



Retiring Swank Social Club member, Attorney Thomas Wyche (l) receives an award from his organizational brothers after years of contributing his professional talents to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, CORE and

several civil rights causes. The plaque is being presented to Swank Club member Henry Swift. (Photo By Peeler's Portrait Studio)



Dr. Spencer Durante (l), retired professor and head of the Department of Education at Johnson C. Smith University, receives a plaque and special honor from

Calvin C. Davis on behalf of the Swank Social Club. Both men are members of the 50 year old social and civic organization. (Photo By Peeler's Portrait Studio)

50 Years Of Existence

Swank Social Club Celebrating

In celebrating 50 years of existence, the Swank Social Club members first attended a worship service at First United Presbyterian Church. Members also thanked God for permitting their inception, growth and asked for continued blessings.

Also during the celebration, members visited the grave of the club's founder, John M. Spears. At the Pinewood Cemetery on Summit Ave., a wreath was placed on Spear's grave. During each affair, the Swanks were accompanied by their families.

As the evening progressed, the members found themselves smiling and laughing during a fellowship of remembering years gone by. The banquet was held at McDonald's Cafeteria.

Special guests honored during the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. William T. Malone of Charlotte. Mrs. Malone is the sister of the late John Spears. She and her husband, William, being a little older than the members of the Swank Social Club, chaperoned the first anniversary ball of the Swanks. "They are the only living chaperons of the first

event, except for Mrs. Willie G. Townes," Gerson Stroud, president of the Swanks, commented.

Also honored at the banquet were two retiring Swank club members: Dr. Spencer E. Durante and Attorney Thomas H. Wyche.

Presenting the plaques, respectively, were Calvin Davis and William H. Swift.

Dr. Durante was head of the Department of Education and professor at Johnson C. Smith University. Attorney Thomas H. Wyche has worked closely with the NAACP, Legal Defense Fund, CORE and has been effective in the civil rights struggle.

Following these award presentations, a tribute was given to the founder and charter members of the club.

Over the years, the club has broadened its interest from being a purely social organization to include civic responsibilities such as furnishing a room at the old McCrorey YMCA, donating to the United Negro College Fund, and the present YMCA, the Mecklenburg County Volunteers and other organizations.

Today, there are 17 members including one charter member, Thomas Wyche. The president of the club is Gerson L. Stroud, vice president, William H. Swift, recording secretary, Samuel P. Woodard, financial secretary, Theodore G. Stewart, treasurer, Wirtion M. Stroud, and chaplain, Norman M. Patterson.

Other members include Walter W. Twitty, chairman of the Golden Anniversary Steering Committee, Alexander Byers, Eddie Byers, Roger Campbell, Calvin Davis, Spencer Durante, Alfred Flagg, David Holden, John McDonald, William Oliver and Thomas Wyche.

The club has continued to add men of like qualities for close fellowship in an atmosphere of mutual respect and relaxing camaraderie. They are men who aren't afraid that their masculinity will be dulled by their association with the word love.

And because of that, they look forward to 50 more years of harmony and that special comradeship they all share.

Recognition Banquets

The Talahi District of the Mecklenburg Boy Scout Council is holding its annual Recognition Banquet on January 17 at 7 p.m. at the Quality Inn Downtown, 201 S. McDowell Street. All registered adult volunteers are invited. Tickets are \$6.50 and may be purchased at the Scout office or at the January Roundtable. Reservations must be made by January 14. "Rockin' Ray" Gooding of WBT Radio will emcee.

According to Carl Springs, senior district executive, the annual Recognition Banquet is a time when outstanding leadership in the organization is recognized. Four district "Awards of Merit" are Council awards given through the district to outstanding leaders each year. Outstanding Scout leader, Cub leader, den leader, and district scouter are recognized. Verbal recognition is given to young Scouts who have made Eagle Scout or who have given outstanding service to the community. Recognition is also given to those Scout troops and cub packs who have contributed a lot in extending themselves to new boys.

The Talahi District is one of four districts in the Mecklenburg County Council, and covers primarily southwest Charlotte, from Statesville Road to the county line.

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