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PRICE 25c

King Statue

Fund Drive

Failing?

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

After nearly six months of leading an effort to get funds to erect a statue in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. James E. Barnette says that only \$4,000 net has been raised to date out of a \$50,000 needed.

Rev. Barnette, who took on the statue project after the City Council rejected his request to re-name Beatties Ford Road, "Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.," said that appeals for support through a radio talkathon, Churches and fraternal groups have been "disappointing" thus far. However, he praised and thanked the Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church for \$1,000, New Hope Baptist Church for \$500, a pledge of \$2,000 from Friendship Baptist Church and a pledge of undetermined amounts from two social organizations.

He notes further that a number of other black ministers have indicated that special offerings will be asked for in their churches on Sunday to aid the drive.

The articulate minister reiterated, on behalf of the 5 member statue committee appointed by Mayor Belk, his appreciation to those individuals and organizations that have given support to the project. However, he indicated that if substantially greater progress is not made by July 31 he may personally withdraw from participation in the project.

While reflecting some degree of discouragement, Barnette has obviously not given up on the statue project. Barnette will lead a march on Saturday (June 25) beginning at 9:30 a.m. from the Amay James Park to Dalton Village to kick-off a day of gospel singing and fund raising.

Earlier reports have indicated that some funds for the project may be provided by the city.

At a MLK fund raising rally in February Barnette said, "This is an ideal time to have something to look up to, something symbolic of what Dr. King represented. We can't trust history to write about him as too much has been left out in the past. Won't you support this worthy cause?"

Post To Salute

City's Best

Dressed Men

The Charlotte Post will salute Charlotte's 10 best dressed men in its next edition... Make plans now to reserve your copy for this very important feature in the Post, which each week brings you news for and about the people you know.

This story will represent one of the many new features The Charlotte Post will be presenting in the months ahead as it seeks to better serve its reading public and the general community.

TURTLE-TALK



A NARROW MIND and a WIDE MOUTH often go together.



ATTRACTIVE GLENDA HAMILTON
...Newcomer to Charlotte

Glenda Hamilton

Is Beauty Of Week

By Jeri Harvey
Post Staff Writer

Glenda Hamilton was stunned when contacted and informed she was the POST Beauty of the Week. According to her, she had no idea she had been suggested by a local photographer and was being considered.

A newcomer to Charlotte who moved here recently from Greensboro, Glenda was born in Norfolk, Va. and has lived in Trenton, N.J. She is a 1976 graduate of A&T State University and has a degree in Business Administration. Employed by Aetna Life and Casualty Co. as a Commercial Insurance Analyst, she hopes to eventually become a Charter Property and Casualty Underwriter, a process which requires approximately five years.

Since moving to Charlotte Glenda has joined First Baptist Church and says she eventually hopes to become involved in working with the youth of the church. Right now, however, she is busy planning her wedding which will be at First Baptist Church August 26. The groom will be Carmey Guin of Matthews, a Personal Lines Underwriter with All State, whom she met while they both worked at Belk's in Greensboro and attended A&T.

An obviously out-going Glenda is particularly proud of her three younger brothers, who, in spite of being orphaned while very young, "kept their heads together, finished high school and have gone on to continue their education."

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Meany Says Government

Understates Jobless Rate

"10" Defense Petitions

Gov. Hunt

Last week defense attorneys for the Wilmington 10, along with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, filed petitions with North Carolina Governor James Hunt, requesting a pardon for the ten civil rights activists convicted in 1971.

According to Chief Defense Counsel James E. Ferguson, "By filing the petitions for pardon, essentially what we are doing is adding a new dimension to the case and putting it squarely in an arena where the Governor can take into account all of the factors involved in this case. Based upon the manner of the convictions, the recantations of the witnesses, the promises and inducements made for their testimony based upon the clear implications this case has for race relations in the state, the implications that it has internationally on the question of human rights, we feel that all of these factors taken together, should convince the Governor that it is time, now, for him to act and release these people from their incarceration."

Ferguson indicated that he has not, yet, met with Governor Hunt, but expects to do so in the very near future.

The decision to seek an Executive Pardon was mandated, in part, by adverse rulings of Judge George M. Fountain, following the two week post-conviction hearing held in Burgaw, North Carolina.

Both Black and White North Carolinians have called on the Governor to act responsibly in this matter, along with Congressional representatives, civil rights groups and religious bodies.

Dr. Charles E. Cobb, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice stated, "I confess in regard to the petitions that have been filed for 'Pardon of Innocence' for the Wilmington 10 that I have no optimism whatsoever or expectations."



Mrs. Irene Lee, extreme left, congratulates Brenda and Sonya happily approve her husband, William Lee Jr. while daughters

Northwest PTA Names William Lee "Teacher Of The Year"

By Jacquie Levister
Post Staff Writer

"In appreciation for the love and support you have given to the students at Northwest Junior High, this award is given to William R. Lee Jr.," reads the inscription on the plaque given by the PTSA to its Athletic Director and Coach.

It was awards day. A day when ninth graders did not have to attend classes. William Lee dressed very casually in preparation for spending the day outside with his students. His family was coming to the affair to witness "his" basketball players receive their awards. He had absolutely no idea that he was one of the ones to be honored.

Mrs. Obrien, former President of the PTA, began with descriptions of the next person to be honored. William Lee started to leave the auditorium to check the grounds of

the school for intruders. "For the past three years I have observed him in both the classroom and in his athletic undertakings. Though he is one of the best in his field, his students consider him as much more than a coach. To some he is like a father figure; to others he is an adult friend to go to for counseling," continued Mrs. Obrien, and then she announced his name, William Robert Lee Jr. the PTSA "Teacher of the Year."

