



Dr. Leon Riddick  
.....Celebrated 50 years in ministry



Elizabeth Randolph  
.....Honored by students



Robert Cohen  
.....Returned to Charlotte



Cleo Youngue  
.....Presented Sojourner award

# 1985: Good Year For Black Progress In Charlotte

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor

Before we put that last shovel of dirt on the year 1985 and bury it for good, let's pay it one last tribute. After digging through the annals of The Charlotte Post, a collection of the highs and the lows of the year were compiled. Here are some that may jog your memory:

—January began with a gloomy forecast by Earl Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise. He predicted that in 1985 a wider gap between rich and poor, a slowing economy, growing federal deficit, and volatile labor market would emerge.

The Coalition for Progressive Legislation honored nine former black legislators at the Marriott in Raleigh. Fred Alexander was honored posthumously.

Rodney Page, Ahmad Daniels, James Myzack, and Ron Blackmon were all recognized as men in untraditional careers.

Carl Dixon retired from Federal Pacific & Electric.

Dr. Jerry Jones and Dr. Clarence Ellis opened new offices at 2021 E. 7th St.

Robert Cohen, an employee with N.C. Mutual Life Insurance, returned to Charlotte.

Guest Quarters, an all suite hotel, opened in southeast Charlotte.

Johnson C. Smith put on a production of "Star Search."

The Charlotte Community Chorale celebrated its seventh anniversary.

The Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs was formed.

Sammie Houston won the Martin Luther King essay contest.

James Ballard was funeralized.

Samuel Mills retired from A&P after 40 years.

—February was the month of honors, beginning with Karen Spencer, Tamera Vallier, and Tonya Butler being honored by the Kappa chapter of Zeta Phi Beta for their leadership abilities.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerson Stroud, Lester Poe, and Delois Miller were among the individuals honored as achievers during Black History Month.

Ross Parks was honored at McDonald's Cafeteria during Black History Month.

James Priolueau was given a surprise 70th birthday party.

Dawn Gibson and Richard Barnes were honored at the fourth annual Brother-Sisterhood luncheon.

Wilbert H. Ferguson had a scholarship established in his honor.

Betty Carter performed at Spirit Square.

—March recognized the outstanding tributes of local citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Willie Oliphant celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Dr. J. B. Humphrey, pastor of First Baptist Church-West, was given a tribute of love (a portrait and altar set) by the Floral committee of the church.

Mrs. Bessie Brazzale turned 100.

Ontario Davis, Gary Booker, and Nathan Fraizer were the three categorical winners in the Salvation Army-Belmont Center Black History Trivia Contest.

Elizabeth Randolph was recognized as "Outstanding Leader of the Year" by the SGA and the Division of Student Activities at North

Mecklenburg.

The court dismissed the Post's bankruptcy case filed in September of 1978.

Bob Walton asked readers if he should switch to the Republican Party.

—April had both highs and lows, one of the lowest moments being the passing of Kelly Alexander Sr.

Dr. Leon Riddick, of Mount Carmel, was recognized for his 50 years in the ministry.

Elizabeth Koontz received the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Award.

Tamara Lynn was chosen "Miss Blue Revue."

Earline Jordan was presented a national award for her work with the families of prisoners.

Kermit Waddell was appointed first Minority Affairs director.

The NANBPW celebrated its 50th anniversary and founder's day.

Rev. James Barnette spearheaded a "Salute To WGIV."

—May was the month of glorious moments. Cleo Youngue won the Sojourner Truth Award for service.

Verona Vaughn is The Post's "Mother of the Year."

The A. Philip Randolph Institute honored Phyllis Lynch and James Polk.

With a \$25,000 check, IBM enabled Urban League the opportunity to establish a special summer work and educational program for the disadvantaged.

The fifth annual "Churchworker of the Year" contest kicked off.

Ruth Foman was crowned "Ms. St. Paul."

Dawn Nail was named "Miss

Golden Hue."

The Charlotte Organizing Project was formed.

Keith Chisholm was The Post's "Senior of the Year."

