

N.C. Legislative Black Caucus honors former legislators

By C.B. HAUSER
Special to the Chronicle

The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus honored all Afro-American former North Carolina legislators at its fifth annual legislative weekend conference in Raleigh June 16 to 17.

Afro-American former legislators from Forsyth County honored at the banquet were Judge Richard C. Erwin, chief judge of the United States Middle District of North Carolina, and attorney Harold L. Kennedy Jr., a local practicing lawyer, and Dr. C.B. Hauser, a retired educator.

Judge Erwin served from 1975 to 1978; Mr. Kennedy from 1977 to 1978; and Dr. Hauser from 1983 to 1986.

Judge Henry Frye of the Guilford County Supreme Court, was the first Afro-American elected to the North Carolina General Assembly since Reconstruction. Since his election in 1969, 33 other Afro-Americans have been elected to the august body. Currently, 16 males and one female are serving in the North Carolina General Assembly. There also are three Afro-Americans in the Senate and 14 in the House.

Three of the 17 Afro-American former legislators are now deceased. They are Sen. Fred Alexander of Mecklenburg County, Rep. Robert Davis of Roberson County and Rep. Phil O. Berry of Mecklenburg County. Ten of the Afro-American former North Carolina legislators attended the banquet and were on hand for their honors. They were: Judge Frye of Guilford; the Rev. Joy Johnson of Robeson; Judge Erwin of Forsyth,



Three former Forsyth County black legislators honored at the Fifth Annual Legislative Weekend Conference were, from left, Judge Richard C. Erwin, Attorney Harold L. Kennedy and Dr. C.B. Hauser.

Photo by Lois E. Hauser

John Winters of Wake and Mr. Kennedy of Forsyth, Alfreda Webb of Guilford (the only female Afro-American former legislator), Clarence Lightner of Wake, Dr. Hauser of Forsyth, Melvin Watt of Mecklenburg and William Freeman of Wake.

Sen. Ralph Hunt of Durham presided at the banquet and U.S. Congressman Edolphus Townes, a native North Carolinian, representing the 11th Congressional District in New York, was the keynote speaker. He told his audience to "Look back, but move forward, moving on the accomplishments of your predecessors."

As Sen. Balance recognized each former legislator and told of his period of service, Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy of Forsyth County presented

each honoree with a pewter plate embossed with the state seal. The honoree's name, period of service and the letters "NCLBC" were engraved on each plate.

Special gifts were given to Judge Frye and Rep. Daniel T. Blue Jr. of Raleigh. In addition to the pewter plate, Judge Frye was given a large reclining rocker for his pioneering accomplishments. Rep. Blue was given a desk for his long service as caucus chair.

The weekend conference opened with an elected officials' forum. Winston-Salem Alderman Larry Womble, president of the North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials, participated in the forum. The program was followed by a corporate reception,

titled "A Salute to Black Elected Officials."

Rep. C.R. Edwards of Cumberland County presided at the Saturday breakfast where Sen. Henson P. Barnes, president pro tempore of the Senate, and Rep. Josephus L. Mavretto, speaker of the House, addressed the caucus conference.

After the breakfast, there was a plenary session where an overview was given of the four workshops which were to follow the breakfast.

Dr. Charles Cook and Willie Lee were the principal panelists at the "Health and Environmental Health Workshop," where Rep. Howard Barnes of Mecklenburg was the facilitator. Dr. Bertha Miller and Frances Cummings were the principal pan-



Louis Dameron has good reason for that happy grin -- he recently won a free trip to Mexico City.

Louis Dameron wins free trip to Mexico City

Louis Dameron, a travel coordinator for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., recently won a trip to Mexico City at the RSVP Reception at Stouffer Winston Plaza Hotel.

Stouffer Winston Plaza gave the RSVP Reception as a "thank you" to the employees of area businesses who frequently use the hotel for their out-of-town guests and meetings.

Mr. Dameron will fly to Mexico City compliments of Delta Airlines and will stay four days at the Stouffer Presidente Resort.

