

Kelly Alexander Is A Man "Who Has Done It All!"

By Teresa Simmons
Post Staff Writer

1916- Jeff Brown, a black man, accidentally brushed against a white girl as he ran to catch a train in Cedar Bluff, Miss. He was lynched.

1981 - Michael Donald, 19 and financing his way through college by working in the mailroom of a Mobile Newspaper nightly, was randomly picked off the street to show the Klan's strength in Alabama. He was savagely beaten; then with a hangman's noose around his neck hanged in a tree on the city street. He was drenched in blood.

These facts have been a part of Kelly Alexander, Sr.'s life since his childhood. He has acknowledged incidents of this nature as well as other circumstances which hinder the advancement of the black race. He chose what he thought to be the most effective way to destroy such injustices. His sword became the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

For over 40 years, his involvement within the NAACP forces has been commendable. At age 25 he organized the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Branch. He later aided the NAACP in battling voter discrimination, educational barriers and other techniques used against the black populous integrity. The organized pressure of the NAACP led to the decrease in lynchings also.

After 40 years, Alexander steadily climbed the ranks of the NAACP - from soldier to commander. In essence, he is now a general and newly elected Chairman of the National Board of Directors as a leader. Alexander plans to continue the tradition of the



Kelly Alexander, Sr.
.....NAACP National Chairperson

NAACP in obtaining equality and justice.

"We will continue the program in voter registration, voter education and getting people out to vote on election day," Alexander commented.

"We are also interested in strong legislative programs. We are watching the voting records of public officials: local, state and federal, and we plan to inform our people about them. We endeavor to monitor those elected representatives' stands on civil rights issues," he continued.

Alexander and the National Board of Directors are also intent upon improving the economic situations of blacks. "We are very much involved in the

fair share programs," Alexander stated.

Education is another concern of the NAACP. According to Alexander, there is a wide discrepancy that education is not necessary. "But blacks cannot exist in this industrialized society unless they are educated. It is important," Alexander maintains, "that blacks stay in school and learn the techniques of how to exist in this complex society."

During the origin of the NAACP in 1909, lynchings

of blacks were prevalent and voting was an almost nonexistent privilege. Alexander knows that the NAACP has helped to change these burdens into brighter moments for blacks. He also feels that there are many who do not realize this.

"I think the new generation of blacks, now enjoying certain advantages that were not a reality 20 years ago, may not realize just how much sweat and tears it took to gain these advantages. Somebody had to make sacrifices. Today, it is important that our

youth participate in organizations such as the NAACP... an organization that can help them."

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