



Dr. W. C. Parker Jr.
.....Special guest



Eugene Marsh
.....To give introduction

Prince Hall Masons Celebrate St. John's Day

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Dr. W. C. Parker Jr., Deputy Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, jurisdiction of North Carolina, will be the special guest when the Prince Hall Masons of Charlotte celebrate St. John's Day on Sunday, June 22, 3 p.m., at Friendship Baptist Church.

Dr. Parker will deliver greetings from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, William A. Clement, for the occasion.

The St. John's Day observance, celebrated by Prince Hall Masons throughout the world in the month of June, is a day honoring the re-establishment of the guidelines of Prince Hall doctrines.

St. John is a symbolic figure encompassing both John the Baptist and John the Evangelist of the Bible. Moreover, St. John represents the rituals and values, as related in the Bible, to be followed by men who desire to be Masons.

For the celebration, Dr. Clifford A. Jones, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, will be the speaker. The theme for the observance is "Direction: Where Do We Go from Here?"

In attendance will be Deputy James A. Shands, Deputy of the 19th Masonic District since 1959. The 19th District consists of 12 lodges and 1,500 Prince Hall Masons in Mecklenburg County. According to Eugene Marsh, spokesperson for the Prince Hall Masons of Charlotte, "Deputy Shands has continued to increase the membership of the Prince Hall Masons, assisting them in providing Charlotte with broad based involvement to meet the needs of the community."

At the St. John's Day celebration, Marsh will introduce Dr. W. C. Parker to the gathering.

A resident of Greensboro, N.C., Dr. Parker presently serves as president and chief executive officer of Parker Brothers Restaurant. He is also president and chief executive officer of Piedmont Development Corporation, president and chief executive officer of Wilpar Development Corporation, owner of Piedmont Realty Company and organizer of Southeastern Development Group, Inc., all of Greensboro.

He holds a bachelor of science and master's of science degrees from North Carolina A&T State Univer-

S. Tryon Closes

For 18 Months

South Tryon Street between Stonewall and Morehead streets closed Monday, June 16, for approximately 18 months. The street closing will permit the construction of a bridge of the I-277 project.

Also on Monday, June 16, College Street between Stonewall and Morehead streets was opened. Motorists should use College Street (one-way northbound) and Church Street (one-way southbound) during the Tryon Street closing. Signs and barricades are in place to warn of the closing and direct motorists to detours.

A new traffic signal at the intersection of College and Morehead streets was also put into operation on June 16.

Charlotte Transit System routes No. 4 Park Road, No. 12 South Blvd., No. 13 Euclid-Sealeybank, No. 16 S. Tryon, No. 41X Archdale Express and No. 42X Arrowood Express will be affected. Riders are advised to call 366-3366 for rerouting information.

Livingstone Holds

Reading Workshop

Livingstone College will hold a Summer Reading Workshop for grades K-6, June 15 thru July 10. Workshops will be held Monday thru Thursday from 1:30 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. in the S.E. Duncan School Building on Monroe Street across from the campus. The fee is \$50.00 per student. Registration begins on Thursday June 12, 1986. For additional information call 633-7999, ext. 71 of 637-0945.

Guardian Ad Litem: Hope For Kids

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ethnic groups, is explained by Tate from her experience.

"It is a fact that they are not informed. When you talk about cases such as child abuse and sexual abuse and neglect, they tend to shy away, because they cannot handle it emotionally or don't want to get involved. Some think it is time consuming, but it is not. It still work a full time job and attend cases and have time to do the things I do," suggested Tate.

Twenty-four year old Michele Thomas said that she finds it an advantage to be one of the youngest volunteers of the Guardian ad Litem Program, because of the response from the children.

"It makes it easier for me, especially with the teenagers. They tend to relate to me better. They open up to me more and I feel I can talk to them since I am closer to their age," realizes Thomas, a guardian.

The Guardian ad Litem Program offers its volunteers an intensive three evening sessions which con-

sist of training, direction, and support through a program coordinator who is especially trained in working with child abuse and neglect, and through attorneys trained to represent children. The next training session will be held in mid-June.

"Every once in a while you are called for an emergency, but usually you know when you go to court in advance," Thomas adds.

"I would like to see more black males. I am one of few blacks, but I don't know any black males in the program. Young blacks would help a whole lot."

Cheryl Meacham proves that becoming a guardian is not restricted to just the fit.

"I have multiple sclerosis and I was looking for a volunteer program that I could perform. After reading an article in the paper, I felt it would be a program I would enjoy," expressed Meacham.

This new guardian has been volunteering her care to the children of the court for over four months and has had seven cases with 20

children in her friendship.

"To the youth, the program is extremely important. These children are thrust into the care of social services and are very intimidated by the court system. Through the program, it is a chance to perform friendship and not be intimidated by the court," Meacham understands.

"There is a tremendous need for more minorities in the program. Some of the black children have a hard time relating to me. They see me as a white woman. When they are in trouble, they are skeptical about being with a white, and don't understand I love all my children in the cases."

Anyone wanting to give a child a friend can write to: Juvenile Court Office, Guardian ad Litem Program, 700 East Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28282 or Judi Strauss at 373-6804.

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