Stouffer Hotels and Resorts

recently announced a major move into Mexico that adds seven five-star Presidente properties to its portfolio of luxury hotels and resorts. The properties are located in Cancun, Cozumel, Ixtapa, Loreto, Los Cabos, Mexico City, and Oaxaca.

"I jokingly told Phyllis Dewell at Winston Plaza that I was coming to the RSVP Reception with my bags packed ready for Mexico City. I had no idea that I would really win," said Mr. Dameron.

Former area resident makes mark in national poetry circles

Former local resident Sylvia E. McIver is making a name for herself in poetry circles and her first book of poetry is on its way off the presses.

The title is "But for the Grace of Women" and should be in bookstores by the end of June. Ms. McIver, whose writes under the name Amoke Omoleye, is a former resident of Kernersville. She is the daughter of Shirley Smith of Kernersville.

Her pen name comes from the Yoruba language of West Africa. Amoke means "one we love to take care of." Omoleye means "mother of the gods."

The name was given to her by a traditional West African priest, Ona Adefunmi Osejeman. She is a gradu-

ate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is employed with the regional Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago.

Ms. McIver's book consists of 54 poems and six illustrations, three of which she made herself.

"Most of the poems are women-oriented," she said. "They speak of strong women, capable women -- women with goals and minds of their own."

Ms. McIver wrote her first poem when she was 15 years old. Writing was something she enjoyed but also something which caused her some anxiety.

"I had a lot of quiet doubts about writing," she admits. "It took me a long time to decide that's what I wanted to do."



Sylvia E. McIver

But she has overcome many of her doubts and has received several

accolades on her writing. Her poems have appeared in anthologies and one of her poems, "Wrinkles," received an honorable mention from the World of Poetry and a Golden Poet Award. Her poems also have been featured on "Dial-A-Poem" through the Chicago Office of Fine Arts.

Ms. McIver's talents are not limited to the field of poetry. She also is involved in West African theater and had the opportunity to play the lead in the Creative Art Foundation's 1986 production of "Quiet As It's Kept."

Ms. McIver said she plans to continue to study African traditions and culture. She also is in the process of writing a novel, "Alda."

BRIDGE NEWS

Local clubs gear up for tourney

By RUDOLPH V. BOONE SR.
Special to the Chronicle

Local clubs are warming up for the upcoming Grade "B" Tournament, sponsored by the Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club on Saturday, July 22, 1989. More details of the tournament will be published at a later date.

Last week's winners Winston-Salem Duplicate Bridge Club (Tuesday, June 20, 1989)

First Place -- Dr. Isaac and Anna Rogers
Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club (Thursday, June 22, 1989)

First Place -- Geneva Hill and Elizabeth Lewis
Second Place -- Charles Gadson and Floyd Neal

Third Place -- Pauline Caldwell and Billie Matthews

If you have been playing bridge fairly regularly and not winning, perhaps some lessons at the Winston-Salem Urban League Center on Saturdays will supply some of that fundamental knowledge and personal help needed to compete on a higher level, with confidence.

The fourth lesson of a ten-week Beginning Bridge Course will be held Saturday, July 8, 1989 at the Urban League Center (2:00 P.M.). Topics to be discussed are (1) Introduction to Scoring, (2) Forcing and Non-Forcing Bids.

If you are interested in joining the class for this particular lesson or to join and complete the remaining seven lessons, please contact Hazel E. Brown at the Urban League Center.

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elists at the "Education" workshop and Sen. William Martin of Guilford was the facilitator.

The "Social Services" facilitator was Rep. Sidney A. Locks of Roberson County. Mary K. Deyampert and Dr. Audrey Johnson were the panelists.

Rep. Thomas Hardaway of Halifax presided at the "Political Empowerment" and discussion. The panelists were Rep. Milton F. Fitch of Wilson and Carolyn Coleman of the NAACP.

Rep. Logan Burke of Forsyth County presided at the closing luncheon. Mrs. Kennedy introduced the speaker, attorney Julius Chamber, director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. Re. H.M. Michaux Jr., caucus chair, made closing remarks.

Sen. Hunt and Rep. Kennedy were conference co-chairs. The conference motto was "Lifting As We Climb -- The Legislative Legacy -- 20 Years Later."

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