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THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

Vol. 5 No. 7

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, September 6, 1979

Price 30 cents

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CASSANDRA MAYFIELD
...South Mecklenburg Senior

Cassandra Mayfield

Is Beauty Of Week

By Sherleen McKay
Post Staff Writer

Cassandra Mayfield, a senior at South Mecklenburg High School, is our beauty for this week.

A sports enthusiast, Cassandra's hobbies are jogging, swimming, playing tennis, and basketball. She also runs track for South Meck. Into her sixth year of running, she has won numerous trophies and certificates in track.

Cassandra describes herself as a friendly person who is easy to talk to. "I understand a lot of people," she said, "and I like meeting different people."

After graduation, Cassandra wants to attend college, but she does not have any definite plans at the present.

"If anything happens and I don't get to attend college, then I will probably join the Army," she confided.

Cassandra cites her mother as being a very positive influence in her life.

Leeper Plans

Two Fundraising

Activities

The committee to re-elect Ron Leeper (Rep. from Dist. 3) will hold two fundraising activities this weekend.

The Little Rock Association will be selling hot dogs and ice cream in the Little Rock area on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Gethsemane Baptist Church will host a concert with three choirs performing on Sunday, September 9 at 7 p. m.

Donations will be accepted to hear the J. A. Gospel Choirs of Shiloh Institutional Baptist Church, St. Paul Baptist and Gethsemane Baptist Church.

Although Leeper is running unopposed, funds are needed to maintain his campaign headquarters and encourage people to get out and vote for other black candidates, according to campaign committee spokesperson Margaret Rudd.

TURTLE-TALK



A good LISTENER is not only popular everywhere but after a while he KNOWS SOMETHING.

Three Local Groups To Sponsor

Tribute To Mrs. Ella Mae Wiggins

Program Will Be Held

Saturday, September 15

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

A shot rang out. "Oh my Lord, they've done shot and killed me," cried a young textile worker as she collapsed into the arms of her fellow union members.

That was 50 years ago, Sept. 14, 1929. The murder of Ella Mae Wiggins, a 29-year-old mother of 9 children, spelled the death of a militant 6-month strike of textile workers in Gaston County, N. C.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, the National Organization for Women, the Charlotte Central Labor Union and the N. C. AFL-CIO will sponsor a tribute to Ella Mae Wiggins and to women textile workers today.

The program of films, speakers and songs will be held at the American Legion Hall in Bessemer City, from 11 a. m. to 3 p. m. Admission is \$1. Refreshments and child care will be available. The public is invited to attend.

"The death of Ella Mae Wiggins brought the union movement in this part of the south to an abrupt halt," said Bill Brawley, president of the CLU. His organization will place a monument on Ms. Wiggins' unmarked grave in Bessemer City following Saturday's program.

According to Vera Buch Weisbord, one of the organizers of the 1929 Gastonia strike led by the National Textile Workers Union, Ella Mae Wiggins was killed because she tried to organize the black workers.

At that time blacks were not allowed to work inside the mills. They were relegated to the most menial tasks of sweeping and sorting rags, for which they were paid \$5 a week.

"Ella Mae saw the importance of uniting black and white workers against the mill owners," said Ms. Weisbord. "She went door to door, in Bessemer City, urging their support. She even organized a rally in Stumpston, where the blacks lived."

Black and white unity was an unpopular cause in the late 1920's in the heart of the South. Mill owners kept the workforce strictly segregated, paying the white workers a little more (\$8-10 a week for 60 hours work. The mill owners would threaten to "reduce the whites to the level of the Negroes" if they got out of line.

Like many others from the mountains, Ella Mae Wiggins was lured to the mill village by the promise of good wages and better housing. The promises were false. Wages were low, company houses were shacks, and food was only available at the company store.

When textile companies instituted the "stretch-out" system, doubling the workload while cutting the pay, a wave of strikes swept through the Piedmont region. In Elizabethton, (Tenn.), Marion, Gastonia, Bessemer City, Pineville, and many other towns, workers walked out of their mills. They could take no more.

Ella Mae Wiggins was one of the first to join the picketline at the American Mill in Bessemer City. She sang ballads and gave speeches to inspire her fellow-workers.

"I'm the mother of nine," she said. "Four of them died with whopping cough all at once. I was working nights and nobody to do for them. I asked the super to put me on day shift so's I could tend 'em, but he wouldn't. I don't know why. So I had to quit my job and then there wasn't any money for medicine, so they just died. I never could do anything for my children, not even to keep 'em alive. It seems that's why I'm for the union, so's I can do better for them."

The governor of North Carolina sent in the National Guard to protect the Loray Mill in Gastonia, one of the largest mills in the area. Police Chief Aderholt swore in 100 vigilantes as "DEPUTIES." They broke up picketlines, bayoneted women strikers, raided the union offices and the strikers' tent colony. Terror reigned in Gastonia.

On June 7, during an attack on the tent city, Chief Aderholt was killed. Dozens of union activists were imprisoned, and 7 were ultimately convicted.

The mill owners used the most vicious anti-communist anti-union attacks against the strikers in an effort to force them back into the slavery of the mills.



Dr. Martin Luther King Sr.
...To be honored

300 Ministers To

Pay Tribute To

Dr. King Sr.

The Morehouse School of Religion, an interdenominational school, has invited some 300 ministers to Washington, D. C., on October 21, to help pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Sr.

This gathering of distinguished ministers in fellowship will include briefings with the White House, Congressional Black Caucus and officials of the District of Columbia Government, covering such areas as changes and direction of the White House, figure goals of the Black Caucus, and the unique problems and solutions of Washington, D. C.'s urban and rural lifestyles.

