

NATIONAL NEWS

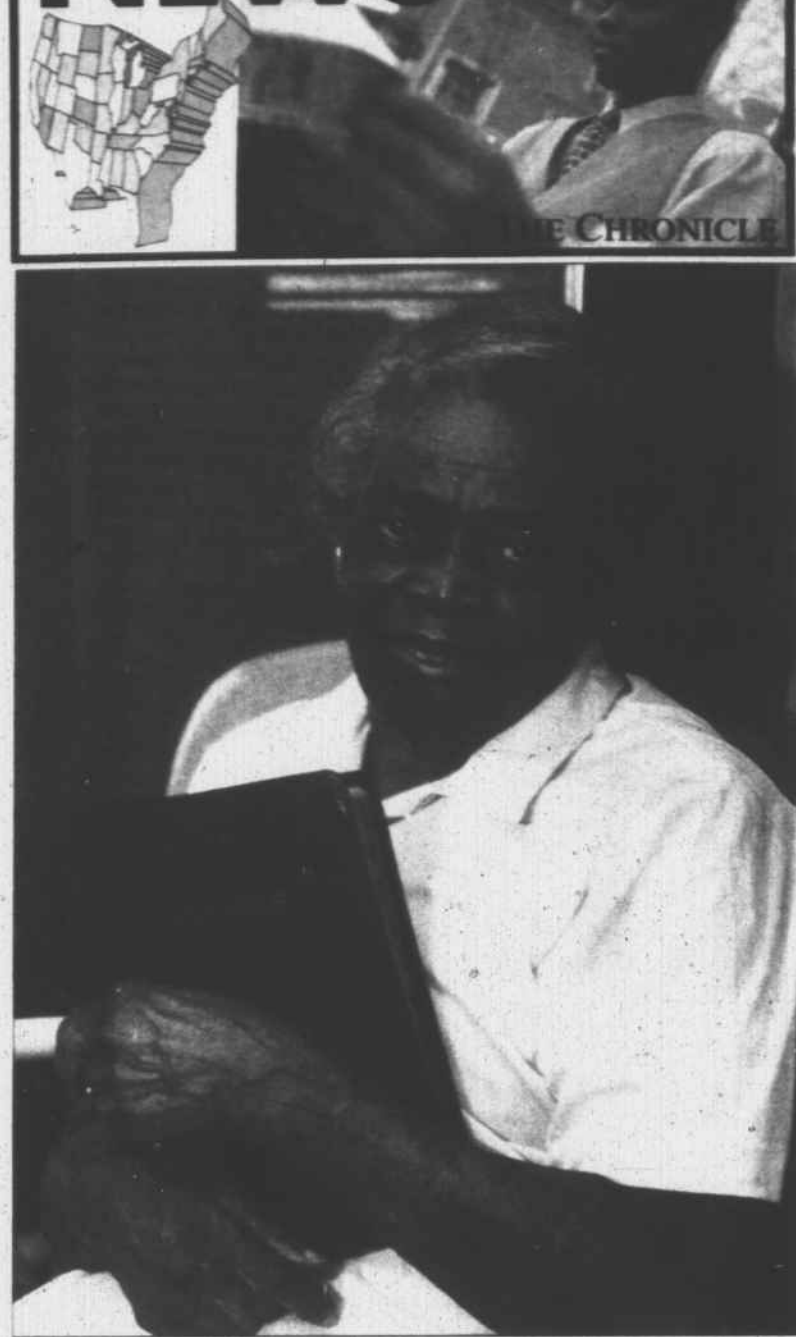


Photo by The Associated Press

Noted philanthropist Oseola McCarty died Sunday after a lengthy bout with cancer. McCarty's generosity made her a folk hero.

Philanthropist Oseola McCarty Dies

Washerwoman taught lesson about giving

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Oseola McCarty, a washerwoman with a sixth-grade education and an enormous generosity that made her a national folk celebrity, has died. She was 91.

She died Sunday at her Hattiesburg home after battling cancer. McCarty accumulated \$250,000 over 75 years of laundering and ironing other people's clothes in her unair-conditioned home. She gained fame in 1995, when she gave away \$150,000 to a scholarship fund for poor blacks at the University of Southern Mississippi. At the time, she had never even visited the school.

"Heaven couldn't have gotten a better angel," said Stephanie Bullock, who received a McCarty scholarship. "She was an inspiration, a blessing, a treasure to the entire earth."

McCarty had dreams of furthering her education and becoming a nurse, but she quit school after the sixth grade to help support her mother, grandmother and an aunt.

After her donation to the school, the woman who never married or learned to drive was praised by President Clinton and the United Nations and given an honorary doctorate from Harvard University.

McCarty had left home only for a one-mile walk for groceries and to go to church until she ushered in 1997 by dropping the Times Square ball in New York. She said that was the first time she had ever stayed up until midnight.

