

Here Saturday

International Women's Day

To Honor Southern Heroines

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

Sadie Grigg, Sojourner Truth, "Norma Rae", Maurine Hedgepeth, and Sonia Johnson are Southern heroines to be honored at Charlotte's celebration of International Women's Day, Saturday, March 8.

Sadie Grigg, a day care teacher for over 30 years and last year's "Woman of the Year", will preside over the day-long tribute to working women to be held at the Charlotte Women's Club, 1001 E. Morehead, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Sojourner Truth, a black woman who fought to free the slaves and for women's rights in the mid-1800's, will be portrayed by local actress Eileen Neely during the evening program, beginning at 7 p.m.

The evening program will also feature the film "Norma Rae", starring Sally Fields. Nominated for several Academy Awards, the film is Hollywood's version of a North Carolina textile worker, Crystal Lee Jordan (Stanton), who was fired from J.P. Stevens Company for organizing a union.

Maurine Hedgepeth, Jordan's co-worker at Stevens in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., who was also fired for union activity, will speak at the evening program.

"Stevens doesn't just fire you. They fired your whole family," said Mrs. Hedgepeth, whose husband was also fired from Stevens after 25 years. Mrs. Hedgepeth took Stevens to court, and after 4 years won her job back. The union finally won the election in 1974, but to date the company refuses to sign a contract with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Sonia Johnson, another fighter for women's rights and president of Mormons for E.R.A., will speak at a 3:30 luncheon. She recently made national news when her church excommunicated her for her support of the Equal Rights Amendment. North Carolina, along with 11 other



Sadie Grigg, "Woman of the Year" Southern states, has failed to ratify the E.R.A., which would extend legal equality to women.

Mrs. Grigg, who works at the YWCA's day care center, a part of Belmont Regional Center, will present the Women of the Year award to a new heroine, a woman to be chosen for her valuable contribution to improving life for working women.

Afternoon workshops will explore topics of concern to working women, including "The Crisis in Day Care", "Women and Unions", and "E.R.A. Strategy". Vital resources for women will be presented by the Battered Women's Shelter, Rape Crisis Center, Coalition for Choice and the YWCA.

Local unions and equal rights organizations will have information booths and displays throughout the day. The evening program will also include a children's art contest, door prizes and refreshments.

International Women's Day celebrates a demonstration by women textile and garment workers in New York City on March 8, 1908, when thousands left their looms and sewing machines to march for shorter hours, better working conditions, an end to child labor and the right to vote.

Today working women still face unequal treat-

ment on the job. Women earn 59 cents for every \$1 men earn, and 80 percent of all working women are concentrated in traditional low-wage jobs such as waitress, secretary, domestic or factory workers.

Over 43 million American women are now in the workforce. In North Carolina 61 percent of all women are working outside the home, the highest in the country. Over 200,000 women are employed in textile and garment factories. Last year over half of North Carolina's women earned less than \$6,000.

Saturday's program will emphasize unions and the E.R.A. as two ways women can work to improve their status on the job and in society.

The program is sponsored by the National Organization for Women, Charlotte Equal Rights Council, Central Labor Council, Mecklenburg County Commission on the Status of Women, and UNCC Women's Studies Department. Several local unions and women's groups are endorsing the event.

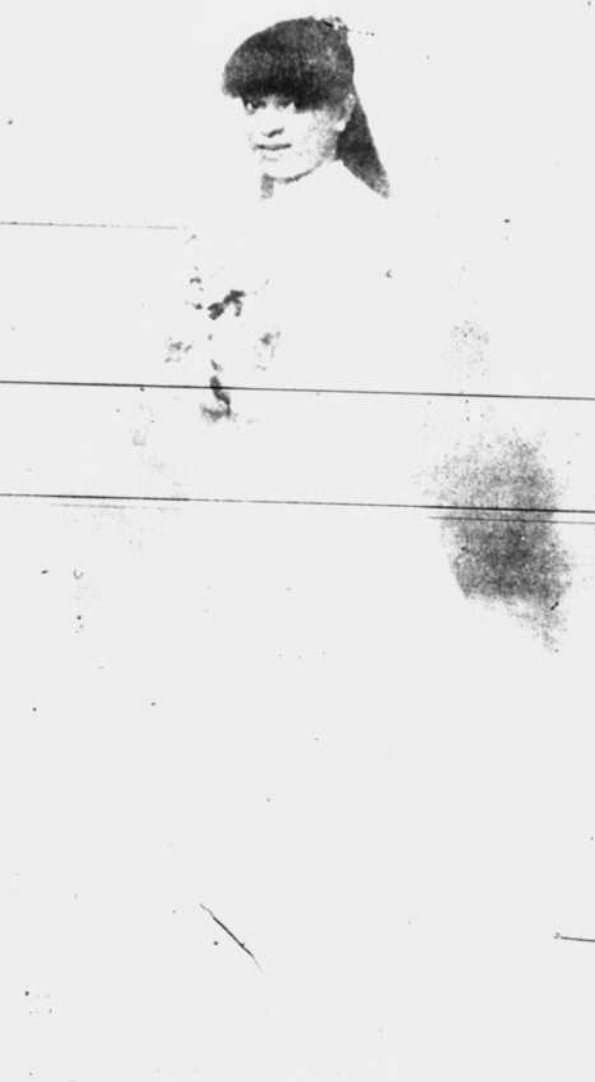
The festivities are open to all men, women and children. Free child care will be provided throughout the day. Luncheon tickets are \$5, and \$10, and must be reserved in advance (535-6303 or 536-3658). Low-income women may obtain scholarship tickets by calling 333-1925.

