



The Modernettes, one of the oldest and most outstanding social clubs in Charlotte, played hostess for more than 150 guests at an anniversary dinner dance during the holiday season. A four-course dinner was served by candlelight and soft dinner music with sparkling champagne. Handmade miniature foil-covered match boxes tied with red ribbons were placed at each setting as souvenirs. The cocktail table was decorated with huge five-arm silver candelabras flanked with poinsettias and red velvet bows. Dot Flagg served as coordinator for arranging the occasion. Club officers are Louise Swift, president; Dot Flagg, vice president; Samella Twitty, treasurer. Other members are Geneva Adams, Lou Benson,

Wahbirk Corley, Deborah Craig, Elizabeth Dargan, Evelyn Floyd, Florence (Dumps) Fonvielle, Studie Goines, Ocie Harrison, Adelaide Hunt, Ruth Morris, Blanche Oliver and Grace Wyche. The club has operated through the years on friendship, love, understanding, admiration, concern, respect, tolerance and the pleasure of togetherness. Members pictured above (seated left to right) are: Dot Johnson, Louise Swift, Deborah Craig, Ocie Harrison and Blanche Oliver. Standing, left to right are: Studie Goines, Geneva Adams, Dot Flagg, Samella Twitty, Elizabeth Dargan, Grace Wyche, Adelaide Hunt, Ruth Morris, Wahbirk Corley, Lou Benson, Florence Fonvielle. Not pictured is Evelyn Floyd.

**Is Financial**

**Uppermost Reason For Rejecting King's Birthday**

By Teresa Burns  
Post Staff Writer

Nationally, the thought of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday becoming a holiday was probably too much for governing officials to bear. One Mecklenburg County Commissioner feels that the denial shows "...the smallness of the country."

But locally County Commissioners have cut the red tape and crossed the financial and racial barriers, thus announcing recently that in spite of some opposition, January 15 will become a King holiday for County employees in Mecklenburg.

In Charlotte many rebuffed the King holiday because an extra day at Christmas would be eliminated. The only thing for County employees to do now is to wait and see what other holiday the Personnel Commission will delete in order to observe King's birthday.

Community relations specialist for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations, Willie Ratchford, feels that the uppermost reason for rejecting King's birthday is a financial one.

"Today's government places emphasis on cutting back...the mood of the community is more conservative now and to add another holiday may cause more expenditures."

"Then there are personal reasons," Ratchford explained. "There are those with racial" views which would cause them to be against the holiday also."

Locally, however, Robert "Bob" Walton, member of the County Commission feels that individuals were more concerned about losing the extra day at Christmas than they were about Dr. King being a black man.

"The reactions I received when I talked to



Willie Ratchford

Relations specialist  
County employees was not ones against Dr. King's birthday becoming a holiday. Walton stated "They were reacting to the Christmas time. Many travel and come home Christmas is family time and I agree. So the Personnel Commission is looking into eliminating another day. Maybe Easter Monday. The report should be final within 30 days," he continued.

Walton, by the way, says he will lead an effort to

Bob Walton

County Commissioner make King's birthday a state holiday. To his knowledge approximately 17 other states have already succeeded in making January 15 a holiday. The city of Charlotte, Walton continued, will observe the holiday beginning in 1983. "Then," he stated, "it will be up to the City employees to observe the day or not."

What about the other cities...the ones with no holiday commemorating Dr. King? Will they forget the impact Dr. King made on the country? Will they

forget that this Nobel Peace Prize winner introduced a peaceful concept that startled many to God-like realizations?"

"Even without a holiday," Ratchford theorized, "People will remember Dr. King. Others in the community won't let us forget."

Walton expressed that the King memory will not fade. His work was so great and pronounced not only in this country but throughout the world.

Ratchford eloquently summed up the significance of the King holiday. "Dr. King will be remembered for getting people to look inside of themselves."

He was able to get the message across that regardless of color, we are all children of God.

**Aggie Alumni**

All A & T Aggie Alumni are invited to a special meeting of the Queen City Chapter of the A & T State University Alumni Association Friday Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in Parlor C of the Executive Inn.

Guest speaker will be Ken Free, Commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, from Durham. All interested alumni are asked to attend. A. V. Roscoe is president.

**WBTV To Offer Free Bus Service**

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Several community church choirs will render selections throughout the program and an offering, to be donated to local charity. Ushers from local churches will render their services.

Sarah Stevenson, member of the WBTV Black Advisory Council and member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board will introduce the guest speaker for the evening, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, U.S. House of Representatives.

Delano Rackard will follow Mrs. Chisholm with excerpts from a Dr. King speech. Rackard, a Charlottean, is known nationally

for his interpretations of King and his messages. The selection "We Shall Overcome," with audience joining hands will end this evening of memorial observance to a man well known for his peaceful dreams. By no means will

**Andrea Beatty Is Beauty**

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beauty is a most impressive and industrious individual. Gathering her goals in life from the circumstances that will perpetually affect them will definitely insure our beauty's dreams.

Even so, taking the future into consideration has not hampered Andrea Beatty's assumptions for

this observance be a bore. It's one time out of the year to pay a complete tribute to a powerful personality - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But more importantly it is a time to strengthen our convictions for complete freedom.

"I feel that you should take each day one at a time," she projected, "and live it to the best of your ability."

**Anniversary Dance**

The Distinguished Men's Social Club anniversary dance will be held at Best Western - Downtown, 900 N. Tryon St., on January 23, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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