A thrilled expression crept across the face of the winner who later related to his family that at that moment he experienced a most peculiar, but good feeling. The audience got up and extended a standing ovation to their much appreciated William Lee. The man students affectionately refer to as "Sweet Daddy Lee" strolled down front to receive his award while his

proud and happy family looked on.

A graduate of Shaw University, Lee has completed several graduate courses at UNC Chapel Hill. In addition to being athletic director and coach at Northwest he teaches courses in physical education and health. Though he does not coach all major sports at the school there is never a game involving his students that he does not attend.

Described by his wife Irene as a quite, mild mannered man, Lee is an avid outdoorsman. Deep sea fishing, mountain trout fishing and family cookouts are his personal preferences.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and their two daughters, Sonya and Brenda are members of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The son of William Robert Lee Sr. of Fellowship Drive, Lee Jr. a member of NEA.

Mecklenburg Job Rate Increases

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

The federal government's figures released through the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the national unemployment rate has been challenged by AFL-CIO President George Meany. The labor leader was quoted in his own organization's publication, the AFL-CIO News, earlier this month as saying that government figures "have badly and consistently understated the nation's jobless problem."

Meany's comment was apparently motivated in part by BLS reports that the nation's unemployment rate had declined from 7.0 percent in April to 6.9 percent in May. The labor newspaper quoted Meany further as saying, "Our true test of unemployment includes those too discouraged to seek work and half of the number forced to work part time because full time jobs are not available."

The aging labor leader supported his statement by noting that the "Government unemployment rate (is) 6.9 percent. True unemployment rate - 9.6 percent. Government total of unemployment (is) 6.8 million. True total number of unemployment - 9.5 million."

The Employment Security Commission reports that unemployment in Mecklenburg County for April was 4.0 (7,840) and May, 3.9 (7,710).

Meany's statement is not at all surprising to knowledgeable sources since the BLS and the U.S. Department of Labor define people as "unemployed" only if they are "ready, willing, able and seeking employment at a given period of time." If, for example, a survey is being conducted and an individual says he is "looking for work" but has worked

one hour during the survey week he is counted as employed. If the individual says he did not look for work during the survey week then he is not considered to be or have been in the labor force, thus not counted as unemployed. Equally aware of how BLS defines who is unemployed has led the National Urban League to establish an "Index on the See Meany on Page 6

Five Blacks Elected To State

Democratic Executive Committee

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

The Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Convention elected five blacks on Saturday to serve on their 25-member delegation to the State Democratic Executive Committee. Three incumbents, one former and one new member were elected.

The incumbents elected were Mrs. Willie Smith, Marshall Smith (not related) and F. M. Dawkins. Mrs. Smith was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention last summer and was elected, along with Jim Babb of WBT-TV, by the county convention to be a nominee for the statewide "Democrat of the Year" award. Marshall Smith is a veteran in local party politics and served as campaign manager of Bob Walton's successful bid for a seat on the Mecklenburg County Commission last year.

ew state executive com-

mittee members, Ms. Edith Shearin and James Walton, have also had experiences befitting their election to the state-wide political body. Ms. Shearin, is a seven-year veteran as the county's first vice chairperson and has previously served on the state executive committee. James Walton is the brother of Commissioner Bob Walton and served as campaign coordinator in Bob's successful bid for public office.

Another black, Samuel L. Reid, chairperson of Precinct No. 16, was elected to the county party post of second vice-chairman. He was nominated for the post by Bob Walton and former city councilman Milton Short.

Highlighting the convention was a mild contest for the county party chairmanship between Sydnor Thompson, a 52-year-old Harvard law school graduate and Bill Williams, a 29-year-old research

to unite Democrats in order to defeat 9th District congressman Jim Martin and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

Keynote speaker for the convention attended by 500 delegates, including about 75 blacks, was Luther H. Hodges Jr., a possible candidate for Senator Helms' seat in 1978. He praised Mecklenburg Democrats by saying "you are on the verge of a new age of political sophistication and political power."

A final but equally significant highlight of the convention was the passage of two resolutions of particular concern to blacks.

Requesting that the General Assembly pass a bill to allow tenants to withhold rent payments to landlords who fail to meet their obligations.

Requesting that Gov. Jim Hunt offer the assistance of his office to rectify a clear case of injustice in the Wilmington 10 case.



Mrs. Willie Smith
...Committee member

chemist and past president of the county's young Democrats. Thompson won by receiving more than 900 of the 1,200 votes cast.

Noting that "no man can't make that much of a difference," Thorson nevertheless said he would work hard

to unite Democrats in order to defeat 9th District congressman Jim Martin and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

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Luther Hodges Resigns

The board of directors of North Carolina National Bank Tuesday accepted the resignation of Luther H. Hodges Jr. as chairman and board member, effective June 30. He also resigned as director of NCNB Corp.

Hodges told the boards he intends to become a candidate for the United States Senate.

The bank board elected Thomas I. Storrs as chairman. Storrs will continue as chairman of the bank's parent company, NCNB Corp., and as chief executive officer of NCNB Corp. and the bank.

Storrs and the other directors paid tribute to Hodges for "his 15 years of distinguished service to the bank and his vital contributions to its development into the leading financial institution in the Southeast."

"He will leave with our respect and our gratitude for

Luther Hodges Resigns



Luther H. Hodges Jr.
...Seeks Senate Seat

an outstanding banking career. We deeply regret losing him as a colleague, but we respect his strong commitment to the pursuit of a new career in public service," Storrs said.