

WestFest '87 Attracts 25,000 Scenes From A Good Time



The mini-amusement park provided five-year-old Shayla Edwards a nice ride on a carousel pony. (Top).

One Above The Rest
The crowds posed no problem for the Rasta man on the stilts, as he was able to see above everyone's heads. The guy on the ground probably wanted a lift so he could get a good look at the bands. (Left).



Barbecue Contest Winners

Ten contestants competed in the WestFest Barbecue contest. However, there could only be three winners. Walking off with the first place award was Karen Chavis, (front row, left), who was awarded \$350. Laura Crudup (front row, center) won \$200 as the second place winner and John Hall (front row, right) placed third, winning \$50.

Standing behind the contestants are the judges of the Barbecue contest. Attorney Charles Jones (far right) said of the competition, "It was some of the best barbecue I have ever had the pleasure of tasting." Coke and Karo Syrup co-sponsored the event.



Dr. William Crawford shows four-year-old Devora Robinson that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to one's health. Ten-year-old Leron McIver awaits his turn.

Uptown Center YWCA Looks For Lost Swimmers

On June 17, the pool at the Uptown Center of the Young Women's Christian Association will be declared a VIP - Very Important Pool. To assist in that recognition, the YWCA is encouraging area residents who learned to swim in that pool to call the Uptown Center at 333-7553 and leave their name and address. They'll receive a personal invitation to the event from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., June 17. And their names will be posted on a wall of fame being temporarily erected next to the pool.

Uptown Center Director Terry Hogan said she got the idea for the pool party because of the large number who say they learned to swim at the Trade Street pool. "The YWCA's 85th anniversary seemed a good time to give the pool a party," Hogan said.

The pool was opened in 1922, the product of an intensive fundraising effort led by Mrs. Charles C. Hook. A 1960 history of the YWCA says the interest in building a pool was an outgrowth of WW I's emphasis on physical fitness as a patriotic duty stressed in the slogan, "Help Win the War by Keeping Strong and Well."

Emphasis was also placed on the sanitary aspects of the pool. To swim in the new pool, you had to pass a physical exam attesting to your freedom from heart, skin and lung disorders. Swims, which cost 35 cents, had to be taken in YWCA sanitized suits which were, needless to say, drab and nondescript. The pool was also touted as recycling all its water every ten hours. By 1928, there was co-ed swimming on Friday nights.

When swim classes for very young children were begun in 1931, parents were admonished to "teach children to swim before they become afraid of the water" and that, in the South Pacific, "babies learn to swim before they can walk and are perfectly at home in the water." Registration for infant swim classes often caused lines to form around the Uptown Center building. Even as late as 1959, the YWCA was written up as being the only group teaching 4 and 5 year olds to swim.

By 1961, the YWCA started "slim and swim" classes and, in 1964, offered swimming lessons for the mentally handicapped. In 1965, the YWCA hired former Olympic swimmer, Sharon Shephard, to instruct.

Even after the 1914 building was razed, the pool continued in use as the Trade Street facility was built over it. One of Charlotte's oldest pools still in use, the pool sees service for everything from infant swim and water exercise to lap swimming and SCUBA training.

The June 17 event, which includes festivities and a birthday cake for the pool, will be held during the annual "Learn to Swim Week."

Juneteenth '87 Wants To Involve All Sectors Of The Community

By Loretta Richardson
Post Staff Writer

With all of the gaiety and festivity one can muster, freedom is indeed worth celebrating.

A celebration of freedom on June 19 and 20 is what the Charlotte community will revel in during the 10th annual Juneteenth observation.

While the Juneteenth Celebration has generally been solely sponsored by the Charlotte Equal Rights Congress, this year's celebration marks an commitment to getting the community involved on all levels of planning.

According to Thelma McKoy, of the Charlotte Equal Rights Congress, "We want this 1987 Juneteenth to show a feeling of racial unity and no signs of a racially divided America."

