

Mother Ella Boyd, Nearing 100, Lives Up To Teaching Of Jesus

"Why don't you tell your mama somebody's here?" asked Mrs. Ella Lynch Boyd in a snappy style that belies her advancing age.

She is somewhere near 100 years old or just under that age, but she says no one knows just how old she is. She doesn't know.

"People used to come to your house, I think they call it census now, and they would see children and give them ages and I was in that bunch," she says. "That's how the welfare people came up with me being 100," Mrs. Boyd said. According to Mrs. Boyd, the courthouse in Elmore County, Alabama where she was born burned down and her date of birth went up in smoke.

In an exclusive interview with the Charlotte Post this week, Mrs. Boyd talked about her life and the things that have made her happy and sad.

"It's hard to remember what I did as a child," Mrs. Boyd said. But, she remembered the one room schoolhouse she attended and learned how to read. She still reads now, sometimes without the aid of glasses, and the number one best seller on her list is the Bible.

"I remember that somebody was smart enough to get a house for that school," Mrs. Boyd said. She recalled that children of all ages were placed in the same room. "I don't remember the book we used, but it was a big blue book and we wrote on slates instead of paper," she said. "When we went out of the schoolroom we went into the cotton patch to work," Mrs. Boyd recalled. "I remember having to walk two to three miles to school," she said.

Growing up at the tail end of the prohibition of legal slavery was a traumatic time for all blacks and Mrs. Boyd said her life was no exception.

White Mob
She remembers vividly horror she felt when she saw of her own cousin, a 13-year-old boy burned at the stake by a white mob of Ku Klux Klansmen in the churchyard of an Alabama church she and other blacks attended.

"Some little white gal had told her daddy that the 13-year-old boy and his 14-year-old uncle had looked at her a long time and in a funny way and the girl's daddy got the people stirred up and they put the 13-year-old in jail."

"The mob got the boy out of jail and brought him to the courtyard. They put poles in the ground. The boy was crying. He was scared to death. I remember their names were Zeb and Claude," she said. Mrs. Boyd said one of the members of the boy's family said a prayer for him and the Klansmen set fire to him and he was burned to death.

She said the following morning, one local white man saw the heart of the burned youth and said "there's that Nigger's heart," and stomped it. The man who did that went home that evening and died, she said.

"It was bad then, colored people were getting killed and beat up so much, the white folks were acting like they were enjoying so much. They were even stopping colored



MOTHER ELLA LYNCH BOYD
...Somewhere near 100 years old

men coming from church and they would beat them and rape the women.

It was only after a local crack down on the acts of brutality being committed by whites that the terrorism eased up, Mrs. Boyd said. "One day in court the judge almost cleared the courthouse," by sending to jail several white men for their admitted roles in several killings.

There were some black heroes around when Mrs. Boyd was young but the one she recalled was Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, in Tuskegee, Ala. "We didn't know nothing about presidents and governors -- nor more than what the white folks told us," she said. Mr. Boyd never voted in Alabama, but after coming to Charlotte in 1944 to live with daughter, Mrs. Annie Rosie Poole, she has voted.

Mrs. Boyd knew the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but if you ask her who gives her inspiration, she will tell you "Jesus."

"My knees are bent from serving the Lord. I don't believe that's why I'm still here, I've been born again!" she declares proudly.

At the Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, where Mrs. Boyd is an active member, she tries to live up to the teachings of Jesus. "I like the part in the Bible where Jesus told Nicodemus 'yea must be born again,'" she said.

When Mrs. Boyd is not reading the Bible or at church, she likes to sew. She was a seamstress when she was younger. She lives at 3060 Ridge Ave., with her daughter and granddaughter, both named Annie Rosie Poole. She has a total of three children, two boys and a girl and she has two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

CIAA Tourney Will Pull 10,000 Fans To Hampton

HAMPTON, VA: What does hosting the Central Intercollegiate Athletic (CIAA) Basketball Tournament mean to Hampton, Virginia? Well it means bringing the nation's number one black basketball tournament to the port city and all the reward that are associated with it.

More than 10,000 fans will converge on Hampton, Virginia Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 26-28, 1976 for the 31st Annual CIAA Basketball Tournament.

These people will come to the city to see some excellent basketball, reunions with old

friends, attend social events, visiting shopping centers and other interesting attractions in the area.

It is estimated that these persons will be in Hampton for three to four days and will spend on the average of \$50 a day, thus Hampton and the

surrounding area economic coffers will swell by more than a million dollars.

The CIAA tournament spends money on food, lodging, mercantile and the beverages associated with world class sporting events. In addition, the host city will spend a

wad of money entertaining visiting friends and long-time buddies.

Tickets and housing for the tournament can be claimed by contacting the CIAA Tournament Office, 413 Mercury Blvd. Hampton, Virginia.

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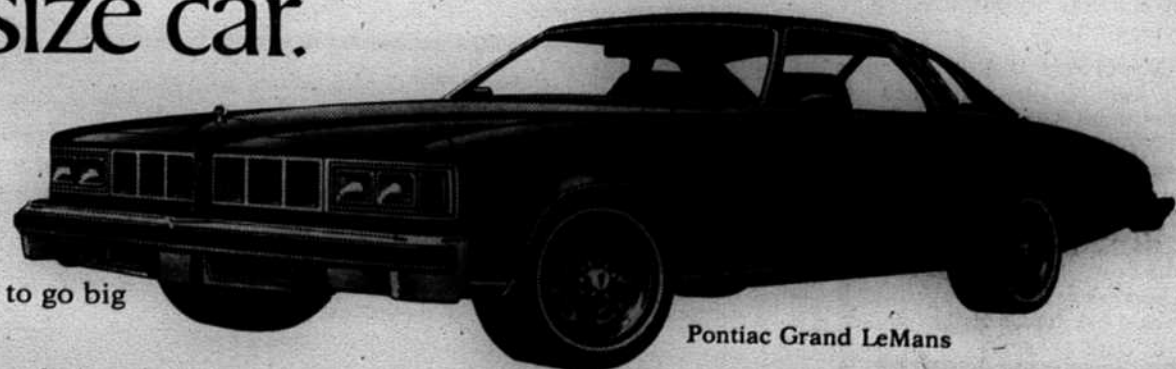
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