—June earmarks half of a year and is full of special highlights for many. Las Amigas honored Charlene Jones, Annette Jaggie, Tim Abraham, Theodore Pauling, Chris Bost, Renee Berry, Johnathan Cauthen, Cedric Anthony, Bryan Hinson and Derek Robinson.

The black opera, written by Scott Joplin, "Treemonisha," was produced by GM Productions.

The Mecklenburg County Democratic Party hosted the grand opening of its new headquarters at 100 S. Blvd.

Cedric Scott Anthony and Veronica Michelle Harris won the Bill Johnson Award for excellence in academics and athletics.

The Charlotte Equal Rights Congress sponsored the eighth anniversary of the Juneteenth celebration.

Bessie Wilton retired from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System and devoted time to Christian education.

Margaret Caldwell Roberts and J. D. Davis exchanged marital vows.

The Post celebrated its 11th anniversary.

Rodney Hood received the James Johnston Scholarship.

Delta Sigma Theta presented six scholarships to Carol Currence, Cynthia Fant, Sandra Johnson, Ursula Wright, Amanda Thompson, and Camilla Potts.

## Merit Scholarship Program

Applications for a merit scholarship program for Mecklenburg residents who plan to become teachers are now available from the Foundation For The Carolinas.

The William Tasse Alexander Scholarship Fund of the Foundation offers undergraduate merit scholarships from \$1,000 to \$3,500 annually. Applicants must be residents of Mecklenburg County and must be rising college juniors or seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The deadline for submitting applications is March 1.

Application forms may be obtained by sending a business size, self-addressed envelope with 39 cents postage to the William Tasse Alexander Scholarship Fund, Foundation For The Carolinas, 301 S. Brevard Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

The William Tasse Alexander Scholarship Fund was established in 1983 by the will of the late Margery Alexander Thompson. Mrs. Thompson was a teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System for more than 40 years and established the scholarship fund in memory of her parents and grandparents.

The Foundation For The Carolinas is a community foundation serving a wide variety of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina.

Beat The Winter Blahs  
READ THE  
CHARLOTTE  
POST

Thus ended the first six months of 1985. Next week, the conclusion of 1985 will be presented.

## Become A Tutor

There are 500,000 Mecklenburg County adults who don't know how to read or write. You can help by becoming a tutor.

The Mecklenburg Literacy Council will be sponsoring a free 10-hour workshop on Friday, January 10, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and on Saturday, January 11, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Boroughs Research Agency at 2117 McClintock Rd.

For more information, call 376-5938.

