country, if we aren't careful."

Shortly after her words, television reports announced the news that the only black U.S. Senator Edward Brooke and black Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally of California had both gone down to death.

Former alderman and mayoral candidate Carl H. Russell, Sr., called the voting returns, "unfortunate".

"It seems to me there are too many chieftains and too few Indians," he said Tuesday night. "Everybody wants to be a leader".

"We need some organization in this city," Russell advised. "There's the strong black set-up in Durham (the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People) and one in Greensboro stronger than what we have."

The Republican Party attempted to make inroads into the black vote this campaign, particularly in the campaigns of Sumler and Watson and congressional candidate Hamilton Horton.

Sumler and Watson made some progress, polling about half as well as Democratic favorites Bailey and Kennedy. Horton's efforts were to no avail as Rep. Neal polled more than 95 per cent of the votes in the black precincts.

Watson, who for a long time led Bailey and was in fifth place in the school board race, said Tuesday night, his campaign had been received well. "We were able to pick up some split votes," he said. "Now the people are beginning to think about their vote and vote for the man instead of the party".

The only successful black candidate in Forsyth County voting was Richard C. Frwin, who will retain his

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Much has been said about child abuse recently, and many people are realizing that the problem does exist. However, one problem closely related to this is child neglect, which hasn't been a focus of attention, but is a serious problem.

I was coming home from work one day when a child about five years old ran into the street in front of my car. I was only going about 20 miles an hour so I was able to brake in time. The child and myself both were shaken but neither one of us were hurt.

I didn't see a parent around or anyone watching the little girl so I parked my car and walked the girl back to her house. I asked her if her mother was home. She told me no, and that her sister was. The sister turned out to be about 10 years old. I told her that her little sister had run out into the street and could have been badly hurt.

The big sister looked at me and then took her sister by the arm and went into the house.

I suddenly felt very angry at the parents of those children. The 10 year old was barely able to take care of herself much less a smaller child. Even though I had only seen this one incident I was upset.

This is not the only form of child neglect I have seen. I have seen small children left in cars alone, no telling what could happen. I have seen children undernourished and under fed so that when they go to other people's houses they beg for food and eat it like there is no tomorrow.

The public has just begun to be informed about child abuse, but there is just a thin line between child abuse and child neglect. Abuse comes in all forms and it just doesn't have to be physical harm. Leaving a child unprotected is just as harmful as beating a child.

As I think back over these incidents I know I should have done or said something, but like too many of us I thought it was none of my business. Now I know it was my business, and all our business to help people, in this case children, who can't help themselves. The next time you see a child being neglected or abused, speak out. You do much more harm if you don't.

by Yvette McCullough



Arna Boncompagni, novelist and educator, chats with children at the East Winston branch of the Forsyth County Public Library, in a picture taken shortly after the branch's opening in November 1954. The library building replaced the old George Moses Horton branch which began in 1927.

will commemorate the library's 24th anniversary, Sunday, Nov. 12, during a reception at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, former chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, will speak on the role of the library in the community and an award will be given long-time library staffer Mrs. Margaret Allen.

Leash Your Dog Or It'll Cost You

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

If your cat and dog is running around loose, it would be a good idea to put it on a leash, because now it will cost \$10 more if it is picked up by an animal control officer.

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen approved Monday night a resolution to increase the city's leash law violation from \$5 to \$15. The fine will be \$5 for the first offense and an additional \$5 for each subsequent violation up to \$30 for the sixth violation. Each offense will remain on the books of the animal control office for a period of three years.

The increase in violation was designed to deter repeat offenders. The Winston-Salem leash law went into effect in October 1975. Violations are enforced by the Forsyth County animal control department.

Last year, \$2,500 was collected in leash law fines. The control officers responded to over 10,000 calls from July 1977 through June 1978.

The aldermen also postponed a decision on the Winston-Salem sanita-

tion's division's plans to expand the Ebert Street landfill. The resolution met with opposition from residents in the area.

Gerald Hewitt, who lives north of the landfill, told the alderman that they had lived with it long enough.

"We have to live there, you don't," Hewitt told the board.

The Ebert Street landfill has only one or two more years of usefull life at its present. The city planned to acquire more property in the area for landfill use.

George Petrides, a resident who lives south of the landfill, also voiced opposition to the landfill.

"We bought our home with the assumption that the landfill would be closed in a few years," Petrides said.

"Who calculates the loss of value of a property with the presence of a dump. You call it a landfill, it's still a dump," Petrides continued.

The action was postponed until the next meeting (Nov. 20) so that the city can show the residents near the landfill what possible buffers or screens can be provided.