Metrolina Meeting

The Metrolina Chapter of the National Executive Housekeeping Association will hold its March meeting on Wednesday the 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Charlotte Memorial Hospital and Medical Center.

All members are urged to attend this meeting due to important information being discussed by the yearbook planning committee and nominations for elections to be held in April.

For further details, contact Betty Moore, President, at Charlotte Memorial Hospital number, 373-2121.



MRS. WILLIAM ASBURY SIMMONS JR. ...The former Miss Renee Holt

Miss Renee Holt Weds

William A. Simmons Jr.

Renee Holt and William Asbury Simmons, Jr. exchanged wedding vows last Saturday in a ceremony held at the home of the bride's parents in Charlotte.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hazel Holt of 1505 Moretz Avenue.

The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Gertrude Clayburn of 1914 Double Oaks Road in Charlotte, and William Simmons of 2034 Finchley Drive, also in Charlotte.

After graduating from West Charlotte Senior High School and attending Central Piedmont Community College, the bride is presently employed by Aetna Life and Casualty in Charlotte.

The bridegroom was

Business Women Will Hold

Spring Enrollment Event

Carrousel Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will hold a spring Enrollment Event March 11 at 6:15 p.m. on Swain's Charcoal Steak House according to Dee Fleenor, Chapter President.

The theme, "OUR HALF OF THE APPLE," focuses on meeting personal and professional goals through ABWA membership; the event promises to be a festive highlight of ABWA new member enrollments this spring.

ABWA Enrollment Events are held semi-annually to introduce ABWA and the local chapter to business women in this area. Throughout this period, similar events will be held across the country by more than 1,800 other ABWA chapters.

The goal of ABWA is to

Civil Preparedness

Warning Sirens

To Sound Friday

Civil Preparedness warning sirens will be sounded March 6 or March 7 to announce a tornado warning drill to be activated over the entire state. This exercise will be conducted by the National Weather Service at an unannounced time on one of the above dates.

The sirens will sound at a constant pitch for three to five minutes several times, which is the natural disaster warning. (An up-and-down wailing sound of sirens is the enemy attack warning.)

Should stormy weather occur on both of these days, the drill will be cancelled. This exercise is part of Tornado Awareness Week in eight southern states, March 3-9, 1980, and is sponsored by the National Weather Service.

Buying Food

When buying food, check the date if it's perishable. Be sure you can use all of it before it spoils.

help women in business advance through education, increased competence, and through upgrading of professional skills and business attitudes," Ms. Fleenor said.

Sponsored by the Independence and Mecklenburg Chapters of ABWA, Carrousel Chapter was chartered September 23, 1975 with 29 members. Since chartering, the Chapter has accomplished many of its goals. They have received Standard of Achievement and Banner Chapter awards every year since chartering and achieved Star Award, the highest obtainable ABWA Award, in 1977. Their biggest accomplishments has been their giving of over \$2,500 in local scholarships and to the Stephen Bufton Memorial Education Fund.

The Association, founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1949, now has more than 100,000 members. Last year, ABWA chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico awarded more than one million dollars in scholarships to women students. In addition, the ABWA National Scholarship fund, SBMEF, awarded another \$175,000 in scholarships during the same period. Carrousel Chapter has awarded local scholarships to 2 worthy recipients, Kathy Tasios, a student at Central Piedmont Community College, and Beth Little, a student at UNCC. Membership is by invitation only. For further information, interested business women may contact Dee Fleenor, 374-1822, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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