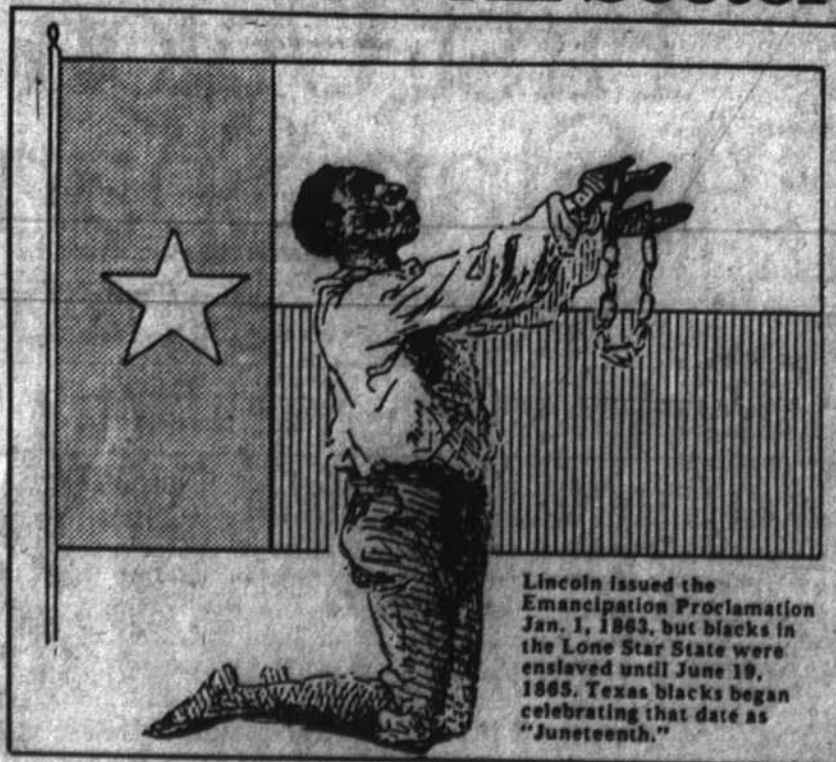
All signs point towards a true community effort. Thus far, the NAACP-Charlotte Chapter, the Elks Organization, the Beta Eta chapter of the Gamma Phi Delta

Sorority, SCLC-Charlotte chapter, the Afro-American Cultural Center and the National Council of Negro Women, collectively called the Charlotte Juneteenth Committee, are participants of the two day affair that will kick-off Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. at the Greenville Neighborhood Center.

The activities going on that night include a feast and a talent show. Although the committee will be providing some of the food, everyone who attends this affair is invited to bring a covered dish.

On the talent program, there is still time for talented acts to come forth and register. Those interested need only to call 372-9575 (days) or 333-4007 (evenings). When the talent is over, a local speaker (as yet undetermined)

will speak. On display community organizations will sponsor information booths and hand-out free literature. A door prize of \$100 in



Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation Jan. 1, 1863, but blacks in the Lone Star State were enslaved until June 19, 1865. Texas blacks began celebrating that date as "Juneteenth."

cash will be awarded to some lucky person. The donation is \$1. But everyone who attends this feast and talent show will receive the 1987 Calendar of Black History.

On Saturday, the Juneteenth celebration continues. In what is being tagged as a "first", Juneteenth and a portion of the Afro-American Cultural Festival will be held simultaneously. This dual event will take place in the park directly across from the Afro-American Cultural Center and the Post Office-downtown branch, located on McDowell St. and will last from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For the past nine years, the Charlotte Equal Rights Congress has celebrated Juneteenth. The holiday of Juneteenth, which is recognized as "Negro Nation Day" represents the end of slavery. While July 4 is celebrated as Independence Day, that date did not include the freedom of millions of blacks who were held in slavery. It wasn't until June 19, 1862 that Congress passed the first act prohibiting slavery in the territories. But real freedom did not come on that day, nor on January 1, 1863, the day the Emancipation Proclamation officially ended slavery. For slaves in Texas real freedom did not come until June 19, 1865, when the union troops landed on Galveston, Tex.



Thelma McKoy

as, that the abolition of slavery went into effect. It is also ironic that the Civil Rights Act was also passed on June 19 in 1964.

If you are interested in participating in Charlotte's observation of Juneteenth, either as a volunteer, a sponsor or a talent entrant, call 372-9575, 333-4007 or 333-1925.