She promoted her unpretentious philosophies about life in a 1996 book, "Simple Wisdom for Rich Living."

"It's not the ones that make the big money, but the ones who know how to save who get ahead," she wrote.

"Oseola McCarty is one of those women whose face has 'wise' written all over it," said actor Danny Glover in presenting her an Essence Award in 1996. "She is a kind and generous spirit who has taken the biblical adage 'It's better to give than receive' to heart."

McCarty's donation encouraged others to give money to USM for unfortunate students and the Oseola McCarty Endowed Scholarship Fund began. More than \$330,000 had been raised at the time of her death.

Nine students have received the scholarships and three have graduated.

Her activities slowed in 1998 and she was diagnosed with colon cancer that April, just a month after her 90th birthday.

In 1996, she told The Associated Press she had more dreams to fulfill. "I still want to get married," she said. "I don't want no children, though."

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This Week In Black History...

Sept. 30, 1975 — Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier square off for the "Thrilla in Manila." Ali will defeat Frazier in 14 rounds to retain his world heavyweight title.

Oct. 2, 1799 — Nat Turner is born in Southampton, Va. Armed with the belief that he was sent by God to free his fellow slaves, he stages one of the nation's most famous slave revolts.

Oct. 5, 1878 — George Vashon, New York state's first African American lawyer, dies of yellow fever.

Culture Fest draws hundreds together

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Many different cultures call the city's Southside home.

They dwell in mixed-income neighborhoods that stretch from Winston-Salem State to Interstate 40, and they have transformed the landscape of the Southside's main drag, Waughtown Street, dotting it with Mexican groceries, soul food restaurants and traditional mom and pop shops.

But, diversity has come with a price. Race relations, especially between blacks and Hispanics, have been poor, and the perception of the area as haven for crime has had an adverse effect on economic development.

But those who live and work there say the Southside's niche is unique in the city. Many of them came out last Saturday for the first ever Culture Fest, an event designed to promote diversity.

Thousands descended on King's Plaza Shopping Center, bringing with them the art, music and dances of their individual cultures.

"This is a great idea," Bettie Coates said as she walked with her young nephew. Coates lives in the Southside and has been an eyewitness to the metamorphosis the community has undergone over the years.

Coates, who is African American, says as more and more Hispanics settled there, negative attitudes toward them began to flourish. But she says there is a simple cure for the schism that exists in her community.

"Blacks stay away from Hispanics because they don't understand them, and Hispanics don't have a good representation of blacks," she said. "I think by everyone coming together like this, we can begin to see each other for what we are."

Fostering togetherness was one of the main motivations organizers had when sketching out plans for the event months ago. The Southside Community Development Corp. put together the event with corporate backing from businesses like Wachovia and technical support from N.C. School of the



Photo by Jeri Young

Students from Easton Elementary School dance to the beat of Native American drums. The group was one of several Easton classes that performed during Culture Fest.

Arts, the city of Winston-Salem and many others.

"A large majority of the Hispanic population in Winston-Salem lives on the Southside, making this one of the most racially diverse communities in our city," said Carey Cain, president of Southside CDC. "Culture Fest will help celebrate the ethnic diversity of the community."

The event was also an informal awareness rally. At tables and booths around the shopping center's parking lot, organizations pushed everything from low-interest loans to a nationwide crime prevention program.

Veronica Zanbrano manned a booth for Casa Guadalupe, a Catholic Services program that assists Hispanics with a variety of services. Zanbrano said the group makes an extra effort to help Hispanics who are new to the United

States and have poor English skills.

She said she believes that in many cases language plays a big role in Hispanics' relationships with other groups.

"Language should not be a barrier," she said. "Everyone can get to know everyone on another level."

Representatives from the Bureau of the Census were also on hand to drive home the importance of an accurate count in the upcoming census. A few feet away, Habitat for Humanity employees talked with several people about the process for owning Habitat homes.

People picked up pamphlets about the Weed and Seed Program from one of the tables at the event. The federal initiative is designed to "weed out" bad elements in communities around the country.

U.S. Attorney Loretta Biggs

attended the festival. Biggs said Weed and Seed and other local efforts have been highly successful in the Salem Garden development, which sits just behind King's Plaza.

"We were able to reduce crime in Salem Gardens by 75 percent," Biggs said.

Lower crime, Biggs added, has meant that more people are coming to the area to patronize shops and eateries. It has also meant a boon for economic initiatives in the Southside.

"This community has taken itself back," Biggs said.

State Rep. Larry Womble, who represented the area for almost a decade as a local alderman, described the Southside as a "phoenix rising from the ashes."

The ashes, in this case, were years of economic stagnation. Not

See Fest on A4

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Leon Batts, President
Triad Cabinet Co., Inc.

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