

In his final days

President Clinton pays a visit to his neighbors at the National Council of Negro Women



Then-President Clinton visited the National Council of Negro Women's historic headquarters building Jan. 10 to urge all to support the organization's "burn the mortgage" campaign. The president praised the important work of NCNW and paid tribute to its leader, Dorothy Height (pictured with Clinton).

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Just before leaving office, President Clinton made a visit to the National Council of Negro Women's (NCNW) historic headquarters building on Pennsylvania Avenue on Jan. 10. In remarks to a gathering of NCNW officers and supporters, members of Congress and cabinet secretaries, the president saluted Dorothy I. Height, chair and president emerita of NCNW and a friend for more than 25 years.

The president urged the audience to help in efforts to pay off the mortgage on 633 Pennsylvania Avenue. "I think you belong midway between the Capitol and the White House, so you can keep an eye on both parties." Referring to Dr. Height, the president stated, "You just think about what America was like in 1935, and think about all the hills we've climbed since then. What you had to do

was to change the laws and the heart of America...I honestly believe that Dorothy is so young after all these years of effort because she has given herself to a larger and higher calling...I'm just glad to be one of her foot soldiers here today."

Height expressed gratitude to the president for his service to the country during the past eight years. "You helped us to understand that America is not just about law and order but also equality and justice."

To date, the campaign to burn the mortgage has raised more than half of the \$8 million target since May 1999.

Founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, NCNW is a national organization with 38 affiliates, 250 community and school-based sections and an outreach to more than 4 million women and their families in the United States and African countries.



New guide from State Tourism Department lists African-American hot spots.

Working in the water – an important part of history

From chanteys to lifesaving, African Americans influenced N.C. life

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH – Since the first attempts at settlement in the 16th century, African Americans have contributed interesting people, places and events that today can be enjoyed, remembered and celebrated across the state.

Some of the state's richest folk traditions come from "working the water" – those maritime jobs that have occupied North Carolina's black and white citizens for centuries. Fishing for menhaden – or shad as the locals call them – is physically demanding work that was done primarily by black crews. Two small "purse" boats caught the shad by surrounding them and ensnaring them in purse seines, or nets.

This purse seine has to be pulled tight, or "hardened," drawing it in from the bottom in order to capture the fish and lift them to the surface of the water. The catch was then processed into feed, fertilizer, paint and even perfume.

In Beaufort, and in other places along our coast, these hard-working fishermen have long sung "chanteys" both to uplift their spirits and to set the right rhythm for drawing in their fishing nets. A

leader would usually sing out the first line of the song by himself, which was answered with another line sung in harmony by the rest of the crew. The songs or lines were drawn from many sources, including hymns and gospel songs, blues, and barbershop quartet songs, and were often improvised.

Today, at the N.C. Maritime Museum, you can hear these sounds that no longer echo across N.C. coastal waters. An exhibit in the Beaufort museum captures this important piece of N.C. life in a recorded performance of retired chanteymen.

Farther north on Pea Island, saving lives was the daily work of men who lived in the area. The Pea Island Lifesaving Station was established in 1879 with the rest of the U.S. Lifesaving outposts. Soon after opening, the station was placed under the charge of Richard Etheridge, who was of Native-American and African-American descent.

At the time, the crew was made up of African-American men who rescued countless people from ships that washed ashore in storms or sank in the seething seas. One

See N.C. Blacks on page D10

Time Warner Cable Salutes Black History Month



*He had the vision to dream,
...the courage to lead,
...and the compassion to serve.*

TIME WARNER
CABLE

1410 Trade Mart Blvd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27127

(336) 785-3390



IS THE FUTURE HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY?

We are here. To show you how to make the most of your money today and to help you plan for tomorrow. As Frederick Douglass once said, "Men may not get all they pay for in this world, but they most certainly pay for all they get." The future is closer than you think and it's up to you.

CALL 1 800 WACHOVIA OR VISIT A BRANCH TODAY.

LET'S GET STARTED.®

WACHOVIA