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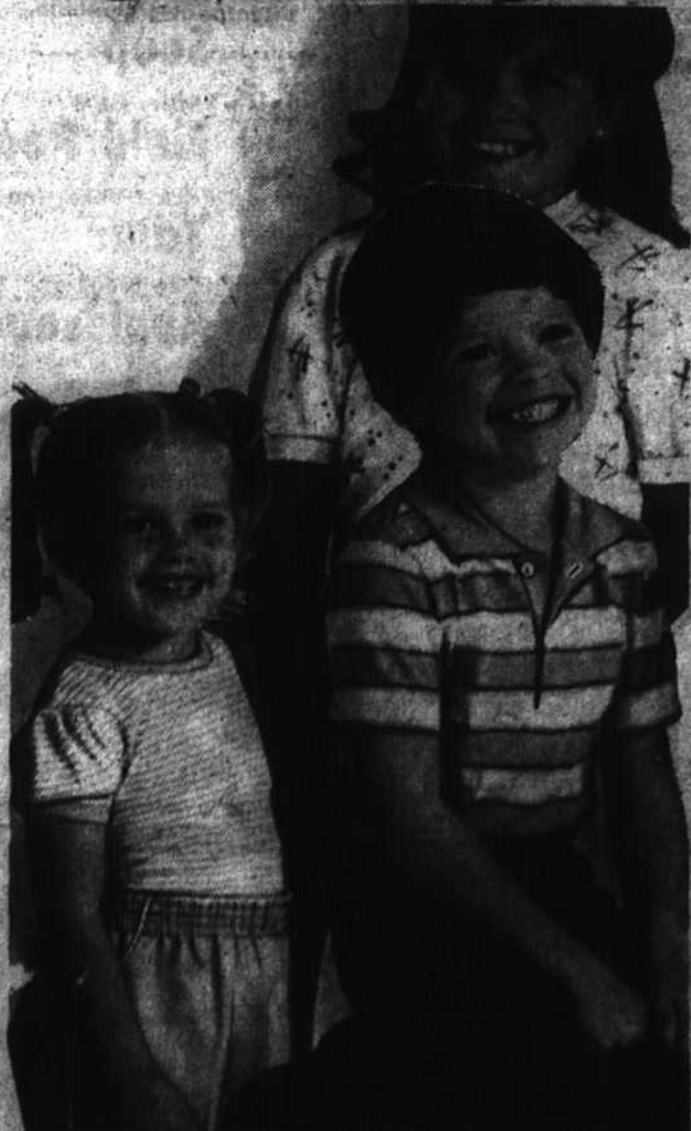
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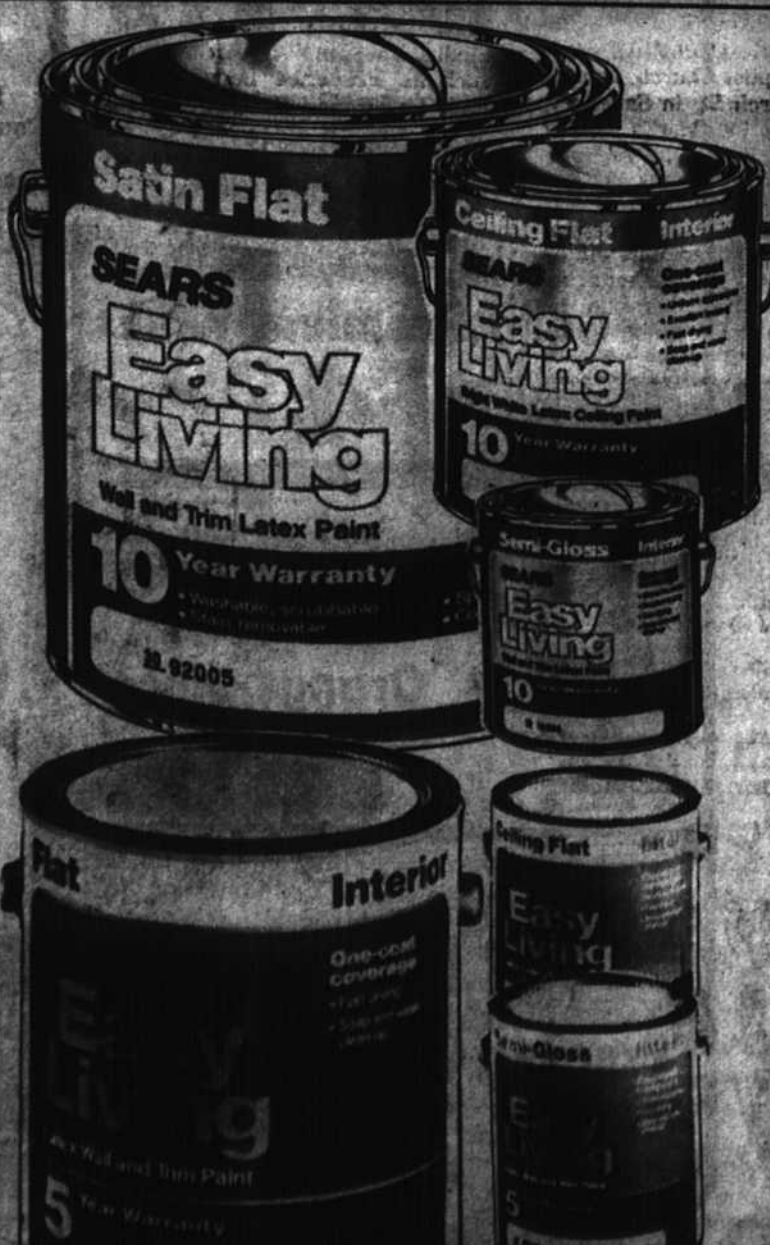
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