Topping off these two days of events will be the presentation of the Distinguished Ministers Fellowship Award to Dr. King, on Tuesday, October 23, at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

The dinner, which is held bi-annually, is the major fund raising event for Morehouse School of Religion. The proceeds from the dinner will go into the perpetual endowment fund and are used for aspiring seminarians, worthy lay programs, and to keep the black church part of its community.

Minister: "Wrong Is On Throne"

Muskegon - "We are living in the most critical hour in American history," Rev. Dr. J. V. Williams, president of the General Baptist State Convention of Michigan, told a capacity audience at Jerusalem Baptist church here last week.

"It appears as though wrong is on the throne, love has taken an extended vacation and kindness is searching for a final resting place," said the church leader.

The General Baptist State Convention is an affiliate of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., which convenes in San Antonio in September. Dr. J. C. Sams of Jacksonville, Fla., is president.

Rev. Dr. Williams was delivering his annual address as president on the subject: "Christ, the Only Refuge in Time of Peril."

"This age has almost divorced itself from God and the Christian church has almost become a dumping ground for evil," continued Rev. Dr. Williams.

"We are caught between a past which inspires not and gives us little confidence, and a future in which the fruits of evil seem plentiful."

He cautioned against "letting the expressways, freeways, super highways and turnpikes turn our thinking from the Christ-led-highway."

Continuing to lash out at the evils of the day, Rev. Dr. Williams brought the emotional crowd to its feet when he said, "In spite of the skyscraping buildings, we need to share the true foundation, which is Jesus Christ."

Introducing Rev. Dr. Williams for his address was Rev. Harvey Leggett of Upsilon. Other officers of the General Baptist Convention are Revs. M. P. McAfee, Benton Harbor; A. T. Robertson, Albion; W. R. Burton, Bentor Harbor; R. L. Johnson, J. S. McCall, Saginaw; D. E. Cook, Benton Harbor; Nathaniel T. Howard, Detroit. Convention musician is James Carr of Grand Rapids.

Here Sunday

Greater Mt. Sinai Will

Celebrate "Men's Day"

Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church will observe their annual Men's Day Service here Sunday, September 9, beginning with the regular Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship service at 11. Music will be furnished by the Men's Chorus under the direction of Mrs. N. E. Kerry and Michael Cooper.

Rev. Norman E. Kerry, pastor of the church, informs that the annual Revival Services will begin at Greater Mt. Sinai Sunday evening. Kerry said the nightly service will continue through Friday, September 14.

According to Kerry, Rev. C. B. T. Smith, pastor of the Golden Gate Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, will be the guest minister during the Revival, which begins at 7:30 each night.



HARVEY GANTT
...Mayoral Candidate

Harvey Gantt: "I Think

We Can Knock Down Myth"

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

According to the myth, a black candidate can't be elected unless a large majority of the voters are black. Harvey Gantt, candidate for the mayor of Charlotte, thinks he can knock down that myth.

Knocking down myths is nothing new for the 36-year-old city council member who faces Eddie Knox in the Sept. 25 Democratic primary.

Twenty-two years ago, when Gantt was in the 11th grade in Charleston, S. C., he fought for his all-black football team to be allowed to play in the city stadium. They won, and the myth was broken. One more barrier removed.

The 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawed segregation in the south, but the barriers to full equality for blacks remained.

In 1960, when Gantt was 17, the lunch counter sit-ins sprang like wildfire from Greens-

boro, N.C. across the south. Gantt was among those who organized the sit-in movement in Charleston.

He credits his ability to challenge the status quo to his stable family life as a child... his father worked in the Naval shipyard and his mother was a housewife. He was the only boy, with four sisters.

"My mother was fearful about the sit-ins," he remembers. "Like many black mothers, she feared her son would be 'done in' by venturing beyond the myths defined by the white power structure."

"But I was always looking for new ground to plow," said Gantt.

In a quiet but forceful way, Gantt has devoted his adult life to knocking down the myths that surround what blacks "can and can't do."

In 1963, he integrated formerly all-white Clemson University. There were no riots, no national guard. He saw a barrier in his way, and in the

way of other black youths, and he decided to challenge it.

He went on to graduate with honors in architecture. But the myth said that this was not a field for blacks. Unable to find a job in South Carolina, he moved to Charlotte with his wife Cindy, also a Clemson graduate.

Today his architectural firm - Gantt, Huberman and Associates - designs buildings for the State and Federal governments, and for private companies.

Fascinated by cities and what makes them tick, Gantt seized the opportunity to further his career by accepting a fellowship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston where he earned his master's degree in City Planning. After two years as head planner of Soul City, he and his family returned to Charlotte where he opened his business.

Gantt says he had no intention of entering politics. But in 1974, when Fred Alexander was elected to the State Senate, the City Council was deadlocked on who to appoint to his vacant seat.

"I was a compromise candidate," said Gantt. "I wasn't active in politics at the time so I couldn't offend anyone. And by then it was traditional to have one token black on the Council."

His family advised against taking the job. "Mother thought I was throwing away my successful career to be a backroom politician," he explained. Again she feared that her son would be "done in."

But Gantt was ready to plow new ground again.

"I got on Council and really started liking it. I met all kinds of people from varied background," he stated. "And I decided I really am an outgoing, gregarious person who likes solving problems." Gantt says he actually likes people calling him to talk about problems.

Gantt feels his biggest satisfaction, after all the struggle of the civil rights movement, is his ability to get things done on the City Council.

"You don't have to demolish GANTT on page 10



Rev. C.B. Smith
...Guest minister
A native Texan, Rev. Smith holds a B. A. Degree from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas. He also attended Southwestern Seminary in